

U2C2 Connection

A monthly newsletter published by the Unitarian Universalist Community Church

January 2012 Issue
::A Month of Sundays::

A Month of Sundays

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January Services

Our services are normally held on Sundays at 10:30 AM, unless otherwise noted below.

[Special note: You are asked to do a little preparation for our service of Jan. 15. In honor of Martin Luther King, please try to make time to read something – a poem, essay or book -- by an author from an American subculture different from your own, and bring it with you to share.]



Sunday, Jan. 1: "Lessons from Janus" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges
Janus was the ancient Roman god of beginnings and transitions. He was depicted with two faces, one looking forward and one looking back. As we begin the month named after him and, with it, the new year, Rev. Martha will reflect on how we can use what we have learned in the past year to shape where we are going.

Sunday, Jan. 8: "Rooted in Reform" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges
Martha will continue her series of sermons on Transcendentalism by considering some of the social reformers among this group and the causes that called them.

Sunday, Jan. 15: "Chimichangas, Lox and Black-Eyed Peas" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

We will commemorate Martin Luther King Day by celebrating the joys and opportunities of living with rich American diversity. You are encouraged to bring a brief reading – no more than a paragraph – representing a culture other than your own. We will put these together in our own "tossed salad" of multiculturalism.

Sunday, Jan. 22: "Articulating Our UU Faith" - Worship Leaders: Vicki Byrd, Jim Eastman, Kristine Nymoan, Tom Rintoul, and Ernie Tomassilli

We all love UUCC and being Unitarian Universalists. But how many of us have been caught short for words when asked what is UUism and why we're here with this church? How do we articulate the richness and complexity of our beliefs and history in the span of an elevator ride? That is a tall order, but a few of us have recently learned some ideas on how to get the conversation started. Join us as we share some of these techniques, and consider this opportunity to share some of your own lessons, too.

Sunday, Jan. 29: "From Crushed Eggs to Connections" - Worship Leader: Annette Emery & UUCC Youth

Last year, the RE children tried to make a movie based upon the UU ideals of ethics. The movie was never finished, but the connections between our children remain. This intergenerational service will explore the importance of connections, no matter your age.

Date	Altar	Greeter	Lighter	Usher
1/1	Tonie D.	TBD	TBD	Jim E.
1/8	Jim E.	Mark E.	Martina	Tom R.
1/15	Vicki B.	TBD	Miley	Tonie D.
1/22	Gene A.	Bev B.	Zoey	Dick T.
1/29	Karen G.	Rose N.	Dakota	Terry C.

January 2012 *Happy New Year*

January 2012							February 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29			
29	30	31											

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 1, 2012	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Year's Day 10:30am Sunday Service	4:30pm rental exchange 7:00pm Membership Mtg (off-site)		7:00pm Chalice Circle			3:00pm rental exchange
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10:30am Sunday Service 11:30am Soup Sunday	4:30pm rental exchange 7:00pm Women's Book Grp	7:00pm Board Mtg		6:30pm Men's Grp (off-site)		10:30am PCD Mtg 3:00pm rental exchange
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Newsletter Deadline 10:30am Sunday Service 2:00pm "Keys" Workshop	Martin Luther King Day MLK March (off-site) 4:30pm rental exchange		7:00pm Chalice Circle		CoA Retreat	CoA Retreat Saturday Supper (off-site) 3:00pm rental exchange
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
CoA Retreat 10:30am Sunday Service 11:30am Women's Social Grp	4:30pm rental exchange					3:00pm rental exchange 7:00pm Intergenerational Dance (off-site)
29	30	31				
10:30am Sunday Service	4:30pm rental exchange					

We Begin Again

As the days begin, ever so slowly, to grow longer, it is natural as well as traditional to think of new beginnings, new dreams and new chances. If we did not have some degree of such optimism built into us, we might not have survived this long as a species. We would certainly have turned out very differently.



What I like about the turning of the New Year is the reminder it brings that January 1 is no different from any other day – not because resolutions are a farce and the hope for a better self is a delusion, but because every day is truly a new beginning. Every day brings with it another chance to learn something, to feel something deeply and genuinely, to laugh, to tell yourself the truth, to see the world with fresh eyes. New Year's reminds us not to waste these opportunities, for time is passing. Every day asks us to fall in love with life, again. May your new year be full of such moments and such days. May you make it so.

::From Your President::

by Karen Gunderson, UCC President

Maybe

Remember the TV show from several years ago, *Northern Exposure*? There was a story from the show that came to mind upon reflecting on the recent news of UCC needing to move. The story is about a warrior who had a fine stallion. Everybody said how lucky he was to have such a horse. "Maybe," he said. One day the stallion ran off. The people said the warrior was unlucky. "Maybe," he said. Next day, the stallion returned, leading a string of fine ponies. The people said it was very lucky. "Maybe," the warrior said. Later, the warrior's son was thrown from one of the ponies and broke his leg. The people said it was unlucky. "Maybe," the warrior said. The next week, the chief led a war party against another tribe. Many young men were killed. But, because of his broken leg, the warrior's son was left behind, and so was spared.

So while the news of our eviction was rather jarring, setting us in a direction we really haven't wanted to go, who can say how we will look back on this from the future as we tell our story? Might be good, might be hard. But whatever it turns out to be, it is what is before us today. What is also before us is who we are as a community. What I know about us is that we are adaptable, we are caring and we will do this journey together as we have in the past, and we will celebrate at the end....whatever that end may be.

The Board, the Next Home Task Force and the Com-

mittee on Ministry have been preparing in the event of such a notice from the landlord and know that we have options. As we move forward, we will work to keep folks in the loop by communicating frequently and transparently about what's going on, including having periodic after-church discussions for those who are interested. Additionally, feel free to talk to anyone on the Board or Next Home Task Force if you have questions or concerns. To the journey!

::Treasurer's Note::

by Terri Leimbach, UCC Treasurer

Finance Update

The first Sunday "Share the Plate" for December has been donated to South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership (SSIP). We collected a total of \$98.60. Thank you to all of you who helped to make this possible. The Men's Group also collected nonperishable food to donate to the SSIP food closet. The need is great this time of year, and we thank all of you who help in this effort.

We were able to pay the UUA and PCD 65% of our Fair Share due for this current fiscal year. We need to pay the balance before the end of February in order to qualify for any assistance our denominational association may be able to render in the search for our next home. For all those who can afford it, we really need your contribution to be made in the next two months. We still need to pay \$2,169 to meet this important goal. I know we can do it. Thank you to all!

by Rev. Kate Kennedy, UUCC Community Minister

FiAT News

I am only one, but still, I am one. I cannot do everything, but still, I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something I can do. -- Edward Everett Hale, Unitarian Minister

It is wonderful to see UUCC taking our "faith into action". In December, UUCC groups were giving to our local community. The Men's Group called the congregation to collect food for the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership (SSIP), a local food bank the church supports through monetary donations during the year. Meanwhile for the holiday season, the Coming of Age (CoA) youth brought their laughter and caroling to Bruceville Terrace, a skilled nursing facility in Sacramento.

This month, the CoA group goes to San Francisco to participate with the Faithful Fools, a ministry in the Tenderloin district that focuses on educating about homelessness and poverty. The Faith in Action Team (FiAT) continues to meet and plan for the upcoming year. We hope to have individual congregant interviews completed by March, so we will know where to focus our energies in this new year. Plus, keep your eyes and/or ears open to find out the details about the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day march. FiAT is organizing to join the celebration on the morning of January 16.

If your group is taking our faith into the world, please - let FiAT know! It is a joy to share and celebrate all we can do!

Blessings to you in 2012!

Passages

✠ Our condolences to Tom Rintoul and his family on the sudden death of Tom's brother Richard the day after Thanksgiving. We hold the Tarble family in our loving care as Dick and Georgene's daughter Carolee nears the close of her struggle with cancer. We also send supportive thoughts to Tina Payne-Chasse and her family as they grieve the unexpected death of her stepfather. Our hearts are with all who are experiencing the sharpness of loss at this time when we're surrounded by messages of hope and new beginnings.

✠ Richard Leimbach and Ken Reaves are each recovering from successful major surgeries and we wish them smooth and quick returns to full health.

✠ Jerry Melnick is seriously ill with cancer and is receiving comfort care at Windsor Rehab in Elk Grove. We send our love and care to Jerry, Maggie and their children and grandchildren.

We encourage anyone who is going through a difficult time to reach out to your friends at UUCC as well as to Rev. Martha so that we may offer our support.

Compliment from the UUA Consultant

UUA Consultant, Bill Clontz, has visited countless churches. He noted that of those churches cleaned by volunteers, our church was one of the cleanest. Thank you to Alison Navas for setting up our cleaning system, Susan Lange for her endless energy of filling in whenever needed, Annette and Patrick who cleaned extra well for the week of Bill's visit, and to all who do their part with helping us keep the church clean.

"No Divas" is a four-woman strong Sacramento band and there's not a diva in the bunch! Dance and sing along to tunes from the Beatles, Creedence, Neil Young, Linda Ronstadt and Three Dog Night, and many more.

The band formed in 2010 but the members have years of experience with such diverse groups as "Uncle Dan and the Hawaiianas" and "Women Rock". Band members have done extensive solo work as well. You can find out more about Susan (vocals, guitar, harmonica), Nancy (vocals, bass guitar), Karen (percussion) and Deb (vocals, guitar) on their "No Divas" Facebook page. Nancy & Karen are home grown UUCers!

UUC Rocks!

TO THE CLASSICS FROM THE 60'S & 70'S!!

JOIN US FOR

AN INTERGENERATIONAL DANCE



SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2012, 7PM

AT THE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO

2425 SIERRA BLVD, SACRAMENTO, 95825



Featuring music by:



Admission:

Adults: \$15

Children under 14: \$5

Children 5 and under free.

Keys to UCC: Exploring Your Gifts by Rev. Martha Hodges

I hope that you have found a spiritual home in UCC. Part of that experience of "home" is a sense of ownership. UCC becomes *your* congregation. You depend upon your community here for its gifts of spiritual growth, friendships, support through life's ups and downs and grounded engagement with the world. In return, your community depends on you and the unique gifts that you bring. We are calling our new leadership development program "Keys to UCC: Exploring Your Gifts" because we hope to help you discover your "keys" to claiming UCC as your own. In the process, you will build on some strengths that you can apply in your life outside of church, as well.

I recently facilitated a Saturday workshop "sneak preview" of this ten-part series of leadership development workshops. Sixteen people attended and discussed such topics as differing individual motivations, ways in which "doing church" is like and unlike running a business and how we feel about the concepts of "leadership" and "power" and our own comfort or unease in claiming them for ourselves in order to serve others. We also began to learn about church "systems," how they may break down in anxious times, and how lay leaders can keep a congregation healthy without suppressing disagreement.

We practice shared ministry here. That means that we serve, or minister, to each other in a variety of ways. I hope that you will join us to learn more about your gifts and how you may find joy and satisfaction in sharing them with this, your church home. The series of workshops will take place on first and third Sundays at church from 2-4 PM, beginning January 15th. Child care is being offered. While I hope that you will attend all ten sessions, this is not a requirement for participation.

Please plan to join me and others who are curious about learning more about congregational life, its joys and rewards as well as its demands and challenges. Our first meeting will include a chance to talk about how your faith and values support your work in the world, how you make decisions, and what "leadership" means in the context of church. The curriculum for the full series follows this article. Please do let me know if you plan to attend so that I can prepare sufficient handouts. I hope to see you there!

Curriculum for "Keys to UCC"

"To be wise is to be eternally curious" -- Frederick Buechner

- ◆ Jan. 15: Spiritual Grounding for Leaders (What's in It for You?) *"... [I]t is only by journeying for the world's sake - even when the world bores and sickens and scares you half to death - that little by little we start to come alive." (Frederick Buechner)*
- ◆ Feb. 5: Congregations as Systems Pt.1: Systems Theory (How Everything We Do Is Related) *"A miracle is when the whole is greater than the sum of its parts." (Frederick Buechner)*
- ◆ Feb. 19: Congregations as Systems Pt.2: The Organism that Is UCC (How We "Do Church") *"Open minds, caring hearts, helping hands and growing spirits" (UCC Mission Statement)*
- ◆ Mar. 4: Non-Anxious Leadership (Self-Differentiation and Surviving Anxious Times) *"Stop trying to protect, to rescue, to judge, to manage the lives around you . . . remember that the lives of others are not your business. They are their business... Unclench the fists of your spirit and take it easy . . ." (Frederick Buechner)*
- ◆ Mar. 18: Where Do We Come From? (A Look into UU History and Polity) *"The time is ripe for looking back... and trying to figure out where we have come from and where we are going to, for sifting... for a clue to who we are and who, for better or worse, we are becoming." (Frederick Buechner)*
- ◆ Apr. 1: Group Dynamics and Facilitation Skills (Tools for You to Use) *"The life I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what far place my touch will be felt." (Frederick Buechner)*
- ◆ Apr. 15: Leadership Styles and Preferences (Knowing Thyself and Leading with Thy Strengths) *"The original, shimmering self gets buried so deep that most of us end up hardly living out of it at all. Instead we live out all the other selves, which we are constantly putting on and taking off like coats and hats against the world's weather." (Frederick Buechner)*

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- ◆ May 6: Finding Your Call at UUCC: (Where We Go from Here) “[Your call] is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” (Frederick Buechner)
- ◆ May 20: Context for Those Who Want to Go Deeper: UU Leaders You May Not Have Heard Of
- ◆ Jun. 3: Context for Those Who Want to Go Deeper: The UUA and Current Issues Facing the Denomination

::More Opportunities::

From You, I Receive and to You, I Give

One of the best ways to make meaningful connections and feel a true part of this church is to give. Gifts of time, talent, and money from each other and to each other are what make us, as a church, whole. Think of how nice it is to be greeted before you even step into the church doors. Greeters give a warm welcome to those who come in the door, but they also receive a warm greeting back. How can you make more meaningful connections to this church? Here are some suggestions:

- √ Greeting – Give everyone a warm welcome before entering our church one Sunday a month. You don’t have to know people’s names. Contact Laura Osborne for more information.
- √ Ushering – Give a warm welcome to everyone, but especially those who are new to the church. Help them get to know us and find out how we can give to them. Contact Laura Osborne for more information.
- √ The gift of food – It is wonderful to receive the gift of nourishment after church. To choose a Sunday to give the gift of food, contact Merry Walle.
- √ The gift of beauty – To decorate the altar, contact Gene Anderson.
- √ The gift of cleanliness – We clean the church ourselves. Contact Laura Osborne for more information.

We welcome you to share your gifts, as we share our gifts with you.

SSIP Food Donations

The South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership (SSIP) is still in need of food donations, especially canned or dried beans and canned meat. Cash donations and volunteers are needed as well. If you can help even one day a month, call the Food Closet at 916-428-5292. (UUCC continues to collect food for SSIP in the back of the sanctuary, which makes donating easy -- just bring your items to church with you on Sunday and place them in one of the designated containers!)

Help Save Lives, Donate Blood

The next time you give blood, you can specify that your donation go to the UUCC Blood Donation Club #3664. This club is available to any of our members/friends that are having surgery or have been in an accident and need blood. Giving blood is a great way to save a life.

Estate Donations

Have you considered including our church in your estate plan? It is quite easy to do, and with your estate donation, you will be giving to the future generations of UUCC. In Cliff Christopher’s book, *Not Your Parents’ Offering Plate*, he suggests a simple line in your will or trust:

“After all my bills are paid, I want 10 percent of my estate (a tithe) to go to the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Sacramento building or endowment fund.”

It’s as easy as that and your gift will be greatly appreciated for years to come.

2 Great Ways to Help UUCC

■ If you register with eScrip as a supporter of our church, participating businesses will donate a portion of their profits to UUCC from purchases you make via grocery loyalty, credit, and/or debit/ATM cards. Visit the fundraising page of our website under the “get involved” link for more info.

■ Recycle your used inkjet and toner cartridges and raise funds for church office supplies at the same time! We get a \$2 value in store rewards for each item recycled. Simply place your used cartridges in the designated box in the back of the church.

Daytimers News

This lively discussion group will be taking a break after five years of weekly meetings. We are considering reinventing the group in the new year in order to make it possible for more people to participate. Daytimers has met Thursday mornings to enjoy talking about a wide range of topics: art, religion, philosophy, sociology... You name it! We have sometimes asked people to complete readings in advance, sometimes not. We have read books, articles and online interviews, as well as enjoyed a number of films followed by discussion and lunch. Jim Eastman has done a wonderful job of facilitating the group. Thank you, Jim!

How would you like to see this group redesigned? Would you be interested in participating if it met on an evening or weekend? Would you like to see neighborhood discussion groups formed? Maybe you'd like to take part in a conversation group dedicated to a particular theme? Think about what might appeal to you and let Rev. Martha know. We will do our best to keep this opportunity for spirited sharing and conversation available to you.



Men's Group

The next UUCU Men's Group meeting will be held off-site on Thursday, January 12 at 6:30 PM. If you have questions, contact Fred Deneke.

Saturday Supper

The Saturday Supper is a potluck dinner normally held the third Saturday of each month. The next dinner will be held January 21st. Typically, we divide up into small groups of 6-12 and share a meal in someone's home. It's okay to participate without ever hosting or 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 in January. Thank you to our hosts for December: Terri and Richard Leimbach. Please contact Terri Leimbach if you are interested in coming to our January potluck.



Women's Group

Come join us! Our newly formed women's social group would love to have you with us!

The Women's Book Group meets Monday, January 9 at 7:00 PM at the church. We will be reading the last half of *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides.

The Women's Social Group will meet Sunday, January 22, immediately following the service. We will bring in lunch and divide the cost among participants.

Contact Laura Osborne if you have any questions.

If you need child care, please notify Susan Lange. Child care costs are \$10 per hour per sitter, and all are welcome to donate to the child care fund.



Chalice Circle

The 7 PM Chalice Circle meetings are held on first and third Wednesdays at church. Chalice Circle is open to all who wish to participate in deep discussions on a variety of topics in a small group. For more info, contact one of the group facilitators: Susan Lange or Karen Klein.

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
(510) 601-1437

Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)
www.uua.org
(617) 742-2100

UU Legislative Ministry (UULM)
www.uulmca.org
(916) 441-0018

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)
www.uusc.org
(617) 868-7102

South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership (SSIP)
Emergency Food Closet
www.ssipfoodcloset.org
(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

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UUCC Office 689-2008 or office@u2c2.org

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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

Community Minister:
Rev. Kate Kennedy

Religious Education Chair:
Annette Emery

Board of Trustees:
President: Karen Gunderson
Vice President: Tom Rintoul
Secretary: Merry Walle
Treasurer: Terri Leimbach
At-Large Members: Stephan Lange, Annette Emery
Endowment Trust: Stephan Lange, Patrick Cody, Laura Osborne

Committees:
Church Operations: Terri Leimbach
Committee on Ministry: Tamara Faber
Finance: Terri Leimbach
Membership: Rev. Martha Hodges
Religious Education: Annette Emery
Stewardship: Ernie Tomassilli
Worship: Stephan Lange
Faith in Action: Rev. Kate Kennedy

Openers/Closers Supervisor:
Rev. Martha Hodges

The “Kid-Friendly” Version of Our 7 UU 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
Serving Sacramento and Elk Grove, California
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Sacramento, CA 95828

Postage

Mailing Label

