

# U2C2 Connection

A monthly newsletter published by the UnitarianUniversalist Community Church

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

## Featured inside this issue:

### A Month of Sundays

- June Sunday Services p. 1

### June Planner

- Calendar & Schedule p. 2

### Grace Notes

- Remembering to Breathe p. 3

### President's Message

- Looking Ahead p. 4

### RE Corner

- Summertime p. 5

### News from the Board

- Annual Congregational Meeting p. 5

### Treasurer's Report

- "First Sunday" Donations p. 5

### Growing Together

- Notes from PCD District Assembly p. 6-7

### Congrats & Thanks

- Special Thank You to Candy Wood p. 7
- UUCC Community Meeting Report p. 7
- Annual Yard Sale p. 7
- Congratulations to Our Graduates p. 7

### Ongoing Activities

- Daytimers Group p. 8
- Theatre Group p. 8
- Saturday Supper p. 8
- Chalice Circle p. 8
- Men's Group p. 8

### Other Activities & Events

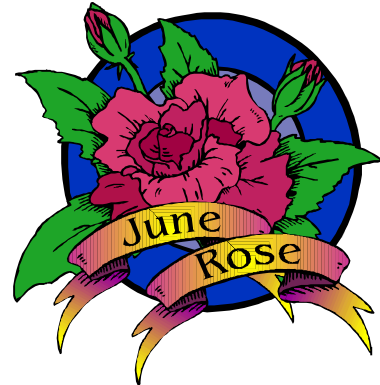
- Pride is Coming p. 8
- UUCC Camping Trip p. 8
- Slow Food Dining p. 8
- Calling All Play Readers p. 8

### About Us

- Mission p. 9
- Membership p. 9
- Affiliates p. 9
- Contacts p. 9

## June Sunday Services

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



Sunday, June 6: "We Covenant to Affirm and Promote..." - Worship Leader: Lucy Bunch

UUUs do not have a creed, but come together in covenant. This Sunday, we will explore the meaning of covenant through our past, present and future.

Sunday, June 13: "Learning at the Speed of Change" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

Rev. Martha will contemplate the perils and rewards of living in these times of exponential change. How do we attempt to keep up while remaining grounded? Our Religious Education teachers will be recognized on this day.

Sunday, June 20: "A Bouquet of Celebrations" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

Father's Day, the Summer Solstice and our annual Flower Communion all mark the beginning of summer for us. Celebrate the transition into these "lazy, hazy days" in a service for all ages, and bring a flower to exchange in gratitude for the gifts we each bring to this community.

Sunday, June 27: "Beyond These Walls" - Worship Leader: UUCC Youth

Our youngsters have been following the "Neighboring Faiths" curriculum this past year, learning about world religions and visiting many houses of worship around town. They will share these experiences with us in this youth-led service.

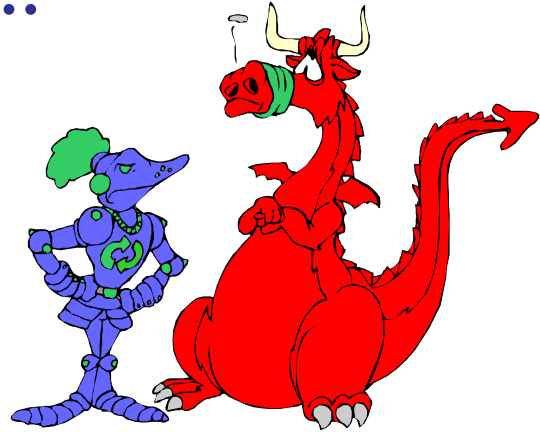


Transcripts of UUCC sermons are available on our website at [www.u2c2.org](http://www.u2c2.org). Select "Services" and then "Sunday Sermons."

# ::June Planner::

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

	<p><b>Altar</b></p> <p>6/6 Beverly Boido 6/13 Sybil Lawson 6/20 Georgene Tarble 6/27 Jenn Richard</p>	<p><b>Greeter</b></p> <p>Rose Kohn Stephan Lange TBD Dick Tarble</p>	<p><b>Lighter</b></p> <p>Hannah Ben Jesse TBD</p>	<p><b>Usher</b></p> <p>Jim Eastman Tom Rintoul Tonie Darling Beverly Boido</p>
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**Remembering to Breathe**

May brought more than the usual challenges to this congregation. Maybe you have felt our collective anxiety level inching upward. We are facing important decisions about the future of our church; more of us are experiencing financial difficulties; children are graduating and moving on to new schools; illness reminds us all of our mortality; the oil spill in the Gulf just grows and grows; and a new law in Arizona threatens to make immigration agents of local law enforcement and suspects of all brown-skinned people. How do we remain optimistic and effective in times that challenge our sense of stability and security?

First of all, we remember who we are and the principles that guide our choices. We affirm the goodness inherent in everyone, including those with whom we disagree. We affirm our relatedness to all beings and the mutual accountability that such connections bring. We affirm that life is precious and that it matters what we do.

We resolve to do our best, knowing that we cannot do it all and that our efforts will not all succeed. We accept the limitations of our power and, what may be harder to embrace, the extent of the power we do hold -- the power to make a difference in our own lives and in the lives of others.

We ask questions and try to understand our options and their probable consequences. We resist the temptation to lay blame and we accept the present reality. We make the best decisions we can based on that reality, knowing that our understanding is incomplete and that there is no life without risk.

We remember to celebrate every chance we get: small victories, loving gestures, brave and gracious acts; the resiliency of nature and of the human spirit; the honesty and faith of children; the sun and breeze, shadow and water and growing things. We practice gratitude and humility.

We take care of ourselves and each other, remembering to rest and to play.

And we remember to breathe. The "Meditation on Breathing" that we often sing tells us to breathe in love, breathe out peace. We breathe in the good gifts of life and breathe out healing for the world. Breathing in, we pray to Life: Thou art mine. Breathing out, we pray to Life: I am thine. Breathing in, we accept our power; breathing out, we accept our limitations. Breathe in... Spirit; Breathe out... Spirit. This is how we live this day, and begin again, tomorrow.

*Rev. Martha Hodges*

## Looking Ahead

Dear Friends,

When you read this, we will be approaching our Annual Meeting. As I write, the Board has not yet formulated a proposed budget to submit at that meeting. We have looked at options that will be shared with you at a special meeting next week, and we have wrestled with the hard choices that are necessary when projected income and desired expenditures don't match. Many of us are dealing with that same dilemma in our families and/or our workplaces, and all of us confront it as citizens and voters. It seems that everywhere we look, there is not enough. But let's not let the fear of scarcity blind us to the abundance that is all around us. Here at UUCC, we have already multiplied our small offering of "loaves and fishes" into the largest pledge total in the history of this church! Especially given these tough economic times, the faithful generosity we are practicing with each other is a miracle that will continue to sustain us and keep us strong.

Remember, friends, our church is not our building or our budget. Our church is who we are together. Our church is the community we create when we sing together, laugh and cry together, play and pray and work together as an expression of our Unitarian Universalist values. Our church is the collective energy of its members, committed to sharing the message of our faith: That we are all part of one another; that love is stronger than fear or injustice; and that by affirming our unity and committing to the path of love, we can transform our own lives and mend the brokenness of the world. That's a message the world needs to hear – it's a message that people in South Sacramento and Elk Grove need to hear – and our job is to make it heard. The reason we exist as a church is to carry that message and make it real in our life together and in the wider community.

Our budget, our constitution, our election of officers – all the business we conduct at our Annual Meeting – is in service of our mission as the Unitarian Universalist Community Church. That's Unitarian (all is one), Universalist (love is the ultimate reality) Community (we are in it together) Church (religious community).

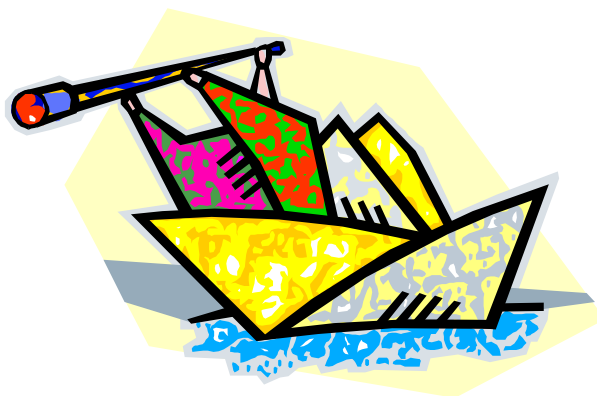
Our financial challenges and uncertainty about facilities understandably generate anxiety. It is easy in the grip of anxiety to intensify one's opinion about what "must" or "must not" be done. As we move forward, I hope that we are all able to keep foremost in our minds and hearts that everyone's opinions are expressions of a single common need: security for this church community we all love.

Perhaps what we choose is less important than how we choose. Whatever budget cuts we make for the coming church year, whenever and wherever we move, what will matter most to the long-term health and growth of this church is how we treat each other and how well we focus on doing our ministry in the world. "Love is the doctrine of this church. . . and service is its prayer." May it be so – whatever the budget, and whatever next steps we take toward our future.

I hope to see all of you at the Annual Meeting on June 13.

In faith,

*Allison Claire*



### Summertime

As the church year draws to a close so does the Religious Education (RE) year. Our final classes will be held in early June and then we will go into summer mode.

Speaking of summer... Please be thinking about time that you may be able to commit to supporting the RE summer program, so that we can give our fabulous teachers this year a well deserved break. Please contact Candy or Paula with your availability.

The youth are preparing a service to share their experiences as a result of the Neighboring Faiths curriculum we studied this year. Be prepared for lots of interesting information.

Our youth really enjoyed the two previous opportunities to attend Middle School Unitarian Universalist Gathering (MUUG) retreats and we have another opportunity this summer, August 27-29.

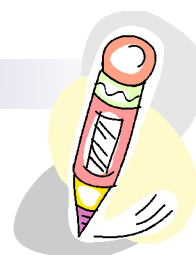
We are delighted to announce that Paula will be returning to the DRE position as of June 13th. We congratulate her on the completion of her internship at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Stanislaus County.

As always, the Children's Religious Education staff, youth and volunteers really appreciate your support.

*Candy Wood*



### **::News from the Board::**



#### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

Please plan to attend UUCC's annual congregational meeting after the service on Sunday, June 13. The agenda includes a proposed budget for the 2010-2011 church year; election of Board members and officers; and proposed revisions to the church Constitution. This will be a critical meeting, and all members and friends are urged to attend.

### **::Treasurer's Report::** by Eric Walle, UUCC Treasurer

#### **"First Sunday" Donations**

Donations on May 2 totaled \$100.00, raising our total for the Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC) to \$250.00 so far. SVC will be the recipient of our June 6 donations as well. For more information about SVC, please visit their web site at <http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/>.

**Notes from PCD District Assembly**

Several UUCers attended PCD's District Assembly this year. Continue reading and learn about their personal experiences...



Jacob, age 9:

"This was my first church camp I ever went to, and I liked meeting new people and making friends! My favorite activity was dancing almost all night! We (the Peace Ninjas) had a pool party and performed a play called, "It's NOT my problem!" for the family worship on Sunday. Oh, and my Mom got to go to some cool workshops on Anti-Racism and on Leadership School while I was having all that fun!"



Jim Eastman, UUC member:

"The 2010 Pacific Central District Assembly was my very first. Though I did not attend the Friday night worship or other activities, I did join in at the Sunday morning breakfast with some fellow UUCers and enjoyed Rev. Stefan Jonasson's rousing keynote address on the vitality of our religion. I also enjoyed my first workshop "Good News Faith," on how to speak positively and encouragingly of our faith, led by UUC Berkeley's Rev. Cathleen Cox. Next, I intended to try the workshop on Ethical Eating, but the facilitator didn't show (perhaps, she was still out to lunch). Instead, I went next door to hear Rev. Róbert Bálint discuss the legacy of his fellow Transylvanian, Francis Balázs, as he worked to modernize and diversify the early 20th century Unitarian church in Romania. I must admit my last workshop was not at all what I expected: "Nuts and Bolts for your Green Sanctuary Project." This architect took the title way too literally; it was not limited to how to construct an environmentally sustainable church building, but also focused on how churches can obtain certification in the Green Sanctuary program: a movement to help churches foster and participate in environmentally and socially responsible programs in their communities. After a nap, a delightful cocktail hour, and dinner, I then enjoyed seeing the film documentary "Preacher's Sons," about the odyssey of Rev. Greg Stewart and his husband as they adopt five African-American boys and travel to live in various communities around the U.S., including my former home of Grand Rapids,

Michigan. My weekend was topped off by a beautiful and renewing worship service on Sunday morning, led by UUSS's Rev. Doug Kraft. I look forward to attending another DA, and a General Assembly in the future."



Rev. Martha, UUC Minister:

"For me, one of the highlights of District Assembly this year was the special pre-Assembly gathering of professional and lay leaders to talk about a recent working paper produced by the Lifelong Faith Institute, 'Thirteen Trends and Forces Influencing the Future of Faith Formation in a Changing Church and World'. (A summary of the paper is available at <http://www.lifelongfaith.com/assets/docs/FF2020-TrendsSummary.pdf>.)

The paper is concerned with the 'driving forces' - social, cultural, political, technological and economic – that will challenge Christian faith formation in the next ten years. As with so much else that is written for Christians about Christian faith, a little 'interpretation' here and there allows Unitarian Universalists to find useful and even enlightening insights into our own situation. What impact will these trends have on our UU churches if they continue, and how can we capitalize on these changes to make ourselves more vital and relevant to the next generation?

The first three trends identified are 1) declining participation in Christian churches; 2) an upturn in those reporting 'no religious affiliation'; and 3) an increase in those describing themselves as 'spiritual but not religious'. In other words, there is an increasing number of people who are dissatisfied with traditional Christian worship. This is bad news for mainline Christian churches, but good news for UUs. If we can provide worship that offers an experience of the sacred, a connection to some form of the Transcendent that calls and sustains people, and that invites them to connect to their deeper selves on a level that is more than merely intellectual, we will answer this need for spirituality. If we can also let them know there is a religious alternative to creedal worship, we will be able to serve this growing population of the 'unchurched'.

*[continued on page 7]*

[continued from page 6]

How do we touch our spiritual hunger while continuing to honor our commitment to reason and our cultural tradition of reliance on the spoken word and the well-constructed argument? I firmly believe that the most atheistic among us has spiritual needs as deep as anyone else and that the aesthetics of worship provide a doorway into these non-rational realms of the heart and spirit. Music, poetry, imagery, story and ritual are examples of ways that UUs can connect with the spirit regardless of individual theologies. That's because these alternative modes of worship do not limit interpretation to one literal or "correct" understanding. They allow us room to add our own experience, emotion, loyalties and dreams to the mix, and thereby, create something uniquely personal and meaningful.

The second task before us if we are to meet the challenge of these three trends is to help people come to a new understanding of what it means to be "religious." I would guess that most non-UUs grow up equating religion with dogma. People who resist being told what they must think, believe and value are naturally turned off by the thought of a religion that denies them the right to think for themselves. We do not fit that traditional view of religion. Neither do we fit the stereotype of a religion that excludes the non-believer as unworthy or unsaved.

These are two aspects of our faith that people need to know can exist within a religion: you need not 'check your reason at the door'; nor do we proclaim to be the one and only path to truth. If we can get the word out that religion need not confine or control the mind, and if we can honor and celebrate the intellect without squeezing the spiritual juice out of worship – then we stand to gain in strength and effectiveness from these three trends. More importantly, all those who need to hear our message of reason, respect, compassion and hope will gain a religious community."

## ::Congrats & Thanks::

### Special Thank You to Candy Wood

We are all indebted to Candy for stepping up to fill the position of Director of Religious Education during Paula Braxton's ministerial internship. Under Candy's caring and capable leadership, our children's RE program has continued to blossom this past year. Our children love the programming and the older ones are especially excited about their new connections with other youth in the district. Thank you, Candy, for your creative and conscientious service, your commitment to our children and your enthusiasm for facilitating the relationships that are at the heart of our program!

### UUC Community Meeting Report

Thank you to all who attended our community meeting on May 23. Your participation has been essential to the Board as they put together the final budget proposal that you will be voting on this month (June 13th). In these financially challenging times, your heartfelt and thoughtful input makes all the difference to our moving ahead with confidence in a workable plan. We are grateful to Allison Claire and the rest of the Board for steering us through these choppy waters with such skill and devotion.

### Annual Yard Sale

Last month's yard sale netted a profit of approximately \$375. The weather was great and the volunteers were wonderful. Many, many thanks to all those who contributed items, Steve Bakken for putting it all together, and all the others who worked to make the sale happen!



### Congratulations to Our Graduates

Congratulations to our high school graduates, Thomas, Shuly, and Sanja; Julia Walle on graduating from Sac State; Nick Schmidt on graduating from Humboldt; and Becca Sanders on receiving her Masters of Divinity from Starr King School for the Ministry. We wish you all great satisfaction in your achievements, and joy and fulfillment in the new chapters that await you.

## ::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**

The UUCS Theatre Group will see, "I Just Stopped by to See the Man" on Friday, June 25, 8 PM at Celebration Arts Theater, 4469 D Street, Sacramento. Submit reservations (\$13 & \$15) to Frieda Fergus. All are welcome! Come join us!

### **Saturday Supper**

The Saturday Supper is a potluck dinner held on the third Saturday of each month. This month, our potluck will be held on June 19. Normally, we divide up into small groups of 6-12 and share a meal in someone's home. At each dinner, we ask a question and take turns answering, if we choose. It'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 June. Thank you to our hosts for May: Terri Riley & Richard Leimbach. Please 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. Please contact Patrick Cody if interested.

## ::Other Activities & Events::

### **Pride Is Coming**

Come be a part of the fun and be a presence for UUCS at Pride! The 2010 Sacramento Pride Parade steps off at 10 AM sharp, Saturday, June 19th, then we will go to the Capitol Mall for live entertainment, hundreds of exhibitors, and fun eats and treats.

The Sacramento Pride Festival will run 10 AM to 5 PM (admission is \$10). From the beautiful California Capitol dome and gardens on the east to Tower Bridge on the west, the Capitol Mall will be bursting with Pride!

UUCS will walk in the parade, man a booth and paint faces of the children who are at Pride. Come join the fun! If you would like to walk in the parade or be a face painter, please contact Paula Braxton or Candy Wood.

### **UUCS Camping Trip**

The 2010 UUCS Camping Trip, an annual all-church event, is set for September 10 - 12 (until noon on Sunday) at Sugar Pine Point campground, Lake Tahoe. The cost is \$10 per camper. Please email Sybil Lawson as soon as possible.

### **Slow Food Dining**

In connection with our "Ethical Eating" project, Karen Gunderson would like to organize a "slow food" monthly potluck. The potluck will feature foods that are made with organic and locally produced ingredients. Our sumptuous feasts will be followed by a video or other presentation on the subject of environmentally-friendly food. Contact Karen for more information. In the meantime, stay tuned to our "UUCS Ethical Eating" page on Facebook.

### **Calling All Play Readers**

Do you love the theater? Love reading aloud? Dick Tarble is organizing a group to read plays together. If you are the dramatic type or simply love plays, contact Dick and he will get us started.

### 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 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 UUC 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.

Editorial Advisor - newsletter:

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:* John Sugar

*Secretary:* Richard Leimbach

*Treasurer:* Eric Walle

*At-Large Members:* Alison Navas,

Patrick Cody, Sonia Duffoo

*Endowment Trust:* Terry Chekon, Patrick Cody, Tonie Darling

Committees:

*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:* Ernie Tomassilli

*Worship:* Jim Skow

*Justice Coordinating Team:* to be determined

Openers/Closers Supervisor:

Rev. Martha Hodges

## **The Mission of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church in Sacramento**

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**  
Serving Sacramento and Elk Grove, California  
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