

### Minister's Musings/Message:



This is it, my last Newsletter article. Trying to write something that will be relevant and meaningful sometime weeks before you see it has been one of the stranger activities of Ministry to these many years! Sometimes it has been a wonderful opportunity to say something, while other months it has been a chore avoided until the last possible moment. I decided long ago that, on the whole, it is a good thing to write these monthly messages. This is the last one, after 40 years of mostly parish ministry with monthly newsletters. It hasn't really seemed that long, but 40 years ago, I graduated from seminary and packed up to go to my first full-time church in Colorado. I was a Methodist then, but the role of Minister in many traditions is very similar. It has been almost 30 years I have been a UU Minister, and that number, too, is a surprise.

For me, it is into the unknown again! I took Samantha to Tucson for the Memorial Day weekend, for us both to experience the house we will soon share. She got Cactus thorns in her paws on a couple of our walks, and I don't think she really likes the gravel backyard, and my son's 7-month-old big Husky puppy was a little rough trying to play with her, but I think we will get used to it.

As I am writing, the inspectors are here for the couple buying my house, and that is a bit strange, too. Sharing the idiosyncrasies of an old house, access points, how things work, all the things I meant to fix or do differently. A few of you have already helped me with the packing, and even promised to come back to do more. I am trying to sort out and get rid of things I will no longer need, but it is hard with so many memories attached to even mundane stuff.

It has been a joy and a pleasure to work with you these 9 years we have shared together. Not perfect, of course, but none of us are perfect. It was actually better than I expected in so many ways, but also challenging, as Ministry always is! I am sorry that you will not get an Interim Minister this year to help you face the challenges ahead. I hope that you will soon find a Contract Minister to help keep things going. As a congregation, you have faced challenges before, sometimes sharing ministers, sometimes having gaps to fill. I trust you will get through the challenges of the current time, and that it will end up making you stronger and more resilient. In all things, I wish you well! Blessings!

Rev. Bob

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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.

### Upcoming Sermons/Services:

Date	Topic	Speaker	WA
6/5	RE Sunday	Bob	Christina
6/12	1UUC's Story	Bob	Jan
6/19	Penultimate Thoughts!	Bob	Cindy
6/26	Rev. Bob's Last Sunday: Reflections & Farewell	Bob	Jan, Cindy, Christina

We are switching to recording for YouTube, and will post services as soon as they can be edited but probably not until Tuesday or Wednesday following the service, please join us on Zoom if you are unable or uncomfortable coming in person!

### **Winter/Spring Zoom CODE BELOW!**

First UU Church of Stockton is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Winter Spring Worship Time: Sundays beginning Jan 2, 2022 10:30 AM Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96852101329?pwd=MjUvKzhld2h6STIUT0k1ZkR1MXdkZz09>

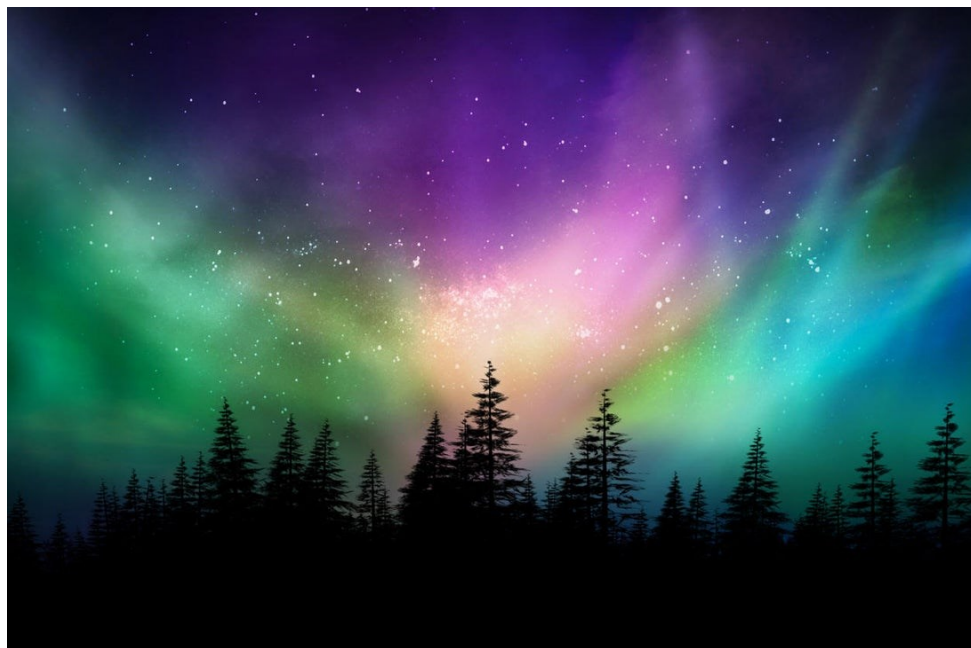
Meeting ID: 968 5210 1329 Passcode: 114758

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton



# We have a change!

It would not be the 2020's if we didn't.



## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Date: Saturday, June 25, 2022\*

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Sanctuary of First UU of Stockton

Agenda: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LBdtwAszxMQEuqlBsdWZSoWPetIZflcdM1XwjmZYJpM/edit>

Have questions, concerns, or comments?

Contact Christina at (209) 518-6720 or [christinachaveznelson@gmail.com](mailto:christinachaveznelson@gmail.com)

**Annual Congregational Meeting Of the  
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton, California**

**Sunday, June 25, 2022**

**Agenda**

Call to Order..... Christina Chavez Nelson  
Inspiration.....Rev Klein  
Approve minutes of the Congregational Meeting of June 13, 2021  
Elect Members to the Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee recommends:  
Board of Trustees (First term, July 2022 through June 2025)

Cindy Riddles  
Sharon Marr

Board Trustees: Continuing:

David Carpenter (First Term 2020-2023)  
Rebecca Douglass (Second Term 2022-2025)  
Debora Martin (First Term 2021-2024)  
Cindy Milford (Second Term 2022-2025)  
Dwane Milnes (First Term 2021-2024)  
Clair Trujillo (First Term 2021-20214)  
Carolyn Wischhusen (First Term 2020-2023)

Nominating Committee: (First Term July 2022- June 2023)

Sue Crawford

Continuing:

Leslie Washington  
Mary Bullard

Endowment Committee All present members are continuing

President's Report

Ministerial Search Discussion

Draft of 2022-2023 Budget  
Presented by Dick Abood, Finance Committee Chair

Committee Reports

Minister's Report

Final Questions and Comments

Adjourn

**2022-23 FIRST UU BUDGET-Summary**  
**Draft May 2022**

	2021-22 Projected Actuals	Adopted 2021- 22 Budget	Draft 2022-23 Budget	NOTES
<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>DONATIONS</b>				
Current Pledges	122,000	118,940	116,360	2022-23 pledges = \$122,484 * .95
Recovered, Pre-Paid, Plate & Coffee Donations	7,491	1,950	2,600	
Social Justice Donations	-	1,400	2,000	10 months x \$200 (assuming moderate attendance)
Local Social Justice	576	500	500	
Special Donations	1,332	-	-	
Loan Forgiveness				
<b>TOTAL DONATIONS</b>	<b>131,399</b>	<b>122,790</b>	<b>121,460</b>	
<b>FACILITY USE</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,500</b>	assuming limited rental of facilities
<b>DESIGNATED GIFTS</b>	<b>5,182</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>400</b>	Plate donations for Green Scholarship and Minister's Discretionary Fund
<b>FUNDRAISING EVENTS</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>2,350</b>	<b>2,850</b>	Difficult to forecast but assumes bookstore reopens and limited food events
<b>MISC. INCOME (incl Loan Forgiveness)</b>	<b>18,877</b>	<b>18,902</b>	<b>130</b>	Oil royalties, interest
<b>TRANSFERS</b>				
Spaeth	4,222	4,222	4,436	Endowment Comm. Recommendation of 3%
Endowment	1,506	1,506	1,506	Endowmt Comm recommendation of 3%
Other Transfers	9,963	1,756	3,963	Minister Search; Scholarship award less scholarship collection
<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS</b>	<b>15,691</b>	<b>7,484</b>	<b>9,905</b>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>172,149</b>	<b>154,426</b>	<b>136,245</b>	
<b>EXPENSE</b>				
<b>TOTAL COST OF MINISTRY</b>	<b>91,880</b>	<b>91,880</b>	<b>64,492</b>	Includes 5% COLA for salary
<b>CHURCH SERVICES</b>	<b>8,045</b>	<b>9,340</b>	<b>10,565</b>	Includes Music Director (9 mos), pianist (53 wks)
<b>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>10,895</b>	<b>11,731</b>	DRE based on 10/wk plus 104 hours of childcare; includes 5% COLA for DRE
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>				
Administrator	18,500	20,332	20,823	10 hrs/wk x \$16.42/hr + 15hrs/wk x \$15.75 (inc 5% COLA)
Other Employee Expense	2,994	3,836	4,039	Employer share SS/Medicare; Wkr Comp, Direct Dep, personnel exp.
Bookkeeping	4,200	4,500	4,800	
Personnel Comm/Pledge Drive	300	650	900	
Phone, Internet	2,900	2,636	3,062	
Equipment, Leasing, Maint.	4,200	4,200	3,700	Copier lease; maintenance, small equipment.
Office Sup/Postage/Software/IT help	1,200	1,610	2,125	
Fees	50	90	90	Fees & govt. fees (\$50), Square Merchant Fees
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>34,344</b>	<b>37,854</b>	<b>39,539</b>	
<b>BUILDING &amp; GROUNDS</b>				
Custodial	2,400	8,320	4,800	\$400/month
Service Contract	-	-	-	
Insurance	5,800	5,322	5,950	Increased for 2022-23
Supplies, repairs, permits	4,300	3,250	4,250	Routine heater, plumbing maint & supplies; permits (higher costs)
Major Rehab	9,000	-	-	Unbudgeted, covered by transfers
Utilities, Alarm & Yard Care	10,770	11,770	11,932	Increases in rates, improved internet
Property Taxes	1,620	1,620	1,620	
<b>TOTAL BUILDING &amp; GROUNDS</b>	<b>33,890</b>	<b>30,282</b>	<b>28,552</b>	
<b>PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>				
Committees, Hospitality	485	485	3,710	Membership, Caring Committees
Local Social Justice	400	500	500	
Social Justice	-	2,000	2,000	offsets social justice donations
UUA	3,000	3,000	3,000	
Transportation	-	-	-	from Herriman fund if needed
Scholarship	1,013	1,006	1,013	Scholarship award covered by transfer & donations
Minister Discretionary Exp.	1,000	850	850	Based on Min Disc cash available
Bookstore	-	500	500	
Ministerial Search	1,000	1,000	-	Minimal preliminary costs
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>6,898</b>	<b>9,341</b>	<b>11,573</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>177,857</b>	<b>189,592</b>	<b>166,452</b>	
<b>NET ORDINARY INCOME</b>	<b>(5,708)</b>	<b>(35,166)</b>	<b>(30,207)</b>	
<b>Net Income from Rentals</b>	<b>17,870</b>	<b>18,670</b>	<b>18,190</b>	
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>12,162</b>	<b>(16,496)</b>	<b>(12,017)</b>	
<b>Transfer from Maint/Contingency Fund as Needed to Balance</b>		<b>16,496</b>	<b>12,017</b>	
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

## Thank You for the Music, Ian!

The May 29 church service followed the typical format of 1st UU Sundays. We enjoyed favorite and familiar hymns, shared Joys and Concerns, had meditation, etc. There were a few departures from the norm, however.

First, the Worship Leader was Christina Chavez Nelson instead of Rev. Klein, who took his one day off/month to visit the Arizona home to which he'll move at June's end when his retirement begins. A Social Justice guest speaker urged UUs to become Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers. The choir missed Rev. Klein's dependable baritone!

Second, the Story for All Ages featured Betsy Keithcart's tale of how Ian Kirk served as our Music Director for seven years. Everyone had recently learned that he was departing from his post to spend more time with his family. (See Betsy's beautiful homage to Ian elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Third, thanks to the inspiration of UU Carolyn Wischhusen and the technical prowess of Christina, the congregation followed the screened lyrics and sang karaoke-style the ABBA song "Thank You for the Music"—and we sang it to Ian! This was his final service as our Music Director. Wife Amy and children Riley and Paige, who'd been singing in the choir that day, coaxed Ian to join them for the ABBA song. We were moved by the meaning of the music as a goodbye to a beloved and key member of the Sunday service scene. Amy assured us that the family wasn't disappearing from 1st UU even if Dad was no longer directing the music!

Finally, everyone adjourned to Jackson Hall where flowers, food, and fun awaited us. This was a Coffee Hour on steroids! (See photos with captions that tell of the activities.) Ian and his family went home with bouquets, extra cake, a generous Yen Du gift card, greeting cards filled with sentiments from attendees, and the assurance that he has been valued for his musical gifts and dedication to our church.

Thank you for the music, Ian!

Ian Kirk and wife Amy, son Riley, and daughter Paige enjoyed cake and beverages at the after-service reception.



Sitting with the Kirk Family were UOP Conservatory of Music student Jordan Souza (right) and mother Denene.



Several choir members 🎵 sat at this table: Sam Allen, Betsy Keithcart 🎵 (also presented the tribute to Ian), Christina Chavez Nelson (managed technology and led the service assisted by son Nathaniel), Jan Vernor-Howard 🎵, Ari Cohn, and Kathy Schick 🎵 .

And one more choir member 🎵 was in this grouping: Fred Dillemath, Carolyn Wischhusen 🎵 (also served cake and conceived of the ABBA sing-along ), Christy Dillemath (distributed cherries and CASA info), Rosemary Atkinson (standing), Leslie Washington, and Olivia Douglass (helped set up).



More celebrants were Frank Cardinalli, John Patton, Emily Boyd, a standing Rebecca Douglass (got the cakes and ice, prepped then cleaned up Jackson Hall with Cindy Milford), Jeri Bigbee (provided home-grown cherries), and Sue Pixler.



Marge Flaherty, who for decades hosted the 1st UU Summer Picnic/Swim Party, sat with son Casey.



Taking a time-out were Bob (helped to set-up and fetch coffee) and Diane Garrett (served cake).



Ian was FORCED to sample three kinds of cake and did so with his usual good manners.



Flowers and photos were provided by Cindy, who worked with Rebecca and her friend Linda Yin, to setup and cleanup.



This very special Chinese take-out carton contains the gift card to Ian's favorite restaurant, Yen Du. He'll enjoy \$280 worth of delicious food from his 1st UU friends! Beneath it are cards on which churchgoers shared their words of appreciation about Ian.



## Tribute to Ian Kirk, Music Director

By Betsy Haydon Keithcart, Ed.D., MT-BC  
Music Committee Chair

Ian, we thank you for serving as our director of music for the past seven years. You have mentored the choir, of various voices, ages, and numbers, and collaborated with pianists, including Linli Wang, Christopher Hewett and now Judy Kim, and you have filled in ably when we had no pianist.

During the pandemic, when our services were online, you experimented with virtual singing, and even made clones of yourself to sing in harmony. And then you helped us feel comfortable singing together in person again, with precautions—and with great joy.

According to Plato: “Music is a more perfect instrument than any other for education, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul.”

Wouldn't you all agree that Ian's musical leadership, his arrangements, and particularly his beautiful voice have found their ways into the inward places of our souls at First UU of Stockton? We might recall:

- Ian singing “O Holy Night” at our Christmas Eve service
- “Danny Boy” at our Celtic Hoolie
- Father and son trumpets in the organ loft on special occasions,
- and Ian's Cal Berkeley ensemble singing at Emerson Coffeehouse, to name a few

As your lovely wife Amy recalled,

“Easter of 2015 was the first day we ever attended UU, knowing nothing about the church, and at the end of that service Bob announced that they would be needing a new music director...

“I turned to Ian and said, “Well, that's interesting” and after a few more weeks of attendance and hearing the same plea... he decided to apply... He officially started that September. A lifetime ago!!”

Thank you to Amy, to Riley and to Paige, for being a big part of our UU family. We embrace you, as always.

Ian, this has been a wild ride, and you have been flexible and dynamic in providing music for us during an incredibly tumultuous time, always kind, always sincere, always in harmony.

Please join me in thanking Ian Kirk with a warm round of applause.

## [Social Justice](#)

Your Social Justice Committee has been busy! At our May parking lot event we hosted a follow-up Waterwise Plant sale and earned **\$93** that will be used to support our social justice work. Thanks for your support! We also collected **\$41** in recyclables. Join us again on **Saturday, June 18th from 9:30 - 11:30 am** for recycling and crafting!

On **May 15th** we resumed our 3rd Sunday shared offering tradition, collecting funds for our Family Promise (<https://www.familypromisesjc.org/>) efforts. A total of \$313.84 was collected. Thanks again! In June (6/19), we'll be collecting funds to support Ukrainian emergency relief, through the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) (<https://www.uusc.org/>). If you're not able to attend the service, please send your donation to the church office.

During the week of May 15th we hosted our first Family Promise family in collaboration with the Cathedral of the Annunciation congregation! Sincere thanks go to all the volunteers that made this happen. We'll be hosting for a week again in June and/or August. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Gloria Smith ([gsmith.stockton@gmail.com](mailto:gsmith.stockton@gmail.com)).

### **Rev. Robert E. Green Scholarship**

The Robert Green Scholarship Committee (Jeri Bigbee, Bob Garrett, Beverly Schlessler, Christina Chavez-Nelson and Marlene Smith Baranzini) is pleased to announce the 2022 recipient of the Robert E. Green Memorial Scholarship, **Godwina Ogbeide**. Ms. Ogbeide is graduating from Lathrop High School and has been actively involved in school and community service, including leadership roles in the Black Student Union and Black Lives Matter. In college, Godwina plans to major possibly in forensic science with a career in law in the future.

This \$1000 scholarship is awarded each year to a graduating high school senior from San Joaquin County based on their record of community service and commitment to social justice. It was established by our church on the occasion of Rev. Green's 20th year as our minister in recognition of his commitment to community advocacy and social justice.

Join us in congratulating Godwina!



Our **Waterwise Garden Project** funded by Cal Water is *COMPLETE*, thanks to our amazing volunteers (Alan, Chris, Sue, Emily, Diane, Bob, Steve, Rev. Bob, Steven, Margaux, Rosemary, Benny, Dick, Jeri, and Cate)! Now we'll continue to maintain our glorious garden through continued volunteer effort. Contact Jeri Bigbee ([jeribigbee@gmail.com](mailto:jeribigbee@gmail.com)) if you'd like to join the crew! And please join us for a joyful **dedication ceremony** on **June 19th** immediately following our Sunday service.

Please join us for our next Social Justice Committee planning meeting on **Thursday, June 16th at 7:00 pm** by Zoom. We'll be planning exciting activities for the summer and fall. Contact Jeri Bigbee ([jeribigbee@gmail.com](mailto:jeribigbee@gmail.com)) for more information.



# UU Book Club – Reading is fun.

The UU Book Club has been meeting for many many years. While our membership has changed as people move away and new folks join, the joy of reading and discussing fiction and nonfiction books continues to be a pleasant monthly activity.

Our new book club YEAR begins this coming June with Sara Milnes facilitating a discussion of [The Midnight Library](#) by Matt Haig.

Our year long list of books, the dates we will be meeting and the facilitator for each book discussion is listed below. If you would like to join us to discuss one book of interest or to join us on a monthly basis, we are welcoming new members. Our meetings are on Zoom and will continue that way until it is safe to gather together. Some of our book club members have joined us as they have visited on the east coast and South America. Participating is fun!

Please call Dwane Milnes—559-786-8587 or email [dwane.milnes@gmail.com](mailto:dwane.milnes@gmail.com).

## 2022 Book Schedule

**The Control of Nature by John McPhee,  
Nonfiction**

Month

29-Jun-22

Facilitator

Dwane

**The First Phone Call from Heaven by Mitch  
Albom, Fiction**

27-Jul-22

Anna Maria

## **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



**Minister's Office Hours:**

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.

E-mail: [uurevbobk@gmail.com](mailto:uurevbobk@gmail.com)

The Mission of our church  
Is to nurture individual spiritual/ethical growth,  
to be inclusive of all people,  
and to be an active voice of conscience  
in the greater community.

**Minister**

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