

Minister's Musings/Message:



It seems like just yesterday I was planning the holiday celebrations (I was), and now here I am writing the message for January of the New Year 2019 of the dominant Western Gregorian Christian calendar (of 1582), which also corresponds to what is sometimes referred to as the Common Era (C.E.). The Chinese and Jewish calendars do not match the Western/Gregorian/Christian/Common calendar, but that whole calendar thing is a sermon for a future time!

Anyway, here we are (soon to be) in January of the New Year and I am (supposed to be) thinking about and writing something inspiring for the New Year! But first, I have to ask, where did 2018 go? It seems like we just started off, and here we are now (by the time you read this) off again into another New Year. Not that 2018 was that memorable of a year, it was actually kind of rough (just play back a few of those Stephen Colbert or John Oliver shows I know you recorded). But where did 2018 go (in fact where did 2017 go while we're talking about it)?

Okay, so here we go with January 2019 (also known as year 3 of the Trump Era T.h.E.). The days are still short, but getting longer. It is colder and rainier than it will be in June or July. Many returns on holiday presents are due. It is a great time for post-holiday bargain sales on all the stuff we wanted before the holidays (and probably will have forgotten about by the end of 2019 Holidays), so start stockpiling gifts for the holidays!?

I am hoping for a great year of 2019! Looking forward to seeing you all throughout the year. Blessings and best wishes for the New Year! Keep safe if you are traveling, or walking!

Peace and Love,
Rev. Bob

Upcoming Services

1/6/	Re-Covenanting for the New Year!	Rev. Bob
1/13	Music Service, Peter, Paul & Mary!	Ian, Choir, Bob
1/20	MLK Day	Rev. Bob
1/27	Social Justice Sunday	Pastor Trena Turner
		(Faith in the Valley/Victory & Praise)
2/3	Black Hx Month	Rev. Bob
2/10	Darwin Day and Science	Rev. Bob

UU THURSDAYS is on Hiatus but may return, please let us know if you miss it or if you have other suggestions for weekday programs!

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Annual January Drive – “Stuff A Purse”

Our annual Social Justice January Drive this year will benefit women in need. You can help by filling a purse you no longer need with items that women can use. The filled purses will be collected **throughout January until Sunday, January 27th** and, just like our previous drives, the purses will be donated to St. Mary’s Dining Hall for distribution. There will be bins located in Jackson Hall by January 6. This year, in connection with the annual drive, the Social Justice Committee will have the opportunity to participate in a RE session on homelessness for the children - who will also be filling a purse of their own to donate.

Here are some suggested items to include, all of which can be found at a dollar-type store:



Brush
Comb
Compact or small mirror
Deodorant
Emery board
Hair ties/bands
Hand sanitizer
Lipstick
Lotion

Nail clippers
Refillable water bottle
Shampoo
Soap/soap holder
Suntan lotion
Tampons
Tissues
Toothbrush/toothbrush holder
Toothpaste



For more information, contact Sharon Marr (576-2633) or Mary Bullard (477-8745)

The Social Justice Committee meets on **Thursday, January 10th at 10:30 am** to plan for upcoming activities. Join us!

Social Justice Committee Profile This month we are featuring our **Social Justice Committee**, a vital and fun committee in our church! The goal of the Social Justice Committee is to: **“Promote the visibility and involvement of the Church in community activities related to social justice and shaping a better world”**. This year, we are particularly focusing on addressing the needs of women and children in our community. We sponsor Social Justice Sunday in January and an annual workday on the MLK National Day of Service, along with other fun events at the church including the annual Bumper Sticker/Poster Sale and the Water-wise Plant Sale. We coordinate and/or participate in a variety of community activities each year, including the Rotary Read-in, Coastal Clean-up day, and the Peaceful Holiday Faire. On the 3rd Sunday of each month, we coordinate the shared offering which supports local nonprofit organizations, the Rev. Robert Green Scholarship Fund and the Minister's Discretionary Fund. These offerings raise over \$2,500 each year! The committee also coordinates annual drives for clothing and other items for people in need and raise the visibility of the church through hosting community forums and films. We provide ongoing advocacy related to sustainable and equitable community development. Our "Quick Response Team" includes church members and friends who respond to social justice-related demonstrations or calls for letters or phone calls on short notice. We partner with a number of community groups, including the UU Social Justice Network of California, Faith in the Valley, EcoInterfaith, Sierra Club, Peace and Justice Network of San Joaquin County, Citizen's Climate Lobby, Stockton Pride Center, and League of Women Voters. We appreciate the support and participation of our entire church community and invite you to join us in our efforts to address the social justice needs of our community in even greater depth. We hold bimonthly planning meetings and everyone is welcome!

For more information, contact Jeri Bigbee (jeribigbee@gmail.com, 209-931-6871).

Bookstore News

Thanks for your support of the UU Books and More Store! December was a busy month for and January will be just as exciting. We'll be featuring the amazing books written by our own Adele O'Neill and her mother, Elizabeth Stone O'Neill, throughout January. Join us on **Sunday, January 6th** after church to meet Adele and Elizabeth, who will be signing their books, including:

- Meadow in the Sky: A History of Yosemite's Tuolumne Meadows Region
- Mountain Sage: The Life Story of Carl Sharsmith, Yosemite's Famous Ranger/Naturalist
- The Beautiful World
- Kai's Dinosaurs
- Viva Mama
- Papa y el Bandido

On that Sunday, all of Adele and Elizabeth's books will be 10% off!
Don't miss it!!



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 Jan. 11th**) Please contact Rev. Bob if you are interested!

PROGRAM COUNCIL

*Next Program Council Meeting will be on Sunday January 13th 12:15 p.m.
Program Committee chairs and representatives are encouraged to attend, and everyone is invited to bring ideas for new programs!*

Sunday Covenant Group is a success, and we're accepting new (and visiting!) members! So far, we've played with art materials, shared about humor and resilience, and discussed what worship means to us.

We'll be meeting again, January 13, after church in the Religious Education Cottage during Coffee Hour. At the January meeting, we invite you to bring an object that is sacred to you and/or represents worship. It can be a sock or a saddle, a chalice or a cat video. Something sacred and personal, or something lighthearted.

If you have questions, please reach out to Sam Allen at sam.allen230@gmail.com / 209-271-6958 or Jan Vernor-Howard at janvernor@att.net or find us after church!"

MEDITATION AND BUDDHIST TEACHINGS CLASS:

Our next class will be **Tuesday, January 15, 2019 from 1-3 pm at the church**. We'll be continuing our discussion of different ways to meditate, and how to apply our practice in our daily lives. Please call or email me if you have any question: Sara Milnes, 209 956-2868, sara.milnes@icloud.com.

The next five classes are scheduled as follows, all from 1-3 pm:

Tuesday, January 15
Tuesday, February 19
Tuesday, March 19

Tuesday, April 16
Tuesday, May 21

[Church Fundraiser at the Stockton Heat Hockey Game January 19th](#)

Want to raise money for our church and support some wonderful community services while enjoying a fun night out with friends? "OF COURSE" you say; Do tell me more.... Benefactors include:

1. Reverend Bob's emergency support fund,
2. The Stockton K9 Connection,

And emergency responders; by providing therapy Teddy Bears to comfort children who have been traumatized.

All you have to do is purchase a \$22 ticket to the Stockton Heat Hockey game vs the Texas Stars on Saturday January 19th 6:00 PM at the Stockton Arena. **As a special bonus all the** people in our group will receive a FREE Stockton Heat Rally Towel. **What a Deal!!** Fred Dillemath has reserved premium seats in three rows at ice level so we can all watch together. See Fred or Christy for Tickets

Save the date and support your community at the same time!

[ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH DEVELOPMENT](#)

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 **Intro Session** will be Jan 20th after church and Souper Sunday (probably 1ish) for any interested!

UU COMMON READ DISCUSSION the newest UU Common Read is: *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class and the Environment*. This collection of essays by UU leaders including Sofia Betancourt discusses many current concerns for UUs. I am hoping to spend at least one session discussing this book with all interested. Please let me know if you are interested. The book is available through our bookstore, the UUA Bookstore, and on Kindle.

[Emergency Forms](#)

Emergencies can happen! The church would like to have an Emergency Information Form for everyone, so if the unthinkable happens and we need to call someone for help, we know who to call. The form is revised, making it even simpler than the last one: just your contact info, name(s) of people to notify in case of emergency, doctor's name if you like, and any other information you want us to have. It's just like an umbrella—if you bring it, you won't need it. Even if you filled out one before, could you please take a moment and fill out a new one, because people move or change their email or phone, and we don't want to get "the number you have reached is no longer in service". The forms will be on a table in Jackson Hall, or in the Office. Please contact Sara Milnes with any questions at sara.milnes@icloud.com or 209 956-2868. Thanks!

Social Justice News

Happy New Year from your Social Justice Committee! Let's keep working this year to make our community and the world a more just and healthy place!

In January, social justice will be front and center at our church. On **Sunday, January 6th** we'll be leading the religious education lesson with our children, focusing on homelessness. Thanks go to Claudia Colignon-Harvath and Sharon Marr for their leadership. On **Monday, January 21st** from 9:00 am to noon we'll again be celebrating the MLK National Day of Service by providing some "sweat equity". This year we'll do a workday sprucing up our church, particularly the cottage. Then on **Sunday, January 27th** we'll be hosting **Social Justice Sunday** (let's all wear our yellow "Love" t-shirts!), featuring guest speaker Pastor Trena Turner, Executive Director of Faith in the Valley (<https://faithinthevalley.org/>). Pastor Trena will be speaking on social justice concerns here in the Central Valley from an interfaith perspective.

Our shared social justice offering that will be collected on Sunday, January 20th will support Family Promise of San Joaquin County (<https://sjcfamilypromise.org>), a local nonprofit interfaith organization that addresses the needs of families facing homelessness. The offering in December supported the Minister's Discretionary Fund (**total = \$247.00**). Thanks for your support!

This month we're also coordinating a "**Stuff a Purse**" drive to support women in need. Please stuff a new or gently used purse with hygiene and other fun items for women. Leave your stuffed purse in the collection box in Jackson Hall by Sunday, January 27th. The purses will be donated to St. Mary's Dining Hall and distributed to women in need. Thanks go to Sharon Marr for coordinating this effort.

News update ... On December 4th the Stockton City Council voted to approve the draft General Plan. The plan includes many positive aspects, including promoting in-fill and sustainable development in disadvantaged areas of the city, however, it also includes a 3,800 acre "Enterprise Zone" north of Eight Mile Road, which would replace current agricultural land with industrial development and up to 25,000 new residential units. Our Social Justice Committee, led by Dick Abood, will continue to work with our community partners, including the League of Women Voters, the Sierra Club, and EcoInterfaith to oppose this unsustainable sprawl.

Upcoming events ...

- **January 12th** - Martin Luther King Community Run/Walk in Stockton (<http://drmartinlutherkingjr5k10krun.itsyourrace.com/event.aspx?id=9873>)
- **January 17th** Cleveland School Remembers 30th Anniversary - 6:00-8:00 pm, Stockton Memorial Civic Auditorium
- **January 19th** Women's March in downtown Stockton - www.facebook.com/events/1001687686692888

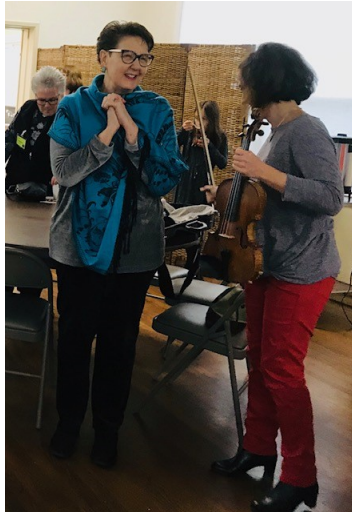
February 21st we'll again be participating in **Rotary Read-in** at Roosevelt School in Stockton. If you'd like to read and donate a book to an elementary class, please contact Sharon Marr (shasta6673@gmail.com).

Book Club: Please Come Join Us

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

<u>Educated</u> by Tara Westover	Sara Milnes	January
<u>Fear: Trump in the White House</u> by Bob Woodward	Bob Klein	February
<u>Magpie Murders</u>	Leslie Washington	March
<u>Gilead</u> by Marilynne Robinson	Cheri Buskirk	April
<u>Go Set a Watchman</u> , by Harper Lee (a follow-up to To Kill a Mockingbird)	Dwane Milnes	May
<u>The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World</u> by Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu	Debora Martin	June
<u>The Delight of Being Ordinary</u> (a novel by Roland Merullo who wrote Breakfast with Buddha)—A novel about A Road trip with the Pope and the Dalai Lama--	Burns	July
<u>The Man Who Loved China: The Fantastic Story of the Eccentric Scientist Who Unlocked the Mysteries of the Middle Kingdom</u> by Simon Winchester (Nonfiction) 328 Pages		August
<u>America's Fird Daughter</u> By Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie	Sigrid Eilers	September
<u>Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine</u> by Gail Honeyman	Sara Milnes	October
<u>Ideas of Heaven</u> , 6 short stories by Joan Silber (National Book Award Finalist) Stories of love and consolation, that all have the same pathway. The title is not helpful because it is on the title of one of the stories.	Dwane Milnes	November

The 1st UU congregation celebrated Rev. Robert Klein's 62nd birthday after the December 9th service. Before eating this cake, we did the following:



First, Myriam Cottin-Rack played the "Birthday Song" on her violin while Jan Vernor-Howard led the singing.



Next, Bob Garrett presented our 1st UU "shepherd" three birthday cards signed by members of his "flock".



Finally, Sue Crawford shared heartfelt words of appreciation for Bob.



Before it was sliced, the yummy marble cake with frosting in Bob's favorite flavor—chocolate—was displayed by the honoree.



Finally, everyone tasted, no, devoured the treat, including most of the Cottin-Rack family.



Here are more of the UUs who enjoyed cake and fellowship.



After people had their fill of cake and fun, these remains were sent home with several lucky UUs, including Rev Klein!

Caring Committee News!

Let us know!!! The Caring Committee (CC) 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 phoning or texting CC co-chairs Jan Vernor-Howard (612-0258) 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 office@stocktonuu.org. With church administrator Nichole Ybarra, arrange your ride courtesy of the Catherine Herriman Fund set up to facilitate transportation to church. Trying our currently contracted service, Art Cofod one week and Jessie Springborn another recently taxied to church, arriving in time for the announcements. See more in the "Transportation Lead" segment below.

Renewed energy! At a recent meeting of the Committee, members agreed on ways to more actively serve congregants. The following folks have embraced important roles:

> **CC Coordinators:** Jan Vernor-Howard steps up to replace long-serving Leslie Washington, while Cindy Milford continues in this role. They publicize CC news in the *Communitarian* and Order of Service, as well as direct visits and other services (see below) to congregants who have health and/or transportation challenges. They confer with Membership Chair Mary Bullard to update needs of newer members.

> **Card Sender:** Christy Dillemath repeats her previous term in this job of sending notes and cards responding to the milestones and needs of members. Other postal communicators have been Jan V-H, as well as two-termers Janet Bonner and Diane Garrett.

> **Caller:** This is a new CC job. Leslie Washington phones members who are unable to attend services to cheer them and to learn how the CC might serve them.

> **Transportation Lead:** This is another new role. Jan V.-H., with input from Administrative Assistant Nichole Y., is investigating possibly using the Uber/Lyft model of transporting to Sunday services our "clipped wings" church members. Supported by the Catherine Herriman Fund, the chosen service must be economical, dependable, and easy to use.

> **Data Collector:** Sara Milnes resumes her task of collecting, updating, and storing Personal Emergency Forms of 1st UU members and friends so that we'll know whom to contact in case of an emergency occurring at church.

> **Memorial Reception Facilitators:** Mary B. joins Cindy M. in working with the minister to coordinate Jackson Hall post-memorial receptions.

Join us! On Sunday mornings, Caring Committee members can be identified by their hand-in-a-heart stickers on their name badges. If you have a compassionate heart and want to lend a hand to fellow UUs, let a CC member know! We'll enlist you in our band of caring folk to do as many of the following as you wish for congregants in need: Donate greeting cards to the Card Sender. Provide and deliver a meal. Shop or run errands. Drive a person to an appointment or to church. Provide emergency child or pet care. Visit or call someone at a hospital, care facility, home. Provide cookies for or help with a memorial reception. And later you might volunteer for one of the essential positions in green above.

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



January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Sunday Service Re-Covenanting	7	8	9	10 Social Justice Meeting @ 10:30 a.m.	11 Men's Group @ 7:00 p.m.	12
13 Sunday Service Music Service Peter, Paul & Mary Program Council @ 12:15 p.m. Sunday Covenant Group	14	15 Meditation Group @ 1:00 p.m.	16	17	18	19
20 Sunday Service MLK Day!	21	22	23 Book Group	24	25	26
27 Sunday Service Social Justice Sunday	28	29	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, Tues., Thurs., Fri. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Wed. 9 a.m.-12 p.m./4 p.m.-6 p.m.

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

Minister

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