

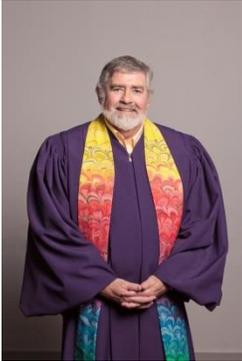


FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF STOCKTON
COMMUNITARIAN

Published Monthly

February 2014

Minister's Musings/Message:



Here we are heading into February already. Does the Ground Hog foretell Drought or Rain in California? Punxsutawney Phil lives in snow country in Pennsylvania and forecasts whether there will be 6 more weeks of winter depending on whether he sees his shadow. Seems like that

makes more of a difference where there is snow, but it sure would be nice to see some rain or at least some snow in the mountains! (If P. Phil sees his shadow will the Broncos win, or does anyone care now that the 49ers are out?) How will our lives be affected if the drought worsens? Stockton seems to have more groundwater than some places, but what will drought mean for the area economy and for agricultural workers?

When I lived in Wyoming and when I lived in Southern California, I experienced arid and semi-arid conditions (not quite desert) but everywhere else I have lived we had at least occasional storms, and in Little Rock, Arkansas we set a record in 2009 with almost 82 inches of rain. The Chicago area averages 37 inches, but gets a lot more snow than most other places I have lived (let me tell you about the storms of '67 and '79). We also saw some pretty good snows in Montana, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. I like the sunny days, but couldn't we get a little rain? We may need to start scheduling rain dances! (or snow dances for you ski aficionados)

February should be an interesting month around the church! Check out all the things happening! I hope to see you all often! Have a great month!

Peace, Rev. Bob

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

2/2 Ground Hog Day! Rev. Bob Klein

2/9 Evolution Day and Darwin's Birthday! Rev. Bob Klein

2/16 we welcome Rev. Katie from the UU Church in Hayward, for a long-overdue pulpit exchange.

Sermon: The Fragile Art of Hospitality.

It's pretty easy to make ourselves welcome here. A little harder when thinking about how to make someone else feel that way. How might we continue to open our hearts to live into the mission of faith?

2/23 Celebrating Black History Month! Rev. Bob Klein

Minister's Office Hours:

Rev. Bob will be keeping 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, 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 at his home or on his cell will be checked at least daily. Feel free to e-mail uurevbobk@gmail.com

Adult Classes led by Rev. Bob:

Starting January 17th New Adult Class led by Rev. Bob:

Misquoting Jesus (book by Bart Ehrman)

Daytime Sessions Fridays 2/7, 14, (and 28 if needed) 10:30 a.m.-noon*.

Evening Sessions Thursdays 2/6, 20, (and 27 if needed) 7-8:30 p.m.

Looking ahead: New Class starting in March on Karen Armstrong's book: **The Battle for God: a History of Fundamentalism**

Anyone interested in a class on Unitarian Universalist History or Theology, please let me know! Any other topics you would like to study or facilitate, let me know!

Dreamwork Group, looking at our Dreams—using Rev. Jeremy Taylor's method

Daytime Group Thursdays Feb. 6 & 27 1-3 p.m. Bring a Dream!

Evening Group Fridays Feb. 7 & 21 6-8 p.m.

(Recommended reading: **The Wisdom of Your Dreams** by Jeremy Taylor)



Treasures Report

Treasurer's Report to the Church – January 2014

The first 6 months of our fiscal year have been pretty good. Pledge income is at 95% of pledges, overall income is positive and expenses are down a bit. However, it does not look like the fundraising goal will be reached in the next 6 months. As you recall, at the last Annual Meeting the expense of the DRE position was increased to half time and the necessary additional income was added to the fundraising portion of the income budget. We have had some delightful fundraising events and I encourage you to continue your support of these events. Please keep using your S-Mart cards and attending the excellent dinners that are schedule. The Ciao Bella dinner was really good.

We are beginning the budget process for next fiscal year and all input to the Finance committee (Sara Milnes) will be appreciated. There will be a congregational meeting in March for a discussion on the draft budget.

The water leak at Bristol has been fixed but a new water heater will be needed in the next fiscal year. The furnace for the sanctuary has been repaired at a cost of about \$1300, and specific donations have covered the cost.

The new computer is up and running and a new wireless modem/router is now providing better service throughout the church.

All four of our assisted hearing devices have disappeared from the church and we will need to replace them. If you accidentally took one home, please bring it back.

We intend to ship the directory data to the photo company in January. It is ready but they have been difficult to work with.

Respectfully submitted

Dave Hall

Religious Education News

Parents (and Grandparents):

Please fill out this short survey **right now or by Feb. 7th!**

This is the first step in signing up your children for Religious Education (RE) this Spring semester.

(Grandparents: if you are the members, please encourage parents to fill this out or do so for them.)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/F3HYFJ9>

(Print version available at church in the clear plastic wall holder on the south side of Jackson Hall near the small bulletin board.)

January/February will include meditation, games, puppetry, Valentines party, crafts, and science!

See you at church!

Questions? Contact Acting Director of Religious Education, Lisa Jones at 547-1020 (home/landline) orlisawritesagain@gmail.com. Office hours Thursday 11-1

Congregational News & Updates

Book Group Meeting



February 2014: The Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela. Facilitated by Anne Struck

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

Ciao Bella That's Italian! Dinner Pictures



Valentine Dinner and a Movie

Draw a heart around Thursday, February 13, on your calendar. Then get a head start on Valentine's Day by feeling the love of your First UU family as you enjoy delicious Vietnamese food and view a sweet treat of a film.

The evening starts at 5:30 pm in Jackson Hall with a five course meal catered by nearby Saigon Vietnamese Cuisine, owned by perfectionist Van: vegetarian egg roll, lemon grass chicken on skewer, vegetarian combination fried rice, stir-fried mixed fresh vegetables, and sesame crisp banana with honey on top for dessert. Beverages include tea and coffee.

Good feelings continue as you move into the sanctuary at 6:30 pm to view "French Kiss", a romantic comedy set mainly in France. America's Sweetheart of the 90's Meg Ryan deals with bad boy Frenchman Kevin Kline. The opening scene with Med in simulated flight trying to conquer her fear of flying and the last part of the film with views of the vineyard-covered hills of Southern France are, by themselves, worth the price of admission!

Which brings us to the price of admission. Your \$16 donation provides you with food, entertainment, and surprises throughout the evening. Take friends- and even enemies, who will become your friends before the night is over- to First UU's FUNd-raiser: Valentine Dinner and a Movie! Get your tickets after each church service or by calling church administrator Nichole Ybarra (466-7743), Lois (465-8694), Leslie (957-8433), or Cindy (477-5984) through Sunday, Feb 9. Make checks payable to Stockton UU Church with "dinner/movie" on the memo line.



Emerson Coffee House Collective



Join us for an evening of piano music on Saturday, February 8, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

Christopher Hewitt, Yasha Yachnid, and Linli Wang have all studied at the University of the Pacific's Conservatory of Music with Frank Weins.

They will each perform solo piano pieces. In addition, Linli and Christopher have prepared to play four hands in a piano duet on the church's beautiful grand piano.

The program will close with three pianists performing a piece on one piano also known as playing six hands.

Come and enjoy two hands, four hands, and the astounding six hands of these talented pianists on one magnificent piano: Three On One!

Coffee and fabulous hors d'oeuvres served. \$10 adults \$5 students.

Donations Needed

Please donate unusable electric hardware and machinery so the elementary age kids can learn from a safety supervised "take apart party." E-mail or call Lisa with a description of your item. She will let you know if we still need the item and how to drop off. 547-1020

or religious_ed@stocktonuu.org

"Soup-er" Sunday - February 9th

Remember our fun coffee hours with delicious soups and breads added? What a great cold weather get-together it is! This became very popular and some of us have missed the warm meal and comradery. Stay after church service on February 9th, grab a bowl, and try a variety of soups, with plenty of bread and butter to enjoy with them.

I'll be calling on a few people to provide a pot of soup or some bread and all the rest of us need to do is plan to come and enjoy it! If you'd like to provide a soup, call Mary Bullard, 477-8745 or marybee2@gmail.com

Warm soup and friendship - February 9th - right after church!

Robert E. Green Memorial Scholarship

If you know a High School Senior in San Joaquin County that is looking for Scholarships, First UU Church is offering the Robert E. Green Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1000.00. Applications are available in Jackson Hall. Application deadline is March 1, 2014 if you have questions please contact Nichole at 209-466-7743 or office@stocktonuu.org.

Art Show

Lois Hulsey has an art show displaying her water color paintings in the office hallway. If you have any questions please contact Lois at 209-465-8694.

Come and wright on our Graffiti Wall

List any groups or organizations you are involved in on our graffiti wall located in the office hall way.

GROW WITH U- What's next



Not your usual COUPON BOOKS

\$12

"I saved \$8 with my first coupon!"

Dave Hall

Dozens of items not just fast foods. \$6 of every book stays with the church. The books are Good to Dec. 2014. Great gifts. Check them out, sell to friends. Available most Sundays in Jackson Hall.

Alliance News

The annual Church Women United Tea will be held Thursday, February 20, at the Greek Orthodox church located on March Lane between Pershing and Pacific. Gathering at 1 pm will be women from many church denominations in the Stockton area.

The Alliance has been well represented for many years and we encourage all women from our church to join us for an interesting afternoon. Following tan address, usually by a local Minister or lay person, a tea is held in the church fellowship hall.

Alliance members will host a table offering Veggies, Cheese and a delicious punch. Each church group will have a table serving a variety of foods and the social network between women of all faiths is enjoyable.

Under the leadership of Kay Owen all Alliance members will be asked to provide food for our table.

UU church members wishing to attend please feel free to join us for a different experience and an opportunity to be visible as a Unitarian Universalist in the greater Stockton community.

For additional information please contact Kay Owen at 478-3149 or Joan Briscoe at 956-9304.



Social Justice News

Social Justice Collection Sunday, February 16, 2014

Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions!

Social Justice Collection

Our January Social Justice Collection raised **\$167.00** Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions!

Social Justice News

Our Social Justice/Community Outreach effort is making great strides! On Monday, January 20th, The MLK National Day of Service, we engaged a very successful service project with the Boggs Tract Community Farm (see photos below). Close to 20 church members and friends participated! It was a fun and productive day in support of our community. Thanks!

Our UU Church T-shirt campaign was also a big success, with 39 shirts sold! Wear your shirts with pride as we spread the word about the social justice mission of our church.

The Habitat for Humanity crew will be back in action in February. Contact Art Cofod (art@cofod.net) for more information.

Thanks for all your good work!



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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