



COMMUNITARIAN

Published Monthly

December 2014

Minister's Musings/Message:



Welcome December rain and snow, come and replenish lakes and rivers and aquifer! With so much else to offer, a few days of cold aren't such a bad trade.

December is my favorite month with Christmas, Hanukkah, Solstice, New Year's Eve and my birthday! It is a great time

to celebrate and to take off a few days at the end of the month, end of the calendar year and halfway through the church year!

When I was young, I hoped that the first snow would fall on my birthday, or at least early in the month, several times later to freshen things up, and that we would have a white Christmas. I don't have that need to shovel, drive, or even play in the snow any more, but I still like to see snow in the distance, on hills and mountains, and rooftops.

Many religious traditions have celebrations at the turning of the year, when the nights are longest and the days shortest. The return of the light after the Winter Solstice has been a cause for celebration since long before the world religions were formed. It still is a cause for celebration to see the days getting longer after Solstice as the light returns.



Sunday Services- 10:30 a.m.

Followed by coffee hour

12/7 Remembering Pearl Harbor Day and Considering Ways the World Has Changed!
Rev. Bob Klein

12/14 Festivals of Light! A musical celebration of the ways many religious traditions celebrate the return of the light in this dark season.
Rev. Bob Klein

12/21 Christmas, Hanukkah, and Solstice Celebrations and Traditions! Rev. Bob Klein

12/24 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service! A tradition UU Christmas Celebration Rev. Bob Klein

12/28 Guest Speaker

Emerson Coffee House

Saturday December 13, 2014 Tudor Consort

Tudor Consort performs early music and Celtic music and is based on the musicianship of two local music therapists, Melody Tolmie and Betsy Haydon Keithcart. Seasonal and early music will be performed on lute, harp, bowed psaltery, guitar, and recorder, mandolin, and hand percussion instruments. Bring the family for a sing-along of holiday carols to these delightful instruments. Family members Joe Tolmie and James Bond Haydon (Juke Joint Jimmy) round out the band for a soothing, delightful evening at Emerson Coffeehouse. Learn more about music therapy at <http://musictherapywithmelody.org>.

\$10 Adults / \$5 Students

NEW

UU Thursdays!

UU THURSDAYS!

at First Unitarian Universalist Church

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

**Quiet Meditation Practices & Mindfulness
Travelogues, Tai Chi, Yoga, Social Justice
Programs**

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

Parenting Speakers/Discussion/support groups

Family Spiritual Activities with kids

Knitting, Painting, Dance

Young Adult Programs/Groups

Dream Groups

Typical Schedule:

6:00 p.m. Gather and share simple meal (not a potluck, volunteer cooks welcome)

6:30 p.m. Share Brief Worship Experience (led by Rev. Bob and/or volunteers)

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

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

*****If you have attended UU THURSDAYS please complete the survey at the end of the newsletter.**

Date	Dinner 6:00	Worship 6:30	Program 1 6:45- 7:30	Program 2 6:45-7:30 BK	Program 3 6:45-7:30
12/4			KNITTIG Deb	SINGING Amelia	
12/11			Picture this (how to of digital images) Greg & Deb	Slideshow Travel Dave	
12/18			KNITTING Deb	Singing Amelia	
12/25	No	UU Thurs.	Merry	Christmas!	



Religious Education News

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

You are needed! --to help with Sunday School in the coming months until we have a permanent RE for our 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.

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 at myriam@cottin-rack.com

Congregational News & Updates

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!

We are keeping a list of people who are willing to provide transportation for members who are unable to drive. If you are able to provide rides to or from Sunday Services, UU Thursday evenings or other church events please call or email the church office letting us know your availability and the areas you could cover.

Giving a member a ride is a great way to get acquainted!

There is a small fund available to reimburse members for taxi fare when volunteers are not available.

[209-466-7743](tel:209-466-7743) (Office)

[209-466-6474](tel:209-466-6474) (Fax)

contact@stocktonuu.org

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's books to supply the library.

There is box is located in Jackson Hall for donations.

Covenant Groups: These groups usually gather in a member's home or at the church once a month for an extended check-in and a topical discussion. Each group of 5-10 persons drafts a covenant of commitment and behavior to be revisited whenever a new member joins including the commitment to keep sacred what is shared and to support members of the group. These are not therapy groups but they often become important opportunities for members of the congregation to get to know each other in deeper ways. If this sounds interesting to you, please let Rev. Bob or the office know!

Book Group Meetings

November 26, 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

Adult Classes led by Rev. Klein

Fall 2014 Adult* Classes/Workshops led by Rev. Bob: Upcoming Possibilities:
Let me know which interest you and/or suggest others!

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 are now available. Please let Rev. Bob know if you would like to join a group looking at this issue. It will probably be introduced at an upcoming UU Thursday program.

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.

Social Justice

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

Here's the latest from your Social Justice and Community Outreach committee.

- On **December 5-6th** we'll have a "booth" at the Peace and Justice Network's Peaceful Holiday Fair at the Central Methodist Church in Stockton. We'll be selling Fair Trade coffee and chocolate along with handmade craft items. Come visit the fair and greet your UU friends!

- Mark your calendars .. **Monday, January 19th** is the MLK National Day of Service and all First UU Church members and friends are invited to volunteer at the Boggs Tract Community Farm (<http://puentes-americas.org/portfolio/boggs-tract-community-farm/>). It's great fun and everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Jeri Bigbee (jeribigbee@gmail.com; 931-6871).

Keep up the good work!

Our November Social Justice Collection raised \$123.00 for UUSC. 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, December 21st 2014 is The Emergency Food Bank.

The mission of the Emergency Food Bank is to build a stronger community by providing a safety net of food, nutrition and health education, job training and hope to residents of San Joaquin County who find themselves in an emergency situation. We further advance our mission by supporting those organizations, groups and community events whose goals and mission target similar community building and healthy lifestyles.

Thank You in Advance!

Alliance News

The Alliance

The Alliance December meeting will be a Green and Red salad luncheon provided by members on Wednesday, December 10.

Following a short business meeting *promptly at 10:30* in Jackson Hall, Delta Harmony Xpress will provide a Christmas music program. Chairs for the meeting are Doray Johnson and Coralita Rathhaus.

As always Alliance meetings and programs are open to all church members and friends.

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.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report to the Church – November 2014

I am happy to report that pledge income and routine expenses continue to be stable. Donations on Social Justice Sunday and coffee donations are running below expectations. Our coffee is much less expensive than *bucks but it still costs us something. We will be selling coffee at the Peaceful Holiday Faire at United Methodist. We are also seeing a significant increase in income from use of the S-Mart cards. Thanks for remembering to use them when you shop or buy prescriptions.

We are in negotiations for an improved insurance policy which should also be somewhat less expensive and are being forced to updating our ATT service to fiber optics and much higher Internet speeds. We will be dropping our separate fax line, gaining some other features and the net result will be a significant savings in phone costs.

Respectfully submitted

Dave Hall

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 or for emergencies during non-office hours.

Home: 209-227-7591
Cell: 209-684-6345
eMail: uurevbobk@gmail.com

General Office Hours

Office Hours.....Mon. – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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.

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UU THURSDAYS 2014 SURVEY

Please answer and place in Offering Basket or return to Rev. Bob

1. How many times have you attended UU Thursdays: 0____ 1-2____ 3 or more____
2. What did you like?
3. How would you change UU Thursdays?
4. What Programs/Classes/Events/Experiences would you like to see us offer?
5. Should we continue UU Thursdays (Yes/No) or replace it with something else (such as UU Wednesdays)?
6. If we continue, what program/class/craft/project would you be willing to lead?

NAME : _____

Contact info: (phone & e-mail) _____