

Minister’s Musings/Message: I have returned home from my annual summer road trip to see family, friends, and the country. This year my trip covered 12 states in 17 days and 5400 miles with my Prius averaging 49-50 mpg. It was a good trip over familiar roads with many good visits, time to listen to a few audio books, and lots of miles of our amazingly beautiful country. I have one more trip coming this summer to Alaska, but that will be flying/taking a train/cruising. Alaska is my last state to visit and only the 2nd that I won’t have driven through! That will catch me up until Puerto Rico achieves statehood!



It was nice to be away from the news for several days, but hard to come back to more discouraging (Treasonous?) Trump-news. Between alienating allies, destroying immigrant and asylum-seeking families, and removing protections for women and LGBTQ persons, he still had time to appoint another unacceptably right fringe Justice and commit treasonous acts against the US and all our intelligence services as he dismissed any culpability by Russia and Putin in hacking our elections. These are not the values espoused in our UU Principles nor in the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, or Bill of Rights. Our values and Principles will be needed more than ever until and when Trump and his cronies are out of office. Until then, we must keep strong and live out our values as best we can.

Even with all the Trump-heaval ongoing, we must keep a balance in our own lives. All too soon we will be needed to return the U.S. and world to a more progressive flow, with concerns for education and the rights of women, immigrants and minorities and the environment. All too soon Trump will be out of power and we will need all our energy to put the world back into order. Justice can be delayed but a few years before the rights, wants, and needs of the people will force a return to sanity. For now we must bide our time, but soon we shall be called into action.

Enjoy the rest of the summer! Bring back a little water for Water Communion 9/9 from your travels. Refresh, re-energize! Many challenges await! Be Safe!

Peace and Love,
Rev. Bob

Upcoming Services

- 8/5 Guest
- 8/12 Guest Christina Chavez Nelson
- 8/19 Coming Home Again! Rev. Bob
- 8/26 Places our Journeys Take Us! Rev. Bob
- 9/2 Labor Day Guest Christina Chavez Nelson

[Save the Date– Water Communion and All Church Picnic September 9th.](#)
Watch for more information coming soon. Don’t forget to collect water from your travels.

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Men's Group: Our Men's Group, includes time to talk with other men about Being a Man, and other issues, as well as activities depending on the interest of those interested. We usually meet monthly one Friday 7-8:30 p.m. **(next meeting August 17th)** Please contact Rev. Bob if you are interested!

UU THURSDAYS

*****We have cancelled summer sessions and will start up again Sept 13th !**

DOCUMENTARY FORMAT FOR UU THURSDAYS:

We have changed the format of UU Thursdays to show important recent Documentaries (another possibility will be to share sessions from a relevant Great Course Curriculum). We will no longer attempt to offer a full dinner, but will provide drinks and popcorn and other snacks. We will gather at 6 and begin the showing at 6:30 with discussion afterwards. Watch notices in the Order of Service for details. When possible, we will try to offer an alternative program for children.

If you have an idea of a documentary or other program for one of these evenings, please contact Rev. Bob or Russ Backman

Meditation and Buddhist Teachings Class, August 2018

We continue our exploration of the qualities of goodness and kindness, using the book *Pay Attention, for Goodness' Sake*, by Sylvia Boorstein. We have been practicing lovingkindness since the last class, and will be studying *Chapter 10 & 11: Equanimity and God and the Owls* in the upcoming class (pp. 257-282).

Classes are facilitated by Sara Milnes, who has had a Buddhist practice for 17 years. Please contact her with any questions: sara.milnes@icloud.com or 956-2868.

Our class date for August is:

Tuesday, August 14 from 1.00 – 3.00 p.m. at the church, 2737 Pacific Avenue, Stockton

SAVE THE DATE – Sunday, August 19, FIRST UU Intergenerational Birthday Party

Please stay after church on Sunday, August 19, 2018 to celebrate everyone's birthday at the inter-generational birthday party.



Join the UU Crafters!

Come join our monthly gathering of folks who enjoy doing crafts of all types! We meet on the third Saturday of every month (**August 18th**) from **10:00 am to noon** at the church. Bring a craft to work on and enjoy lively conversation! For more information, contact Jeri Bigbee (931-6871, jeribigbee@gmail.com).

Think INSIDE the Box! Yum!

- What:** 1st UU's 6th Annual Box Supper Fundraiser
- When:** Wednesday, August 22, 4:30-6:00 pm
- Where:** Pick up suppers at church OR at Victory Park. Then enjoy eating them in Jackson Hall, at home, or at the park while listening to the concert (ABBA cover band Super Trouper).
- Order:** Donation of \$18 (for church pick-up) and \$20 (for park delivery) accepted when you complete your order form after church services in July and August or at the church office. Call first to be sure Nichole is there. No children's meals but one supper could be shared!
- Details:** Once again, Panera Bread at Trinity Park will prepare fresh and delicious sandwiches and salads for us and our friends. Choices include:
Salad Box: Spicy Thai with Chicken, Fuji Apple with Chicken, Modern Greek with Quinoa, or Seasonal Greens with Veggies
Sandwich Box: The Italian with 3 meats and a cheese, Bacon Turkey Bravo, Ham & Swiss, or Mediterranean Veggie
Half Salad/Half Sandwich Box: Half of any above sandwiches plus half of any above salads
And More: Each box will contain cutlery/napkin, a fresh cookie of choice (Lemon Drop, Chocolate Chip, Oatmeal Raisin, Raspberry Almond Thumbprint, or Triple Chocolate with Walnuts for the gluten conscious), and a side of choice (apple, baguette chunk, or chips)
We'll provide cold bottled water.
- Info:** Call Leslie Washington (957-8433) or Cindy Milford (481-2227).

Book Club: Please Come Join Us

Wednesday August 29th Book Club will meet at 7 pm

August is We are All Completely Beside Ourselves by Karen Joy Fowler (Novel) 310 pages

September is Commonwealth by Ann Patchett (Novel) 336 pages

October is The Japanese Lover by Isabel Allenden (Novel) 322 pages

November is Wonder by R.J. Palacio (Novel) 313 pages

Please join our very friendly book club that always welcomes new members. Sometimes schedules get in the way and so not everyone comes each month, but we still Enjoy reading the books. If you have any questions, please call Dwane Milnes 209-956-2868

PROGRAM COUNCIL

*Next Program Council Meeting will be Sunday September 23rd 12:15 p.m.
Program Committee chairs and representatives are encouraged to attend, and everyone is invited to bring ideas for new programs!*

Who is interested in reading and discussing the new UUA Common Read? Please let me know
-- Rev. Bob

Justice on Earth

People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment

Also available as an eBook in the Amazon Kindle store and on
Google Play.

The 2018-19 UUA Common Read

Fourteen activist ministers and lay leaders apply a keen intersectional analysis to the environmental crisis, revealing ways that systems of oppression intersect with and contribute to ecological devastation.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH DEVELOPMENT

For most of this year, we have listed many additional possibilities for Adult Classes but not had 5 people agree on any suggestion other than Sara's Meditation Classes. We have several Great Courses Classes available, a number of recent UU Common Reads books we could discuss, and any number of other things we could offer such as Dream Groups, more Covenant Groups, and??? Rather than continuing to list suggestions, I would like to try soliciting your ideas for the rest of this spring, the summer, and this coming fall. What would you like to study and discuss with a group of other UUs? Please let me know!! Thanks! Rev. Bob
uurevbobk@gmail.com or call 209-684-6345

Dream Group: I have had a few requests to start another Dream Group. If you would like to have a better understanding of your dreams, let me know! I usually will facilitate 4-6 weekly sessions and then let group members decide whether to continue, usually meeting monthly Rev. Bob

Committee Corner

We would like to start a new committee Corner. If any Committee's would like to add a brief blurb in the Newsletter about what the Committee does and how others can get involved. Please email the information to Nichole at office@stocktonuu.org.

Social Justice News

August will be a busy month for your Social Justice committee! On **Sunday, August 19th and 26th** we'll be hosting a **Water-wise Plant Sale** with cuttings from our own gardens for sale, along with written information on water conservation provided by the San Joaquin Master Gardeners! Don't miss it!



Our social justice offering on August 19th will support the Robert E. Green Scholarship Fund, which awards a yearly scholarship to a graduating San Joaquin County senior, based on their record of community service. Our offering in July supported the St. Mary's Dining Hall (**total = 278.00**). Thanks for your support!

The next Social Justice Committee's planning meeting is on **Tuesday, August 14th at 10:30 am** at the church. Everyone is welcome! We'll be planning our fall activities, so come and share your ideas.

News flash ... The draft Stockton General Plan, "Envision Stockton 2040", has been released for public review (http://www.stocktonca.gov/files/EnvisionStockton2040GP_Draft.pdf). The Social Justice Committee has been actively involved in the development of this plan. A public hearing with the City of Stockton Planning Commission will be held on **August 2, 2018, at 5:30 p.m.** at City Hall, Council Chamber, 425 N. El Dorado St. Join us at the hearing to advocate for an equitable and sustainable community.

Next month, on **September 15th** we'll again be participating in the **Coastal Cleanup** day in collaboration with the Sierra Club, sprucing up the Calaveras River. Also, please save your gently used children's books for our upcoming fall book drive to support Books on the Bus, a local program that provides free books for kids and families riding RTD buses. Keep up the good work!

Caring Committee News!

Let us know!!! The Caring Committee wants to support 1st UU folks, but we need to learn about your needs and milestones. Please share them during Sunday services' Joys and Concerns OR anytime by contacting CC co-chairs Leslie Washington (957-8433) and Cindy Milford (481-2227).

Unable to drive to Sunday services? Consider taking a taxi! By noon Thursday, contact the church office at 466-7743 or contact@stocktonuu.org. With church administrator Nichole Ybarra, arrange your ride courtesy of the Catherine Herriman Fund set up to facilitate transportation to church.

Bookstore News

Your First UU Church Books and More Store has lots of possibilities for your summer reading, including ...

Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment. Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom, editors. This anthology presents an intersectional analysis to the environmental crisis, including the influence of capitalism, white supremacy, patriarchy and other systems of oppression. Faith-based environmental justice work is also addressed. This book is the UU Common Read for 2018-19! (\$18.00)

What? Are These the 20 Most Important Questions in Human History? Or is This a Game of 20 Questions? By Mark Kurlansky.

This unique inquiry that explores some of the world's oldest questions from Confucius, Plato, Gertrude Stein, Shakespeare, Descartes, Nietzsche, Freud, Hemingway, Emily Dickinson, Charles de Gaulle, and Virginia Woolf is framed entirely in questions. It leaves us with a new appreciation for the power of the question mark. (\$15.00)

Alliance News

The Alliance Annual Fall Tea will welcome returning members and interested church members and friends who would enjoy a social time together.

The tea will be held at Joni Bean's home, 2638 Westminster, on Wednesday, September 12, from 2 to 4. For directions or information call Joni at 639-1964.

All Alliance meetings and programs are open to church members and friends.

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS

The Family Promise affiliate of San Joaquin County is making progress. A trip to visit the Sacramento Affiliate is being planned. Let us know if you would like to go. Watch for the announcement of the next general meeting to be held on September 6.

Five major congregations have committed to becoming host congregations with others going through the process of educating their members. Several others have signed a commitment to become support congregations and members are already volunteering. "We continue to explore the most appropriate role for our church to serve once the program is established".

The lead group is now moving into its fundraising phase and leaders are exploring sites for the day center. The leaders are on the lookout for anyone knowledgeable in writing grants. Grant monies are becoming available now that homelessness is being recognized for the problem that it is. Please contact Jeri Bigbee, **209-931-6871**, or Rosemary Atkinson, at 209-478-4380, if you can be of help with this portion of the development.

Religious Education

Summer is a time for us to take lessons learned throughout the year and adjust our program as needed. Please consider the following curriculum proposal and plan on attending our RE Committee meeting in Mid-August (date TBD) to discuss.

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL:

1. Nursery and Pre-school Years (3 to 5)

Children who are too young to attend church are cared for by paid staff or volunteers. They are supervised in simple games and directed play.

Stories are told which describe types of experiences that children everywhere share, experiences within which lie seeds of religious feeling and that come long before philosophical ideas have any meaning.

Singing and playing simple musical instruments, allow children to experiment by expressing themselves with sound.

2. First Grade - Third Grade

From Long Ago and Many Lands. By Sophia L. Fahs. Forty-one stories chosen from the tales, folklore and legends of long ago originally told in a dozen different languages.

How Miracles Abound. By Bertha Stevens. Directs attention to ten common natural miracles: A star, a tree, a dew drop, a snail shell, a goldfish, a salt crystal, a petunia, a lima bean, a magnet, and the human hand. Questions are raised in fresh ways to arouse the children's own wondering.

3. Fourth Grade - Sixth Grade

Beginnings of Earth and Sky. By Sophia L. Fahs.

Beginnings of Life and Death. By Sophia L. Fahs. People of long ago asked the same questions we do today about beginnings. These two books contain myths and stories gathered from twenty different racial, national or religious groups. Simple introduction to comparative religions.

Child of the Sun: A Pharaoh of Egypt. By Margaret D. Edwards. Story of Akhenaten of Egypt, religious reformer, democratic idealist and monotheist. He tried to free his people from a religion of fear and priestly ritualism and to substitute a religion of love and joy.

4. Seventh Grade - Ninth Grade

The Church Across the Street. By Reginald D. Manwell and Sophia L. Fahs. Young People get their first venture into the history of the churches around them. Thirteen Christian denominations are presented, including the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic, along with the Jewish Synagogue, mother of them all. Frequent visits made to local churches.

5. Tenth Grade - Twelfth Grade

The Hero Within. By Carol S. Pearson. A modern classic of Jungian psychology, drawing from literature, anthropology, and psychology, author Carol S. Pearson clearly defines six heroic archetypes- The Innocent, the Orphan, the Wanderer, the Warrior, the Altruist, and the Magician- and shows how we can use these powerful guides to discover our own hidden gifts, solve difficult problems, and transform our lives with rich sources of inner strength.

CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT AND WELLS FARGO PRESENT

Stockton Pride Festival 2018



FEATURED ON
THE MAIN STAGE AT 3PM
JILL JONES
PRINCE PROTEGE
ACTRESS
SINGER-SONGWRITER



CADENCE
PERFORMING AT 4:15PM



DRAG SHOW HEADLINED BY
KATANA REI
PERFORMING AT 5:00PM

SATURDAY
AUGUST 25
11AM - 7PM

ALL AGES - \$5 ADMISSION

WEBER POINT EVENT CENTER

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AND LGBT PRIDE
FEATURING LIVE MUSIC, FOOD, A CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA,
AND MORE!

STOCKTONPRIDE.COM |  STOCKTONPRIDE

Covenant Group – First Monday Covenant Group

There are two covenant groups with members and friends of the Unitarian Church. I thought it would be helpful to describe our covenant group, which meets at 7 pm on the First Monday of each month at the Milnes' home, unless there is a holiday or other gathering that causes the group to collectively set another date. Knowing how we are organized, function and share may help you decide whether it is something you might like to join.

Our group currently has eight active members. Certainly we are very open to welcoming new members, as evidenced by the fact that five of the eight members were not part of the initial covenant group formed about two years ago. New members have joined and a few have left or taken a leave based on their own life circumstances. Joining is simple, you just contact Dwane Milnes (dwane.milnes@sbcglobal.net) or Herman Washington (lhwash@comcast.net) and, "lo and behold", you come and be part of our covenant group.

Each covenant group has its own "adopted covenant", that expresses how we come together and share our ideas and ourselves. Our particular group has a covenant, the key parts of which are:

1. We value our time together as a group and therefore:
 - Commit to attend meetings, and to review the topic in advance
 - Start and stop on time (7 to 8:30 p.m.)
 - Commit to having an "empty chair" so others may join us
2. We value our privacy and therefore:
 - Keep what we share confidential, share as deeply as we can, and have the right to pass
3. We value each other's contributions to our discussions and therefore:
 - Encourage everyone to share equally
 - Listen with warmth, respect, caring and kindness
 - Respect contributions, value our diversity and differences, and refrain from interrupting or giving unasked for advise
 - Agree to make group process decisions in person, and use email only for routine housekeeping matters.

Each month, one of our members selects and facilitates the discussion around a topic that person has chosen. On most months, the topic and outline come from a long list of suggested topics on a UU web site, and so "being the facilitator" is not a difficult task. But it is an important one that gives our group a focus and insures that we have a variety of monthly topics. These topics have always been fascinating and revealing. Below is a list of the topics we have covered so far. Each of them have been so interesting and has so many dimensions that discussing some of them again might be useful.

Solitude	Listening
Fear	<u>Aging</u>
If You Could Invite 3 People	What I Believe About Human Nature
Change	Music
Procrastination	Privacy in a Digital Age
Mindfulness	What is My Faith in the Future
Judgment	Acceptance
Advice or Words of Wisdom	Road Not Taken
Fathers	Giving Yourself Permission to Take Time for Leisure Activities
Relationship	Holidays Rituals and Celebrations: Secular, Spiritual, Religious and Funky
Food	Small Kindness
Civility	

If you would like to join our covenant group, or just visit to see if this is something that may interest you, please join us.

KEEP ON GIVING INTO THE FUTURE!

Ensuring the long term strength of our church is important! We love our church, and give to it in so many ways—financially, volunteering, baking goodies, serving on committees, cleaning up—the list goes on. But there’s one way to give that we don’t often think about—giving after we’re gone. Perhaps we don’t want to consider our own mortality, or it seems too hard to figure out. But it’s not that difficult.

Here are two easy ways to do it.

1. Add the First Unitarian Church to your Will or Trust. Wills and Trusts need to be reviewed and updated periodically, why not now? While your attorney can advise you, language in our trust is “. . . to the First Unitarian Church, current Tax ID Number 94-6184441, a non-profit corporation, located at the time of the execution of this trust at 2737 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204.” Note that the name is “First Unitarian Church”, which is our official name with the IRS.
2. Make the First Unitarian Church a beneficiary of an IRA, giving the same Information as above, especially the Tax ID. Since we are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, IRA money comes to us tax free, unlike other recipients who pay taxes on withdrawal. This can be done as simply as filling out a new beneficiary form.

If you decide to help First UU into the future, it would be great for the church to know about it!

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Milnes or Mary Bullard of the Finance Committee, and we’ll do our best to help!

Sara Milnes



August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Sunday Service Happiness is An Inside Job Dwane & Jan	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Sunday Service Guest Christina Chavez Nelson	13	14 Social Justice Meeting 10:30 am First UU Meditation 1-3 pm First UU	15	16	17 Men's Group 7-8:30 pm	18 UU Crafters! 10 am –noon
19 Coming Home Again! Rev. Bob Intergenerational Birthday Party! Water-wise Plant Sale..	20	21	22 Box Supper! 4:30-6:00 pm	23	24	25
26 Places our Journeys Take Us! Rev. Bob Water-wise Plant Sale...	27	28	29 Book Club 7 pm First UU	30	31	

Minister's Office Hours:

During the main church year, Rev. Bob generally keeps walk-in hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10:30-12 noon and 1-3 p.m. *Please call to be sure that he is in and available as occasional meetings, hospital visits, trips and other appointments may need to be scheduled during these times. Rev. Bob is also available by appointment at other times.* Please **call/text his cell [209-684-6345](tel:209-684-6345) for appointments or emergencies.** Messages left on his cell will be checked at least daily. Feel free to e-mail uurevbobk@gmail.com

General Office Hours

Office Hours.....Mon. – Friday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The Mission of our church
Is to nurture individual spiritual/ethical growth,
to be inclusive of all people,

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