

U2C2 Connection

A monthly newsletter published by the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Sacramento
March 2009

A Month of Sundays

Sunday Services [9:30 & 11:00 AM services are held every Sunday unless otherwise noted]

9:30 AM Contemplative Services [every Sunday]

We will continue to explore the theme of "The Spiritual Journey" in our 9:30 services, with a focus on the journey in myth and literature. Come along on the journey as we travel together through music, word, image and silence.

11:00 AM Traditional Services

Sunday, Mar. 1: "The Weight of the World" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

E.B. White wrote, "I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve (save) the world and a desire to enjoy (savor) the world. This makes it hard to plan the day." How good do we have to be? How do we decide when to answer to our consciences and when to let "someone else" worry about it... whatever "it" may be? Rev. Martha will share her reflections and her own struggle with these perennial questions.

Sunday, Mar. 8: "A Crisis of Faith" - Worship Leader: Lucy Bunch

Although the roots of our two parent denominations are Christian, the Unitarian branch of our faith evolved away from a strict Christian orientation during the late 19th and early 20th century. Lucy Bunch will build on recent services that Rev. Martha gave on Channing and Emerson, both influential Unitarians in the early 19th century. In this service, we will explore some of the challenges faced during this transition away from Christianity, and consider the implications for our denomination today.

Sunday, Mar. 15: "Faith of the Heretics" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges & Lucy Bunch

Lucy and Rev. Martha will dig deeper into the ideas presented the previous Sunday regarding the Christian origins of Unitarianism, suggesting possible answers to the question raised by our 19th century forbears: What is the faith of a Unitarian if it is not Christian? Have we evolved so far that we are no longer a religion at all? How do you define the "center" of our religious faith?

Sunday, Mar. 22: "All Are Called - Redux" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

Rev. Martha spoke to you last January on the variety of spiritual paths that beckon us, depending on our personalities and gifts. This week, she will continue to explore the idea that "service" need not be something onerous, but can be instead something soul-satisfying, as we prepare to meet to talk about the shared ministries of this church.

Sunday, Mar. 29: "We Covenant: Worth, Compassion, Acceptance, Free, Democratic, Community, Respect" - Worship Leader: Jim Skow

Come worship with us as seven of your fellow congregants share their personal thoughts and feelings about the meanings of these and other words of our UU principles.

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Monthly Planner

March 2009

If you have a meeting or event this month and don't see it listed, please contact the office at 689-2008 or uucc@cwnet.com.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday Services 9:30 & 11:00 am Newcomer Welcome after the 11am service	2	3	4	5 Daytimers 10am at church	6	7
8 Sunday Services 9:30 & 11:00am Kid's Book Club 12:30-1:30pm	9 Membership Committee Mtg 7-9pm	10	11	12 Daytimers 10am at church	13 Theatre Group 8pm	14 Waffles w/the Minister 9am-12pm
15 Newsletter Deadline Sunday Services 9:30 & 11:00am Women's Group 2:30pm	16	17 St. Patrick's Day FinanceMtg 7pm 	18	19 Daytimers 10am at church Board Mtg 7:15pm	20	21 Sat Supper offsite Men's Group 9am
22 Sunday Services 9:30 & 11:00am Community Mtg 12-4pm	23	24	25	26 Daytimers 10am at church Church Ops Mtg 7pm at church	27	28
29 Sunday Services 9:30 & 11:00am	30	31				

Worship Support Schedule

	Altar	Greeter	Lighter	Usher
3/1	Celia Buckley	Jane Thompson	Zachary N.	Jim Eastman
3/8	Beverly Boido	Stephan Lange	James L.	TBD
3/15	Sybil Lawson	Tom Rintoul	Monty N.	Tonie Darling
3/22	Georgene Tarble	Dick Tarble	Martina G.F.	TBD
3/29	Jenn Richard	Rose Nelsenador	Annika L.	TBD

Grace Notes

by Rev. Martha Hodges, Minister



Growing Deeper, Growing Up

Those of you who were here during the Interim Ministry of the Rev. Kate Rhode will recall that she talked with you a lot about the need for a church to change its patterns of thinking and ways of operating as it grows larger. Specifically, she spoke about the transition from a “family-style” church to a “pastoral model” here at UUCC.

Well, I’m happy to report that UUCC is now firmly ensconced in the “pastoral” size category of congregations. Along the way, you have been very receptive to the idea that, as we grow, we need to become more systematic about how decisions get made and how we communicate with each other about what’s going on. This requires us to see our church as a living system rather than a bunch of individuals and to consider ourselves accountable to that larger system. Although the role of the minister is central to the life of the pastoral-size church, no minister can meet the complex needs of a growing congregation without members firmly committed to the practice of “shared ministry.”

I’ll be reviewing with you what it means to the life of this congregation to adapt to the Pastoral Model of “doing church” when I speak to you on March 22. Following that 11:00 service, the Board and I are asking you to stay for lunch and a community meeting – a very important meeting. We will ask for your ideas about reorganizing UUCC along the lines of “Ministries” (the Welcoming Ministry, Nurturing Ministry, Empowering Ministry and Serving Ministry). We need your input about how this would look in practice and where you might find your own ministry within this structure.

It is my hope that this meeting will inspire further discussion as we think together about not only how this church can meet your personal needs for community and spiritual deepening, but also about what our shared purpose is in the larger community. What is the vision of our future that will guide our decisions? Whom or what do we serve as a religious community? What commitments are you able and willing to make to those who need us – beyond this congregation as well as within it?

Last year, I asked for your help in re-visiting the stated mission of UUCC. There was little interest in doing so at that time. Perhaps my ministry with you was too new. Perhaps we were still in a period of adjustment. The truth is, though, that we will always be in a period of adjustment as long as we remain a healthy congregation. These are not decisions that a minister can make alone, nor a Board; nor would you want them to.

We will not try to address all these matters on March 22, have no fear. This will just be the beginning... But by looking at the structure of our committees and how we work together toward our goals, we will get a good start. I’m truly looking forward to our conversation on the 22nd, not least because we will have the assistance of our District Executive, Cilla Raughley. Those of you who were present for our “Start-Up Workshop” way back when I first came to you will remember her lively, compassionate and enthusiastic presence. This will be an exciting and enjoyable discussion. Don’t miss it!



Preschool Program

Starting March 1, the RE Department will be offering a preschool program for our children ages 2 through pre-K. The program will consist of "circle time", an activity, and lots of movement and play! If you would like your child to attend, please see Paula Braxton. Any child attending must have registration paperwork completed.

Wee UU's

The RE department has created a parent/child play group for children birth to pre-K. The group meets the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10-1 PM. The gathering is potluck and the meeting place rotates among the members. If you would like to attend, please contact Paula Braxton.

Teacher Recruitment

The RE department has already set the curriculum for the 2009-2010 school year as well as Summer 2009. If you would like to teach RE, please contact Paula Braxton to discuss what age level you are interested in. The curriculum is going to be engaging and fun. Come join the RE department and have a great time!



RE Is Growing

The Religious Education (RE) program continues to grow as our children look forward to the Hogwarts School of UU Magik. We appreciate the willingness of our parents to bring their children to church on a regular basis so that our teachers have a full class of students. The last UU Café was held on March 8. A big thank you to Susan Lange for putting together this Harry Potter themed lunch and to all of our children who helped serve. The UU Cafe was a fundraiser for the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program and we have raised enough to train OWL teachers and buy the curriculum. Thank you to all our cooks and participants. Future plans for RE include training our children to be greeters so that newcomers with children will have someone their own age to show them around. If interested in helping with RE, contact Annette Emery, the chair of RE or Paula Braxton, the UCC Director of Religious Education.

Special Announcements



Waffles With the Minister

A waffle breakfast for newcomers will be held at church on Saturday, March 14 from 9 AM to 12 PM. This is a wonderful opportunity for those new to UUCC to meet our minister, Rev. Martha, and speak with her in a casual group setting about UUCC and Unitarian Universalism. If you would like to attend, please contact Martha.

Italian Dinner

UUCC is planning an Italian Dinner fundraiser that is tentatively scheduled for May. More information will be provided as we get closer to the date, so stay tuned!

Growing Together



Community Meeting

We invite and strongly encourage everyone to participate in our community meeting on Sunday afternoon, March 22, from noon to 4 PM (lunch included). PCD Executive Director, Cilla Raughley, will facilitate a playful interactive program of exploring our connections with each other and with the mission and ministries of UUCC. We will grow deeper spiritually through discussion of how the church is valuable to us, and how we might increase that value. We also will grow up organizationally by discussing our increasing membership, our "style" of operations, and the potential of the proposed "Four Ministries" model to be a useful way of organizing church activities. Each of us has a stake in the life of UUCC, and each of us has something unique to contribute to its future. Please plan to take part in "Growing Deeper, Growing Up!"

Childcare will be available that Sunday afternoon, and an informational packet will be ready for distribution in early March. We would like to have a good idea of how many packets to print and how much food and drink to provide, so please let Eric Walle know your intention ASAP. Thank you.

Get Involved & Keep UUCC Connected: GA & District Assembly Need You

It's not too early to be thinking about our 2009 UUA General Assembly. This year it will be held in Salt Lake City, June 24-28. Registration is available online beginning March 1 and early registration increases your chances of getting the accommodations you want, including the economical home hospitality offered by local UUs.

The UUA's lay leadership training program, UU University, is now being offered during GA rather than beforehand in an attempt to reduce costs to attendees. Consider registering for this excellent program if you are currently a lay leader at UUCC or would like to become one!

UUCC is entitled to two voting delegates. There is important business at hand this year, including the election of a new UUA president. If you are interested in being one of our congregational delegates to GA, please let Rev. Martha know this month. We will be asking the congregation to vote on their preferred presidential candidate. If we do not have two delegates going to Salt Lake City, we will vote as a congregation in absentia, so it's important for us to know if you will be attending.

In the meantime, here are two ways to acquaint yourselves with the candidate: Go to the website <http://www.uua.org/aboutus/governance/elections/president/128768.shtml> to access recorded and transcribed statements by each candidate.

Plan now to attend our Pacific Central District Assembly in Fremont, May 1-3 which will also feature appearances by the candidates. Registration is now open and available at <http://www.pcd-uua.org/events/DA-2009/index.htm>. As with GA, let Martha know as soon as possible if you are able to serve as a UUCC delegate.

Don't miss these great opportunities for learning, socializing, worship and celebrating being UU together! There truly is something for everyone at these gatherings and you are guaranteed to be glad you went!

Sharing the Plate: Give Your Input

As you know, UUCC has been “sharing the plate” by donating one quarter of each Sunday offering to a recipient chosen for that month. This represented a change from the “First Sunday Offering” that had been our tradition. The goals of shifting to this method of sharing with the larger community were threefold: to increase our giving to agencies we support; to increase the amount donated to UUCC in our Sunday offerings; and to raise our consciousness of giving as a spiritual practice and our church’s responsibility to be generous as a member of the Sacramento/Elk Grove community.

After sixteen months, the results of this effort have been somewhat disappointing. The income to UUCC has not significantly changed, but the amount we are giving to community agencies is less than before. With this in mind, The Board has decided to go back to sharing the first Sunday’s offering each month, rather than donating a portion of each offering all month. In order to maximize our contribution to the agencies we support, it was further decided to limit the recipients to four. Each one of these four will receive the total offering from three Sundays a year.

Who should these community agencies be? This is your decision, as members and friends of UUCC. What follows is a list of the agencies we have supported in the past sixteen months, along with others that were considered. The Board is limiting this list to organizations that are nonpolitical, that serve our local population, and that have the potential for us to support them in additional ways, through volunteering, collecting goods, or involving our children.

We will be asking you to vote on your top four choices at a future Community Meeting. You will also have the opportunity to write in a choice of your own. In the meantime, please look over this list and be thinking about what UUCC’s giving priorities should be. Are there are other agencies that we should consider? Which of the following you would like us to support?

Here is the list of agencies you are asked to consider (you will be choosing four):

Type: General

Sacramento Loaves and Fishes is an organization that includes at least six sub-bodies some of which are listed below and also accept separate donations. These are marked with an asterisk.* A donation to Loaves and Fishes will be distributed to the division where the need is greatest.

Type: Services to Women

* **Maryhouse** provides daytime hospitality to homeless women and children

Planned Parenthood of Sacramento provides ob/gyn services, including birth control and abortions

St. John’s Shelter for Women and Children provides shelter, clothing and counseling

* **Sister Nora’s Place** is a shelter for traumatized women

Strategies for Change gives outpatient services to (primarily) women with chemical dependencies, services for those experiencing domestic violence, and perinatal services

WEAVE (Women Escaping a Violent Environment) offers counseling, intervention, advocacy, a hotline, legal services and a safehouse

Women’s Empowerment offers job training, mentoring, counseling – a holistic approach to self-reliance – during an 8-week session of classes with 6 months of follow-up for its clients; \$1000 buys class supplies for 8 weeks, \$1500 funds one woman to complete the course

Type: Services to Children and Youth

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Sacramento provides mentors and activities for children in need of a male or female parent and role model

Helping Hands Foundation gives counseling and referral to children with upper limb differences

* **Mustard Seed School** is a school for homeless children

People Reaching Out offers substance abuse and violence prevention for youth through after-school programs and intervention

River City Center for Children serves kids at risk with confidential treatment and counseling for those with mental/emotional health issues

Sacramento Children’s Home provides intervention and treatment for at-risk children

Stanford Home for Children provides family services and treatment for emotional and social problems as an alternative to institutionalization

Sunburst Projects serves children and families with HIV/AIDS, respite service, case management, support groups, counseling and prevention, runs summer camp

Tubman House offers 18-month transitional living to homeless teens who are parenting young children; classes (high school or college), mentoring, parenting skills; requires community involvement by clients

WIND Youth Center provides homeless youth with food, counseling, case management, schooling, crisis shelter and outreach

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Type: Services to the Poor and/or Homeless (mainly food and shelter)

Christmas Adopt a Family is a program run by Loaves and Fishes

Elk Grove Food Bank operates Food Bank, Clothes Closet, Helping Hands (counseling and referral) and Community Garden

Francis House provides counseling and referral to the poor, including vouchers for shelter and transportation; supported by 17 other churches

Family Promise of Sacramento provides daytime shelter and interfaith hospitality (churches offer dinner, bed and breakfast to homeless families)

River City Community Services offers food and emergency housing assistance

Sacramento Food Bank Services serves Del Paso Heights and Oak Park areas; provides education, parenting skills, clothing, housing and social activities for seniors; programs include: Clothes Closet, Women’s Art Program, Child Services, Food Locker, Mother-Baby Program, Networking, Computer training, Transitional Living Support and a Learning Center

South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership (SSIP) Emergency Food Closet

[Note that UUCC has had a long-term commitment to supporting SSIP]

Type: Health Services

Breaking Barriers Community Services Center provides outreach to poor and homeless LGBT people and living assistance to those living with catastrophic illness, i.e., HIV/AIDS and breast cancer

The Effort is a community health center providing treatment and counseling in areas of domestic violence, addiction, child abuse, homelessness, physical and mental health; operates Suicide Prevention hotline and Parent Support line; provides counseling to clients at St. John’s Shelter

* **Genesis** is a free mental health treatment program for homeless adults, operated by Loaves and Fishes

Type: Environmental

California Native Plant Society (Sac. Valley Chapter) educates the public and preserves native plants from extinction

Sacramento Valley Conservancy purchases and protects wild areas in the Sacramento Valley

Type: Services to People with Disabilities

Creative Living Options provides Supported Living Services for adults with developmental disabilities who live in the Sacramento area

Type: Services to Refugees

Opening Doors, Inc. works with refugees, immigrants and underserved people to develop their social and economic skills, wellness, and personal and financial assets to successfully assimilate into society while respecting their cultural identity and individual goals

Type: Legal Services

***Tommy Clinkenbeard Legal Clinic** provides legal services to the poor through Loaves and Fishes.

Type: Service to Animals

Sacramento SPCA



UUCC Votes “Yes” on UUA Statement of Conscience: Next Steps

Last month, members of UUCC were asked to vote on whether the proposed UUA Statement of Conscience on Justice Peacemaking should be presented for adoption at the next GA. Those staying after the second service on February 1, after a short discussion, voted unanimously in favor of the statement. To see the full text of the SOC, go to <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/peacemaking/121606.shtml>.

The statement ends with a call to action on the international, societal, congregational, interpersonal and intrapersonal levels. These include a call to congregations to “take up peacemaking as part of our mission through worship, religious education and social action by, in part, developing “Peace Teams” to provide training in compassionate communication and conflict resolution; to develop a congregational behavioral covenant; and to become a community resource for peacemaking through cooperation with other faith traditions”.

This is quite a tall order! If we are to take seriously our support of this statement, there are plentiful resources available from the UUA for doing so. If you would like to form part of Peace Team to begin implementing the actions suggested in this statement, please let Rev. Martha know by the end of this month.

Thanks and Thoughts

Appreciation Reminder

If you were not present to be thanked in person at our Volunteer Recognition Ceremony on Feb. 8, the homily and thank you's from that day are now posted on our website, as are other sermons. Check it out and know that you are appreciated!

Community News

Thank you to Loren Richmond for the donation of our new literature rack. We'll put it to good use!

Please keep Alison Navas and Annette Emery in your thoughts and prayers as they attend to mothers with serious health issues.



Share the Plate

The recipient of our January *Share the Plate* donation of \$113.48 is The Sacramento Children's Home (website: www.kidshome.org), which "offers 24 hour, community and educational programs that address the needs of children prenatal to young adulthood: from early intervention to intensive trauma care — from newborn to emancipated youth." Its nine programs in ten locations serve more than 1,800 families and 3,500 children of the Greater Sacramento Area each year.

SSIP Experiencing Special Needs

UUCC is sharing our weekly collection with the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership Food Closet for three months in a row. We're doing this for several reasons. First, donations received during February and March will be supplemented by monies from the Feinstein Fund. Secondly, the need for emergency food supplies is dramatically increasing as our neighbors suffer layoffs; the Food Closet is serving more than 4000 people each month and the numbers are going up. Finally, SSIP has just announced that the County Public Health Department is requiring a permit fee and improvements in refrigeration that will cost a total of \$4500. This is an expense that SSIP did not anticipate. Please plan to give something extra if you can as the plate passes on Sundays in the next couple of months.

Ongoing Activities

Women's Group

The UUCC Women's group is open to all women who want to share their lives with other women. We meet the third Sunday of each month at 2:30 PM at church. The next women's group will be on Sunday, March 15. Please contact Annette Emery for more information.

Saturday Supper

The Saturday Supper is a potluck dinner held on the 3rd Saturday of each month. The next dinner is on Saturday, March 21st. 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! Thanks to our hosts for February: Gina Guarneri and Doug McDougall. Please contact Terri Riley if you are interested in coming to our March potluck.

Theatre Group

The Theatre Group will see "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot" at the Wilkerson Theater, 1723 25th Street at 8 PM, Friday, March 13. It's described as "an exploration about the conflict between divine mercy and human free will". Reservations (\$15 and \$12) to Frieda Fergus by Sunday, March 8.

Daytimers Group

The Daytimers Group meets each Thursday morning from 10-12AM at the church. Anyone may join our lively discussion group. We are currently discussing a public radio program called "Speaking of Faith". If you are interested in participating, please contact Dick Tarble.

New Ideas

Books, Anyone?

We are experimenting with a book exchange! If you have a book you no longer want that you think others at UUCC might enjoy, consider leaving it on the designated shelf in the Couch Room (aka the Teen Room). And, if you see one there that you'd like to read, help yourself. No sign-outs or record keeping... Return or keep your "borrowed" book at your discretion.

About Us

Mission

The ministry of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church is to foster open minds, caring hearts, helping hands, and growing spirits in a congregation of all ages. By living and sharing Unitarian Universalist values, our spiritual and intentionally diverse community seeks to bring compassion and justice to the world.

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

Contact

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 uucc@cwnet.com by the 15th of each month.

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Nancy Flagg 689-2008

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Editorial Advisor - website:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008

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Vice President: John Sugar

Secretary: Richard Leimbach

Treasurer: Eric Walle

At-Large Members: Wynne Skow,

Patrick Cody, Sonia Duffoo

Endowment Trust: Terri Riley,

Terry Chekon, Patrick Cody

Committees:

Church Operations: Alison Navas

Committee on Ministry: Tom Rintoul,

Celia Buckley, Jim Eastman

Finance: John Sugar

Membership: Rev. Martha Hodges

Religious Education: Annette Emery

Stewardship: Jim Skow, Ernie Tomassilli

Worship: Jim Skow

Justice Coordinating Team: Julia Walle,

Antonio Gonzalez

Openers/Closers Supervisor:

Rev. Martha Hodges



About the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) represents the interests of more than one thousand Unitarian Universalist congregations, on a continental scale. The UUA grew out of the consolidation, in 1961, of two religious denominations: the Universalists, organized in 1793, and the Unitarians, organized in 1825.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Mailing Label

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