

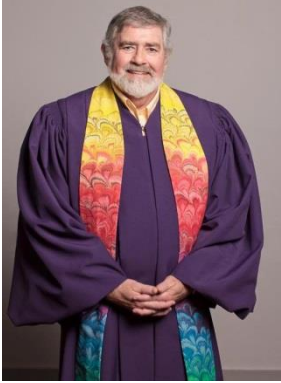


FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF STOCKTON
COMMUNITARIAN

Published Monthly

October 2014

Minister's Musings/Message:



It can't be October already, can it? Where did the summer go, and while I am asking, where did the last year go? Time just breezes by, and now it is Fall! Now if only the rains would come and break the drought! Stockton and First UU have certainly gotten to feel like home in the year and a few months I have been here. There are things I

haven't seen yet, and things I want to see again, but Stockton is home now for me. I hope those others of you who are recent transplants have found Stockton and First UU to make you feel welcome, too!

We have been trying a new program the last few weeks. We have been including a meal and a brief worship experience along with our evening programming on *UU Thursdays*. This had been the preferred time to offer adult classes most of last year, so we hoped that it would work to expand our programming to include something for all ages and offer more variety in classes. We are off to a slow start but will continue to try this at least through the Fall. We hope everyone who can will give it a try. See what we are offering elsewhere in the newsletter! We also have openings for you to share a session about some passion, too!

A 20th Anniversary Harvest Dinner and a Ministers' Retreat will take me out of the pulpit 2 Sundays this month, but one of those will be Coming Out Day (Oct 12), which will offer many people to tell their own stories or stories about the experience of family or friends. Don't miss that week and don't miss our Halloween/Samhain/Dia de los Muertos Multi-generational service on Oct 26) Have a great month and hope to see you often!

Peace,

Rev. Bob

**Sunday Services - 10:30 am
(Unless otherwise noted)**

- 10/5 National Coming Out Day!
Rev. Bob Klein
- 10/12 Guest Speaker
- 10/19 Guest Speaker (Bob@PCD-UUMA Retreat)
- 10/26 Halloween, Samhain, &
Dia de los Muertos!
Rev. Bob Klein

Minister's Office Hours:

Rev. Bob generally keeps walk-in hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10-12 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Please call to be sure that he is in and available as occasional meetings, hospital visits, trips, and other appointments may need to be scheduled during these times. Rev. Bob is also available by appointment at other times. Please call his home [209-227-7591](tel:209-227-7591) if he is not at the church, or **call his cell [209-684-6345](tel:209-684-6345) for appointments or emergencies.** Messages left on his cell will be checked at least daily. Feel free to e-mail uurevbobk@gmail.com

Treasure's Report

We are back on track after the summer break with income doing pretty well and expenses still under control. We have received about 98% of pledge income and expenses are lower than expected. Thank you for your support of the church.

Respectfully submitted
Dave Hall

Religious Education News

What's Happening in Religious Education Sunday School for the Children

You are needed! --to help with Sunday School in the coming months while we have no Director for the children's program. Our children are super fun and you'll learn by teaching! You won't regret it! All the research shows that people are happier when they are giving to others.

I say goodbye as DRE in the paragraph at the end, but first let me tell you that as I leave there is a committee searching for a new DRE and though we do not have an RE chair Myriam Cottin-Rack is making calls to **recruit volunteer teachers** for specific Sundays. She very much needs your help if you have already been screened through our background check service. If you want childcare scheduled for a church event, please contact Myriam myriam@cottin-rack.com.

Furthermore our head child care provider Mikayla will be taking on lead teacher responsibilities to help volunteers get acclimated to teaching the kids. We are also in the midst of hiring another childcare provider.

If you have a gift for **researching or reading/telling stories** we welcome your assistance with the Story for All Ages component of the service. No background screening is necessary for this. New parent and volunteers can also be tremendously helpful by attending RE council meetings and assisting with planning events (Halloween/Winter) and intergenerational services. Contact Rev Bob.

Parenting programming is still being planned for certain UU Thursdays. If you would like to host or co-host a parenting night by sharing a book or parenting article or scheduling an expert speaker or simply raising a parenting topic for discussion please contact Rev. Bob.

Also I will leave behind a curriculum prompt for Mikayla and volunteers to use to plan Sunday school activities. It will entail a list of books/stories to teach UU principles and list of activities you should pair well with such books. Children gain so much from stories and it is an easy way for volunteers to teach.

My last Sunday as DRE was in September. It has been lovely working with your children and I'm sure I'll see you at future services. I will be teaching at University of Pacific and working at the Children's Museum of Stockton.

--Best wishes to all of you special people!

RE Volunteers Needed

You are needed! --to help with Sunday School in the coming months with no Director for the children's program. Our children are super fun and you'll learn by teaching! You won't regret it! All the research shows that people are happier when they are giving to others.

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Adult Classes led by Rev. Bob:

Fall 2014 Adult* Classes/Workshops led by Rev. Bob: **Upcoming Possibilities: some of these classes may be a part of UU THURSDAYS**

Let me know which interest you and/or suggest others!

Unitarian Universalist History & Theology (based on David Bumbaugh, Earl Morse Wilbur, and John Buehrens' books on UU History)

Blessing, Spirituality, and Panentheism (Matthew Fox's Creation Spirituality, based on his book *Original Blessing*, and other writings)

Escalating Inequality, the new Congregational Study Action Issue passed by the 2014 General Assembly to be considered over the next 4 years and leading toward a new Statement of Conscience. Study materials will soon be available.

The World's Religions (updated) and Our UU Living Tradition. A new look at the updated version of Huston Smith's classic, and the way the religions of the world have influenced Unitarian Universalism.

Reading the Bible Again for the First Time, (book by Marcus Borg). A look at Christian beliefs based in different readings of scripture.

Dream Group, looking at our Dreams—using Rev. Jeremy Taylor's method based on Carl Jung's understanding of Dreams (Recommended reading: **The Wisdom of Your Dreams** by Jeremy Taylor)

Contact Rev. Bob for more info if interested.

Congregational News & Updates

COMMON READS

For the last few years the UUA has been choosing a justice oriented book and inviting people to read it and discuss it. The current one (2013-14) is *Behind the Kitchen Door*. The new one is *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square* by Paul Rasor. Rev. Bob will schedule a UU Thursday discussion(s) if 5 or more people agree to read either book. They are available from the UUA Bookstore, or Amazon and can be obtained for Kindle. Please see below and let Rev. Bob know if you are interested. Either may prepare the way for discussion of the new Study Issue on Escalating Inequality that we will begin discussing in November.

UUA 2013-14 Common Read: Behind the Kitchen Door

After a thoughtful process, the Common Read selection committee has chosen *Behind the Kitchen Door* by Saru Jayaraman as the 2013-14 Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Common Read. The book reveals how restaurant workers live on some of the lowest wages in America and how poor working conditions—discriminatory labor practices, exploitation, and unsanitary kitchens—affect the meals that arrive at our restaurant tables. The author explores the political, economic, and moral implications of eating out. **Learn more.** *Behind the Kitchen Door* is available from the UUA Bookstore. The **discussion guide (PDF, 20 pages)** is now available.

Announcing the 2014-2015 UUA Common Read
Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square by Paul Rasor is the 2014-2015 UUA Common Read. In this inspiring call to action, Rasor dispels the myth that conservative Christianity is the only valid religious voice in national debates on social policy, and shows us that the powerful support of religious liberals may be more numerous than we realize.

UU THURSDAYS!

at First Unitarian Universalist Church

We gather each week to share a simple prepared meal and a brief worship experience before breaking into groups for 1-3 programs. In Coming weeks we will be offering such programs as:

Quiet Meditation Practices & Mindfulness

Social Justice Programs

Adult Classes on UUism, Religion, and other topics of interest

Parenting Speakers/Discussion/support groups

Family Spiritual Activities with kids

Young Adult Programs/Groups

Dream Groups

Typical Schedule:

6:00 p.m. Gather and share simple meal

6:30 p.m. Share Brief Worship Experience

6:45 p.m. Enjoy one of the Activities offered

7:30 p.m. End of Early/Family Programs

8:00 p.m. End of Longer Classes*/Workshops/Groups

Please look at the section about upcoming adult classes and workshops.

Invitation to Share Wisdom, Learning, Skills and Fun at UU THURSDAYS

I would like to invite you to sign up to share something important to you during an upcoming Thursday evening program. Each week we will be gathering to share a simple meal at 6 p.m., a brief worship experience of 10-15 minutes, then breaking into 2-3 groups for study, meditation, or fun. If you have something that you would be willing to offer in one or more 45 minute sessions, please contact Rev. Bob

Some appropriate things to share: something artistic (painting, knitting, chalice-making, or...), especially for all ages; a way to make music or rhythm such as drumming or chanting; quiet meditation (or walking or...), leading a discussion of an important issue/concern; showing a video or slideshow to discuss, or anything creative or uplifting that could be done by a small group at the church. If you have an idea you are willing to share, please call Rev. Bob. Slots are open between now and the end of the year!

Also, volunteers are needed to help prepare a simple meal and lead brief worship time!

Call Rev. Bob to sign up or for more info!
uurevbobk@gmail.com cell: 209-684-6345

NEW COMERS CLASS

Are you interested in joining our congregation or would you simply like more information about our church and how we differ from traditional protestant churches?

Plan on attending a class following the church service on Sunday, October 5th. Immediately after coffee hour, those interested will enjoy a bit of lunch and informational presentations from 12 noon to 3 P.M. (at the latest). Rev. Bob will help with the history of the denomination and you'll learn more about our church in particular. A great opportunity to ask questions. All are welcome.

To help with planning, please notify Mary Bullard if you would like to be part of this class. We need to know how many to expect. marybee2@gmail.com or 477-8745.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING FOR SUNDAY MORNING HELPERS

On Sat. Oct 4th, everyone who now is or who has ever thought about helping out on Sunday mornings, is invited to gather at the church to participate in a training and discussion of Sunday morning leadership. We will talk about things like Radical Hospitality, Welcoming the Newcomer, and the nuts and bolts of where stuff is! Come join us for refreshments at 9 a.m. and we expect to conclude by 11:30 a.m. Contact Rev. Bob if you have any questions.

EMERSON COFFEE HOUSE

Juke Joint Jimmy and The Low Profile is returning to Emerson Coffee House at the Unitarian Universalist Church Friday (note: not Saturday) October 10, at 7:00 p.m.

Our own Betsy Keithcart's brother, James Bond Haydon is a northern California singer-songwriter, a 1970's traveler throughout the U.S., playing in New York and Kansas City. This show will feature his compositions in rock and blues, as well as the premier performance of an original string quartet, "The Factory Song", in four movements. This special Friday night performance includes the guitar, harp, recorder, mandolin, voices, and a jug band for an unforgettable toe-tapping night of music.

\$10 or \$5 for students. Delicious treats served at intermission. First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton, 2737 Pacific Ave. www.stocktonuu.org.



Thanksgiving Award Nominations
Due by October 13th



It's once again the time of year when we nominate a member or members of the church that have shown great service to the congregation. If you have someone in mind that you feel has gone above and beyond in their commitment to the church, please compose a nomination for them to be considered for the Thanksgiving Award. Nominations will be accepted until Monday October 13th. Nominations may be submitted to Nichole in the church office or may be emailed to her at office@stocktonuu.org. There will be an envelope in the basket hanging on the office door for nominations. Thank you for taking the time to nominate a star among us that deserves recognition.

FALL \$5 Specials - Available now through October, and ALL donations stay with the church:

1. \$5 Coupon Book super bargain: fantastic discounts good for next 3 months at local favorite vendors - each one saves you more than \$5.
2. \$5 tickets for the October Lincoln Center raffle by Alliance members
3. \$5 tickets for Weberstown Mall Magical Night of Giving discount specials November 23.

Book Group Meeting October 22, 7:00 pm



New members or "drop-ins" are always welcome. If interested in joining us contact Herman Washington at 209-957-8433 or lhwash@comcast.net

Thanks, Herman

UU Church Halloween Costume Party A great time for all of us! October 25 – Saturday at 5:30 PM



Costume Contest those brave enough to "dress up"

Angelina's catered dinner

Westwind provides the Music

Fun Auction

All for Adults \$25 and Children \$15

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!

We would like to keep a list of people who would be willing and able to occasionally provide rides to and from church for members who are not able to drive. If you would be willing to pick up people and/or give them a ride home for/from Sunday services, UU Thursdays, or other church events, please call or e-mail the office and indicate the area you could cover and the times you might be available.

(There is also still a small fund available to reimburse taxi fare when volunteers are not available, but giving someone a ride is a great way to get better acquainted!)

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

The UU Church is establishing a Little Free Library. The UU book group will be collecting gently used books, both adult and children to supply the library. A box is located in Jackson Hall for donations.

Alliance News

October Raffle

The Alliance will sponsor their traditional October raffle for a chance on a gift card (\$250.00) for businesses at Lincoln Center.

Tickets will be sold for four Sundays only in October, 5, 12, 19 and the 26th.

Tickets are \$5.00 each and will be available for purchase each Sunday after church service. Money from the Alliance raffle will be used toward selected church needs.

This past year money was given to recover the sofas in the Fireside room and toward repairing the Wayside pulpit.

The drawing will be Sunday, November 2.

DAWN House

Thank you to church members and friends who save hotel toiletries as well as purchase items for our ongoing project for the women and children who stay at DAWN House. DAWN House is the women's shelter sponsored by the Women's Center of San Joaquin County. Needed items include toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, lotion, etc. Reminder that only unused items should be donated. Dee Heszler is the Alliance member now serving and packaging your donated items for the Center.

Social Justice News

Here's all the news from your Social Justice/Community Outreach committee ..

Thanks to everyone who participated in our First UU Church crew on Coastal Cleanup Day - September 20th (see attached photos). Our Calaveras River is much cleaner thanks to your good work!

Our ongoing Habitat for Humanity crew is hard at work on a home in south Stockton. They meet one Saturday per month - the next time is **October 11th**. More volunteers are needed, so contact Dick Abood (rabood@pacific.edu, 931-6871), if you'd like to join in.

We'll be selling our gorgeous First UU Church Social Justice T-shirts again this fall (\$15.00 each). We'll be taking orders through mid November. Stop by our table in Jackson Hall after church or contact Jeri Bigbee (jeribigbee@gmail.com; 931-6871) to place your order.

Mark your calendars.. In December, we plan to participate in the Peaceful Holiday Faire (December 5-6, 2014) sponsored by the Peace and Justice Network of San Joaquin County. Stay tuned for more info.

Keep up the good work!

Our September Social Justice Collection raised \$157.00 for The Unitarian Universalist Association.

Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions! If you have any suggestions for Social Justice Collection Recipient please contact Lauri McKindley or Rev. Bob Klein.

Social Justice Collection recipient for Sunday, October 19, 2014 is ALS Foundation.

Established in 1985, The ALS Association is the only national non-profit organization fighting Lou Gehrig's Disease on every front. By leading the way in global research, providing assistance for people with ALS through a nationwide network of chapters, coordinating multidisciplinary care through certified clinical care centers, and fostering government partnerships, The Association builds hope and enhances quality of life while aggressively searching for new treatments and a cure.

PCD Leadership Day with UUA Moderator Jim Key will be Saturday, October 25, 2014, at the UU Church of Berkeley.



Leadership Day is a time for us to join together, to inspire each other, and to work collaboratively on some of the big questions that face us as a faith. How can we make a difference in the world? How are can we deepen and nurture our relationships so that they bring out our strengths? How can we be dynamic leaders ready to face the challenges of our age?

Leadership Day is open to anyone in the PCD who is, has been, or might in the future become a leader in our UU faith. Ministers, religious educators, musicians, and laypeople of all kinds will find value in the interactive experiences that we will have that day. Plus, we will join together in vibrant worship and music. The day will be inspiring, challenging, and fun.

Come join Jim, our local UUA staff, and your friends and colleagues in our faith in a day of empowerment, spiritual depth, and courage.

Registration begins at 9AM, and our program starts at 10AM until 4PM. Breakfast goodies and lunch will be served. \$50 Registration Fee until Monday, October 13th; Late Fee is \$60, so register ASAP!

Don't miss this special event! go to <http://www.pcd-uua.org> and click on the registration link. Or call, text or email art@cofod.net 209-401-3991

Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) - Volunteer Opportunity!

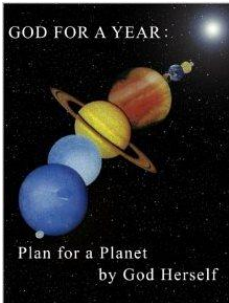
The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) is currently recruiting for volunteers in San Joaquin County. This non-profit organization helps Medicare beneficiaries with navigating the Medicare "maze", through free one-on-one sessions with HICAP volunteer counselors (<http://www.cahealthadvocates.org/about/HICAP.html>). In-depth training and mentoring are provided to volunteers. Basic computer skills and a commitment of approximately 4 hours per week is required. For more information, contact Jeri Bigbee (jeribigbee@gmail.com; 931-6871) or Diana Powell at HICAP (334-9608).

COSTAL CLEAN UP SEPTEMBER 20, 2014



New Book by Ted Pohlman that may interest UU's

This information sheet is about an "e-book" written by a man who has been an atheist for over 50 years, after being an ordained conservative clergyperson. This recently released "electronic book" (e-book) may be of special interest to you. Also, it may be useful in helping any "more-conservative" family members and/or friends to understand why you have much more liberal beliefs than theirs.



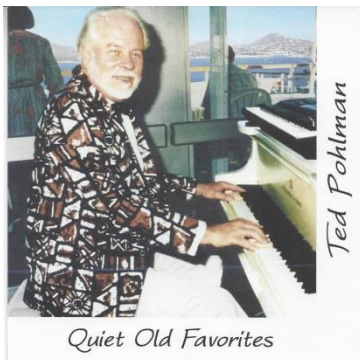
Title: God for a Year subtitle Plan for a Planet

Authorship credited to: "by God Herself" [the actual human author: Rev. Dr. Edward ("Ted") Pohlman, MA (Theology) and another MA & PhD (Psychology)]

Rather than saying abruptly that "there is no God," which obviously turns many readers off immediately, we use the more gentle, novel, fictitious approach of saying that "I" [the female deity]"am the first real God. I came into being suddenly, miraculously, a full-blown adult deity form, less than one year ago. All previous gods in history, of all religions, were human inventions by human writers who only thought they were being inspired by God. I do not know why I came into existence at this time. I did have the choice to appear to humans as a male deity, or a female deity, or no-gender deity, but I chose female form to call attention to the terrible prejudices which humans of all the great religions of humanity have had against females.

Now that I am here, I intend to behave as a true God should. Any half-way decent deity could instantly stop all the terrible conflicts and wars among religious people by simply making crystal clear, in ways no sane person could doubt was God speaking, which of the world's religions-if any--was closest to the divine preference! It is ridiculous to have not only Christians and Jews and Muslims fighting each other and killing each other off, but even such splinter sub-groups as Shiite and Sunni and other Muslim sub groups killing each other; or Christians killing Jews and vice versa; or Protestants killing Catholics and vice versa. Any God who allowed this to go on for thousands of years without speaking up and expressing a clear divine preference, would be a monster.

I have been on the job for less than a year. I invite all humanity to my great first-year "Coming Out" celebration, where I will clearly express my preferences, and do so in ways that will leave no doubt it is me, God, speaking. All great media will record the events; skeptical reporters are invited to do their best to debunk. All the great religious miracles of the Torah, the Christian Bible, the Quran, etc. were reported "later" by gullible writers with no skeptical checks or scientific checks and verification. For example, take the story of Joshua commanding the sun to stand still for several hours. All bunk; no skeptical reporters, no chance to verify such rubbish. Things will now be much different. At my first annual party, for example, I will perform some verifiable real miracles that will convince any skeptical scientist that it is really I, God, talking.



About the "earthly author" of this new e-book: Edward ("Ted") Pohlman taught psychology at UOP 1961-91. His parents were Christian missionaries in India; he was born there and lived there his first 12 years. He went to a conservative Christian seminary and was ordained as a clergyman. Then he became an atheist while he was a clergyman in Columbus, Ohio; he conveniently went to Ohio State U there and then moved to UOP professorship. He has published nearly forty books. About 25 of these were old-fashioned traditional "print books." But now, he has published a dozen "e-books" which Amazon.com sells for its Kindle readers, in cooperation with Ted's private publishing company Planet Ethics Press.

Purpose

(Article III, By-Laws of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton)

We, the members of this congregation, shall foster Unitarian Universalist principles. We encourage each individual to determine his or her own creed and standard of theological belief. Toward those purposes, we are committed to creating a loving religious community through worship, study, service and fellowship while honoring diversity and respecting the inherent worth and dignity of each individual. We shall strive to render enlightened service to the various communities of which we are a part. We respect the interdependent web of all living things.

Minister

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