

U2C2 Connection

A monthly newsletter published by the UnitarianUniversalist Community Church

::A Month of Sundays::

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August Sunday Services

Our services are held on Sundays at 10:30 AM unless otherwise stated.

Sunday, August 1: "Celebrating the Harvest" - Worship Leader: Lucy Bunch

On August 1st, Lammas, the pagan holiday of the harvest is celebrated. We will share poetry and song that have become a tradition for our congregation. Please bring something from your garden to help co-create our harvest altar.

Sunday, August 8: "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" - Worship Leader: Becca Sanders

Mr. Rogers used to always ask, "Won't you be my neighbor?" What does that mean? Who is our neighbor? And how do we act as neighbors to those around us? Come ready to sing, laugh, and ponder this very simple, yet very important question.

Sunday, August 15: "Changing Our Tune" - Worship Leader: Eric Walle

Paul Razor's 2009 Berry Street Essay "Ironic Provincialism" (adapted by UU World in an article entitled, "Can Unitarian Universalism Change?") has prompted an abundance of commentary in print and online. In this lay-led service, Eric Walle will offer a perspective on that discussion and introduce new lyrics to a familiar hymn.

Sunday, August 22: "Romancing the Dark Side" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

The "Twilight Saga," "Vampire Diaries," "True Blood"... You've probably noticed that vampire movies and television shows, books and websites are all the rage these days, especially among teens and young adults. What is so appealing about these mythical creatures that has kept them alive in the public imagination for centuries? Rev. Martha will look for what lies at the heart of the vampire craze.

Sunday, August 29: "Water Communion" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

Join us for our annual ingathering service and water ceremony. Bring a bit of water from your summer travels, real or virtual. We will combine the water representing our separate lives and stories as we reaffirm the power of community and the unique identity we create together. This will be a multigenerational service.

::August Planner::

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1 Sunday Service 10:30AM	2 Membership Committee Mtg 7-9PM off-site	3	4	5 Daytimers 10AM at church	6	7
8 Sunday Service 10:30AM	9	10 Board Mtg 7:15PM	11 Chalice Circle 7-8:30PM	12 Daytimers 10AM at church	13 Theatre Group 8PM	14 Men's Group 9AM
15 Sunday Service 10:30AM Newsletter Deadline	16	17	18	19 Daytimers 10AM at church	20	21 Sat Supper off-site UUCC Board Retreat
22 Sunday Service 10:30AM	23	24	25 Chalice Circle 7-8:30PM	26 Daytimers 10AM at church	27	28
29 Sunday Service 10:30AM	30	31				
<p>Calendar & Schedule</p> <p>If you don't see your meeting or event posted here, contact the office at 689-2008 or office@u2c2.org.</p>						

	Altar	Greeter	Lighter	Usher
8/1	Gene Anderson	Rose Kohn	<i>lighters on summer break</i>	Jim Eastman
8/8	Cliff Cannoncin	Stephan Lange	<i>lighters on summer break</i>	Tom Rintoul
8/15	Judi Schafer	Barbara Vostry	<i>lighters on summer break</i>	Tonie Darling
8/22	Rose Kohn	Dick Tarble	<i>lighters on summer break</i>	Beverly Boido
8/29	Celia Buckley	Rose Nelsenador	<i>lighters on summer break</i>	Terry Chekon

Grace Notes on Hiatus

Rev. Martha's Grace Notes column is on a temporary hiatus due to her summer vacation.

::RE Corner:: by Paula Braxton, RE Chair

RE News

Religious Education (RE) Committee Changes

The RE Committee came together this summer to plan for the coming year. The committee was honored to have our late Gayle Newman serve as RE Committee Chair and very appreciative of the work that she did this past year with our committee and the children of this church. Due to budget cuts, the RE department no longer has funding for a Director of Religious Education (DRE). Paula Braxton, our former DRE, has stepped up to volunteer as RE Committee Chair. Candy Wood and Annette Emery have also joined the committee. Here is what is coming for the 2010-2011 calendar year...

The classes that will be offered are Preschool (3 years old-pre K), Littles (grades K-3), Middles (grades 4-6) and Juniors (grades 7-10). The curricula for these classes will be Littles - "Around the Church Year"; Middles - "In Our Hands" and "Our Whole Lives" (this curriculum has a social justice focus to it and the children will be doing social justice programs throughout the year); and Juniors - "Our Whole Lives".

Our Whole Lives (OWL)

RE will be offering Our Whole Lives to 7-9th and 5-6th grade. The 7th-9th grade OWL will be the curriculum for the Juniors for this coming year. The 5th-6th grade OWL will be offered over a couple of weekends in late winter/early spring. Please talk to Paula Braxton if you would like your 5th or 6th grader to attend OWL or if you do NOT want your 7th-9th grader attending OWL.

MUUGS retreat (Middle School UU Groups)

There will be a MUUGS retreat for our middle schoolers August 27-29. If you would like to attend as an adult chaperone, please contact Candy Wood or Paula Braxton immediately.

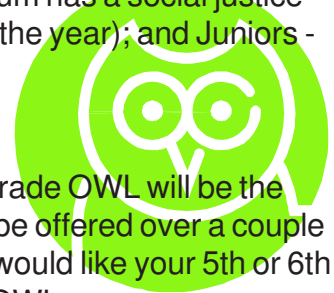
Teachers & Spirit Guides Needed

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be in one of the RE classrooms but you are completely freaked out about having to come up with something that might hold the children's attention for 45 minutes?! Take a deep breath! There is good news! All classes have curriculum that is already planned and we need loving adults (parents, non-parents, tech geeks, seniors or whatever way you classify yourself) to work with our children on Sundays.

If you don't feel comfortable teaching, you can be a Spirit Guide. Being a Spirit Guide is a VERY important job. This is the person who encourages the children, acts as cheerleader, supervises potty and drink breaks, gets to stick their fingers in the glue and make cool art projects, and puts the Mentos in the 2 liters of coke (if you want to)! We need one Spirit Guide in EACH classroom EVERY Sunday. That's a lot of Spirit Guides! If you would like to teach or be a Spirit Guide this coming school year, please contact Paula Braxton.

Water Ceremony Coming Soon

Please note that our annual Water Communion and Ingathering Service will be held earlier than usual this year (August 25) due to the September date of our UUCU camping trip.





Hot Fun in the Summertime

Last weekend, we beat the heat at Tonie and Kurt's all-church pool party. Looking ahead to early September, we have a lakeside all-church camping trip planned for Tahoe. Get in on the fun and fellowship! Spending time together both at church and outdoors, in worship and play, in the heat of summer and the rains of winter, is what community life is all about.

Summer is also about the beginning of a new church year. The newly elected Board has met for the first time, and is planning an all-day retreat for August 21 to tackle strategic planning issues. This will be a critical year in the life of the church. As I emphasized at the congregational meeting in June, everyone needs to pitch in so that we can fill the gaps created by staff cuts and raise additional money to fund the work of the church.

Have you signed up for your two shifts to clean the church building this year? In the spirit of Mary Poppins ("In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun..."), we are scheduling individuals or families two at a time so that doing chores will also provide the opportunity to work alongside and get to know other UUCC members. (Sing along now, people: "You find the fun, and – snap! -- the job's a game...") Everyone is expected to take their turn. If you have not already done so, please contact Alison Navas to put yourself on the schedule.

We will also have many discrete opportunities this year to represent UUCC out in the community. Mark your calendars now for the Elk Grove Harvest Festival, October 2-3, 2010. We will have an education and outreach booth, where you can hang out with friends, meet our neighbors, distribute UU literature, answer questions, and invite folks to visit our church. We will also have, for the first time, a children's activity booth as a fundraiser. Which booth would you like to staff? It's not too early to volunteer!

For now, even as many of us enjoy summer vacation mode, let's all remember the commitments we've made to each other to sustain and grow our church. For starters, we each have a financial commitment. To alleviate potential cash flow problems this year due to our depleted cash reserves, early payment of annual pledge amounts would be greatly appreciated. If you are in a position to pay all or part of your annual pledge in advance, please do so. The same goes for the additional gift of \$79 per adult member that we are requesting in order to pay our Fair Share to the Unitarian Universalist Association and Pacific Central District. We also each have a time commitment. Are you able to volunteer as a Sunday morning greeter or usher? Contact Laura Osborne. For cleaning, contact Alison Navas. To assist with our children's programming, contact Paula Braxton.

Most important of all is our commitment to encourage each other to spiritual growth, tell each other the truth in love, and join together to more deeply live our UU values and share them with the community around us. "Pitching in" isn't just about the "grunt work" of the church, though that must be done. Join us for Sunday worship to sing and celebrate and challenge yourself! Join us for play and exploration at a potluck meal or theatre outing or summer social event! Play and laughter are sacraments too, and summer offers us extra opportunities to come together in joy and fellowship. Blessed be!

Allison Claire

“First Sunday” Collection & Other Donations

On July 4, 2010, the congregation generously donated \$98.97 to Loaves and Fishes. Change in the plate is really appreciated (even though bills are very welcome too!) because it shows that someone gave all they had in their pocket. It's one of the things so special about our church.

For those of you who itemize deductions on your annual tax return, don't forget to save receipts for things when you buy items for the church. This includes snacks for Sunday social hour or another need that you fill without requesting reimbursement. Our reimbursement form includes a checkbox for donation. You can find a copy of the form in the member info section of the website (www.u2c2.org) or request one from the office. Fill that out, attach a copy of your receipt and put it in the Treasurer's mailbox in the office. We will be happy to send you an acknowledgement letter that you can use as documentation of your charitable donation.

::Ongoing Activities::



Daytimers Group

The Daytimers Group meets each Thursday from 10 AM - 12 PM at church. Anyone may join our lively discussion group. If you are interested in participating, contact Jim Eastman.



Theatre Group

We will see "Museum", a comedy with 26 characters at the Wilkerson Theatre, 25th & R Street, on Friday, August 13 at 8 PM (no bad luck, guaranteed). Reservations (\$15 & \$13) to Frieda Fergus by Sunday, August 8.

Saturday Supper

The Saturday Supper is a potluck dinner normally held on the third Saturday of each month. We were not able to have a potluck in June or July, but the next potluck will be held on August 21st for sure! Normally, 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 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. We would love to have you join us in August. Please contact Terri Riley if you are interested in coming to our potluck.

Chalice Circle

Chalice Circle meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at church. We invite you to attend a meeting or two to see if it is a fit for you. Chalice Circle is an opportunity to deepen relationships with others in our church community and to explore your own spiritual path. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Eastman or Rev. Martha Hodges.

Men's Group

The Men's Group meets on second Saturdays for breakfast at 9 AM at church. If you would like to attend, contact Patrick Cody.



Camping Trip Update

So far, twenty-seven folks will be joining the fun next month (September 10-12). The maximum limit is forty campers. It's an easy camping trip for first-timers. We have the group camp site... a beautiful spot on Lake Tahoe. Campers are on their own for dinner the first night (Friday), potluck for breakfast and dinner on Saturday, and campers are on their own again for lunch Saturday (most likely, some campers will be at the beach and some at the campsite). We will have an early Sunday morning breakfast potluck, so there is time for a UU circle before everyone heads home. Contact Sybil Lawson if you would like to join the group, even those who plan to attend during the day only.



Check Out Our Book Exchange

Did you know that there is a bookshelf in the couch room just off the sanctuary that holds books and compact discs for the taking? If you have a book you no longer need that you think might be of interest to others, donate it to our collection, and while you're there, take a book or two for yourself. When you are done with an item, you may either keep it or return it to the shelf.



Bass Lake Mini Vacation

The Bass Lake mini-vacation is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association, Northern California UU Camps and Conferences Committee, and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto.

The UU Church of Palo Alto (UUCPA) invites you to join a three-day mini-vacation (September 16-19, 2010) at beautiful Bass Lake, located near Oakhurst in the Sierra foothills. This annual getaway is organized by UUCPA in conjunction with Northern California UU Camps and Conferences. All are welcome. More information is available at the UUCPA web site: http://www.uucpa.org/bass_lake/about_bass_lake.html.

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.

UUCC 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 Rev. Martha Hodges.

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 affiliates 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

Contacts

Newsletter

U2C2 Connection Editor:

Newsletter contributions should be mailed to the UUCC church address, phoned in to 689-2008, faxed to 689-2282 or emailed to office@u2c2.org by the 15th of each month.

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Tina Payne-Chasse 689-2008 or office@u2c2.org

Website

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UUCC office 689-2008 or office@u2c2.org

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Website: www.u2c2.org

Email: office@u2c2.org

Office Hours: Tue/Thur/Sat 8am-12pm

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

Leadership

Minister:

Rev. Martha Hodges, 689-2073 or
minister@u2c2.org

Director of Religious Education:

see Religious Education committee

Board of Trustees:

President: Allison Claire

Vice President: Karen Gunderson

Secretary: Tom Rintoul

Treasurer: Terri Riley

At-Large Members: Alison Navas,

Sonia Duffoo, Will Kohn

Endowment Trust: Terry Chekon, Patrick Cody, Tonie

Darling

Committees:

Church Operations: Terri Riley

Committee on Ministry: Jim Eastman, Tamara Faber,

Marion Randall

Finance: Eric Walle

Membership: Rev. Martha Hodges

Religious Education: Paula Braxton

Stewardship: Ernie Tomassilli

Worship: Stephan Lange

Justice Coordinating Team: to be determined

Openers/Closers Supervisor:

Rev. Martha Hodges

The “Kid-Friendly” Version of Our 7 Unitarian Universalist Principles

We believe that:

- each and every person is important.
- all people should be treated fairly.
- our churches are places where all people are accepted, and where we keep on learning together.
- each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.
- all people should have a voice and a vote about the things which concern them.
- we should work for a peaceful, fair, and free world.
- we should care for our planet earth.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
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