

U2C2 Connection

A monthly newsletter published by the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Sacramento
August 2008

A Month of Sundays

Worship Services

10:30 a.m. Sundays, unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, August 3, 10:30 a.m. - *"Blessing of the Animals"*

Celebrate the many ways that our animal companions bless our lives and return the favor by bringing them to church this Sunday — only, of course, if your pet is temperamentally disposed to enjoy such an outing! Otherwise, bring a photo or other object representing your pet to be blessed. If your pet would like to show off a little, he or she is welcome to demonstrate a trick or special skill that can be performed in a small space (the front of our sanctuary.) Rev. Martha is looking forward to meeting the furry, feathered, scaly and slithery members of your family!

Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

Sunday, August 10, 10:30 a.m. - *"When She Died"*

"When your father dies, say the Russians, he takes your childhood with him. May you inherit his light, say the Armenians." (from "Shifting the Sun" by Diana Der-Havanessian.) Rev. Martha will reflect on the meanings we draw from the loss of a parent (this sermon topic was chosen by the high bidder at last year's Action Auction, Tom Rintoul).

Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

Sunday, August 17, 10:30 a.m. - *"Accidental Jihad"*

Ramadan in 2008 will start on Monday, the 1st of September and will continue for 30 days until Tuesday, the 30th of September. During this time, Muslims refrain from eating, drinking, and sexual activity during the daylight hours. Through this and other spiritual practices, Muslims believe we become more conscious of God in our lives. Lucy Bunch will share a story of a woman's experience of Ramadan witnessing her husband's adherence to this Muslim practice.

Worship Leader: Lucy Bunch

Sunday, August 24, 10:30 a.m. - *"But It's Not Fair!"*

Our notions of fairness are deeply ingrained and affect our allocation of resources, responses to transgression, and ideas about God. Allison Claire will challenge traditional understandings of fairness and explore the theological implications of getting what we "deserve."

Worship Leader: Allison Claire

Sunday, August 31, 10:30 a.m. - *"The Art of Living Joyously"*

Yes, you too can live a life filled with Joy! Join us for an uplifting and upbeat sermon from one of our resident seminary scholars, Paula Braxton. Many people are so concerned with adding days to their life that they forget to add life to their days. Live life joyously. Confused about what that means and how to do it? Do you know the wonders of living a joyful life and do you practice it? Is this something that sounds good but you are totally clueless about how to even start revving up the cheer and mirth machine? Join us for a lively time as we discover how each and every one of us can live life joyously.

Worship Leader: Paula Braxton

A Month of Sundays

Worship Services **p. 1**

August Planner 2008

Events & Schedule **p. 2**

Grace Notes

Postcard From My Couch **p. 3**

President's Message

Current and Upcoming Ventures **p. 4**

RE Corner

News from the RE Chair **p. 4**

From Your DRE

DRE News **p. 5-6**

Growing Together

Exciting Times! Early Worship Service Coming Soon! **p. 7**

Helping Hands

Trouble Hearing During Church? **p. 8**

Ongoing Activities

Daytimers Group **p. 8**

Theatre Group **p. 8**

Saturday Supper **p. 8**

About Us

Mission **p. 9**

Membership **p. 9**

Affiliates **p. 9**

Contacts **p. 9**

August Planner 2008

If you have a meeting or event this month and don't see it listed, please contact the office at 689-2008 or uucc@cwnet.com.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 *Facility Rental 5-10pm	2 Sat Supper
3 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Newcomer Welcome 11:30-12:30	4	5	6 Sing-along 7:30-8:30pm	7 Daytimers 10am at church Worship Committee Mtg 7pm	8	9 Theatre Group 8pm
10 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Harry Potter Game & Talk Time after church	11 Membership Committee Mtg 7-9pm	12	13	14 Daytimers 10am at church Board Mtg 7:15pm	15 Newsletter Deadline Annual Camping Trip	16 Annual Camping Trip
17 Sunday Worship 10:30am Finance Mtg 12pm Annual Camping Trip	18	19	20 Sing-along 7:30-8:30pm	21 Daytimers 10am at church	22	23
24 Sunday Worship 10:30am	25	26	27	28 Daytimers 10am at church Church Ops Mtg 7pm (offsite)	29	30
31 Sunday Worship 10:30am						

* A "Facility Rental" is when church space is reserved for a non-UUCC event at the time/date stated.

Worship Support Schedule

Altar	Greeters	Lighters	Ushers
8/3 Karen Gunderson	Jim Skow & Frieda Fergus	on summer break	Leslie Gladney
8/10 Jerry Melnick	Jim Skow & Frieda Fergus	on summer break	Leslie Gladney
8/17 Judi Schafer	Jim Skow & Frieda Fergus	on summer break	Leslie Gladney
8/24 Edie Olaughlin	Jim Skow & Frieda Fergus	on summer break	Leslie Gladney
8/31 Celia Buckley	Jim Skow & Frieda Fergus	on summer break	Leslie Gladney

Grace Notes

Postcard From My Couch

REST AND...



...RELAXATION

Having a lovely vacation! Hope you are enjoying some R & R this summer — see you in August!

- Rev. Martha Hodges



UCC
8231-C E. Stockton Blvd.
Sacramento CA 95828

President's Message RE Corner



Current and Upcoming Ventures

Dear Congregation,

In the month of July, I had the pleasure of meeting with both of the new incoming Board members. This is a fine group of folks who will provide good leadership for our church. We are now in the process of planning for our Annual Board Retreat where we will work on defining some goals for the year in addition to other items. One of the important things that I know we will be addressing this year is the alignment between our current committee structure and the ministries of Welcoming, Nurturing, Empowerment and Serving. So expect to hear more about this.

Do you have any thoughts about things you believe the Board should focus on? If you do, I encourage you to send me a note. As always, your input is not only welcome but desired.

The next time I write an article for the newsletter, we will have begun our second or early service. Lucy Bunch tells me that the Worship Committee meeting was quite successful with a lot of participation and ideas. This is a very exciting venture and I hope you will invite those friends of yours who you think will like this form of service. Come one come all.

I hope many of you have been having fun at the Wednesday sing-along program with Loren Richmond. This is a really fun thing to do and is also important to support.

I hope to see many of you at our Annual Camping Trip. This is one of my favorite events. This year, we will see if Rev. Martha brings a sleeping bag. ☺

Keep thinking about your carbon footprint!

In service,
Marion Randall

News from the RE Chair



The children's summer religious education program is currently going over our UU principles and Purposes through stories and crafts. The children are divided into Littles and Middles for the summer with some of the older children helping out. We have had an average of twelve children each Sunday. Our teachers have really appreciated the

adults and teens who have jumped in to help when the rooms are filled with lots of excited children. We are still recruiting summer teachers; call Annette Emery to volunteer.



The UUCC Fall RE program is filling up with most of our teaching slots occupied. However, we still need occasional volunteers to help out each Sunday and to make the robes and hats our teachers and children will need as part of the Hogwarts curriculum. We will also need volunteers for the story/activity time to be held during the early service. In conjunction with the Hogwarts curriculum, an intergenerational Harry Potter book club will be meeting the second Sunday of each month after church (contact Susan Lange).

From Your DRE



Busy Bees

Busy, busy, busy. That is what the RE department is! There is a lot going on in the RE department. You are welcome to come join in the fun!

Food Drive

Our children will be doing a food drive for two Sundays starting on August 10. The children will take plastic bags with UUCG literature and a request for canned food items and put them on residents doors near UUCG. Would you like to help? We need plastic bags, people to go walking with us, as well as people to drive the following weekend to pick up the food.

Accio UU's - Harry Potter Book Club

The first book club meeting was a smashing success! Participants were sorted into *houses*, there were games, a lively discussion and even charades! Come join the fun! The next book club meeting will be on August 10 after church.

Hogwarts is Coming

On August 31, *Platform 9 ¾* will appear at UUCG so the children can make their way to the Hogwarts School of UU Magic! A *house sorting* will happen after their arrival. Come and see what *houses* the children are *sorted* into!

Our Whole Lives – OWL

Our Whole Lives is a series of sexuality education curricula for six age groups: grades K-1, grades 4-6, grades 7-9, grades 10-12, young adults (ages 18-35), and adults.

Don't know what its all about? The Our Whole Lives Values are:

- Self worth
- Sexual health
- Responsibility
- Justice and inclusivity

Each level of Our Whole Lives offers:

- Up-to-date information and honest, age appropriate answers to all participants questions
- Activities to help participants clarify values and improve decision-making skills
- Effective group-building to create a safe and supportive peer group
- Education about sexual abuse, exploitation and harassment
- Opportunities to critique media messages about gender and sexuality
- Acceptance of diversity
- Encouragement to act for justice
- Parent orientation programs that affirm parents as the primary sexuality educators of their children

Did you know that there are only two church systems in the United States that will teach human sexuality? Unitarian Universalism is one of them and the United Church of Christ is the other. Wouldn't you love to have your kids say that they learned about sexuality at church?

In January/February 2009, we will be offering OWL for 1st-3rd graders (parent participation required) and 5th-6th graders. If you would like your child to attend, please contact me, Paula Braxton, for orientation dates. Orientation is mandatory in order to attend.

The RE Committee as well as myself and Rev. Martha feel that OWL is an extremely valuable curriculum that we are committed to offering this year. In order to make OWL a reality, we need to raise the funds to send our facilitators to training in October as well as purchase the books. In order to do this, we will be holding a series of fundraisers such as the UU Café. We hope you will participate and help send our facilitators to training so that we can offer OWL. Donations are welcome as well.

Social Action

Have you ever wondered how Social Action can be taught to our children? Do you ever wonder if small children can participate in Social Action and really know what is going on? The RE children are working on lots of different Social Action items at the moment. Here is what we are working on:

The children are collecting non-perishable foods for a local food bank in August. Any donations are welcome.

The children are coloring pages of inspirational messages for the Color A Smile foundation. Color A Smile is a non-profit organization that spreads smiles with cheerful drawings. Since 1986, we have been collecting crayon drawings from school children. Every month, we mail thousands of these original crayon "masterpieces" throughout the United States. Who gets these masterpieces? Color A Smile mails monthly packages of drawings to administrators of nursing homes for display in common areas among other recipients.

The children are having fun helping others. They may see it as coloring pretty pictures but it puts the seed into their brains that helping others is important. This is a great way to lay the foundation for the growth of caring and generous humans. We hope you help tend this beautiful garden that we are growing in RE.

Spiral Scouts

Have you always wanted your child in a scouting program that was open to all? SpiralScouts™ International is a program for girls and boys of all faiths to work, grow and learn together. Making its public debut in February of 2001, SpiralScouts™ International has grown into an expanded program available to anyone worldwide. SpiralScouts was created in 1999 as the Aquarian Tabernacle Church's answer to mainstream scouting programs such as those offered by the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire groups. The program was developed to be as inclusive as possible in all areas. It features coed groups and leaders and is nondiscriminatory in all regards (sexual orientation, religion, and gender). The flexibility of the SpiralScouts program is a novel feature, allowing individual groups to determine the exact manner in which they will pursue their own unique goals.

Rev. Martha and I were wondering if there would be any interest in starting a Spiral Scouts group? If you would be interested in helping out, having your children participate, or both, please contact me, Paula.

- Paula Braxton



Growing Together



Exciting Times! Early Worship Service Coming Soon!

Our Sunday mornings at church on September 7, 2008 and beyond will be structured like this:

- 9:30 a.m. Early Worship Service - a quiet and meditative worship; childcare with activities provided.
- 10:15 a.m. Social Hour (for both services) - coffee and snacks will be provided.
- 11:00 a.m. Late Worship Service - similar to our current service; full Sunday School program.
- 12:00 p.m. Coffee Hour (following our late service) - beverages will be provided.

Some have had questions about the logistics of moving to two services. Logistically, things are falling into place nicely. Below are some answers to common questions about the logistics:

Will Galina (childcare provider and opener) be at both services? Yes! At least initially. Galina will help us through the transition to two services. After a few months, we will re-evaluate how her job flows. Galina will provide childcare for our youngest during both services. During social hour, the parents will be responsible for their children.

With two services, how can I see my friends? Social hour! Our social hour will be between the two services. Whether you attend the early service or the late service, be at the church between 10:15 and 11:00 a.m. and stay connected with all your fellow members.

How will greeting take place? We will have greeters, but no ushers during the early service. The early greeters will do the duties of the ushers. During the social hour, our ushers and greeters will greet all those who come into our church.

What about chair set up? Chairs during the early service may be in a different configuration, such as a circle. We anticipate the early service being smaller, therefore with fewer chairs. During social hour, we will need to move the chairs to their usual configuration. Galina will be available to help us set up correctly. However, here's a place where you can help too. We will rely on Galina, as well as volunteers, to do chair set-up during our social hour.

What happens after the second service? There is bound to be some socializing after the second service. That is correct. We will have both coffee and drinks available following the second service.

Is there some way I can help out? Sure! You can contact the appropriate person, depending on your area of interest:

- Religious Education for Children – Paula Braxton, our Director of Religious Education
- Coffee and Snacks – Merry Walle
- Greeting or Ushering – Sonia Duffoo
- Worship – Lucy Bunch or Rev. Martha Hodges
- General Logistical Stuff – Laura Osborne

There are likely to be some additional logistical adjustments here and there as we begin our two services. However, we expect the transition to two services to go fairly smoothly as many have given time and much thought to our new endeavor. September 7 will be here soon and with it will come more opportunities for others to join us in celebrating our Unitarian Universalist faith.

Helping Hands

Trouble Hearing During Church?

Do you have trouble hearing during church services or meetings?

If so, you are just the person we are looking for! September 8-15, our church will be pilot-testing two different brands of listening-assist devices available for our hard-of-hearing members/friends. This is a seven day loan from the Accessibilities Office of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

If you are hearing impaired and would like to be one of our "listening-device evaluators", please contact Laura Osborne to sign up. We would love to have you help us! Tom Rintoul and Kevin Chasse are our technical assistance guys. They will meet with you during the week of September 8, where you will have a chance to try out both systems in a meeting/group-type setting. On Sunday, September 14, you will have the opportunity to try it out during a worship service (or two). Tom and Kevin will be there to assist you and to answer technical questions about the device.

At this point, we are only investigating listening device possibilities. We don't know when we will be obtaining the assist devices.

Again, to sign up as one of our "evaluators", please contact Laura. She's looking forward to hearing from you.



Ongoing Activities

Daytimers Group

Daytimers is a free ranging discussion group that meets every Thursday from 10-12 noon. We are pleased to welcome people of all ages to join us for lively talk, good company, and lunch at a local restaurant afterwards. The current topic is Michael Shermer's "The Science of Good and Evil". If interested, please get in touch with Dick Tarble .



Theatre Group

On Saturday, August 9, we will see the production of "Bee-Luther-Hatchee" at Celebration Arts Theatre on 4469 D Street at 8:00 p.m. Written by August Gibbons, this is a drama about a book editor trying to find the author of a prize-winning biography by an unknown African American woman. Admission is \$15 general and \$13 student/senior. For reservations, please contact Frieda Fergus by Sunday, August 3.



Saturday Supper

The Saturday Supper is a potluck dinner held on the first Saturday of each month. The next dinner is on Saturday, August 2. We divide up into small groups of 6-12 and share a meal in someone's home. At each dinner, we ask a question and then take turns answering, if we choose. It is okay to participate without ever hosting and it is okay to come occasionally. Participants are with a different group of people each month. This is a great way to get to know others in our congregation. We would love to have you join us! Thank you to our hosts for July: Paula Braxton & Candy Wood, and Dick & Georgene Tarble. Contact Terri Riley if you can host or are interested in coming to our August potluck.

About Us

Mission

The ministry of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church is to foster open minds, caring hearts, helping hands, and growing spirits in a congregation of all ages. By living and sharing Unitarian Universalist values, our spiritual and intentionally diverse community seeks to bring compassion and justice to the world.

UUC is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Pacific Central District (PCD) of the UUA.

Membership

Would you like to be a formal member of this congregation? We would love to have you as a member!

If you would like membership information or if you feel ready to sign our membership book, you may talk to Eric Walle or Laura Osborne.

Membership requirements are:

- 1) you must be at least 16 years old
- 2) you accept our principles and purposes
- 3) you make and fulfill a commitment to an annual contribution of record through a pledge of money and/or services.

We are a wonderful congregation and we will welcome you with open arms.

Affiliates

All Unitarian Universalist congregations in California's mountain and valley areas:

www.uuvalleysierra.org

Pacific Central District (PCD):

www.pcd-uua.org

Telephone: (510) 601-1437

Unitarian Universalist Association:

www.uua.org

Telephone: (617) 742-2100

UU Legislative Ministry:

www.uulmca.org

Telephone: (916) 441-0018

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee:

www.uusc.org

Telephone: (617) 868-7102

Sacyouth - Faith-Based Activities for Youth:

www.sacyouth.com

South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership (SSIP)

Emergency Food Closet:

www.ssipfoodcloset.org

Telephone: (916) 428-5290

Contact

Newsletter

U2C2 Connection Editor:

Newsletter contributions should be mailed to the UUC church address, phoned in to 689-2008, faxed to 689-2282 or emailed to uucc@cwnet.com by the 15th of each month.

Editorial Advisor - newsletter:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008

Website

Website Administrator:

UUC office 689-2008 or uucc@cwnet.com

Editorial Advisor - website:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008

Administration

Administrative Support:

Address:

8231-C East Stockton Blvd
Sacramento CA 95828

Phone: 689-2008/ Fax: 689-2282

Website: www.u2c2.org

Email: uucc@cwnet.com

Office Hours: Tue/Thur/Sat 8am-1pm

Minister's Hours: By appointment only (minister's sabbath on Tuesday)

Leadership

Minister:

Rev. Martha Hodges, 689-2073

uucc_minister@frontiernet.net

Director of Religious Education:

Paula Braxton 689-2008 uucc@cwnet.com

Board of Trustees:

President: Marion Randall

Vice President: John Sugar

Secretary: Christy Clark

Treasurer: Eric Walle

At-Large Members: Wynne Skow,

Richard Leimbach, Sonia Duffoo

Endowment Trust: Terri Riley,

Terry Chekon, Patrick Cody

Committees:

Church Operations: Alison Navas

Committee on Ministry: Tom Rintoul,

Celia Buckley, Jim Eastman

Finance: Mark Callicotte

Membership: Eric Walle

Religious Education: Annette Emery

Stewardship: Celia Buckley

Worship: Lucy Bunch

Justice Coordinating Team: Julia Walle,

Antonio Gonzalez

Openers/Closers Supervisor:

Rev. Martha Hodges

Beliefs Within Our Faith

Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion that encompasses many faith traditions. Unitarian Universalists include people who identify as Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Pagans, Atheists, Agnostics, Humanists, and others. As there is no official Unitarian Universalist creed, Unitarian Universalists are free to search for truth on many paths.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
Serving Sacramento and Elk Grove, California
8231-C East Stockton Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95828

Postage

Mailing Label

U2C2 Connection
August 2008