

U2C2 Connection

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

A Month of Sundays



Worship Services are held Sundays at 10:30am (unless otherwise noted).

Sunday, February 3, 10:30am

"Engaging our Sources: UUs as Mystics"

This will be the first in a series of services Martha will conduct exploring the six Unitarian Universalist "sources of our living tradition." The first source is "direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and openness to the forces that create and uphold life."

Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges/Worship Associate: Kurt Schmidt

Sunday, February 10, 10:30am

"Valentine"

Martha will celebrate all that we do for one another and what is special about this congregation, highlighting the results of our recent Appreciative Inquiry process. If you contribute your time to UUCC - and that is most of you - please be sure and attend this service so that you may be recognized and thanked!

Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges/Worship Associate: Nina Weiler-Harwell

Sunday, February 17, 10:30am

"Compass and Map"

In this follow-up to her previous week's sermon, Martha will talk about how we will build on our strengths as a congregation in a process of re-imagining our collective mission and vision for this church. Come and hear why the words "mission statement" need not cause your eyes to roll.

Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges/Worship Associate: MK Menard

Sunday, February 24, 10:30am

"Swinging on the Garden Gate"

How do we come to know ourselves and accept the many different aspects of who we are? Come explore some of the smaller bits and pieces of who you are and learn from others some of the smaller parts of who they are - all together in our quirks, our joys, and our sorrows.

Worship Leader: Be Patterson/Worship Associate: Lucy Bunch

A Month of Sundays

Worship Services **p. 1**

February Planner 2008

Events & Schedules **p. 2**

Minister's Grace Notes

Candy is Dandy, or, Why I Don't Care for Valentine's Day **p. 3**

From the Boardroom

New Policy **p. 4**

RE Corner

Religious Education News **p. 5**

Announcements

Change in Office Hours **p. 5**

Piano for sale or Donation **p. 5**

Many Thanks

Sanctuary Wall & Bulletin Board **p. 5**

Helping Hands

Sharing the Plate **p. 5**

Growing Together

Appreciative Inquiry Results Are In **p. 5-6**

Build Your Own Theology **p. 6**

Seven Principles Workshop **p. 6**

In Remembrance

Our Condolences **p. 7**

Special Events

Action Auction **p. 8**

Ongoing Activities

Theatre Group **p. 8**

Saturday Supper **p. 8**

Women's Group **p. 8**

About Us

Mission **p. 9**

Membership **p. 9**

Affiliates **p. 9**

Contact **p. 9**





February 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	2 Sat Supper ***Facility Rental 2-4pm
3 Sunday Worship 10:30am Newcomer Welcome 11:30-12:30 Religious Ed Mtg (TBD)	4	5	6	7 Daytimers 10am at church Worship Committee Mtg 7pm	8	9 Women's Group 9:30am ***Facility Rental 2pm
10 Sunday Worship 10:30am Theater Group Reservations Due	11 Membership Committee Mtg 7-9pm	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Daytimers 10am at church Board Mtg 7:15pm Valentine's Day	15 Newsletter Deadline Theater Group 8pm	16 Men's Group 9am
17 Sunday Worship 10:30am Finance Mtg 12pm	18 President's Birthday	19	20 Building Your Own Theology Workshop 6:30-9:00pm	21 Daytimers 10am at church	22 Action Auction Setup & Decor 5:30-9:30pm Washington's Birthday	23 <div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">ACTION AUCTION 5-9pm!!!</div>
24 Sunday Worship 10:30am	25	26	27 Building Your Own Theology Workshop 6:30-9:00pm	28 Daytimers 10am at church Church Ops Mtg 7pm (offsite)	29	

Worship Support Schedule

Altar	Greeters	Lighters	Ushers
2/3 Karen Gunderson	Rebecca Fain & Frieda Fergus	Annika L.	Jim Skow
2/10 Sonia Duffoo	Rebecca Fain & Frieda Fergus	Lindsey W.	Jim Skow
2/17 Judi Schafer	Rebecca Fain & Frieda Fergus	James L.	Jim Skow
2/24 Edie Olaughlin	Rebecca Fain & Frieda Fergus	Jacob N.	Jim Skow

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

Minister's Grace Notes



Candy is Dandy, or, Why I Don't Care for Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is my third least favorite holiday. (Mother's Day doesn't do much for me, either, but it's fairly easy to ignore. Halloween doesn't bother me anymore, but as a child, I found it deeply humiliating to dress up in a costume and go door-to-door begging for candy. I was a strange child, I know...) That other candy-related holiday, Valentine's Day, also brings up memories I'd just as soon forget.

Remember the classroom competition to see who got the most valentines? Or, alternatively, if your teacher was of a more progressive mind and ruled that you had to give a valentine to every child in the class, the chagrin of knowing that Tommy gave you that cheap punch-out valentine only because he had to, and that if he thought about it at all, he knew that you knew it was merely compulsory...and the same for yours to him.

To me, a not-too-popular kid, it all seemed like an exercise built on the triple themes of hurt feelings, insincerity and shame.

Valentines are status symbols. For someone accustomed to stingy boyfriends – I was lucky if I got the cheapest, ugliest and waxiest candy Rite-Aid had to offer — it taxed my patience to listen sympathetically to friends talk about jewelry, fancy dinners and their (inevitably) disappointed fantasies of romance. Sour grapes, you say? No doubt.

But enough griping...I was reminded lately that Valentine's Day is also about an excuse to say "I love you." Especially for people who find it hard to say these words, or to hear them, this can be a blessing. It's true that buying a sentimental card may be an empty gesture, but sometimes it isn't. Even an embarrassing valentine like that atrocious box of candy can be touching proof that someone went out of his or her way to please you – and that counts for something.

At its best, Valentine's Day reminds us that the need to be loved and affirmed is universal and it's a need that most of us can satisfy for someone else with minimal effort on our part. It's not just about Romeo and Juliet, Brad and Angelina or even about "true love." It's just about finding something to appreciate in someone and then letting them know about it. And that's even better for the soul of the giver than it is for the recipient.

So here's my pastoral advice on the subject of valentines: if you receive one, be gracious, even if it's not what you'd hoped for. Whoever gave it to you was trying to be nice, after all, and you can't fault them for that. If you don't get that valentine, don't give it another thought. Some people just aren't the valentine-giving type. It doesn't mean they don't love you. And, finally, send one or two yourself, especially if it's to someone you truly care for and especially if they aren't expecting it. Loving isn't an easy thing, but a valentine says that you're trying. And that's something to celebrate.

Happy Valentine's Day, and don't eat all that chocolate at once.

- Rev. Martha Hodges, UUCU Minister

From the Boardroom



New Policy

A new policy regarding those working with children or money at church:

*For the safety of our children and security of those who work with them or regularly handle money at our church, the Board has approved a new policy regarding background checks. You may be aware that as a church, we are mandated to do *background checks* on any staff or volunteers that work with children. *We are taking steps to comply with this mandate and move toward following the guidelines suggested by the UUA for churches concerned with becoming "Safe Congregations."* The Operations Committee has worked to get an account for fingerprint checks with the Department of Justice, so that we can come into compliance with the laws *concerning child safety*. Rev. Martha has been approved by the department to receive the results of the fingerprint reports; *these results will be held in strict confidence*. We are now waiting to receive our billing account number from them. When the account has been set up, all volunteers who work with children or routinely handle money will need to be fingerprinted. The people who need to be fingerprinted will be given a form that authorizes the results to be sent to *a secure email box* as soon as our account has been set up.*

We want to emphasize that this policy is not in response to any incident or mistrust of our volunteers or staff. We feel this policy is long overdue and in the best interests of the overall operations of UUCC, as well as, one required by law. We hope our valued teachers and others will understand and feel free to ask a member of the Board or the Operations Committee if there are questions or concerns.

RE Corner *Announcements*

Religious Education News



The RE committee meeting is tentatively set for Sunday, February 3rd after church. The purpose of the RE committee is to work with the Director of Religious Education (DRE) on themes and curriculum, recruit teachers, coordinate with other committees to meet the religious education needs of our children and their families, and develop a budget. If you are interested in joining the RE committee, please contact Annette Emery by phone or email.

A new Director of Religious Education (DRE) has been hired and excitement is in the air. Paula Braxton comes to us from Arizona on her way to seminary at Starr King. While studying at Starr King, Paula will continue her work with children as our DRE, while learning about working with small churches. She is excited to be joining UUCC and has enjoyed the services she has attended with her partner, Candy Woods, and their two children. Paula will be on site three Sundays a month and is looking forward to working with our teachers and getting to know our families.

Change in Office Hours

Martha will be changing her office hours in an attempt to be more accessible to people who work during the day. Effective February 1, her new hours are Wednesday 4-7 pm and Thursday, 12:30-3:30 pm. As always, she is happy to meet you by appointment at your convenience.

Piano for Sale or Donation

Rosemary Miles is looking to sell an upright, mahogany Hamilton Baldwin Piano for \$300. It is in great condition, was recently tuned and has a recommendation from the piano tuner. The buyer is responsible for any moving costs. She is also willing to consider the option of donating it to a non-profit agency. Please call Rosemary if interested.

Many Thanks

Sanctuary Wall & Bulletin Board

If you haven't been to church lately, our sanctuary wall is now graced by a beautiful rendition of the Seven Principles. A big thank you to the Decor Committee, ably headed by Karen Gunderson, and to numerous helpers: Tonie Darling and Kurt Schmidt, MK Menard, Gene Anderson, Judi Schaffer and Ernie Tomassilli, Wynne and Jim Skow, Sybil Lawson, Edie O'Laughlin, Celia Buckley and Marion Randall. This is a lovely addition to our worship space! Thanks to Kurt Schmidt and Dick Tarble as well, for our handsome new bulletin board!

Helping Hands

Sharing the Plate

UUCC donated \$77.33 from November's cash collection plate and \$219.82 during the month of December 2007 to the SSIP Emergency Food Closet. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

- Stephen Bakken, Treasurer

Growing Together

Appreciative Inquiry Results Are In

The Committee on Ministry and Rev. Martha have compiled and analyzed your responses to their questions regarding what you love about UUCC, which were gleaned during the group conversations in November. Here is a distillation of what you told us (note that Rev. Martha will be elaborating on these in her "Valentine" sermon on February 10).

[continued on page 6]

[continued from page 5]

On what helps us grow spiritually: “Our spirituality grows in relationship, through small groups that support our spiritual discovery and through shared service and community participation in worship. Because we are open to a variety of beliefs, our worship draws on world religions, nature and science. Our spiritual life is deepened by the use of ritual and music.”

On how we relate to one another at our best: “This is a safe place in which we enjoy authentic, respectful and deeply caring relationships. We celebrate each other in small groups and gatherings, and help each other through hard times. We value the participation of our children and intergenerational relationships in this community of kinship.”

On how we embody our values in the world: “We seek to embody

our Seven Principles. We practice freedom of thought, tolerance, compassion, love, respect and hope for the world. Our family values call us to work for justice of LGBT people. We live our faith by supporting UULM and working together to promote family values of mutual care and responsibility.”

On moments of greatest engagement and motivation: “We feel most engaged when we realize our potential to respond to challenges and opportunities. We experienced a sense of accomplishment and renewed energy at these times, which included starting this church, calling our ministers and raising money. A strong sense of community, social activities and worship, sustain our forward momentum.”

On our most important characteristic as a church: “We practice unconditional acceptance of

one another. This allows us to listen deeply and to share honestly without fear. Our non-creedal faith encourages the soul and celebrates the intrinsic goodness and spark of divinity within us. Our strong sense of community generates enthusiasm, energy and a sense of adventure.”

On three wishes for the future of our church: “We will be fiscally stable and own a church building with green space where local groups can meet. Our membership will be multi-ethnic and multi-age. Expanded programs will include excellent music, social justice and religious education programs. We will use technology to reach out, connect with and grow the UU movement. We will serve the local community, local artists and local economy.”

To all of you who participated in this process, thank you! Now, on to our mission and vision statements!

Build Your Own Theology

Martha will lead a ten-week class for adults, using the popular curriculum designed by the Rev. Richard Gilbert, “Building Your Own Theology, Part I.” Participants will reflect on their religious experiences and knowledge, and create their own credos or statements about what they hold to be of ultimate value. Topics to be pondered include varieties of religious experience, human nature, ultimate reality, history, ethics and religious meaning.

Classes will meet Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00 pm, beginning February 20. Participants should commit to attending all (or almost all) of the sessions and complete “homework”

assignments consisting of readings and journaling.

Email the UUCC office to register by February 10, so that we can order texts in time for the first session. There will be a \$16 fee to cover the cost of the book. If this is a hardship for you, speak to Rev. Martha about having the fee waived.

What are the values and convictions that inform the way you live? Come discover what you believe about the great religious questions in this fun and engaging class!

Seven Principles Workshop

Fourteen intrepid spirits, including Rev. Martha Hodges

and Rev. Lindi Ramsden, braved stormy weather on the morning of Saturday, January 5 to join Mary Helen Doherty and Eric Walle for the Seven Principles workshop. It was a lively and thought-provoking discussion of the UU Principles and Sources, and the purposes of UUA, as well as the meanings of a covenant, religious pluralism, non-discrimination and individual freedom of belief. The participants also enjoyed Mary Helen’s homemade apple cake! The workshop outcomes have been submitted to UUA and a copy of that report is posted in the area for members on the UUCC web site.





In Remembrance

Our Condolences

Our condolences to Tom Rintoul and his family on the passing of Tom's mother, Mary; to Annette Emery on the passing of her cousin, Jean-Michel; to Merry Walle on the passing of her mother, Betty; and to Mary Helen Doherty on the first anniversary of her brother's passing. We hold all of you in our collective care and hope that you will find comfort and peace in this community of kinship.

If you know of friends or members of this congregation who are grieving or experiencing other difficulties, please let Rev. Martha know so that we may reach out to them.



Special Events



Ongoing Activities

Action Auction

The Action Auction is coming soon! Saturday, February 23 from 5 to 9 pm. Mark your calendars now. This event is very festive, loads of fun, and the biggest fundraiser of the year for the church. If you are new to the church, you won't want to miss this fabulous, family-oriented event.

The entrance fee to the event is only \$9 for adults and \$3 for children. This includes dinner, desserts, games, childcare for the youngest, opportunities to bid on events and items (silent auction, raffles and live auction), and a wonderful, fun-filled evening. If you bring a dessert, you'll receive free raffle tickets!

Right now, our focus is on collecting donation forms. What are you donating to the event? Did you receive a holiday gift that you really can't use? Think about donating it. Can you host a dinner in your home? Dinners are the auctions biggest money makers. Other donation ideas are tickets to a sporting event, concert or play; house sitting, housecleaning or home repair services; artwork; childcare; pool parties; and new or gently used household items. (Save more worn items for a yard sale at a later date.)

The due date for donation forms is February 10, but feel free to submit forms earlier! These forms are used to create our Action Auction catalog, bid sheets and other necessary paperwork. The sooner your forms are in, the easier it is on us. You will bring the actual item you are donating on the day of the auction.

Do you know someone who owns a business? Maybe they would be willing to donate a product or service. Annette Emery is coordinating business donations, so please check with her first to ensure our efforts are not duplicated.

To donate an item, email Merry or fill out the form previously included in the January 2008 newsletter or get a form at the church.

Want to help out? Volunteers are needed in the following areas: ticket sales and checkout, raffle, decorating/setup/cleanup, auctioneering, and games coordination.

Please feel free to contact us! We are here to answer your questions, collect your donation forms, and if you're interested, let you know where you can volunteer.

Merry Walle (catalog creator)
Terry De Crescenzo
Annette Emery (business donations)

This is sure to be the most successful Action Auction yet! See you there!

Theatre Group

We will see "Angels in America" on Friday, February 15 at 8:00 pm at the Studio Theater on 1028 R Street. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1993, this drama (part one of two) "tackles the very big and serious questions of AIDS, politics, greed, and morality" according to the Sacramento Bee reviewer, who rated it as four stars. The production runs 3 1/2 hours with two intermissions. Reservations are \$16.50 general or \$13 student/senior. Please contact Frieda Fergus by Sunday, February 10.

Saturday Supper

Our first Saturday Supper for February will be held on Saturday, February 2. These are potluck suppers and all are welcome. Our January hosts were Gina Guarneri/Doug McDougall and those who attended had a wonderful time. Thank you so much Gina and Doug! We still need hosts for March, so if you are willing to host or wish to attend, please call Terri Riley.

Women's Group

The UUCW Women's Group is now meeting on the second Saturday of each month at church for a breakfast potluck, life check-in and a discussion of a topic from UU World. The topic for this quarter will be the vision of faith in this country as seen by the founders. The article can be found at <http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/50591.shtml> Please join us on Saturday, February 9th. All women are invited to join us for a friendly discussion and good food. Please contact Annette Emery by phone or by email for more information.

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: Wed 4pm-7pm & Thu 12:30pm-3:30pm (or by appointment)

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: Wynne Skow

Treasurer: Steve Bakken

At-Large Members: Laura Osborne, Maggie Melnick, Ken DeCrescenzo

Endowment Trust: Mark Callicotte

Committees:

Church Operations Committee: Laura Osborne

Canvass Committee: Celia Buckley

Committee on Ministry: Tom Rintoul, Richard Leimbach, Celia Buckley

Finance Committee: Mark Callicotte

Membership Committee: Eric Walle (chair)

Openers/Closers Supervisor: Rev. Martha Hodges

Religious Education Committee: Alison Navas

Worship Committee: Lucy Bunch (chair)





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

Place
Postage
Here

Place Mailing Label Here

U2C2 Connection
February 2008