

U2C2 Connection

A monthly newsletter published by the UnitarianUniversalist Community Church

::A Month of Sundays::

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October Sunday Services

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



Sunday, Oct. 4: "Sukkoth" - Worship Leader: Nina Weiler-Harwell & Annette Falcon

Nina Weiler-Harwell & Annette Falcon will present a service about Sukkoth which is a Jewish autumn festival of double thanksgiving that begins on the 15th day of Tishri (in September or October), five days after Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. It is one of the three Pilgrim Festivals of the Old Testament.

Sunday, Oct. 11: "Association Sunday" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

The Unitarian Universalist Association has dedicated this third annual Association Sunday to the theme of "Growing Our Diversity." UUCC will join hundreds of UU congregations around the country in celebrating our common bonds as we unite to raise funds for the UUA's efforts to broaden our diversity.

Sunday, Oct. 18: "Humility" - Worship Leader: Lucy Bunch

'Tis a gift to be simple. Or is it? In our complex, belicose, and self-aggrandizing world, how can the simple virtue of humility hold up? What does it truly mean to be humble, and what does it have to say about how we live our lives?

Sunday, Oct. 25: "To Be Full of Years: Honoring Our Elders" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

Rev. Martha will lead us in this service in appreciation of our oldest members who are turning ninety this year. They have given us much and have much more to give. There will be a party to celebrate their birthdays following the service.



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

::October Planner::

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1 Daytimers 10am at church	2	3 Wee UU's Play Group at church
4 Sunday Service 10:30am	5 Membership Committee Mtg 7-9pm off-site	6	7 Chalice Circle [PB/TM] 7- 8:30pm	8 Daytimers 10am at church	9 Theatre Group 8pm	10 Sat Supper off-site
11 Sunday Service 10:30am Kid's Book Club 12:30-1:30pm Chalice Circle [SL/JE] 1pm Women's Group 2:30pm	12	13 Board Mtg 7:15pm	14 Chalice Circle [RF/GN] 7- 8:30pm	15 Daytimers 10am at church Newsletter Deadline	16	17 Men's Group 9am Church Party 5:30-10:00 PM Wee UU's Potluck off-site
18 Sunday Service 10:30am	19	20	21 Chalice Circle [PB/TM] 7- 8:30pm	22 Daytimers 10am at church Church Ops Mtg 7pm at church	23	24
25 Sunday Service 10:30am Chalice Circle [SL/JE] 1pm	26	27	28 Chalice Circle [RF/GN] 7- 8:30pm	29 Daytimers 10am at church	30	31 Halloween 

Calendar & Schedule

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

Altar

10/4 Tonie Darling
10/11 Jim Eastman
10/18 Peter Morse
10/25 Gene Anderson

Greeter

Rose Kohn
Stephan Lange
Jane Thompson
Dick Tarble

Lighter

Hannah C.M.
Jesse C.M.
Ben C.M.
Meghan N.

Usher

Jim Eastman
Tom Rintoul
Tonie Darling
Bev Boido

Reaching Out

Our new Home Task Force (the group's name may change) has held its first meeting and is working on a list of tasks and a timeline. We've also been reviewing UUCC's last long-range planning document. As such a plan should be, it is full of confidence and optimism. Some of the goals that were set at that time have yet to be met, for example, a membership of 150 and the financial means to own our own building. So the question we have to ask ourselves is, "What are we going to do differently this time so that we will, indeed, be in a position to establish ourselves in a permanent home – if not when our lease expires in two years, then soon thereafter?"

It's all too easy to get focused on growth objectives and lose sight of a more important question: "Why is our survival and growth important?" In other words, what is our reason for being a church? What is our mission? Part of that mission is surely to build connections: to our spirits, to our ideals, to each other, to the local and world communities, and to the Holy. In other words, reaching out is essential, not only to our institutional well-being, but to our spiritual and ethical growth.

One way we are doing this is through the revival of our Chalice Circles. These small groups provide a structure within which we can form deeper connections to each other and to our spirits. It's not too late to sign up for one of these groups, but it will be soon! If you want to be part of this first round of Chalice Circles, do let me know ASAP, or contact Candy Wood.

What else can we be doing differently to encourage soul-satisfying connections? Some of you have suggested that we invite speakers to UUCC to present topics of general interest, for example, social, scientific or art-related subjects. These presentations would be evening or weekend events in order to invite the Sacramento and Elk Grove communities to attend. If you would be willing to help organize such events, or have ideas about speakers of special interest, please tell me.

It has also been suggested that UUCC focus its outreach efforts on one or more special populations. What do you think? Would you like our church to be known as the congregation that reaches out to people in nursing homes? To people who are incarcerated? To those who are hearing-impaired? To college students? To those needing literacy tutors? Tell me your ideas!

Finally, we need your help to find groups who might like to sublet our space. Our members participate in all kinds of organizations and have connections with service providers who might need our space. Send me a list of your associations or, better yet, tell your friends in other organizations that we have space available and ask them to call the office or see our website for a rental application.

Staying connected is especially important in tough times. It's common to withdraw from our communities when we're under a lot of stress, just when we most need each other's support. So let's stay connected!

::RE News::by Candy Wood, Dir. of RE

October Update

The church year begins and so does the Children's Religious Education (RE) calendar. Structurally, we will have three classrooms: Littles K - 2nd grade, Middles 3rd - 5th grade and Juniors 6th - 8th grade. Our Juniors will be meeting out in back of the church under a screen tent. This will take some effort to set up and take down each week, but volunteers have already come to our rescue!

The RE department conducted a very successful teacher training on September 13th after the Water Communion. A fabulous lunch was provided by the RE Committee. The teachers are all very committed to ensuring that our children get all that they possibly can out of our curriculum this year. Thank you everyone who participated.

We are very excited to begin our journey of studying world religions. We will start by preparing ourselves for what is to come - discussing which religions we may want to study and developing the calendar. On tap for October is Judaism. We plan to visit B'nai Israel for the Shabbat service on Friday, October 16th. The anticipation is nearly unbearable!

Our Middle School Unitarian Universalist Group (MUUG) enjoyed a pool party on Saturday, September 26th. We are looking for volunteers to facilitate this age group. If you are passionate about youth, particularly the 6th – 8th grade range, please contact me, Candy Wood.

I am not sure how many of you have noticed, but our children are growing up! We need volunteers to lead our Teen group. If you are passionate about teenage youth, please contact me for more information about the development of this exciting new program.

::President's Message::by John Sugar, UUCC President

A Time of Transition

Fall is upon us, despite the warm weather staying on. October is a time of transition in season and church activities:

- The Board is planning its fall retreat. We will discuss how we can operate together more effectively, how we can improve communications among ourselves and with the congregation, and how we can help the church move forward with a sense of mission and grow.
- Our Chalice Circles are starting up and there is still time to participate. The CCs are a wonderful way to explore your spirituality, as well as develop friendships with fellow members of our church. If you have questions, contact Candy Wood, our Dir. of Religious Education. Or you can come to the drop-in circles on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at the church. This is a low-risk chance to experience how the chalice circles work, and understand how they can enhance your life.
- This month's Saturday Supper will be held on October 10, a week earlier than usual. For more information about this event, speak with Terri Riley.
- The Cropwalk is coming up on October 11. It's a chance to enjoy the fall colors downtown and around Land Park, and to help raise funds for international hunger and relief programs. To participate, contact Eric Walle or John Sugar.
- The following weekend, October 17 is the all-church party. More news is to come on this event, so stay tuned.

I hope it is a good month for all.

::Growing Together::

Hattie Peterson: A Significant Person in UUCC's History

Did you know our church's endowment fund is named the Hattie Peterson Endowment Fund? It was Hattie Peterson and her bequest of \$12,000 to our church which started our endowment.

Several members have mentioned that when starting our church 20 years ago with just a few families, it felt like we were pretending we were a real church. Hattie's donation to our church in 1993 made us feel like we were finally a "real church".

Who was Hattie? Hattie was a strong-minded, African-American woman who boldly went where many women and African-Americans were not welcome. She was born in West Virginia and in spite of widespread discrimination, she excelled in school and music. She attended Howard University in Washington D.C. where she majored in engineering. Her true love was music, but it was in engineering that she earned a scholarship, so professionally, she became an engineer. Her love of music allowed her to have side jobs, such as a Sunday morning organist for several different denominations.

Dick Tarble met Hattie at the UU Society of Sacramento (UUSS), before our church existed. One day Dick, who was the Chief Hydrologist of the Sacramento Weather Service River Forecast Center, was pleasantly surprised to see Hattie at work. She was Hydraulic Engineer for the Corps of Engineers, Flood Section. Dick reported that Hattie's work was difficult as some were not supportive of blacks or females in the engineering work environment.

Hattie married and divorced twice. At one point, Hattie adopted a six-year-old girl, but later, they were estranged. In later years, Hattie lived with her mother, who was the cook for the McClatchy (newspaper) family.

Hattie never became an official member of our church, which was only three or four years old when she died in 1993. However, she was very fond of us, attended our church on occasion and held UUCC events at her home. In Hattie's declining health, she stated that she only wanted her "UU family" to take care of her. Gene Anderson was one of those core people who spent much time caring for Hattie.

To the very end of her life, Hattie enjoyed entertaining with parties and lots of food. Hattie's memorial service at UUSS was a large event, and per Hattie's instructions, included champagne.

Bequests are a wonderful way to show gratitude to our church community. It is with gratitude that we remember Hattie. Her donation emphasized her belief in us as a congregation, even when we were such a young church.

Thank you to Gene Anderson, Dick Tarble and Frieda Fergus for sharing their memories of Hattie Peterson.

- Laura Osborne, UUCC Planned Giving Task Force

Sharing the Plate on First Sundays

In response to the wishes of the congregation as expressed at our June congregational meeting, the UCC Board voted to return to our former method of "sharing the plate" with local agencies, namely, by donating the entire collection taken at the service on the first Sunday of every month. Our "First Sunday" collections for August, September and October have been designated for the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of California.

You may be aware that UCC has a covenant with the UULM which includes financial support. The formula suggested is $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 % of our annual budget. In the past, we have budgeted $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% of our pledge income. Because of our current financial challenges, our latest budget could not include a line for this contribution. Instead, we determined to try to make up the amount through our First Sunday offerings.

How are we doing? We collected \$254.00 for the UULM in August and \$101.00 in September for a total of \$355.00. Thanks to your generosity, this will allow us to honor our covenant -- no small achievement in these days when we are all feeling the financial pinch. However... In order to meet our traditional share of $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1%, we still need to collect \$301.00 on October 4. Can we do it? The UULM is a highly effective and dedicated organization facing great challenges ahead in the areas of health care, marriage equality and other justice issues in the coming months and years. These issues continue to demand that we make our voices heard. Let us do our best to empower the UULM to speak for us by giving generously on October 4.

Association Sunday Is Here - October 11

This month, we celebrate Association Sunday to affirm our common bonds and purposes with UU congregations across the continent and beyond. Honoring that connection and common vision can be a spiritually fulfilling and empowering experience.

In our liberal religious community, we help one another develop spiritually; our Association of Congregations helps us do this more effectively. We are better together as an association, and together, we can have more of an influence on our country, which dearly needs more inclusive, spiritual values.

We need to deepen and extend our racial, cultural and economic diversity as well. The focus of Association Sunday this year is on Growing Our Diversity. This may look different in different areas, but through this combined effort, we can continue to build the beloved community.

We need to *grow our faith* in one another, in Unitarian Universalism, and in the good we can and should do for others. We need to *grow our diversity*: racially, culturally, economically; we need to create spiritual communities that are more welcoming to ALL people. Ours is a message that can appeal to everyone, regardless of background. We need to improve our ability to share it with others.

As former UUA President, Bill Sinkford, has said, "Now Is the Time.... to Grow Our Faith.... To let the world know we are here, and to welcome those who seek our community of peace, justice, and love. Now is the time for our congregations to grow stronger and more effective because our religious values are sorely needed to help heal a wounded world."

To do this effectively, we need to connect, feel the power, affirm our common bonds and purposes, and combine our resources. As a congregation, our goal is to contribute an average of \$50.00 per member – and to help raise \$1 million overall for leading-edge projects. Through this year's Growing Our Diversity funding initiatives, we will expand the Building the World We Dream About curriculum and associated resources and training, support congregations that are working to create a Unitarian Universalism that is racially, culturally, and economically diverse; a part of this support will be in the form of grants, and enable UU congregations and districts to minister effectively to youth and young adults who identify as people of color or multiracial, and to their families, in the areas of spiritual development, racial/cultural identity development, and leadership development.

As part of the UUA's comprehensive campaign, we have an opportunity to shape the future of our faith. Don't miss this special service on October 11 and please give generously. If you cannot attend on that day and would like to contribute, please see Rev. Martha for information on how to do so.



::Special Events::

Church Party

Join us at church on Saturday, October 17th for an evening of jazz, dancing, and general good will with other adult members of UUC. When: 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Where: UUC sanctuary & social hall. More info to follow. Can't wait? Contact Maggie Melnick.



13th Annual PCD Men's Retreat

Join UU men from all around the Pacific Central District (PCD) from October 16-18 at the Westminster Retreat Center in Alamo (10 miles south of Walnut Creek), a beautiful location for reflection and enjoyment of natural surroundings. To register or to get more information, go to <http://pcd-uaa.org/men/frames.htm>.

::Helping Hands::

Passages

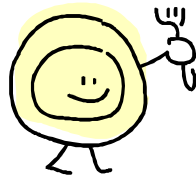
- Our loving condolences on the death of Arlys go out to Bob Johnson.
- Congratulations to Tina & Kevin Payne-Chasse on the birth of their baby girl.



We Have a New Pulpit

Kurt Schmidt has finished refurbishing the (used - but new to us!) pulpit and has done a wonderful job. It's beautiful! Come take a closer look and be sure to thank him for the skill and love he has put into this project. Thanks as well to Karen Gunderson for the gift of the pulpit, and to Loren Richmond for returning our borrowed pulpit to the UU Society on Sierra Blvd. We are very grateful to the members of UUSS for the loan of the lovely pulpit that we have used until now.

::Ongoing Activities::



Saturday Supper

The Saturday Supper is a potluck dinner usually held on the third Saturday of each month. This month, however, it will be held on the second Saturday, October 10th since Maggie Melnick is hosting an all-church jazz night on the third Saturday. 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's okay to come occasionally. Participants are with a different group of people each month. We would love to have you join us in October. Thank you to our hosts for September: Frieda and Lloyd Fergus, and Terri Riley and Richard Leimbach. Please contact Terri Riley if you are interested in coming to our October potluck.

Kid's Book Club

We are back from our September break. Our next meeting will be held on October 11. If you have any questions, please contact the Newmans.

Women's Group

Our Tuesday night meetings have been cancelled. Our next meeting will be held Sunday, Oct. 11 at 2:30 PM at church. For more information, 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 "A Raisin in the Sun" on Friday, October 9, at 8:00 PM, at Celebration Arts, 4469 D Street. Reservations (\$13 & \$15) to Frieda Fergus by Sunday, October 4. All are welcome!

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

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UUCC office 689-2008 or office@u2c2.org

Editorial Advisor - website:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008

Administration

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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

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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Mailing Label

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