

Minister's Musings/Message:



Here we go again with that disappearing time. Yes, we are now going into the 2nd month of the 19th year of the 21st Century! Oh where did the time go? Oh, and by the way, Spring is coming! (I never could say that this early in Chicago, WY, CO, MT, NJ, PA, or AR!). Anyway, between collecting receipts and credit card statements and entering data into Quicken for Tax Prep, and short dark rainy (and in other places I've lived, snowy) days, February is probably my least favorite month! Good thing it is short! At least we have some nice things happening at the church with the Valentine's Event on 2/9, Darwin/Evolution day on 2/10, the annual COM Survey also on 2/10, various meetings

throughout the month including Covenant Groups, Meditation, and Dream Group.

Hopefully by the time you read this, the partial shutdown of the Government will be history, but it has certainly been one more unpleasant result of the growing partisan and economic divide in our nation in recent years. I know I want my side to hold firm against the other team's efforts to build a wall, but until some compromise is reached hundreds of thousands of workers remain unpaid pawns in this current game of chicken, which may be no more than another distraction from the Mueller investigation. With illegal border crossings at an historic low, there is hardly an emergency at the border. This current disaster orchestrated by the White House clearly highlights the problem with a system depending so much on good intentions, truth, and moral behavior. Though I would prefer to see Trump resign or be removed from office sooner rather than later, he is merely an egregious symptom of the problems we face. The question of and need for restoring truth, morality, and good sense to our political system will remain even after Trump leaves office. I hope that the women elected to Congress and those now running for President will succeed in changing the current pay to play dynamic of national elective offices, but it will take widespread support to make the changes now needed. It will take a new revolution to move away from the corporate based power system to the person based and person affirming system envisioned by the founders. The United States has yet to live up to its promise and possibilities and the events of this year and next may turn the tide and set us back on a path of progress. I hope that this will be true. I encourage us each and all to do what we can to live up to our UU Principles today and every day!

Peace and Love,
Rev. Bob

Upcoming Services

2/3 Why We Still Need Black History Month! Rev. Bob

2/10 Darwin Day, Evolution, and Science! Rev. Bob

2/17 Climate Weirdness! Rev. Bob (Sponsored by Claire Trujillo)

2/24 Public Morality in the Days of Trump! 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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Unitarian Universalist Association Principles and Purposes

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in Society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Rev. Robert E. Green Scholarship

Applications for the 2019 Robert E. Green Scholarship are now available. This \$750 scholarship, established by our church in 1994 in recognition of Rev. Green's service to the church and the community, is awarded each year to a graduating senior from a San Joaquin County high school. The selection is based on the recipient's sustained record of commitment to social justice and community service. The deadline for applications is **March 15, 2019**. For an application or more information, contact Nichole in the church office or Jeri Bigbee (jeribigbee@gmail.com).

Sanctuary Chair Plaques are great ways to honor loved ones or someone you admire. Those ordered during February (\$150) will be dedicated a Sunday in March. Pick up an order form from the church office or after church on Sundays through February, or contact Bev Blum 477-5970.



How to Report Maintenance Issues at the Church!

Since our church is an older building, we seem to frequently encounter small and large Maintenance and Supply issues. Some can be fixed with a screw driver and some need the help of a handyman. Some issues need to be reported to the weekly cleaning crew.

If you see any maintenance or supply issues inside or outside on church property that need to be dealt with,

Please report them to

Dwane Milnes
209-956-2868

Dwane.milnes@icloud.com

Or Steve Harvath
209-594-0417

Harvath.steve@gmail.com

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 Feb. 8th**) Please contact Rev. Bob if you are interested!

♡ Valentine Dinner and a Movie ♡

Draw a heart around Saturday, February 9, on your calendar so you can get a head start on Valentine's Day. Know you'll feel the love of your First UU family as you enjoy a delicious dinner and view a sweet treat of a film.

The evening starts at 5:15 in Jackson Hall with comfort foods, reprised by popular demand of the December Holiday Luncheon crowd and created by nearby Whirlow's Tossed and Grilled: shepherd's pie with turkey and veggies topped by a mashed potato cloud, layered polenta/eggplant/mushroom casserole with red and white sauces (vegetarian), three special salads, sides of tri-tip and chicken, and a surprise dessert. A wine/beer bar will be open.

Good feelings continue at 6:30 as you move into the sanctuary to view the romantic comedy "It's Complicated" starring Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin, Steve Martin, and John Krasinski of TV's "The Office". This film, set in Santa Barbara and R-rated for a very funny marijuana scene and tame sexual encounters between divorced Streep and Baldwin, lasts two hours and is "laugh-out-loud funny" (critic Rex Reed).

All this fun is yours for a donation of \$20, with children 10 and under just \$10. If there's a need, childcare will be arranged so watch for updates via the Order of Service and e-mail blasts.

Tickets will be on sale after church on Sundays January 27 and February 3, as well as in the church office via Nichole. A firm ticket order deadline is the night of Tuesday, February 5. For information, contact Leslie (phone 957-8433) or Cindy (text or phone 481-2227).

A Souper Sunday on February 10th

Two reasons to mark that date as one you're sure to attend church. There will be several delicious hot soups and fresh breads from which to choose immediately following the service -- and the day of the Congregational Survey, sponsored by the Committee on Ministry.

It is important for as many as possible to register their opinions and ratings on various aspects of our church and its programs. This will take just a few minutes, while you're enjoying "all you can eat" soups, so come one and all!

If you'd like to provide a soup or supply some bread and butter, call or email Mary Bullard, 477-8745 or marybee2@gmail.com

Thanks, Mary Bullard and Sue Crawford

Annual Church Women United Tea

All UU church members and Friends (including both men and women) are encouraged to attend the Church Women United Tea held **Thursday, February 14**, at Temple Israel starting at 1:00 p.m. There will be a roll call of churches present and an invitation to the tea following the keynote address by Karma Fordis Lindner, Director of Education at Temple Israel.

Following the program a goodwill offering is available and will be divided among local Community charities.

Tea and refreshments are then served by the many churches that participate in this annual event. The Alliance table will be serving fresh vegetables, crackers, cheese and the famous Alliance punch. Plan to attend and stand to be recognized by the Stockton church community as Unitarian Universalists. **Additional information or food donation: Mary Bullard, Refreshment Chair, Joan Briscoe, CWU representative.**

MEDITATION AND BUDDHIST TEACHINGS CLASS:

Our next class will be Tuesday, February 19, 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 questions: Sara Milnes, 209 956-2868, sara.milnes@icloud.com. The next four classes are scheduled as follows, all from 1-3 pm:

Tuesday, February 19	Tuesday, March 19
Tuesday, April 16	Tuesday, May 21

Sunday Covenant Group "During our January Covenant group, we talked about things that were sacred to us. Following that theme, the covenant group's February meeting will cover spiritual journeys, and spiritual autobiographies. Think about what led you to First UU, and what led you on your journey of spirituality - if you have one! - and join us this month for sharing, friendship, and conversation :-) if you don't have a spirituality, think about what led you to that as well.

Join us after church in the cottage on Sunday, February 17th, and we'll share! Newcomers welcome!"

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!"

PROGRAM COUNCIL

Next Program Council Meeting will be on Sunday March 31st 12:15 p.m.

Program Committee chairs and representatives are encouraged to attend, and everyone is invited to bring ideas for new programs!

Social Justice News

January was an action-packed social justice month! On **Sunday, January 6th** Claudia Colignon-Harvath, Rosemary Atkinson and Sharon Marr led a fabulous religious education lesson with our children, focusing on homelessness. Thanks! On **Saturday, January 19th** we marched in the Women's March in Stockton, demonstrating our church's commitment to women's issues. Then on **Monday, January 21st** we celebrated the MLK National Day of Service by coordinating an amazing workday sprucing up our church, particularly the cottage. It was a very productive day - thanks to leaders Rosemary Atkinson and Dick Abood and all our dedicated volunteers (more than 25!). Finally, on **Sunday, January 27th** we hosted **Social Justice Sunday** with Elder Toni McNeil, Community Organizer for Faith in the Valley, who provided an inspiring guest sermon on social justice work from an interfaith perspective".

. During January we also coordinated the "Stuff a Purse" drive to support women in need. This drive was very successful, thanks to Sharon Marr and Mary Bullard's leadership. Our shared social justice offering tin January supported Family Promise of San Joaquin County (**total =319.00**). Thanks for your support! In February, our offering will support St. Mary's Dining Hall (<http://stmarysdiningroom.org/>), a local non-profit organization that "responds to poverty in San Joaquin County by feeding the hungry, caring for health issues and restoring human dignity to over 700 individuals each day".

Speaking of **Family Promise**, on January 15, 2019, in response to our Social Justice Committee recommendation, the First UU Church of Stockton Board of Trustees formally agreed to serve as a host congregation for Family Promise San Joaquin (<https://www.facebook.com/familypromisesjc/>), a local interfaith effort addressing homelessness! Rosemary Atkinson and Gloria Smith will serve as our Family Promise coordinators (thanks!) as we provide shelter at our church for families in need during four weeks (1 week per quarter) each year in the future. We will be joined by other supportive churches in the community, particularly our friends at Valley Ministries MCC. Stay tuned!

On **Thursday, February 21st** we'll again be participating in **Rotary Read-in** at Roosevelt School in Stockton. We need about 10 volunteers, so if you'd like to read and donate a book to an elementary class, please contact Sharon Marr (shasta6673@gmail.com).

Looking ahead ... on **Sunday, March 17th and 24th**, we'll again be hosting a fun bumper stickers, posters and buttons sale, expressing our UU social justice values. Don't miss it!

We're also exploring the possibility of establishing a **UU "Adopt-a-Road" team**, which would do clean-up 2-4 times per year on a section of local road. The county provides all the supplies and equipment and will also erect 2 signs acknowledging the church (great visibility!). If you might be interested in joining the team, please contact Dick Abood (rabood@pacific.edu).

Bookstore News

Happy Valentine's Day from your First UU Books and More store! Come check out our **Valentine chocolates and jewelry** for your special people! This month we're also doing our annual **"Red Dot" clearance sale**. Selected hardback books are **75% off** and selected paperbacks are **50% off**! Here's your chance to stock up!

Here are a couple of new books that would make a great Valentine gifts:

Revive Us Again: Vision and Action in Moral Organizing by William J. Barber. This collection of sermons and speeches provides a groundbreaking vision for intersectional organizing. In this age of political division and civic unrest, Rev. Barber's message speaks to the most pressing issues of our time (\$18.00)

What About Darwin? By Thomas Glick. Over the past 160 years, Charles Darwin and his revolutionary ideas have inspired commentary all over the world. This unique and wide-ranging collection includes observations about Darwin and his ideas from such notable figures as Henry Adams, P.T. Barnum, Anton Chekhov, Mahatma Gandhi, Carl Jung, Martin Luther King, and Mao Tse-tung. These accounts trace a broad conversation about Darwin and demonstrate how his ideas permeated all areas of thought. (\$31.95)

Religious Education

We are pleased to welcome Nichole Ybarra as our new childcare provider on Sundays! Most of you know Nichole as our office administrator during the week. Nichole is taking early child education classes and loves working with children. We are thrilled to have her join our RE team. She will be working in the cottage nursery before and during the service with our youngest church friends. While we all know Nichole can multi-task like a champ, please be respectful of her new role working with the children on Sundays between 10 and 12 (and any other church events where she is providing childcare) She is happy to address any other needs on Sunday if you happen to catch her before 10 or after 12, but otherwise please contact her on Monday as usual. Thank you!

The RE committee will meet Sunday 5/3 from Noon-1pm. Please contact me if you'd like to join us. Childcare is available during the meeting. We will be discussing needs of the RE program, as well as procedures, routines, and upcoming events. I welcome your input!

The RE team and children would like to give a HUGE THANK YOU to the Social Justice Committee and their team of volunteers who worked on MLK day to clean the cottage! The cottage is so bright and clean and inviting now, and we really appreciate your hard work. I invite you to stop by and see the clean counters and organized shelves for yourself!! Thank you so much to all who participated, and organized this event on behalf of our children.

Amy Kirk
Director of Religious Education
amysarah30@yahoo.com

MLK Day of Service January 2019



Stockton Heat Hockey Game– Teddy Bear Toss Fundraiser



Woman's March January 2019



Elder Toni McNeil from Faith In the Valley on Social Justice Sunday



ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH DEVELOPMENT

What would you like to study and discuss with a group of other UUs?

Among many other possibilities, I have the following GREAT COURSES Video Lectures:

CULTURAL LITERACY FOR RELIGION, Mark Berkson 24 Lectures

SCIENCE AND RELIGION, Lawrence Principe, 12 Lectures

COMPARATIVE RELIGION, Charles Kimball, 24 Lectures

SKEPTICS AND BELIEVERS, Tyler Roberts, 36 Lectures

HISTORY OF THE BIBLE, MAKING THE NEW TESTAMENT,

Bart Ehrman, 12 Lectures

EMERSON, THOREAU, & the TRANSCENDENTALIST MOVEMENT,

Ashton Nichols, 24 Lectures

Please let me know!! Thanks! Rev. Bob uurevbobk@gmail.com or call 209-684-6345

Dream Group:

We are starting a new Dream Group to meet on Sundays (usually) after coffee hour in my office. I held an intro session on Jan. 20th but can provide a brief orientation to anyone who was unable to attend. Due to meetings scheduled immediately after church on 2/3, we will start at about 1:30 p.m. and end by 3:00 p.m. Depending upon the availability of those interested we will meet again 2/3, 17 & 24 and 3/17 & 24(1 p.m) If you would like to have a better understanding of your dreams, let me know! I usually will facilitate 4-6 weekly or bi-weekly sessions and then let group members decide whether to continue, usually meeting monthly. We use a Jungian based process refined by UU Rev. Jeremy Taylor. Suggested reading: *The Wisdom of Your Dreams* by Jeremy Taylor (available from Amazon, and on Kindle) For more info contact Rev. Bob uurevbobk@gmail.com.

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. Rev. Bob Klein

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!

[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>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 First 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

Save the Date! Sunday March 24, 2019 @ 1:00 p.m.

Humorous Musician Roy Zimmerman Concert
At First UU Church Stockton



<https://www.facebook.com/39171898761/videos/2112435605738601/>

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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



February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Sunday Service	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Sunday Service	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Sunday Service	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Sunday Service	25	26	27	28		

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-Fri. 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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

Minister

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Board of Trustees' President

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