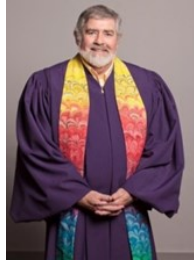


First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton

Communitarian

January 2015

Minister's Musings/ Message



With New Year's comes the start of a new business year and a new tax year, but for schools at all levels and churches, it just means we are halfway through the year. Calendars are mostly arbitrary anyway, though most in use currently are based in lunar or solar cycles and count forward from some important moment in time. The western calendar is counted from Jesus' birth and is generally thought to look back to that period with a margin of error of 4-8 years. Jesus was more likely born in the fall or spring than at the Winter Solstice, but Christians wanted to suppress pagan celebrations and so placed Christmas on Solstice, though later adjustments to the calendar separated the two by about 4 days. The designation of this calendar as counting C.E. (common era) rather than A.D. (anno domini/year of the lord) has been becoming more common in recent years. 2015 C.E. or A.D. still counts from a rather arbitrary time as even Christian Fundamentalists recognize at least a couple thousand years of life on earth before the start of this calendar. Most of us may think the earth has been here billions of years, but a 4 digit year is enough to write on a check or report! In any case, happy 2015! May it be a fruitful and peaceful year!

We have had a couple of conversations after recent services about attendance at our Sunday Services. There are some concerns that attendance is down. We hope that our new Director of Religious Education, Rosalie Saucedo, (check out her column) will encourage families to attend more regularly as well as helping to attract more families. We also are planning to schedule some bring-a-friend Sundays in coming days. Our Communications Team has been working on our website (stocktonuu.org) which is often where newcomers look to find out about UU congregations (check it out, then check periodically as we put up more information and make changes!)! Other ideas are always welcome (to me, Worship Leaders, or the Program Council).

I am running out of space, so I will close with the hope to see you each often in this New Year!
Peace,
Rev. Bob

Sunday Services- 10:30 a.m. Followed by Coffee hour

- January 04, 2015 Recovenant to Our Purpose in this Congregation Jan Vernor-Howard
- January 11, 2015 Thought's for a New Year! Rev. Bob Klein
- January 18, 2015 MLK Day- Is Racial Justice Still a Dream? Rev. Bob Klein
- January 25, 2015 Getting to Know You! Small Group Ministries & Covenant Groups! Rev. Bob Klein

Emerson Coffee House

Saturday January 10, 2015 7 pm Loki Rhythm

Audiences sing, laugh, dance, and drum along with Loki Rhythm's world music. Each musician of this accomplished ensemble seems to perform on strings, horns, percussion, and vocals, adding unique talents and personalities to Loki Rhythm. Every performance is a dynamic, enjoyable musical experience for every age group. Come and dance and be transported around the world with Loki Rhythm's vibrant tunes and harmonies. Check out their website at <http://lokirhythm.com/>.

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UU THURSDAYS

UU THURSDAYS! (Winter Session starts January 8th)

at First Unitarian Universalist Church

If you haven't been to one of our UU Thursday programs, I want to invite you to come give it a try. We are continuing to develop and grow this program, but it is viewed positively by most everyone who has come as an opportunity to get better acquainted in a relaxed atmosphere with a meal and programs that are fun. We also are looking for people to share additional program choices (some suggestions are below) in a low pressure supportive setting!

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, Dancing, Singing, Drumming, Jamming
Young Adult Programs/Groups
Dream Groups, Mandalas

Typical Schedule:

6:00 p.m. Gather and share simple meal (not a potluck but volunteer cooks welcome to sign up)

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

Date	Dinner 6:00	Worship 6:30	Program 1 6:45-7:30	Program 2 6:45-7:30	Program 3 6:45-8:00 BK
1/8			Knitting with Deb		*Escalating
1/15			Knitting with Deb		Inequality
1/22			Knitting with Deb		Cong Study
1/29			Knitting with Deb		Action Issue

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



Welcome to Rosalie Saucedo our New RE Director

I am excited to become part of the UU family here in Stockton as well as to be given the privilege of serving the Religious Education program. My first introduction to the Unitarian Universalism was in the summer of 2012 in Augusta, GA where my husband and I were stationed while serving in the U.S. Army. We moved to the valley this last June to be closer to my family. I was born in the Bay area but have lived in the Central Valley since I was almost 2 years old. I originally started in Stockton and eventually ended up in the Manteca/Lathrop area.

As a Central Valley kid, growing up in these small “passover towns” of the working class, leaving is a dream many of us don’t see come to fruition. Most of my childhood peers who did leave were only able to for two reasons: joining the military or being brave enough to go to a university somewhere else. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to do both.

I currently spend my evenings working at a school in South Stockton called Rosa Parks Academy. The demographic I work with is one that I am all too familiar with. My parents were young when they had me and although they carried PhD’s from the school of hard knocks they lacked high school diplomas. We struggled. Luck introduced us to a man named David Brewer who hired my father as a security guard for his non-profit, St. Mary’s Dining Hall in downtown Stockton. Unable to afford childcare, my parents worked separate shifts to ensure I had constant care. When school was out, David allowed my father to bring me to work. For 16 years I learned some of the greatest life lessons I carry with me to this day by going to work with my dad. My dad would eventually meet my stepmother, with a little help from David, who stepped in courageously when my biological one disappeared for a few years due to a meth addiction.

My husband asked me once “Without a religion, how will we teach our daughter morality?” I responded, “The same way I learned it growing up; by taking care of the less fortunate.” No matter how hard our life was, my dad

always reminded me someone had it worse and it was our duty to help. Even if that help was just treating someone with the daily dignity of a friendly conversation and an exchange of names. Many times, that was all we had to give. If you ask my dad about it, he would tell you he learned everything he knows from David.

They say it takes a village to raise a child, I am honored to become a part of your village and that you are now a part of ours. I am proud to be home and am ready to serve my community and to stand where my village elders once stood. That is the challenge I have accepted upon taking the position as the DRE.

And the next time you offer your spare change to someone, introduce yourself and ask for his/her name in return. The poor should be recognized by their names not their condition. It’s what my village elder David would want us to do.

In memory of David Brewer:
December 9, 1927- January 8, 2013.

Adult Classes Led by Rev. Klein

Winter 2015 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. Rev. Bob will introduce this with a 4 session study at January UU Thursdays.

Dream Group, looking at our Dreams—using Rev. Jeremy Taylor’s method based on Carl Jung’s understanding of Dreams. When 5 or more people express interest I will start a group! (Recommended reading: **The Wisdom of Your Dreams** by Jeremy Taylor) Contact Rev. Bob for more info if interested.

Book Group

January 28 2015, 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

Food for Body & Soul !



Mark your calendars for two after- church events important to the health of our church. Childcare will be provided.

>The first will be on **Sunday, January 11, 11:45-1:30**. Nurture your body with a soup and salad lunch. (Jan Vernor-Howard might be contacting you about contributing a dish.) You'll then help nourish the church's health by taking a 23-question survey evaluating how 1st UU

meets your needs in various aspects of church life. The Committee On Ministry (COM) will assist you in responding on either paper or computer.

>The second event will be on **Sunday, February 8, 11:45-1:30**. After another soup/salad lunch, we'll split into three focus groups. Each will concentrate on one area, such as social justice, Sunday worship, etc.

By participating in these activities, you will be contributing to 1st UU's vibrancy and effectiveness while enjoying the fellowship of church friends.

The Committee On Ministry
(Alfred Blum, Greg Cottin-Rack, Greg Harper, Cindy Milford, and Leslie Washington)

That's Italian! Dinner

Monday, January 12th, 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM, at Ciao Bella, 5644 N. Pershing Ave

Lots of parking to the east, beyond the fence at the back of the restaurant building, with entries around the south end of the building or off of Robinhood Drive. (Front lot fills very fast.)

Snap up tickets now for our warm and delicious Ciao Bella pasta buffet. The owner is offering a meal everyone will love at the regular menu price to ticket buyers, but giving the church a terrific break and we can eat at the restaurant! Buffet includes chicken pasta in a light sauce and/or lasagna,

plus, on request, pasta with marinara sauce and Parmesan cheese for those who are vegetarian. Also included is his great salad and the best garlic bread in town.

The price is just \$20, which includes tax and a gratuity for buffet workers. Drinks are on your own, of course - sodas, wines, mixed drinks are all available.

A great family outing to start off the New Year, so gather family and friends - but there's not much time! Tickets available at church services or you may contact Mary Bullard for delivery of tickets. Tickets also

available in the church office – call Administrator Nichole Ybarra. Make checks to Stockton UU Church, with "pasta" in the memo line.

It will be fun and it will be satisfying -and the more who attend, the more profit our church makes!!

Mary - marybee2@gmail.com or 477-8745

Nichole - office@stocktonuu.org or 466-7743

Alliance News

Open Position Yes! For many years Mary Lois Thompson Syd Thompson and Joan Brisco (Jerry Brisco until 7 years ago) have set up the Christmas tree in the Fireside Room three weeks before Christmas. They are looking for a replacement Duo, Trio, or Quartet to take over this responsibility. We have the tree, many decorations are available and there is the freedom to do it "your way".

We are advertising this "position" now so that someone will come forth and say I or We will take over this responsibility.

It is good to have volunteer replacements well in advance. We await your call. Joan Brisco— 956-9304 or Mary Lois Thompson— 477-3180.

Church Women United will hold their annual February Tea on Thursday, February 12, at the Buddhist Church. The program and speaker will begin at 1:00 p.m. There will be a recognition of attendance from all the different Stockton Churches during the program. We have been well represented the past few years and encourage UU friends and members to attend.

A monetary donation is not required however, the money is given to several non profits in Stockton. A delectable assortment of refreshments provided from the attending churches will follow the program in the large multi purpose room just across from the Sanctuary. The Alliance table will feature veggies, cheeses and assorted non sweet items. For more detailed information ask Kay Owen, Janet Bonner or any Alliance member.

Happy New Year from Social Justice and Community Outreach Committee!

- We had a great time at the Peace and Justice Fair in December (see attached photos)! We sold Fair Trade coffee and chocolate along with hand crafted items created by church members. Our sales totaled close to \$400! Many thanks to Sharon Marr, Beverly Schlessler, and Janet Bonner for their help in making this activity such a success!

On **Monday, January 19th**, join us in celebrating the **MLK National Day of Service** by volunteering at the Boggs Tract Community Farm (466 South Ventura Avenue, Stockton). We'll meet at the Farm at **9:00 a.m.** and work until noon. Please wear your First UU t-shirt (we have loaners if you don't have one), a hat, and bring a water bottle. For more information, contact Jeri Bigbee (jeribigbee@gmail.com, 931-6871).

Mark your calendars ... on **Thursday, February 26th** we'll be participating in the **Rotary Read-in**, going to Van Buren School in Stockton to read in selected classrooms. If you're interested in participating, please contact Jeri Bigbee (jeribigbee@gmail.com, 931-6871).

Keep up the good work!



Social Justice Collection

Our December Social Justice Collection raised \$239.00 for Emergency Food Bank. Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions! If you have any suggestions for Social Justice Collection Recipient please contact Nichole Ybarra or Rev. Bob Klein.

Social Justice Collection recipient for Sunday, January 18, 2015 is Western Farm Worker's

Treasure Report

Pledge income is slightly down and I am hoping the year end catchup will occur. Routine expenses continue to be stable. We have hired a new DRE, and that will bring our expenses closer to normal.

We are still in negotiations for an improved insurance policy which should also be somewhat less expensive. We have updating our AT&T service to fiber optics and much higher Internet speeds. We have dropped our separate fax line. If you use wifi at church, there is a new name and password, available in the office.

Respectfully submitted

Dave Hall

Ministers 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.

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

Minister

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