

# U2C2 Connection

A monthly newsletter published by the UnitarianUniversalist Community Church

**::A Month of Sundays::**

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## July Sunday Services

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



Sunday, July 4: "Red, White, Blue and Green" - Worship Leader: Stephen Bakken & Will Kohn

Stephen Bakken and Will Kohn will give some perspectives of how the seventh guiding principle of Unitarian Universalism can be put into practice.

Sunday, July 11: "How Health Care Reform Fulfills a Social Justice Mission" - Worship Leader: Nina Weiler-Harwell

As an advocate for AARP who is also a Unitarian Universalist, Nina will discuss how support for the recently enacted Health Care Reform bill fits into a Social Justice agenda.

Sunday, July 18: "We Are All Part of One Another" - Worship Leader: Allison Claire

"We are all part of one another." These words of Barbara Deming, the late feminist and peace activist, evoke the UU principle of interdependence. This service explores what we mean to each other, and why the bonds that unite us may be called holy.

Sunday, July 25: "Books That Teach Us Who We Are" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

Rev. Martha will reflect on some of the books that have mattered to her at turning points in her life and will invite you to do likewise in this participatory service. So be thinking... What are the influential books or stories in your life?



Transcripts of UUCS sermons are available on our website at [www.u2c2.org](http://www.u2c2.org). Select "Services" and then "Sunday Sermons."

# ::July Planner::

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				<b>1</b> Daytimers 10AM at church	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Sunday Service 10:30AM Fourth of July	<b>5</b> Membership Committee Mtg 7-9PM off-site	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Daytimers 10AM at church	<b>9</b> Theatre Group 8PM	<b>10</b> Men's Group 9AM Summer Family Fun 1-4PM off- site
<b>11</b> Sunday Service 10:30AM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Board Mtg 7:15PM	<b>14</b> Chalice Circle 7-8:30PM	<b>15</b> Daytimers 10AM at church Newsletter Deadline	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Sat Supper off-site
<b>18</b> Sunday Service 10:30AM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Daytimers 10AM at church	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Sunday Service 10:30AM	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Chalice Circle 7-8:30PM	<b>29</b> Daytimers 10AM at church	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

### Calendar & Schedule

If you don't see your meeting or event posted here, contact the office at 689-2008 or [office@u2c2.org](mailto:office@u2c2.org).

#### Altar

7/4  
7/11  
7/18  
7/25  
Tonie Darling  
Jim Eastman  
Peter Morse  
Gene Anderson

#### Greeter

Rose Kohn  
Stephan Lange  
Barbara Vostry  
Dick Tarble

#### Lighter

*lighters on summer break*  
*lighters on summer break*  
*lighters on summer break*  
*lighters on summer break*

#### Usher

Jim Eastman  
Tom Rintoul  
Tonie Darling  
Beverly Boido

## The Year in Review

This past church year saw job losses among our members and new challenges to meet our financial commitments. Despite the anxiety that naturally resulted, UCC members and leaders have managed to focus on the gifts of community, shared spiritual growth and mission. Our members have been generous in gifts of money, time and caring and I am very proud to serve as your minister. We continue to struggle but we have great hopes. These hopes are based on our continuing accomplishments in the face of some difficult odds. As we begin a new church year together, here are some highlights of the past one.

### Welcoming Ministry

The warm welcome UCC members offer newcomers continues to be one of our great assets. The number of first-time visitors to UCC has held steady throughout the year and we are particularly pleased that these have included a number of families with children as well as single individuals. Our "retention rate" still leaves room for improvement. Thank you to our many ushers and greeters (headed up by Laura Osborne) and to all those who have provided refreshments for social hour and to Merry Walle for making sure that everyone is fed. The Membership Committee has worked hard to encourage newcomers along the path to membership. Our annual "purge" of inactive members in January reduced our numbers somewhat alarmingly but these are inching back upward with the recent addition of nine new members. We could be doing much more community outreach. The Board and Membership will be considering how to focus these future efforts.

### Nurturing Ministry

Worship services have been blessed with excellent lay presenters; special recognition is due to Lucy Bunch for leading the majority of worship services on days when I was not preaching. Our professional musician, Loren Richmond, moves and delights us every week and his enthusiasm for involving members of the congregation in making music is much appreciated.

Candy Wood stepped in as our Director of Religious Education this year and has done an admirable job leading our "Neighboring Faiths" curriculum as well as "Our Whole Lives." Our children's Religious Education (RE) program continues to attract newcomers. Thank you to the many teachers who make this possible, and to the RE committee, which was ably led by our much-missed Gayle Newman. Paula Braxton and Candy will continue to head up our RE program next year as parent volunteers, for which we are very grateful. The success of this program has meant that our classes are overcrowded and have had to meet outdoors on occasion. Galina Ivanova has, as always, taken excellent and loving care of our smallest children. We will miss her very much.

Our members have attended to one another in times of need this past year. Your love and generosity are a lovely thing to see. Our ongoing groups (Daytimers, Saturday Supper, Theatre Group, Chalice Circle, etc.) thrive on our sense of community and enjoyment of one another.

### Serving Ministry

Our social action efforts this past year centered around marriage equality. I am in the process of meeting with interested members to revitalize our justice-making efforts by choosing a focus and building structures that can be sustained over time. In the meantime, UCC has contributed to the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of California (UULM-CA) and to the larger community through our "first Sunday" offerings. I'm looking forward to seeing our social justice efforts include all ages and levels of involvement in this coming year.

*[continued on page 4]*

## Empowering Ministry

Our Board and Finance Committee have done excellent work for UUCC under very difficult circumstances. We especially thank our president, Allison Claire, and our outgoing treasurer, Eric Walle, for keeping us all informed of our financial situation through a series of community meetings. Ernie Tomassilli headed up the most successful stewardship campaign in UUCC's history.

Operations does the unheralded work of keeping the facilities, equipment, staffing and communications running smoothly. Our office administrator continues to provide invaluable support in these areas, as does Terri Riley, who single-handedly solves many problems before they become apparent to the rest of us.

## Looking Ahead

I will continue to make worship and pastoral care my highest priorities, but I plan to focus my energies in three additional areas this year: membership growth, social action, and leadership development. Numerical growth is, of course, essential, but is never an end in itself. It is a joy to welcome in new members who feel they are coming "home." Social and environmental justice work is also essential to our mission and purpose and sense of ourselves. We must pay our bills, of course, but we must never let ourselves think that this is our reason for existing. We are called to so much more. By focusing on leadership development, I hope to facilitate the empowerment of individual members and our community. It is imperative that relatively new members, in particular, feel prepared to assume responsibility and have the tools to make use of their talents and passions. We have the flexibility, the spirit and imagination to meet the challenges of the coming year with skill, grace, humor, vision and love. It is a privilege to serve as your minister.

*Rev. Martha Hodges*



**Martha's Vacation Plans**

Rev. Martha will be taking vacation July 1-18 and August 8-15 but will be available for pastoral emergencies. She will arrange for pastoral backup for any part of that time she will be out of town.

## Faithful Generosity: Time & Treasure

During the Stewardship Campaign this past spring, we talked a lot about “faithful generosity”. I understand faithful generosity as a spiritual practice of resource sharing. When we make our annual financial pledge to the church, for example, we commit to ongoing generosity that reflects our religious values and sustains our religious community. This regular practice of generosity deepens our connections to one another as a congregation, and opens our hearts in ways that increase abundance all around us.

Faithful generosity is not only about money. Financial generosity is critical, of course, but our church (like our world) needs more than our money. We are called also to give generously of our time and our energy, our creativity and our good old-fashioned elbow grease.

At our congregational meeting in June, we adopted a budget that will require UUCC members to pitch in to keep our facility clean, to keep our office running, and to increase our fundraising efforts and our presence in the community. The same faithful generosity that inspired our pledge increases must sustain an increased commitment of time and energy in order to get the work done. To paraphrase a recent quip of Eric Walle's, our sharing of loaves and fishes has to include the toilets and dishes! At home, Teri and I expect the kids to pitch in with housework on the principle that everyone who is part of the family needs to contribute to its upkeep. At church, the same principle applies. We are the church. We are all responsible for keeping it going.

I ask every one of you to think about where - not whether, but where - you want to invest your time and energy at UUCC. Would you rather take extra cleaning shifts, or volunteer as an usher or greeter for Sunday mornings? Teach children's religious education classes, or help organize a big fundraising event? Every member of UUCC will be expected to make a pledge of time for the new church year. As with pledges of financial support, these pledges of time and energy will be gratefully received with the understanding that each gives according to her/his ability. But all are expected to participate in the life of the church, and that means giving both our time and our treasure.

The miracle of faithful generosity is this: when I give with love, as a conscious expression of my faith, the energy I put out comes back to me many times over. This is true of money and of time. When I write my pledge check every month and when I wash dishes after social hour, I affirm that we - you and me, and everyone else reading these words - are part of one another. That connectedness is a holy thing. And I feel like we are all part of one another - that is, I feel personally connected and supported, upheld by this community in my spiritual seeking and in my efforts to bring compassion and justice to the world - when I act like we are all part of one another. Every contribution of time and treasure, big and small, up front and behind the scenes, is part of that practice. Let's all, each of us, decide what we can do to deepen that practice of faithful generosity as we embark on a new church year together.

*Allison Claire*

## **::Treasurer's Report::**

### **“First Sunday” Donations**

Donations on June 6 totaled \$115.00, raising our total for the Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC) to \$365.00 for the three-month period. The staff of SVC have expressed great appreciation for our support. For more information about SVC, please visit their web site at <http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/>.



### Welcome Our Newest Members

We are happy to welcome the following people into membership at UUCC and look forward to many years of “doing church” with them:

Kate Kennedy, an ordained UU minister who serves as a hospice chaplain in South Sacramento, grew up in Philadelphia. Kate recently moved from Davis to a new home in West Sacramento. Kate likes to hike, read, and spend time with her partner and friends. She enjoys the intimate and welcoming feeling at UUCC.

Barbara Vostry is a retired LPN who lives with her husband in South Sacramento. Barbara writes: “I moved here almost 20 years ago from Sonora, CA. My “hometown ” is a suburb of Chicago, IL. I am celebrating my 70th birthday this year! I have 4 sons, 2 of whom are deceased, and 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. I have lots of hobbies, the current one being gardening. I find my membership an important part of my life. I have gone to many churches, but at this stage in my life, I feel that UUCC fits my changing needs and beliefs.

Jae and Jessie Choi and their children (ages five and two) come to us from the Los Angeles area. Jessie is a homemaker and Jae works as a tax specialist with the Board of Equalization. Jae writes: “ We believe that having a designated day each week to reflect on personal and spiritual growth is important. And we like to set positive examples for our children.” Besides cooking, hiking, and travel, the Chois enjoy the daily adventure of watching their children grow and develop.

Our other new members are Cynthia Dobbs and Andy Smith; Christina Price; Kristine Nymoen and Vicki Byrd. More information about them will be included in our next newsletter. Welcome to all of you! We look forward to getting to know you better in the days ahead.

### Board Personnel Changes

Our gratitude goes to John Sugar, Eric Walle and Richard Leimbach as they leave the UUCC Board, having served as Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, and to Patrick Cody for serving as a member-at-large. You have served us well during a challenging year in our history!

Welcome and thank you to incoming members Karen Gunderson (Vice President), Terri Riley (Treasurer), Tom Rintoul (Secretary) and Will Kohn (member-at-large). We are grateful for the continuing leadership of our president, Allison Claire and members-at-large, Alison Navas and Sonia Duffoo. We are grateful to all of you for giving your time and dedication to this community.

### Committee on Ministry News

Celia Buckley has completed her three-year term on the committee, handing over responsibility for chairing the CoM to Jim Eastman. Tamara Faber will continue on the committee for two more years and Marion Randall has stepped in as our third member. Do not hesitate to speak to any of these three about concerns you may have about the ministry of our church. They welcome your input!



## ::Condolences::

### In Memoriam

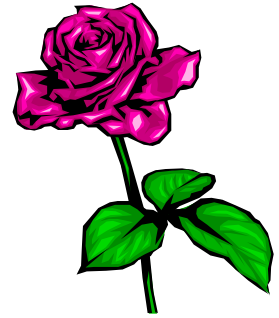
We join the Newman family in mourning the death of Gayle Newman on June 15. Gayle succumbed to an aggressive form of metastasized breast cancer only six weeks after her diagnosis. We are left reeling and heartsick. We will miss Gayle's bright spirit and inquisitive mind, her thoughtfulness and humor, and wish peace and healing to all who loved her.

## ::Farewells::

### Jackie & Galina

We wish Jackie Kelly all good things in her new home in Boise, Idaho, where she will be working as a chaplaincy training supervisor at a large hospital. We will miss her gentle humor and compassionate presence among us.

We are also very sad to see the departure of staff member Galina Ivanova. Galina has kept our building clean, prepared it for worship every Sunday, and looked after our infants and toddlers for the past eight years. Due to our budget cuts, Galina will be moving on to work that offers more hours. We are very fortunate to have had Galina with us all these years and we wish her all the best.



## ::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 Cole Porter's "Anything Goes" at the Chatauqua Playhouse in the La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Road, Carmichael on Friday, July 9 at 8:00 PM. Submit reservations to Frieda Fergus by Sunday, July 4. Everyone is welcome!

### Saturday Supper

The Saturday Supper is a potluck dinner generally held on third Saturdays. Our next potluck will be held on July 17. 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. Unfortunately, we weren't able to hold the June potluck, so we look forward to seeing you all in July. Contact Terri Riley if you are interested in attending.



### 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 participate, please contact Patrick Cody.

### UUCC Camping Trip Details

Our annual UUCC camping trip will be held September 10-12 (until noon on Sunday). We will be camping at the Sugar Pine Point campground located in one of the finest remaining natural areas of Lake Tahoe. It has nearly two miles of lakefront and dense forests of pine, fir, aspen, and cedar. Another attraction is the museum in the Hellman-Ehrman Mansion (also known as Pine Lodge), a summerhouse built in 1903 in a grove of pine and cedar. It's going to be fun. We hope you can join us. The cost is only \$10 per person. There is a 40 camper maximum, so please act quickly! Contact Sybil Lawson as soon as you know your family can attend this all-church event.



### Summer Family Fun

Grab the family, your swimsuits, towels, and floats and join everyone at the Darling-Schmidt home for a pool party! Nothing to plan, no organizing - what a great way to spend a summer afternoon. Cool drinks, light munchies and shade will be available, plus a pool deep enough for diving and long enough for laps. Marco Polo anyone? Note: Minor children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Date: Saturday, July 10  
Time: 1:00 - 4:00 PM  
Contact: Tonie Darling or Kurt Schmidt

Can't make it? Watch for upcoming announcements of more pool parties, a summer picnic and a group outing to a River Cats game.



### Aloha

Our Honolulu congregation is organizing a fundraiser, the Honolulu Bed and Breakfast Adventure, from September 22 to 29.

Church members will provide B&B style accommodation in their homes, a full seven nights stay, for \$840/couple (or \$490/single).

Your hosts and new friends from the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu will also offer optional group activities to make your visit that much more special. The annual Aloha Festival will be in progress with its colorful parade, fascinating cultural events and more.

If all this leaves you hearing ukuleles and wanting to get your toes in the sand, please visit <http://www.unitariansofhi.org/brochurePort.pdf> for more information.

### 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](http://www.uuvalleysierra.org)

Pacific Central District (PCD):

[www.pcd-uua.org](http://www.pcd-uua.org)

Telephone: (510) 601-1437

Unitarian Universalist Association:

[www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

Telephone: (617) 742-2100

UU Legislative Ministry:

[www.uulmca.org](http://www.uulmca.org)

Telephone: (916) 441-0018

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee:

[www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)

Telephone: (617) 868-7102

Sacyouth - Faith-Based Activities for Youth:

[www.sacyouth.com](http://www.sacyouth.com)

South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership (SSIP)

Emergency Food Closet:

[www.ssipfoodcloset.org](http://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](mailto:office@u2c2.org) by the 15th of each month.

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Tina Payne-Chasse 689-2008 or [office@u2c2.org](mailto:office@u2c2.org)

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Editorial Advisor - website:

Tina Payne-Chasse 689-2008 or [office@u2c2.org](mailto:office@u2c2.org)

#### Administration

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Email: [office@u2c2.org](mailto:office@u2c2.org)

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

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

#### Leadership

Minister:

Rev. Martha Hodges, 689-2073 or  
[minister@u2c2.org](mailto:minister@u2c2.org)

Director of Religious Education:

Paula Braxton/Candy Wood 689-2008  
or [office@u2c2.org](mailto:office@u2c2.org)

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

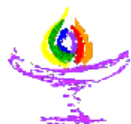
*Justice Coordinating Team:* to be determined

Openers/Closers Supervisor:

Rev. Martha Hodges

## 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  
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Sacramento, CA 95828

Postage

Mailing Label