

# U2C2 Connection

A monthly newsletter published by the UnitarianUniversalist Community Church

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

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## May Sunday Services

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

*Sunday, May 2: "Seven Deadly Sins Recap" - Worship Leader: Dick Tarble*

Sin is a concept that UUs traditionally reject, but human conduct labeled as the Seven Deadly Sins is very real. The UUCC Daytimers Group has been discussing the *Seven Deadly Sins Sampler*, a short story anthology, for the past several months. In light of Rev. Martha's series of sermons on the Seven Deadly Sins, Dick Tarble and other members of the Daytimers will share their reflections.

*Sunday, May 9: "Imagining Mother" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges*

Known or unknown, living or dead, nurturing or otherwise, our mothers have a hold on our feelings and imaginations. From June Cleaver to Medea, Rev. Martha will consider some of the ways in which we immortalize and pass down our imaginings of "Mom."

*Sunday, May 16: "Privilege" - Worship Leader: Lucy Bunch*

On March 28, Rev. Martha spoke on the issue of economic justice. An underlying theme of economic justice is privilege. As citizens of the United States of America, we have many privileges which we take for granted. We will dig a bit deeper to consider how an awareness of privilege can open our hearts to the needs of the world.

*Sunday, May 23: "Sin for UU & Me" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges*

Now that we have completed the series of sermons on the Seven Deadly Sins, Rev. Martha will try to answer the question, "So what?" Join us as we explore the question, "What useful meaning can we extract from these ancient and modern ideas about sin?"

*Sunday, May 30: "Memorial Day" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges*

We will remember and honor our war dead by considering the possibility of peace. We will also remember our own loved ones. Together, we will build an "altar" of memory, so bring pictures or other mementos you would like to add to it.

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

# ::May Planner::

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Sunday Service 10:30AM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Daytimers 10AM at church	<b>7</b> Theatre Group 8PM	<b>8</b> Men's Group 9AM
<b>9</b> Sunday Service 10:30AM  Mother's Day	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Board Mtg 7:15PM	<b>12</b> Chalice Circle 7-8:30PM	<b>13</b> Daytimers 10AM at church	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Sat Supper off-site  Newsletter Deadline
<b>16</b> Sunday Service 10:30AM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Daytimers 10AM at church	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Sunday Service 10:30AM  Health Care Presentation after church	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Chalice Circle 7-8:30PM	<b>27</b> Daytimers 10AM at church  Church Ops Mtg 7PM at church	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Memorial Day	<b>Calendar &amp; Schedule</b>  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> .				

	<b>Altar</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Lighter</b>	<b>Usher</b>
5/2	Karen Gunderson	Rose Kohn	Miley	Tom Rintoul
5/9	Cliff Cannoncin	Stephan Lange	Cheyenne	Jim Eastman
5/16	Judi Schafer	TBD	Sophia	Tonie Darling
5/23	Rose Kohn	Dick Tarble	Alex	Beverly Boido
5/30	Celia Buckley	Rose Nelsenador	Monty	Terry Chekon



**Discoveries**

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes."  
-- Marcel Proust

New landscapes are good, too. Travel, whether across town or across the ocean, helps us to remember how little we know and understand the world. But if we're determined to live among the safe and familiar, it's quite possible to find them even in new places. Not because Bangkok or Anchorage is really just like Sacramento - it isn't. But we can choose to look for the commonalities, or not finding the expected, we can squint a bit and reduce the unique and marvelous to the ordinary.

We can also do the reverse: look at the ordinary and find in it something extraordinary, fresh and new. We can play at taking the Martian's perspective, or for that matter, a child's. Look at something up close - a feather, a leaf, the eye itself. Or try taking the long view: see the pattern in a flock of birds, the shades of green in the park, or the arrangement of light and shade on the sidewalk. The difference between art and fact is truly in the eye of the beholder, as is the difference between the astonishing and the mundane.

The same goes for the people you see every day. Caring observation can reveal things you've missed for years: flecks of brown in the blue eyes, the beginning of swelling in a knuckle or the look of fatigue around the mouth. Or take an inward view: imagine yourself seeing the world through a loved one's eyes. Imagine the description of the landscape.

And the same goes for yourself. Try seeing yourself with new eyes. Try on a new idea of yourself and see how it fits.

The same is true of the holy, however you understand that. We constantly redefine and recreate our idea of what is sacred, transcendent, and worthy of devotion. By doing this, we recreate ourselves and the world. There is virtually no limit to what we can create, fired by imagination and desire, our eyes open to new wonders.

May you see something new(ly) every day.

*Rev. Martha Hodges*

**In Memoriam**

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Carol Byers. Carol was a member of both this church and UUSS and was an active participant in our Daytimers Group. We will miss her inquisitive mind, her kindness and her enthusiasm for the many interests she pursued. Her memorial service will take place at UUSS at 1 PM on Thursday, May 13.

## Our Children, Our Selves

Dear Friends,

My children recently celebrated their 12th birthday. Twelve years ago, I delivered three premature babies into the world, and now they are thriving preteens. They are also active UU youth. Faith formation is certainly in flux for young people. One child insists on atheism; another has been an instinctive pagan and pantheist since she could first toddle around in the yard arranging pebbles and flower petals; and another seems drawn to humanist and Buddhist ways of understanding. These are a parent's observations, not the kids' self-descriptions. If asked what Unitarian Universalism means to them, I bet all three would cry "MUUGS!"



MUUGS stands for Middle School Unitarian Universalist Gatherings. It's a Pacific Central District (PCD) program to bring 6th through 9th grade youth together from throughout the district for special events that build community and support the development of UU identity. All of UUCC's middle schoolers attended a MUUGS retreat at the Santa Cruz church in late March. They had a fabulous time making new friends, playing games, worshipping, storytelling, and exploring together. Now they are excitedly anticipating a reunion at PCD's District Assembly, which is being held in Fremont, CA from April 30 to May 2.

For the grownups, District Assembly is a business meeting (at which Stephan Lange and I will be your delegates) and an opportunity to learn new skills, explore new ideas, deepen faith and build connections within our wider UU network. I am looking forward to the presentations, workshops, and worship. But I am most excited about my children's excitement about going with me. Last summer when I was at the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly in Salt Lake City, I was blown away by the Youth Caucus - a large and vibrant, multicultural, expressively diverse, super smart and energetic group of teenagers who were deeply engaged in the debates and decision-making process of the assembly as a whole, while also sustaining a parallel universe of UU youth culture. The thought of my children someday being part of such a robust UU youth movement gave me chills. With MUUGS, I see it happening.

My kids were born into UUCC and have been raised here. You are their community. Many of you rocked them as babies, helped feed them in their booster seats at potlucks, taught them in Sunday school, and have mentored them in countless ways. I thank you for these gifts. This church's commitment to its children, the collective responsibility we take for the well being of all our young people, is one of our greatest strengths. My own commitment to this church and its dreams is inextricably entwined with our vision for our youth. The ministry we are growing is not only for us but for the next generations, not only to serve their religious needs but to prepare them to serve their communities and their world as UUs. Thank you for helping make that happen.

*Allison Claire*

## Religious Education (RE)

In April, our Middles and Juniors studied the Reformer movements in Christianity, specifically Methodists. During our visit to the Elk Grove United Methodist Church, we had the opportunity to speak with their pastor in a "question and answer" session prior to attending the contemporary service.

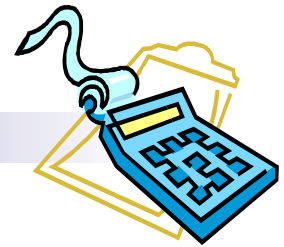
The Littles continues to be our best attended class. In order to assist our primary teachers, we are asking for volunteers to act as Spirit Guides. If you are interested in a position as a craft assistant, hall monitor, or Lego builder, please contact Gayle Newman.

Summer is nearly here. Please start thinking about time that you may be able to commit to supporting the RE summer program so that we can give our fabulous teachers a break.

The Coming of Age program is being offered next church year by the Pacific Central District. This means that the district will provide retreat experiences for youth that will further and deepen the Coming of Age programs at their respective congregations. The purpose of the program is to help our youth integrate their childhood into their emerging adulthood, with a clear sense of themselves and their place in the Unitarian Universalist church and the world. This program is for 8th - 10th graders and will begin in September. There are responsibilities for the youth, parents and congregation. Please let me, Candy Wood, know if you are interested in having your youth participate in this wonderful program.

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

*Candy Wood*



## First Sunday Collections

The designated recipient of our "First Sunday" collections for April, May and June is the Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC), "founded in 1990 on two basic principles: that open lands are necessary for quality of life and that we must care for the land today so future generations may enjoy its physical and spiritual benefits tomorrow." Our April 4 donations totaled \$150.00. For more information about SVC, please visit <http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/>.

## "Fair Share" Update

Member participation in this campaign now exceeds 50% (30 of 59), and we have received one full individual "Fair Share" contribution from a Friend of UUCC as well. Through April 11, we have collected \$4,342.90 for UUA and \$1,104.00 for PCD. Those figures represent (respectively) 79.13% and 48.98% of our "Fair Share" amounts for those organizations. Those who have not yet donated to the Fair Share Fund may submit a check for \$79, which is the total amount that UUCC is asked to contribute per member to the UUA and PCD. Checks should be made payable to UUCC with "Fair Share Fund" written on the memo line.



## 40/40/40

40 years of Earth Day, 40 days of commitment, 39 nearby UUs...and you.

UUC members are invited to join UUs across the continent in expanding this year's Earth Day, which we celebrated at our Sunday service on April 25. This is Earth Day's 40th anniversary and we are marking the occasion by asking for 40% of our average Sunday attendance to commit to consistent daily actions (one or more) for the sake of the Earth and environmental justice over a 40-day period. That means twenty-four (or more) of you -- adults, children and youth -- are asked to choose an action, based on your own interests and values, and stick with it through June 12. These actions are suggested by the sponsors of the UU Congregational Study/Action Issue on Ethical Eating. Use your creativity to find actions that appeal to you. For more information about 40/40/40, visit [www.tr.im/404040](http://www.tr.im/404040).

### Some 40/40/40 Actions You Can Take

1. Skip fast food for 40 days
2. Offer a spoken grace before meals for 40 days (see "Favorite UU Table Graces" at [www.tr.im/404040](http://www.tr.im/404040))
3. Only eat meals in rooms without a TV or computer on for 40 days
4. Alone or with a congregational group, outside or in pots, start and care for a vegetable garden, and watch it come to life over the 40 days
5. Eat lower on the food chain by replacing one or more animal products for 40 days
6. Estimate how much you typically spend on your daily food; set aside that amount every day to donate to a food pantry at the end of your 40 days
7. With your household, eat one more meal together than is your custom, daily for 40 days
8. Reduce packaging (and expense!) by trying to buy enough rice, oatmeal, nuts, whole grains, flours, and/or cereals in bulk to last your family 40 days
9. Commit to obtaining an appropriate category of local food for 40 days
10. Get 40 in your congregation to volunteer in shifts to support food pantries, soup kitchens, homebound food delivery services for 40 days
11. Shop in a food cooperative, farmer's market, small business, or locally owned grocery store instead of chain supermarkets throughout the 40 days
12. Try home composting for 40 days

### More 40/40/40 Ideas for Children and Youth

1. Help in the kitchen every day for 40 days
2. Try chewing one bite 40 times and see what you notice every day for 40 days
3. Eat at least one fruit or vegetable with every meal for 40 days
4. Check labels, and don't eat food if you can't pronounce an ingredient, if it contains corn syrup or more than five ingredients, or if sugar is at the top of the list for 40 days
5. Drink water only from the tap or a water fountain for 40 days
6. Don't drink any soda for 40 days
7. Try a new "whole food" (fruit, grain, vegetable, or fungus) every day for 40 days
8. With kids, youth, and adults, write a skit about the impact our food choices have on our planet, and perform it at the conclusion of the 40 days
9. Plant and water vegetable seeds (like lettuce or beans) and watch them grow for the 40 days
10. Ask one new question about where food comes from every day for 40 days

## Presentation on Health Care

As an advocate for the elderly in her position with AARP, Nina Weiler-Harwell has become well-versed in matters related to health care reform. If you're like most people, you may be confused about what the recent changes in legislation will mean for you and others. Nina will explain it all to us in a special presentation after church on May 23rd. Please plan to stay, become better informed and get your questions answered!

## Speaking of Money

Rev. Martha and others have spoken with us about the liberating effects of speaking candidly about our experiences and relationships with money. In a recent service, she suggested some actions we could take to become more comfortable talking about this taboo subject and thereby gain much-needed support from others as we all struggle in this difficult economy. She suggested forming a short-term Chalice Circle to study wage justice; a one or two-session workshop for writing and sharing our "financial autobiographies"; and forming a longer term group to educate ourselves about economic matters and take actions as a congregation to support a more just economy.

If you are interested in taking part in any of these or a similar group activity related to money (or the lack thereof) in your life and community, let Martha know.



## ::The Green Corner::

### Plastic or Paper?

Welcome to the Green Corner, a column contributed by Candy Wood of the UUCC Carbon Ring Group with the goal of fostering ecological education and offering tips and tools to diminish the negative human impact on the precious resources of the Earth. In this edition, we will look at ways that are being implemented by governments and retailers to reduce the number of plastic bags going into our landfills.

It seems that there is a worldwide movement to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, plastic bags from the planet. They are taxed in Italy and Belgium. People in Switzerland, Germany and Holland must pay for them. Spain, Norway and the U.K. are also considering bans or taxes.

Washington D.C. implemented a tax on plastic bags last month, which has reduced the total number of usage to 3.3 million, down from 22.5 million in the previous month. Closer to home, both San Francisco and Oakland ban plastic and promote reusable and compostable bags instead. Elsewhere in the state, supermarkets are required to accept plastic bags for recycling.

There are a number of retailers that are not waiting for legislative mandates to cut down on plastic waste. Whole Foods Market has phased out all plastic bags from its stores. Even Wal-Mart is charging extra for them in some of their northern California stores.

So, if you feel the need to do your part, put some cloth bags in your trunk for the next run to the store. Yes, they cost a little more, but you will get far more use out of them.

Until the next time...

## ::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 "Wonder of the World" produced by Theatre One at the UU Society, 2425 Sierra Blvd. on Friday, May 7 at 8 PM. Submit reservations (\$10 and \$8) to Frieda Fergus by Sunday, May 2. We always enjoy our theatre trips to our "other" UU church, and invite others to join us.

### Saturday Supper

The Saturday Supper is a potluck dinner normally held on the third Saturday of each month. Next month, our potluck will be held on May 15. 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. Thank you to our hosts for April: Terri Riley and Richard Leimbach. Please contact Terri Riley if you are interested in coming to our May potluck.

### 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 Gayle Newman, 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 Events::

### Leadership School 2010

A key ingredient of what makes congregations successful is the ability to forge strong relationships and create the "beloved community". PCD's Leadership School (Aug. 10-15, Earth Matters Retreat Center, Ben Lomond, CA) introduces congregational leaders to the skills needed to create that environment. The curriculum includes meeting management, dealing with conflict, designing worship and problem solving skills in small groups. Tuition (including room and board) is \$1000. There may be partial scholarship aid available, so talk to Rev. Martha if you're interested.

### Water Justice Road Trip

June 12-20 is the 2nd Annual Water Justice Road Trip for Young Adults between ages 18 and 35. The itinerary is shaping up to be 9 nonstop days of fun, insight and awesome scenery. By the time the 9 days are up, you'll have discovered the spirit in justice work, made friends for life, learned an enormous amount and seen some of the mountains that inspired generations of California writers and artists. To secure your place, contact the UU Legislative Ministry.



### UUSC Experiential Learning

UUSC is excited to announce two opportunities for experiential learning this summer:

Building Justice: A UUSC JustWorks Camp  
Minneapolis, MN, June 12-19

Freedom Summer: A Civil Rights Journey, GA and AL, July 10-17

For more information about UUSC's experiential learning programs, please visit the UUSC website at <http://www.uusc.org>.

### 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.

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#### Administration

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

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

#### Leadership

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

Director of Religious Education:

Paula Braxton/Candy Wood 689-2008  
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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:* Jim Skow, Ernie Tomassilli

*Worship:* Jim Skow

*Justice Coordinating Team:* to be determined

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.



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