

U2C2 Connection

A monthly newsletter published by the UnitarianUniversalist Community Church

::A Month of Sundays::

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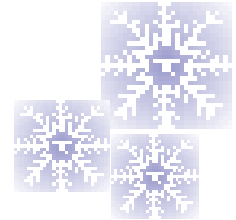
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January Sunday Services

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



Sunday, Jan. 3: "Secrets" - Worship Leader: Lucy Bunch

Years ago, a man put an ad in the paper letting people know that they could send their secrets to him and he would hold them in confidence. Thousands of people responded. We will look at some of these secrets and explore what it means to keep a secret, what it means to share, and what it means to forgive.

Sunday, Jan. 10: "Playing for Keeps" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

The psychiatrist Stuart Brown has written a book about how "play" is a biological drive that shapes the individual brain as well as societies. But some of us are better at it than others. What if we resolved to play more in 2010?

Sunday, Jan. 17: "The Power of Nonviolence" - Worship Leader: Lucy Bunch

In his acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize, President Obama made the case for why war is sometimes necessary. On this Martin Luther King Sunday, we will talk about peace and aggression, and what the practice of nonviolence can mean to our world and our lives.

Sunday, Jan. 24: "Traveling On" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

As we (somewhat belatedly) observe UUCC's twentieth birthday, Rev. Martha will lead us in reflecting upon the role that our vision of the future will play in the crucial years ahead. This will be an abbreviated service prior to our enjoying a prepared lunch and the congregational meeting that follows.

Sunday, Jan. 31: "Lust: The Essential Deadly Sin" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

As the headlines obsess over celebrity sex lives and our Religious Education program begins another round of "Our Whole Lives" human sexuality classes, we will reflect on what "lust", that most physical of experiences, has to do with our nature as spiritual animals.

::January Planner::

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

	Altar	Greeter	Lighter	Usher
1/3	Tonie Darling	Rose Kohn	Annika	Jim Eastman
1/10	Peter Morse	Stephan Lange	Jacob	Tom Rintoul
1/17	Jim Eastman	Jane Thompson	James	Tonie Darling
1/24	Gene Anderson	Dick Tarble	Hannah	Bev Boido
1/31	Karen Gunderson	Rose Nelsenador	Jesse	Terry Chekon



Who Will You Invite to Church?

One study of Unitarian Universalist growth concluded that UUs invite a friend to join them at church once every seventy-seven years! No wonder our growth as a denomination is, shall we say, modest.

We UUs shy away from the idea of “evangelism.” That’s a shame. Most Americans have never heard of us; those who have heard our name may have an inaccurate idea of who we are. And yet, there is no doubt that many people right here in Sacramento would be delighted to learn of the liberal religious alternative that we provide.

Studies of church growth consistently show that word-of-mouth is second only to a church’s website in attracting newcomers. Our own statistics confirm this with this added interesting refinement: Visitors to UUC who are referred to us by a friend or family member are the most likely to be repeat visitors and to eventually become members.

This makes perfect sense, if you think about it. People are drawn to organizations where their friends are to be found. Furthermore, visitors who have some idea of what to expect when they come to us for the first time are more likely to find here what they are looking for. So with this in mind, February 28 will be “Bring a Friend Sunday.” If each member of UUC is invited at least one friend to church... just imagine the people we could reach! People who would be grateful for a spiritual home that accepted them as they are, that honored their questions and encouraged them to seek their own path to a deeper and richer spiritual life.

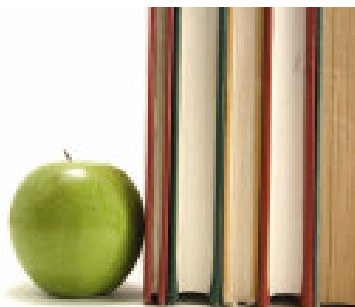
Whom do you know who fits that description? Whom do you know who has an open mind, celebrates diversity, and lives in a way compatible with our principles? Whom do you know who calls him or herself “spiritual, but not religious”? Invite them to join you for a service at UUC!

Feeling shy about suggesting such a thing? Take some of our pamphlets with you or our wallet cards on “What Unitarian Universalists Believe.” Practice your “elevator speech” on your fellow members. More importantly, think about what this church means to you. Why do you keep coming back? Don’t you know someone who might want – or even need – those same gifts that you receive from being part of our church? Then take a deep breath and start the conversation... “You know, some of our conversations have made me wonder if you’d be interested in exploring your religious questions at the Unitarian Universalist church. Being a member there is an important part of my life... Would you like to come with me to a service sometime? We’re having a special ‘Bring a Friend’ Sunday on February 28...”

Take the plunge. You may be surprised at how good it feels!

Religious Education (RE) News

This year's Holiday Pageant, The Festival of Life, was a great success. I want to thank the many people who helped with props, costumes, practice, setup and cleanup. The RE Committee was instrumental in the success of this pageant. Thank you, Susan Lange, Gayle Newman and Rose Nelsenador; and a special thanks to Emily Estes for assisting in the rehearsal and pageant. The children really enjoyed being able to perform for the congregation ...and I think people will be talking about the Viking ship for quite some time.



The holiday party was quite a hit with the youth. If you missed it, there were caroling, games, gift wrapping for the UJCC adopted family, tree trimming, food, fun and more. I'd like to give special shout-outs to Tamara Faber for coordinating the Adopt-a-Family effort and Susan Lange for the incredible games she comes up with that entertain the young and young at heart.

Our youth will study Earth-based spirituality for the remainder of December and will participate in the Yule service on December 20th. We will resume the Neighboring Faiths curriculum again in January.

The high schoolers met for pizza and a show in early December and had a great time hanging out afterward. More events like this are planned for the group. If you would like more information about this group, please contact Candy Wood.

A special notice about upcoming classes being offered:

Our Whole Lives is a positive, comprehensive, and age appropriate educational program that promotes sexual health and is informed by the guidelines of the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS). The curriculum is based on four primary goals: provide accurate, developmentally appropriate information; increase self esteem and understand relationships with and responsibilities toward others; develop interpersonal skills including communication decision making, and problem solving; and teach responsibility for personal health and

safety. This curriculum is based upon the philosophy that parents and religious communities can form a meaningful partnership for positive and responsible sexuality education. This eight session curriculum will be offered to our kindergarten thru 2nd graders beginning in the spring. A parent meeting will be scheduled in January to provide more information about this opportunity for our families. If you are interested in participating in this class, please contact Candy Wood.

::Note from the Board::

Minister's Covenant Fund

In order to restore Rev. Martha's hours and salary to full-time status for the second half of this fiscal year, the Board of Trustees has established the Minister's Covenant Fund. All donations will be used exclusively to fund the additional 25 percent of Rev. Martha's compensation package that is not included in the current operating budget. An average gift of \$75 from each adult member will fund full-time professional ministry for the rest of the church year. Gifts to the Minister's Covenant Fund are in addition to fulfillment of existing pledges. Checks should be made out to UJCC with "Minister's Covenant Fund" written on the memo line. Checks may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or mailed to UJCC to the attention of the treasurer. You may also pledge an amount to be paid in installments over the next six months or less by speaking to UJCC Treasurer, Eric Walle. The fund will accept contributions until total cash gifts and pledges to the fund equal the full amount needed for this fiscal year.

First Sunday Offering

Loaves & Fishes is the designated recipient of our "First Sunday" collections for November, December and January. In December, UUCC generosity added \$211.00 to the \$338.00 donated in November. These funds will support a wide range of effective programs serving the hungry and homeless. For more information, please visit <http://www.sacloaves.org/programs/>.



::Growing Together::

UUCC Participates in UUA Social Witness Process

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) social witness process is driven by congregations, which select Congregational Study-Action Issues (CSAI) and approve Statements of Conscience (SOC) that emerge from the study/action process. During the month of January, UUCC members will be asked to participate in the UUA's democratic process. We will be taking a congregational poll on two questions:

1. Should the proposed Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking be placed on the Final Agenda for the 2010 General Assembly (GA)?

A "yes" vote puts the proposed SOC forward for debate and vote at GA. Approval by congregational delegates at GA would adopt the SOC as the UUA's public position on Peacemaking.

The text of the proposed SOC will be available in the back of the sanctuary throughout January. More information is available at www.uua.org. Select "I Am Interested In" > "Social Justice" > "Social Witness Process."

2. Select no more than five Congregational Study-Action Issues to be placed on the Final Agenda for the 2010 General Assembly.

Six proposed CSAIs have been submitted by congregations, districts, and groups of individual UUs nationwide. We are asked to select up to five of these for consideration at GA. Congregational delegates to GA will then adopt one CSAI which will form the basis for nationwide congregational study and social action initiatives over a two year period. Participating congregations will then provide feedback to the Commission on Social Witness, which drafts a Proposed Statement of Conscience on the topic.

The six proposed CSAIs are: Ending Slavery; Energy, Peace and Justice; Immigration as a Moral Issue; National Economic Reform; Nuclear Disarmament; and Revitalizing American Democracy. Information will be available in the back of the sanctuary throughout January. More information is available at www.uua.org. Select "I Am Interested In" > "Social Justice" > "Social Witness Process."

During January, you are invited to indicate your opinion on the polling sheets that will be posted at church. Polling will close after the congregational meeting on Sunday, January 24. The results of our poll will then be reported to the UUA. Please check out the UUA website, educate yourself about the various proposals, and make your voice heard!

Next Home Survey Summary

During the first half of November 2009, UUCC members were asked their opinions on what they would like to see for their next church home. The vast majority of input from church members on this subject was in the form of responses to a survey issued by the newly formed Next Home Task Force. The survey was made available both online and in print form. Though our church's current resources make it unlikely we'll acquire a property with most of these characteristics soon, it's vitally important we all understand what our longer term goals are for when we and our resources are ready to make the bigger leap. The following is a summary of what was expressed in the survey responses:



In addition to the stated goal of good vehicular access, respondents also indicated public transit and pedestrian access to our future neighborhood to be fairly important, as is visibility of our property from nearby streets or highways. Importance was also indicated for cultural and ethnic diversity within our future neighborhood, but most important of all of these characteristics was that our future neighborhood be aesthetically pleasing. When asked what that meant, the most important criteria were attractive and well-maintained buildings in the neighborhood, followed closely by attractive and well-maintained landscaping. Abundance of trees throughout the area rounded out the three most important aesthetic characteristics expressed for the neighborhood. Other views of interest were that the neighborhood should be walkable and bike accessible, not industrial and not too commercial, but that restaurants and some shopping should be nearby. A nearby park was also mentioned by several, in part, to share outdoor gathering and play space.

Within our future neighborhood, our stated goals for our future church site include easy and safe vehicular access with adequate dedicated parking on site, and a child play area. Most survey respondents also considered it very important that our future site be aesthetically pleasing. This meant lots of trees, good landscaping, a garden area, patio or seating area (especially near the main entrance), and that it all be well-maintained. Other suggestions included a basketball court, fire pit, labyrinth, and bike racks.

Goals for our future building itself are ADA compliance for wheelchair access, among other provisions; heat and air-conditioning; and a sanctuary space that is distinctive, attractive, and able to comfortably accommodate 150 to 200 people. The building is to have ample storage with five to seven classrooms and at least two offices. On average, survey respondents considered a social hall separate from the sanctuary to be fairly important, but building aesthetics were again viewed to be even more important, especially inside. This was expressed by desires for the building to look and feel well-built, well-maintained, and have pleasing colors. Interiors should feel spacious and aesthetically appropriate for a worship environment. Lighting, both artificial and natural, should be ample and appropriate. Other desires expressed were for clean and ample bathrooms, good acoustics, and that spaces be flexible in their function, and perhaps, rentable to others. A good conference or multipurpose room was suggested by many, as was a "crying" room. Other suggestions included a chapel, library space, and lounge.

To be in step with the times, many said the building should have ample internet access including inside the sanctuary and wireless network should be available. The sound system should have provisions for the hearing impaired and video projection should also be available. Several also suggested provisions for audio and video recording. Automated window shades were also mentioned.

Thank you to all who responded, and also in advance for any further suggestions, which the Next Home Task Force will continue to welcome.

-- UUCC Next Home Task Force

::The Green Corner::



Be Green at the Home Office

Welcome to the Green Corner, a column supported by the UUCG Carbon Ring Group with the goal of fostering ecological education and offering tips and tools to diminish the negative human impact on the precious resources of the Earth. In this edition, we will look at ways to be “green” at the home office.

A growing number of Americans work from home and higher energy bills for combined home offices and residences are a fact of life. Despite challenges, home-based entrepreneurs, telecommuters, and job seekers can reduce energy costs while staying comfortable and “taking care of business” with these tips:

You’re the boss – so manage your office equipment. Activate the “sleep” feature on computers, copiers, and other machines that power down when the equipment is on, but not in use for a while, and turn off equipment during long periods of nonuse. Screen savers do NOT save energy.

Don’t let profits go out the window (or door). Insulate that office properly – plug those home office energy “leaks” by weather-stripping between moving parts (doors and their frames) and caulking between non-moving parts (window frames and walls).

Light up your office efficiently. Inefficient lighting can overheat your office, increasing cooling costs. Install compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and task lighting in your home office. CFLs burn cooler and use up to 75 percent less energy than either halogen or incandescent bulbs.

Be an “Energy Star.” Choose Energy Star computers, monitors, printers, scanners, copiers, fax machines, multifunction devices (machines that combine printing, scanning, and faxing), lighting, cordless phones, answering machines, audio equipment, and room air conditioners.

Ever wakeful electronics can drain your pocketbook. Electronics such as phones, TVs, VCRs, DVD players, or cable boxes can further hike up those electric bills. That’s because they consume energy even while switched off to keep display clocks lit and memory chips and remote controls working. Energy Star electronics use less energy in the “off” mode.

Treat your heating and cooling system as office equipment. While working in your home office, close off the heating and cooling vents in unoccupied rooms.

Let the sunshine in. In colder months, allow the sun to help heat your home office by keeping blinds or drapes open in the daytime. Retain the heat overnight by closing the blinds after dark. In the summer, reduce cooling costs by drawing shades or blinds on sun-exposed windows and glass doors.

Stay tuned for more tips in the next edition of the Green Corner.

::Helping Hands::

New Media Task Force Needs You

Do you have an interest in helping UUCG take advantage of recent technologies to reach a larger audience and improve communications among ourselves? We are exploring the potential of a UUCG Facebook page and podcasting our services, among other things. If you have some experience in using these media and can help us get up and running or simply have ideas to share, please contact Tom Rintoul. We will schedule a brainstorming session later this month.

::Helping Hands [cont'd]::

Do You YELP?

The website www.yelp.com, "Real People, Real Reviews" was started in 2004 to compile reviews of local businesses and services written by the public. In this area it is especially strong on restaurant reviews. Many can be quite humorous and cleverly written. They often contain constructive suggestions for the business or the consumer.

We would love to get reviews on Yelp about our church and denomination. Yelp, however, removes reviews written by people who haven't reviewed other organizations/products/restaurants etc. If you are a regular reviewer on Yelp, would you be willing to post a review of our church? Please call Terri Riley if you can help.

::Ongoing Activities::



Chalice Circle News

What is a Chalice Circle? It is a group of between six and ten people who commit to get together twice a month for shared ritual and conversation. They include readings, a "check-in" and discussions on topics of your choice facilitated by your fellow-members. They are not classes or therapy groups, but an opportunity for spiritual deepening. They are also a wonderful way to get to know people on a deeper level and to form lasting relationships here at UUCC.

The first round of Chalice Circle meetings reached completion in December. Our Sunday afternoon and Wednesday evening groups have agreed to merge and will be meeting on second and fourth Wednesdays at 7 PM. Please join us as we regroup, beginning Feb. 10. Stay tuned for more information and, in the meantime, speak with Jim Eastman or Gayle Newman if you are interested or have questions.

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

Men, Food, Talk, Church

On the third Saturday morning of each month at 9 AM, several men of UUCC gather at the church for fellowship and food. As we enjoy our eye-opening potluck, we discuss a wide variety of topics in our church and our world, and how we can contribute to each. Though we all have Y chromosomes, we remain a diverse lot and welcome more men to join this half of the UU community for our nourishing monthly ritual. For more information, contact Patrick Cody.

Kid's Book Club

Our next meeting will be held on January 10 at 12:30 PM after church. If you have any questions, please contact the Newmans.

Theatre Group

We will see (and listen to) the Runaway Stage Productions' musical "25th Annual Putman County Spelling Bee" at the 24th Street Theatre, Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th Street, Sacramento on Friday, Jan. 22 at 8 PM. Get reservations (\$20 and \$8) to Frieda Fergus by Sunday, Jan. 17.

Saturday Supper

Saturday Supper is a potluck dinner normally held on the third Saturday of each month. This month, our potluck will be held on January 16th. 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's 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 January. Thank you to our hosts for December: Fred Deneke & Jim Eastman, and Georgene & Dick Tarble. Please contact Terri Riley if you are interested in coming to our January potluck.

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 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 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.

Editorial Advisor - newsletter:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008

Website

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UUCC office 689-2008 or office@u2c2.org

Editorial Advisor - website:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008

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Email: office@u2c2.org

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

Leadership

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Rev. Martha Hodges, 689-2073

minister@u2c2.org

Director of Religious Education:

Paula Braxton/Candy Wood 689-2008, office@u2c2.org

Board of Trustees:

President: John Sugar

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Patrick Cody, Sonia Duffoo

Endowment Trust: Terri Riley,

Terry Chekon, Patrick Cody

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Church Operations: Terri Riley

Committee on Ministry: Celia Buckley, Tamara Faber, Jim Eastman

Finance: John Sugar

Membership: Rev. Martha Hodges

Religious Education: Gayle Newman

Stewardship: Jim Skow, Ernie Tomassilli

Worship: Jim Skow

Justice Coordinating Team: to be determined

Openers/Closers Supervisor:

Rev. Martha Hodges



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The ministry of our 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.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
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