

U2C2 Connection

A monthly newsletter published by the UnitarianUniversalist Community Church

::A Month of Sundays::

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November Sunday Services

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

Remember Daylight Saving Time begins November 1. Set your clocks back one hour the night before, so you won't miss the wonderful service led by Jim Skow!

Sunday, Nov. 1: "They Live On Within Us" - Worship Leader: Jim Skow

Recover from your tricks and treats of the previous night and join in a lay-led worship service. We will start the Thanksgiving month of harvest and bounty; brisk, fresh skies; and warm hearths by remembering how dear ones, now dead, live on in our lives as an important presence of love, courage and care. Please, if you wish, bring small photos or mementos of past loved ones for our altar and let us remember them together.

Sunday, Nov. 8: "Insatiable" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

In keeping with the holiday season, Rev. Martha will continue her sermon series on the Seven Deadly Sins by taking a look at her personal favorite, Gluttony. More pie, anyone?

Sunday, Nov. 15: "What's a Good Humanist to Do?" - Worship Leader: Kurt Schmidt

Kurt Schmidt will discuss the pros and cons of Humanism in a confusing era.

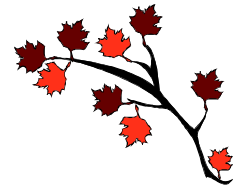
Sunday, Nov. 22: "Thankfulness in Hard Times" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

Join Rev. Martha as we contemplate the meaning of Thanksgiving and celebrate all we are grateful for.

Sunday, Nov. 29: "The Lessons of Harry Potter" - Worship Leader: Lucy Bunch

Calling all wizards and "muggles"! As any fan will tell you, the Harry Potter books are full of wit and wisdom, triumph, fear and friendship. In this intergenerational service, members of our community will share the lessons they have learned from Harry Potter. Don't forget your wand!

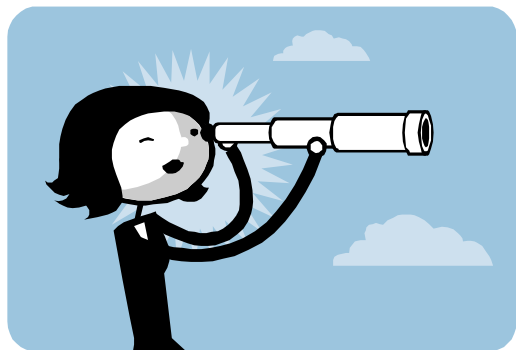
Transcripts of UUCC sermons are available on our website at www.u2c2.org. Select "Services" and then "Sunday Sermons."



::November Planner::

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1 Sunday Service 10:30AM Daylight Saving Time Begins	2 Membership Committee Mtg 7-9PM off-site	3	4	5 Daytimers 10AM at church Worship Committee Mtg off-site	6	7
8 Sunday Service 10:30AM Kid's Book Club 12:30-1:30PM Chalice Circle [SL/JE] 1PM	9	10 Board Mtg 7:15PM	11 Chalice Circle [RF/GN] 7- 8:30PM	12 Daytimers 10AM at church	13 Theatre Group 8PM	14 
15 Sunday Service 10:30AM Newsletter Deadline	16	17	18	19 Daytimers 10AM at church	20	21 Sat Supper off-site
22 Sunday Service 10:30AM Chalice Circle [SL/JE] 1PM	23	24	25 Chalice Circle [RF/GN] 7- 8:30PM	26 	27	28
29 Sunday Service 10:30AM	30					
Calendar & Schedule If you don't see your meeting or event posted here, contact the office at 689-2008 or office@u2c2.org .						
	Altar 11/1 Karen Gunderson 11/8 Cliff Cannoncin 11/15 Judi Schafer 11/22 Rose Kohn 11/29 Celia Buckley	Greeter Rose Kohn Stephan Lange Jane Thompson Dick Tarble Rose Nelsenador	Lighter Sarah L. James L. Martina G.F. Blake M. Miley N.	Usher Jim Eastman Bev Boido Tonie Darling Tom Rintoul Terry Chekon		

The Minister's Perspective on the Past Year



Unbelievably, the holiday season is upon us and with it comes our ritual reflections on the year that is passing. I presented a detailed annual report at our recent Board retreat and want to share some of the highlights with you here.

Financial difficulties have, unfortunately, been a dominant theme in our congregational life this year. We need to be able to openly and realistically discuss our finances and ways to address our shortfall, while maintaining our high energy, optimism and confidence in the future. It isn't good to be focused exclusively on growth for growth's sake; the reason we want to grow is in order to better serve the community and share our beloved faith with all who need it. I will do my best to keep reminding us of this. We must limit what we attempt to do, but everything we do must be excellent. We must also refocus on mission and vision. If we do these two things, growth will follow.

In the area of worship — despite our best efforts, our 9:30 AM service failed to meet our main objectives: to relieve overcrowding at the later service and to draw in new members who preferred an alternative service that was more “spiritual” in nature. This was disappointing, but we did learn some things which will be valuable if we try this again. 9:30 is apparently too early for most UUC members, and people are

attached to the familiar traditional service and don't want to miss it. There are other options we could explore, e.g., UUC services at nursing homes or neighborhood gatherings using videotapes of our main service, or a weeknight vespers service that is all music or all meditation. In the meantime, we are experimenting with incorporating some aspects of the early service into our 10:30 AM worship, namely, more varied music styles and the use of visuals in worship. I hope to begin taping or recording our services on DVD or podcasting them in the coming year so that those unable to attend can enjoy them.

On membership and community building — our Membership Committee is working on ways to allow newcomers and new members to get to know our community and find a comfortable and fulfilling niche here. If you can help by “mentoring” newcomers (inviting them to church events, sitting with them, introducing them to others with shared interests, getting to know them outside of church), please let Martha or Ernie Tomassilli know. These kinds of connections bring people to church and encourage them to become active members.

We are now offering Chalice Circles — another great way to make the meaningful connections that we crave. We will be “reshuffling” these groups in January, so begin thinking about making time in your life to join one of them. You'll find it a rewarding addition to your life and time well spent.

Our children's Religious Education (RE) program is thriving, thanks to our volunteer teachers, our RE Committee (now ably chaired by Gayle Newman) and, of course, our directors of RE, Candy Wood and Paula Braxton. Because the program is growing, our space problems are also growing — a good problem to have! Adequate classroom space will be a priority in our new home when our present lease expires. Attempts to offer adult RE classes have been less successful. If you are interested in a particular curriculum or subject for an adult class, or if you would like to teach one, please speak to me, Martha, about it!

I'll continue this review with notes on community building, social justice and outreach, pastoral care and our preparations for our eventual relocation in future newsletters.

In the meantime, keep the faith, practice gratitude, and celebrate the good gifts of this religious community!

Potpourri

The Board of Trustees held its annual retreat in mid-October. Spending a day together, looking ahead is always a challenging and rewarding time. It's challenging because a day together often seems like a long time, especially if the weather on that Saturday is good. Rewarding, because when we're done, we've been able to spend time on issues that transcend our monthly responsibilities, and can think about the longer term interests of the church.

This year was no exception. The Board focused on a number of areas that we usually don't have time to discuss such as updating the long-range plan, energizing the congregation's social justice potential, helping guide the New Home Task Force and looking for ways to maintain our covenant with Rev. Martha as we keep our costs within our income.

Our discussions resulted in plans for a Congregational Meeting on January 23 to discuss a number of these issues, and get direction from members and friends. We will discuss activities of the New Home Task Force and the direction that they are receiving from your Board. We will discuss efforts to minimize the impact of our budget cutbacks on Rev. Martha and her long-term service to our church. We intend to undertake a short process to identify how the congregation would best like to participate in social justice activities in the wider community. And we would also like to discuss outreach.

This is a full agenda, and who knows, other issues may be added between now and the beginning of 2010. Please stay tuned for more information and put time aside after church on January 23 to join in helping to guide our efforts.

I spoke with our landlord regarding the rent reduction he is providing and the result of our special Stewardship campaign. We will keep the reduced rent for this year, discuss the church's progress in December, and discuss next year's rent when we have our Stewardship campaign results in May.

And at the October Board meeting, the Board formally reserved funds raised at the UU Café last year for the Religious Education (RE) program. The RE program is planning to use the funds to train teachers in the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program. If you're interested in learning more about OWL, or would like to help with RE, please talk with Candy before or after church. Our RE program is running well, and you can help to make it, and our UU principles, meaningful for our youth.



::RE News:: by Candy Wood, UUCC Director of RE

Religious Education Update

The Middles and Juniors have been studying Judaism as part of the Neighboring Faiths curriculum. We have had some excellent conversations and are really enjoying the process of learning about other faiths. We visited Congregation B'Nai Israel for the Shabbat service on Friday, October 16. This really brought together many of the concepts that had been discussed in the classroom setting.

Our Juniors are meeting out back under a screen tent. While they really love the freedom, views and fresh air — the RE teachers, Religious Education (RE) Committee and the Director of RE (DRE) could sure use some consistent help with setup and takedown of the tent and other supplies. There is a sign-up sheet for this very purpose that is available for those willing and able to support RE in this manner. You can see either Gayle Newman or Candy Wood for more information.

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Our Littles are getting into the Neighboring Faiths fun too with stories from the religions that the older children are studying. This really brings a different view to our Littles and they love the stories and activities.

Our Middle School Unitarian Universalist Group (MUUGs) needs volunteers to facilitate the group. If you are passionate about youth, particularly in the 6th – 8th grade range, please contact Candy Wood. We also need volunteers to lead our teen group. For more information about the development of this exciting new program, contact Candy.

Calling All Harry Potter Fans On November 29, we will have an intergenerational service on Harry Potter. We are looking for wizards and “muggles” to share their thoughts on what they have learned from reading the Harry Potter books. All fans are welcome, no matter what age or level of magical training. Contact Lucy Bunch if you are interested in participating.

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



Bank Notes

The UUCC annual financial report for Fiscal Year 2008/2009 has been posted on the members' page of the web site. Please direct any questions about the report to the Treasurer, Eric Walle.

Our three-month "First Sunday" collection for the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of California (UULM-CA) finished strongly. The \$265.00 donated on October 4 brought our total to \$620.00, which is a solid 94% of the amount we would have budgeted (in better financial circumstances) using our traditional calculation.

Then, on October 11, we celebrated "Association Sunday" and collected \$720.00 for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in support of expanding the "Growing Our Diversity" program.

We have faith that in the months ahead, as we pursue our goal of continuing to be a "Fair Share" congregation, we will maintain the generous determination to participate in and provide for the denominational organizations that do such good work on behalf of UUs and the larger community.

::The Green Corner::

Green Your Work Office

Welcome to the Green Corner, a column supported by 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 to be “green” at work.

PCs and Monitors:

- Turn off the monitor if leaving your desk for even a few minutes.
- Shut down the PC if away from your desk for more than a couple of hours.
- Set your monitor to shut off when not in use (Start>Control Panel>Display).

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Lighting:

- Make the most of natural light.
- Turn off lights when not needed and when you are the last to leave a room (restrooms, kitchen, conference rooms).
- Flickering fluorescent bulbs use more energy, so report them when you see one.

Printing & Photocopying:

- Do you really need a hard copy?
- Change the margin sizes and reduce the font size to save paper.
- Print only the pertinent pages instead of the whole document.
- Print double sided copies when possible.
- Put a paper recycling box next to the printer/copier.
- Turn off the printer/copier at the end of the day.



Keep in mind that these tips can be used in a home office as well as a corporate cube or office. Stay tuned for more tips for the office in the next Green Corner column.

::Growing Together::

UUA Planned Income Fund

Eighteen years ago, I learned of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Planned Income Fund (PIF) at a workshop at General Assembly. My wife, Georgene, and I held a stock that cost \$1,700 that had grown to over \$12,000. Selling the stock would have encumbered a large capital gains tax. By donating to the PIF, we would get a tax reduction. In addition, the money would be invested and the income would be distributed to us quarterly. This has amounted to an average income of about 5 percent. We chose to donate this income to our church. Upon our death, the fund balance will be divided evenly between the UUA and our church.

I would like to suggest that if you have funds available from which you wish to derive only income, seriously consider transferring them to the UUA Planned Income Fund to contribute to the growth of our church and the denomination.

- Dick Tarble, UUCC Planned Giving Task Force

Next Home Survey

October marked UUCC's third anniversary in its current home on East Stockton Boulevard. What exciting changes and growth we've experienced since moving here! But this anniversary also tells us, we have just two more years before our lease expires and we're getting too big to stay where we are much longer. That's why the Next Home Committee was formed in August, which includes Rev. Martha, Sonia Duffoo (chair), Tonie Darling, Jim Eastman, Jim Skow, Dick Tarble, and Nina Weiler-Harwell. The committee's mission is just what its name implies — to find our Next Home.

The first step in this process is to hear what all the members of UUCC want in their next physical church home. A survey that asks what this place should be like has been released on the internet and also through the mail. Instructions for accessing the internet version have been e-mailed to members and also appeared in the recent weekly bulletin. Copies of the survey are also available in the church sanctuary. Your wishes and ideas are important. We hope you enjoy responding to the survey. Rev. Martha and the other committee members will also be happy to answer your questions and hear ideas that the survey may not address.

Together, we will create a beautiful home for ourselves that works.

- UUCC Next Home Committee

::Special Events::

Action Auction

The Action Auction is coming up. It is scheduled for Saturday, November 14 from 5 to 9 PM, so don't forget to mark your calendar! Think about which items and/or services you can donate, fill out the donation form below, and submit it (one per item or service being donated) to Merry Walle, no later than October 31. Questions? Contact Merry. To volunteer to help at the auction, please contact Merry or Terry DeCrescenzo.



2009 Action Auction Donation Form

The Action Auction is November 14th from 5:00 - 9:00 PM

It's time to get the descriptions of your Action Auction donations to Merry Walle so that she can begin creating our catalog. Donating is super simple using the form below. Just fill in the blanks below and e-mail the completed form to Merry, hand it to her in person, or phone 684-2675 — and, voila`, your hot item will be included in the catalog. Now's the time to think, think, think, then spring into action. What will you donate?

What is being donated? _____

Flowery Description:

Donated by: _____

Donor's Phone Number: _____

Solicited by (if different): _____

Market Value: \$ _____ Minimum bid: \$ _____

Particulars (if applicable):

Date: _____

Location: _____

of people, maximum: _____ to _____ people (give an even and odd number, for example: 5-6 people or 9-10 people.)

If it is a business donation, please give address _____

All business donations must include the item, a gift certificate or something tangible, not just a verbal promise to donate. All business donors will receive a thank you letter for their tax records.

::Special Events [cont'd]::

RSVP Choir Concerts

UUCC is a member of the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership (SSIP), whose Food Closet provides essential support to families. The musical group RSVP is a choir that "supports those who have no voice in society." The chosen recipient of their 10th anniversary concerts will be SSIP. Concerts are free of charge and all donations go directly to SSIP. View the concert schedule at www.rsvpchoir.org or call 624-9419 for more information.

Have You Heard?

Edie O'Laughlin is celebrating her retirement and 60th birthday! Join family and friends on November 13 from 4-8 PM at the Sacramento Horseman's Association Clubhouse, 3200 Longview, Sacramento, CA 95821. Please bring champagne or a chocolate treat of your choice, and a memory (photos and notes are great). Suggested attire: black and purple - and dancing shoes! For more details on how to RSVP or deliver memories without attending, see the Oct. 8

weekly bulletin or contact the office.

NCUCC Event

Come to the Spring Thing at Asilomar from April 23-25, 2010. This Northern California Unitarian Universalist Camps & Conferences (NCUCC) event is a gathering of about forty UUs and friends. For more information, visit www.ncuucc.org or call (925) 829-4419.

::Helping Hands::

Passages

We send our loving condolences to Tina Payne Chasse and her family on the passing of Tina's father.

Congrats & Thanks

• Happy Birthday to Dick Tarble, Frieda and Lloyd Fergus, and Ruth Ellis, all of whom are celebrating their ninetieth birthdays this year! On October 25, UUCC celebrated our good fortune in having these nonagenarians among our members. Sonia Duffoo, Sybil Lawson, Gene Anderson, and Beverly Boido put together a wonderful, joyful day of celebration. Congratulations and thanks to all involved!

• Thank you to Maggie and Jerry Melnick for sharing the celebration of Maggie's birthday with us. The October 17 party was wonderful, complete with great food and music. Happy birthday, Maggie, and many happy returns of the day!

::Ongoing Activities::

Women's Group

The Women's Group has decided to discontinue their Sunday meetings until the first of the year when they will reorganize. If you have questions, contact Annette Emery or Gene Anderson.

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 Rev. Martha Hodges.

Theatre Group

We will see "Pygmalion" on Friday, November 13, at Big Idea Theatre, 1616 Del Paso Blvd., 8 PM. Reservations (\$15) by Sunday, November 8 to Frieda Fergus.

Kid's Book Club

Our next meeting will be held on November 8 at 12:30 PM after church. If you have any questions, please contact the Newmans.

Saturday Supper

The Saturday Supper is a potluck dinner held on the third Saturday of each month. Our next potluck will be held on November 21. 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 October: Sybil & Doug Lawson, and Gene & Bill Anderson. Contact Terri Riley if you are interested in coming to our November potluck.



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

Contacts

Newsletter

U2C2 Connection Editor:

Newsletter contributions should be mailed to the UUCC church address, phoned in to 689-2008, faxed to 689-2282 or emailed to office@u2c2.org by the 15th of each month.

Editorial Advisor - newsletter:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008

Website

Website Administrator:

UUCC office 689-2008 or office@u2c2.org

Editorial Advisor - website:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008

Administration

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8231-C East Stockton Blvd
Sacramento CA 95828

Phone: 689-2008/ Fax: 689-2282

Website: www.u2c2.org

Email: 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
minister@u2c2.org

Director of Religious Education:

Paula Braxton/Candy Wood 689-2008, office@u2c2.org

Board of Trustees:

President: John Sugar

Vice President: Allison Claire

Secretary: Richard Leimbach

Treasurer: Eric Walle

At-Large Members: Alison Navas,

Patrick Cody, Sonia Duffoo

Endowment Trust: Terri Riley,

Terry Chekon, Patrick Cody

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

Imagine...

- a religion that embraces many different beliefs,
- a faith that finds meaning in many traditions,
- a church where people nurture their spirits,
- a congregation that works together to make a difference in communities and the world.

We are the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Sacramento. Please come for a visit and find out what we are all about! We would love for you to be a part of our church community.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
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8231-C East Stockton Blvd
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Mailing Label

U2C2 Connection
November 2009

