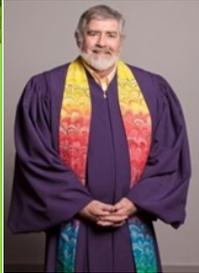


Minister's Musings/ Message



March! We can only hope that we see some of the spring rains that the rest of the country can expect. Growing up in Chicagoland, I remember March as a wet month, sometimes with significant snowfalls, but almost always with a lot of dreary damp rainy days. My years in Arkansas had Marches that were if anything wetter, though not nearly as cold. Here in the California Delta, it isn't often wet or cold, and if March follows the direction set out by February, it will be heading toward summer's hot dry temperatures!

Inside this issue:

UU THURSDAYS 2

Church Draft Budget Meeting 3

Religious Education News 3

Emerson Coffee House 4

Newcomers Class 4

A Great Green Irish Hooley 5

Social Justice and Community Outreach 5

Social Justice Collection 5

Book Club 6

Adult Classes 6

Collectibles Roundup 6

Alliance News 6

Treasure's Report 7

Covenant Group Registration 7

A group of women are arranging a celebration of Women's History month on March 15th. (They have promised to keep to just one service, and I will not try to get in even a few thoughts, as I attempted last year over 3 Sundays!)

We will be celebrating the Vernal Equinox this year with our Flower Communion on March 22nd. Please bring one or more flowers to share (from your garden if possible). Flower Communion dates to the early 1920s, when Rev. Norbert Capek celebrated the unity of the Unitarian congregation in Prague as they were preparing to break for the summer.

March is typically a busy month for the church as the finance folks begin preparing for the annual pledge drive, the board moves forward to approve the draft budget for the coming year, and nominating folks begin looking for leaders to fill vacancies for the upcoming year. Some of these things can be a burden, so please offer to help wherever you can. As a primarily volunteer organization, we depend on shared leadership in which all members and many friends accept responsibility for helping to keep the church running effectively and efficiently.

We live in interesting and challenging times. The message of acceptance, respect, and love is at the core of our religion. In difficult times, the blessing of communities such as ours becomes even more important. Help share the message at our core by inviting friends and acquaintances to give us a try.

Have a safe and healthy March! Peace!

Rev. Bob

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

3/1 The Dangers of Promoting Religious Choice and Other Reasons We Lose our Youth!
Rev. Bob Klein

3/8 UUism and Spirituality! Rev. Bob Klein

3/15 Women's History Month! Cindy, Pat guest speaker

3/22 Vernal Equinox and FLOWER COMMUNION! (bring a flower to share)
Rev. Bob Klein

3/29 Palm Sunday and Passover, Our Judeo-Christian Heritage! Rev. Bob Klein

BRING-A-FRIEND SUNDAY'S

The Program Council is planning to hold 3 Bring-a-Friend Sundays in the next few months. We hope you will plan to invite one or more friends to join us on the following Sundays:

March 22 will focus on the Vernal Equinox and will be Flower Communion (good for pagans and flower children)

April 19 which will be our Earth Day Service (especially good for the environmentally aware)
Rev. Bob will be preaching for both services.

UU THURSDAYS!

at First Unitarian Universalist Church

If you haven't been to one of our casual UU Thursday programs, come give it a try. We are continuing to develop and grow this program and are always looking for people to share additional program choices (ideas 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, Games for Children & Youth (all ages)**

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	Program 4-Children 6:45-7:30 RS
3/5			Knitting w/Deb		Covenant Group Sample*	
3/12			Knitting w/Deb		Covenant Group Resources	
3/19			Knitting w/Deb		Dream Group Intro**	
3/26			Knitting w/Deb		Why Connect? UUA PCD	

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



Church Draft Budget Information Meeting – March 29

Church Committees and the Board of Trustees have spent the past month preparing a draft budget for the coming year – July 2015 through June 2016. We hope that this budget reflects the needs of the church as expressed by committees and individual church members during this past year. We are a very active church reflected in both our programs, our social justice activities and the many hours that volunteers spend participating in and helping on church projects and activities.

The Board of Trustees would like to provide a review of the draft budget after church services on March 29. We will appreciate questions and suggestions at this meeting. The final budget won't be approved by the Board of Trustees until May 26. The Annual Church Meeting to review and finally approve a budget will be on June 14.

Copies of the church budget will be available in Jackson Hall prior to March 29. And you are all welcome to call Dwane Milnes at 209-956-2868 or catch him at church if you have any questions prior to the March 29 meeting.

We hope you will be able to come March 29. The coffee will taste good!

Religious Education News:

Volunteers and Training:

RE has received a few inquiries for people who would like to volunteer in the cottage. We welcome anyone interested in volunteering, however, we are currently developing new policies and procedures to ensure the safety of our youth in this congregation. These procedures include holding a mandatory volunteer screening/training session on a date to-be-determined in the next 3 months. If anyone is interested in volunteering please contact the DRE Rosalie Saucedo in person, by email or by filling out one of the RE Volunteer Interest cards in the entrance of the sanctuary. Thank you for your patience as we further develop our youth RE program.

Parent/DRE meeting:

The meeting on 22 February had a small turn out but the parents who did show up had a lot of great input as to how we can make the RE program better. For those parents who did not make the meeting, there are registration packets at the entrance on the information table. All families are asked to fill out a registration packet so that we can update your children's information. You can also set up a one-on-one meeting with me if you would like. Just send an email to the DRE email listed below.

Online RE:

The RE program officially goes online 1 March, be on the look out for a link to our youtube channel on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and in your email inbox.

Multigenerational Service:

This month's multigenerational service will be our Flower Communion/Vernal Equinox service on 22 March.



Emerson Coffee House March 14, 2015



Medieval & Spanish blues Guitar & Songs

Ready for a unique and talented take on a wide range of musical traditions? Claude Bourbon is known throughout Europe and America for amazing guitar performances that take blues, Spanish, Middle Eastern, and Russian styling's into uncharted territories. Each year Bourbon plays more than 100 shows around the world.

Claude has played countless venues, including Glastonbury Festival, Isle of Wight Festival, Colne Great British & Blues Festival, Rock O'Z Arene, Avenches, Switzerland, among others. He has shared the stage in Europe and the USA with countless musicians, Calvin Russel, Charlie Morgan (Elton John, Gary Moore), Jan Akkerman (Focus), Steve Grossman (Miles Davis), Herbie Armstrong (Van Morrison), Jose barrense Dias and many more.

Now based in the UK, some of this guitarists' influences allow us a fascinating insight into this remarkable musician; Paco De Lucia; Deep Purple's Richie Blackmore; Joaquin Rodrigo; JJ Cale, Monty Python; JS Bach and Fleetwood Mac's Stevie Nicks....

“A breathtaking acoustic fusion of blues, jazz, folk, classical and Spanish guitar from a stunning guitar virtuoso...” Altadena News, USA”

“...This accomplished artist offers tender, compelling performance through highly developed precision. His sound instantly creates ambience – from haunting Spanish moods to lyrical, romantic jazz, Claude Bourbon provides both a rich evening of music for lovers, and a real treat for music lovers...” BBC, UK

Saturday March 14, 2015 7 pm. \$15 Adults/ \$8 Students

Newcomers Class

If you would simply like to know more about our church and how we differ from traditional protestant congregations, or if you are contemplating membership, then I invite you to attend an informational class following the service on Sunday, March 15th. Immediately after coffee hour, those interested will enjoy a lunch in our conference room and informational presentations starting at noon. We promise to have you out by 3 P.M., at the very latest. If you require child care, let me know.

Rev. Bob will help with the history of the denomination through the centuries and you'll learn more about our church in particular, including our historic organ. A great opportunity to ask questions. All are welcome.

Because the class includes lunch and we also must have enough packets ready, we ask that you please call or email to me if you plan to attend. It is obviously important that we know how many to expect.

Hope to see you there.

In fellowship,

Mary Bullard, Membership Chair
209-477-8745
marybee2@gmail.com

A Great Green Irish Hooley



Sure, an' y'doonwanna miss this

Frí., March 20, 6:30 pm

1st UU Church, 2737 Pacific Ave.



*Corned beef & cabbage or vegetarian, with
Soda bread, Kerrygold Irish butter & dessert and
Real and non alcoholic beers and ales, also lemonade
Real Irish tunes and ballads - sing-along, anyone?*

Limericks Contest !

Adults \$15, kids \$5 Please make Checks payable to 1st UU, "for Hooley"

Tickets Sundays or call church office - 466-7743

Social Justice and Community Outreach News

Our participation in the Rotary Read-in on February 27th was a great success! The First UU Church team that read at Van Buren School included Beverly Schlessler (team leader), Adele O'Neill, David Carpenter, Mary Bullard, Sharon Marr, Mikayla Meyling, Jessie Springborn, Rosemarie Atkinson, Cindy Milford, and Pat Davis. Thank you all for representing our church at this important community event.

Mark your calendars ... we'll be participating in the Earth Day Celebration on Sunday, April 26th. If you'd like to join in, please contact Jeri Bigbee (931-6871; jeribigbee@gmail.com)



Social Justice Collection

Our February Social Justice Collection raised \$ 205.00 for Stockton Shelter for the Homeless . 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, March 15, 2015 is Saint Mary's Dining Room.

The Mission of St. Mary's Dining Room -

St. Mary's Dining Room responds to poverty in San Joaquin County by feeding the hungry, caring for health issues and restoring human dignity to over 700 individuals each day.

Vision

See a community where all are empowered and able to be self-reliant, independent as well as able to meet their physical emotional and psychological well-being.

Book Club

March 25, 2015 7:00 p.m. 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. Bob

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 new group! (Recommended reading: **The Wisdom of Your Dreams** by Jeremy Taylor: paper/kindle) Contact Rev. Bob for more info if interested.

***Rev. Bob will lead a Dream Group Intro at UU Thursday March 19th.*

Collectibles Roundup

Been planning to find loving homes for old vases, silver & pewter items, postcards, pictures, jewelry, or collections of stamps, spoons, etc.? Please set them aside for pick-up or delivery around May 1 for a Collectibles Sale May 16. THANKS in advance.

Bev Blum

Alliance News

The Alliance Spring luncheon and program, *Women in California History*, is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, at O'Connor Woods. Members and guests will meet in the North Clubhouse at promptly 10:30 for the program followed by lunch in the main dining room at 11:45. Arrangements with O'Connor Woods will require reservations for lunch. The luncheon is \$10.00 and cash is preferred. Colleen Cook and Kay Owen are in charge of arrangements and will collect the money for your lunch ticket at the meeting. Directions to the North Clubhouse from the main gate will be given by Security as you enter O'Connor Woods. Parking is easy and located near the Clubhouse. Be sure and allow time for finding the location including the drive to OCW - north on Pacific, cross Hammer Lane and continue north on Thornton Road to Wagner Heights Road - turn left to 3400 and enter the open main gate. Additional information please call Colleen, Kay or Joan Briscoe.

The Women's Center, after many group donations, have an over supply of soaps and shampoos, etc. We are exploring other agencies that help families in our community. When we have located a source we will let our loyal members and friends who have donated through the years. Thank you for all your support.

Keep up the good
work!

Treasurer's Report- for March 2015

Pledge income is still slightly down, the pledge reports are out and hopefully that will encourage those who are behind to catch up. Plate offerings are also down compared to last year. Total income is up because of two large gifts received recently, and these are being set aside for repairs and upgrades to the facilities. Reports are posted in Jackson Hall for those who like to look at data.

Expenses are slightly down, but are always erratic, property tax bills were paid in Feb. We are well into the budget process for the next fiscal year and it will be presented to the congregation in March for discussion. We have negotiated a new insurance policy with a well-respected company, Church Mutual, that began on Feb. 1, at a lower rate and with higher coverage limits. We are now much better protected than we have been in the past.

Respectfully submitted
Dave Hall



Covenant Group

We now have enough people signed up to start at least 2 Covenant Groups. Those who have already signed up can expect to hear from the church office or a group facilitator in the next few weeks with more information and an invitation to the first group meeting. We will have a sample Covenant Group during UU Thursday on March 5th and discuss Covenant Group Resources on March 12th. There is still space available if anyone would like to sign up or for more information contact Rev. Klein.

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH STOCKTON, CA
COVENANT GROUP REGISTRATION 2015

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHONE: _____ E-Mail: _____

PREFERRED MONTHLY MEETING TIME:

Morning _____ Afternoon _____ Evening _____

Preferred Day: _____

Are you able/willing to host a Covenant Group at your home? monthly 2X year

Are you interested in being trained as a Covenant Group Facilitator? Yes No

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. Rev. Bob is also available by appointment at other times.* Please call his home 209-227-7591 if he is not at the church, or **call his cell 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

General Office Hours

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

The Mission of our church
Is to nurture individual spiritual/ethical growth,
to be inclusive of all people,
and to be an active voice of conscience
in the greater community.

Minister

Rev. Robert Klein.....466-7743
E-Mail.....minister@stocktonuu.org

Director of Religious Education

Rosalie Saucedo..... 466-7743
E-Mail.....religious_ed@stocktonuu.org

Music Director

Amelia Roberts.....466-7743
E-Mail..... music@stocktonuu.org

Administrator

Nichole Ybarra.....466-7743
E-Mail..... office@stocktonuu.org

Board of Trustees' President

Dwane Milnes.....466-7743
E-Mail.....President@stocktonuu.org