



## UPCOMING SUNDAYS

**JANUARY 10TH**

**9:00 AND 11:00 AM**

**“Do We Believe in Sin?”**

**-Rev. Tom Goldsmith**

**JANUARY 17TH**

**9:00 AND 11:00 AM**

**“Is it a New Civil Rights  
Struggle?”**

**-Rev. Tom Goldsmith and the  
Chancel Choir**

**JANUARY 24TH**

**9:00 AND 11:00 AM**

**“The Road to Hell:  
Puritans, Pioneers,  
Passengers, & Pilgrims”**

**-Rev. Matthew Cockrum**

## 2015 Ends Survey Results

An essential part of the Board's job is to monitor the policies that govern our church, including the church's Ends, our overarching goals. While much of our monitoring requires only interaction with the Minister and Staff, the Board is effective at monitoring Ends only when we listen actively to the congregation. This monitoring process must occur every year because the environment changes, new opportunities arise, congregational composition and mentality shift. Only through continuous monitoring are we reminded of our most important values and therefore able to re-answer the question, "Why does this congregation exist?"

In May we conducted our second annual member and friend survey that will be used as a tool to evaluate how we, as a congregation, are progressing on a year-to-year basis. Last year's data is presented as a comparison to this year's data. Each year we will ask the same questions as well as a few additional questions posed by Tom to evaluate specific attempts at addressing congregational concerns.

The survey asked you to rate your personal experience on 12 statements relating to our three End statements. We had a total of 148 respondents (71.9% Members), with the greatest percentage of responses coming from respondents who have been attending First Church for 10 or fewer years (56%). This is an increase of 22% over the number of respondents for the 2014 survey. Similarly to last year, the greatest number of respondents (49.28%) were in the age category of 65 and above.

Results are included in the article. All graphs represent the average score for each question on a 1 to 5 scale (1 = Strongly disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree).

A comparison of the two years indicates general consistency in responses, with overall positive change between last year and this year. Average scores for only two of the twelve items decreased: experiencing compassionate pastoral care (see notes on this question below) and feeling comfortable in the building and grounds. In general, both gains and losses were very small. We are happy to report that we still have no averages falling in the Disagree (2) or Strongly Disagree (1) categories and seven of the twelve question responses average above Agree (4). Two of the three lowest average

*Ends Survey continued on page 7*

### First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

Rev. Tom Goldsmith  
Minister, [minister@slcuu.org](mailto:minister@slcuu.org)

Rev. Matthew Cockrum  
Congregational Life Minister,  
[clminister@slcuu.org](mailto:clminister@slcuu.org)

Julie Miller  
Director of Religious Education,  
[dre@slcuu.org](mailto:dre@slcuu.org)

David Owens  
Director of Music, [music@slcuu.org](mailto:music@slcuu.org)

Hal Gonzales  
Church Administrator,  
[admin@slcuu.org](mailto:admin@slcuu.org)

### Board of Trustees

Christine Ashworth  
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Colleen Bliss  
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The Torch is published approximately 23 times per year, every other week during the regular church year & once per month during the summer.

### Next Publication Date

January 25, 2016

### Submission Deadline

January 19, 2015 (Tuesday)  
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after January 26th to ensure timeliness.

### Editor

Jennifer Killpack-Knutsen  
[torch@slcuu.org](mailto:torch@slcuu.org)

To subscribe/unsubscribe, notify Jennifer at 801-582-8687 ext. 202 or [torch@slcuu.org](mailto:torch@slcuu.org)

## Congregational Briefs

### Adult Religious Education, Winter/Spring 2016

Descriptions and registration forms for classes and activities will be available at the Welcome Table beginning January 17. There will be two registration options: (1) fill out the form and leave it with the Welcome Table or (2) follow instructions on the form to sign up online (coming soon).

### First UU Arts and Crafts Fair

The Annual First Unitarian Church Fine Arts and Crafts Festival will be held on March 19th from 5 to 10 pm. Artists: Please register using the online form which will be on the Church Webpage soon. This is a fun family event with food and entertainment provided. Artists can show their art for fun at no charge. All sales are handled by the church. Church retains 25%, artist receive a check from the church for 75%. All arts and crafts welcomed. Display space is limited, so sign up early. If you have any question please contact Bill Reed at [wbreed@gmail.com](mailto:wbreed@gmail.com).

### Open Minds Book Group

The Open Minds Book Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Haven Room at the church. The book for January 26 is "Angle of Repose" by Wallace Stegner. The book for February 23 is "Room" by Emma Donoghue. All are welcome.

### Dinner and Dialogue for February

The February Dinner and Dialogue will have a themed discussion topic of "Spiritual Journeys." We will share our stories of learning from another culture or from another religion or perhaps even a family member. As always, we are looking for hosts who will set the February date, decide the menu and the number of guests they can accommodate. Guests sign up at the Welcome Table and contribute by bringing a dish to share. Questions? Contact Darlene Thayne at 801-455-6553 or [suppers@slcuu.org](mailto:suppers@slcuu.org).

### Young Adult Group

The First Unitarian Young Adult Group is for those in their 20s, 30s or those young at heart. Our goal is to foster a young adult community at the church. We meet on Thursdays, twice a month. Please connect with us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FirstUnitarianSLCYoungAdults/>. We look forward to welcoming you!

### Missing Church Items

Recently tables, chairs, coffee cups and other church property have gone missing. Sometimes these things are returned; sometimes they are not. The church maintains this inventory for the benefit of the committees, groups and activities hosted by the church at the church. Please, do not take the church's property off-site. If necessary,

*Congregational Briefs continued on page 8*

# Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Officially it's called a quasiquicentennial, but you won't be hearing that word much. Still, our church is celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and a good word for that may be audacious. On February 24, 1891, five years before Utah became a state, 127 religious liberal visionaries joined forces to establish the First Unitarian Church in Salt Lake City. Most people even today who live outside of Utah cannot imagine the history or scope of our church. We are proud bearers of a liberal history, continuing in the same footsteps as our Utah religious ancestors by securing an institution dedicated to the freedom to believe as commanded by the dictates of conscience. Our history has always allowed for religious expression in a non-dogmatic setting, and voiced deep moral concern in a society led by conservative influences often pre-empting justice in a racially and culturally diverse society.

So we are going to celebrate our institution and ourselves!!!! The celebration will stretch throughout much of the year. The Big Dates we should note are as follows:

**February 28, 2016: Celebration Sunday** will be combined with our quasiquicentennial. A special service will be held at the Marriott Dance Theater on the University of Utah campus. The space will be large enough to accommodate all of us so there will only be one service beginning at 10:30. You may well want to arrive early because twenty minutes prior to the service we will feature a slide show with many photos culled from the Special Collection at the Marriott Library. The presentation will exhibit our church and its people over the past many decades.

The actual service will feature special guest speaker, Rosemary Brae McNatt, president of Starr King, our UU seminary in Berkeley. The Jazz Vespers Quartet will provide music and our full chancel choir will perform.

**June 12, 2016: End of Year Picnic** will be focused on child fun. We will be playing games typical of 125 years ago. We're collecting potato sacks and other fun items to give children (and adults) a taste of how people passed the time before I-Pads.



**September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016: Dinner Dance and Celebration** will be held at This Is the Place Heritage Park. This will not be a fundraiser, just a spirited gathering of all of us with some incredible surprise guests stopping in to join us. The venue offers a beautiful patio for us to socialize with drinks if we wish, and then a splendid dinner and dance inside, large enough to accommodate all of us. The 11-piece big band has already been hired. You need not dance like Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers to enjoy this fun celebration.

This will be an extraordinary year for our church, and your presence at these events will only enhance the spirit. Please mark your calendars. More particulars will be available as we move closer to each event. TRG



The Three Wise Guys make their entrance.  
More pageant photos on page 6.

## In the Life



"Life is like a box of chocolates...You never know what you're gonna get." Remember that line from the 1994 movie, "Forrest Gump"? Or how about the Yiddish proverb, "Man plans and God laughs"? Both sentiments reference that nugget of wisdom and the humbling reminder that we are not in ultimate control of our lives. Yet we still have some degree of limited choice.

Over the winter holidays, Chad and I headed back to Spearfish, South Dakota, to spend time with my family. My mother re-married a few years ago and this visit included our introduction to her new in-laws. On New Year's Eve a small crew of folks made their way to my sister's home for a "Family Jam." It turns out that my new in-laws are quite a musical bunch. They regularly gather, bringing their guitars, Irish flutes, mandolins and the like, and spend a few hours playing at tunes together. The crew includes a clock-maker, a city planner, a painter, a rifle craftsman and some avid hunters.

At one point in the evening I found myself standing back from the gathering and just taking it in. "So, this is my family now," I said to



The Three Wise Guys. More pageant photos on page 6.

## Rev. Matthew Cockrum

a nearby friend. "I never would have guessed it a few years ago."

The process of becoming family together has not been without its bumps and bruises, misunderstandings, disagreements and differences of opinion. The choice to seek to become family together is optional, though. To greater and lesser degrees we are being intentional about sharing our lives, our interests and our gifts with one another. The journey includes focusing on connecting rather than being right or in agreement...choosing to savor what's in the box...or being willing to laugh at how our plans turn out.

In the coming months you'll be hearing more about the theme of "Spiritual Journeys" in worship and adult religious education. I invite you to make some time in these next weeks to reflect on your life and see what metaphors emerge to explain your sense of your journey. Then, take the next step and share that metaphor and part of your story with friends, family, fellow UU's. See how you can work at developing curiosity and courage.

Here's to The Work, Friends!  
Peace, Faith & Passion,  
*Matthew*

### First Church Information Session

Thursday, January 21, 7-9 p.m. - New to First Church? Want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism? Curious about signing the Membership Book? Join Revs. Matthew Cockrum & Tom Goldsmith for an informal evening of snacks and conversation in The Haven (Room 214). Childcare available. Please RSVP to Matthew at [clminister@slcuu.org](mailto:clminister@slcuu.org) or 801.582.8687 ext. 205.



# Religious Education News



## Our Children

We welcome you and your children to Religious Education at First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City.

I have come to think of our program as religious exploration. The program is open to everyone regardless of religious background or beliefs. We learn from one another and grow together as we share a variety of religious and cultural experiences.

For the first 8-week block of RE (Religious Education) we learned about our Unitarian roots, explored the meaning of social conscience, delved into the traditions and history of famous Unitarians and examined how one can take actions that influence positive change in our world.

In the next 8-week block of RE, we shifted into an arts-based curriculum designed to incorporate the seven Unitarian principles. The foundation of our new arts-oriented rotations, which run for 2 eight-week sessions--one just completed, one in the spring of 2016--is our partnership with Framework Arts, Inc., a Salt Lake-based nonprofit project-based curriculum-building organization founded by arts educator Megan Hallett.

Here is how Megan describes her program: "Our purpose is to engage children and adults in creating personal narratives." Our children developed their personal narratives in the context of our seven Unitarian Principles. Using various mixed visual media, children created journals to express their values and experiences.

In our current 8-week cycle, we are returning to the theme of exploring our Unitarian identity

and heritage. All classes are taught at 11am Sundays and end at 12:15 pm.

**PreK/K, ages 4 - 5** in Room 205. Curriculum: Chalice Children. Children will continue learning about our religious community, engage in sharing with others and explore a sense of belonging within their class and our congregation. Children in this age group begin at 11:00 am in their classroom.

**Children ages 6 - 10** will begin most Sundays in the Sanctuary. Children enter and participate in the first 15 minutes of the adult service. There, they have the opportunity to join in the music, opening readings and rituals, after which they join their teachers in our "Little Chapel" before proceeding to their assigned RE classrooms.

**First and Second Grades** will have class in Room 207. Curriculum: Picture Book Unitarian Universalism. This curriculum uses engaging stories as a starting point for exploring what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist.

**Third and Fourth Grades** in Room 201. Curriculum: Signs of our Faith: Being a Unitarian Every Day. This curriculum presents fourteen traits or values that most Unitarians embrace including the quest for knowledge, reverence for life, supporting one another on our faith journeys, and Public Witness. Children examine how their lives do and can exhibit these traits and values, and come to understand that their faith is a living faith.

**Fifth and Sixth Grades** in Room 208. (Note: for January - February 2016, special enrollment & fee are required. Questions about the fee may be directed to RE Director Julie Miller or RE Assistant Director Nancy Moos). Curriculum: Our Whole Lives (OWL). This is a nationally-renowned program on human sexuality developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association in collaboration with

*RE continued on next page*

## RE: Our Children (continued from page 5)

the United Church of Christ.

This class replaces the "traditional " RE curriculum for this 8-week session. These classes are taught with parent permission. The program presents a comprehensive approach to human sexuality in an age-appropriate manner. It is based on the values of respect, responsibility, justice and inclusivity. At the fifth and sixth grade level, our children will learn about and discuss the physical and emotional changes of puberty. This class will run from 11 am to 12:30 pm in lieu of our traditional RE curriculum. Children participating in this class will go directly to their classroom at 11:00 am. If you choose NOT to have your child attend this

class, he/she may attend regular church services with family.

### Get Involved!

Our RE program thrives on family and volunteer help to teach classes. Parent feedback and participation are welcome. Parents may help teach classes, volunteer for special events and activities or join our RE committee, which will meet once a month in 2016 immediately following a Sunday service (date to be announced In Order of Service next week).

In service,  
Julie Miller  
RE Director



## Pageant 2015

Photos by Ken Kraus

More pageant photos are available on our  
Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/First-Unitarian-Church-of-Salt-Lake-City-116011744733/>





## 2015 Ends Survey Results (continued from page 1)

### Within

Through my involvement with First Church, I experience:



Lifelong opportunities for growth, learning, engagement, and celebration



Spiritual and theological growth through both personal and family-centered religious practices



Spiritual and theological growth through both personal and family-centered religious practices



A rich and diverse worship life that nurtures, challenges, and inspires me

### Among

As a member or friend of First Church, I am:



Comfortable in the building and grounds in terms of aesthetics, use of space, sustainability and presentation to the larger community



Involved in the ministries and programs of the Church (e.g., Caring Network, Environmental Ministry, Small Group Ministry, etc.)



Generous with my time, talents and resources



Welcomed and connected with others across age, race, gender, sexual orientation, ability politics, and education

### Beyond

I find the church to be:



A community that acts and invests in environmentally responsible and sustainable ways



A full and active participant in the larger Unitarian Universalist community



An advocate in the public arena for liberal religious values in response to prejudice, injustice, and oppression



A visible leader and partner for social justice issues in the Salt Lake Valley which provides ample opportunities for members and friends to actively promote social justice

scores related specifically to individual involvement in church activities. One particular low-scoring item drew our attention: "I experience compassionate pastoral care in times of joy, sorrow and transition." Many people chose No Opinion (a score of 3) and noted that they have not needed to take advantage of these services. These responses highlighted a problem with the survey design and the Board plans to reword this question next year to better assess one's knowledge of these services, rather than use.

Scores are particularly strong for the questions pertaining to the Beyond End, with the exception of the church being involved in the greater UU community. Related comments expressed concern that we are not a Fair Share church. The Executive Team is working hard to return the church to that level of commitment to the UUA and needs your help

by indicating willingness to add the extra amount to your pledge to pay for UUA dues.

Comments associated with the questions were extremely variable and numerous, and they have been taken into account by the Board and the Senior Executive Team in the development of our strategic plan (to be released soon).

Thank you for taking the time to complete our 2015 Ends survey. We look forward to measuring our progress in years to come.

*Erin Johnson & Christine Ashworth*  
Board of Trustees

## Congregational Briefs (continued from pg. 2)

arrangements can be made for borrowing these items by contacting either Jenni or Hal in the administrative office.

### Book Discussion- An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States

A book discussion of "An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States" (by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz) Friday, February 12, 2016, 6:30-8:30PM, Room 208, Religious Education Building, First Unitarian Church

Environmental Ministry, the Anti-Racism Committee, and the Social Justice Council invites you to join us in reading and discussing:

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. Our discussion will take place on Friday, February 12, 2016, 6:30-8:30PM, Room 208, Religious Education Building. More info on the book can be found here: Beacon Press, <http://www.beacon.org/An-Indigenous-Peoples-History-of-the-United-States-P1164.aspx> Let us know if you would like to participate by signing up at the Environmental Ministry table on Sundays and/or by contacting us at: [green@slcuu.org](mailto:green@slcuu.org) or [arc@slcuu.org](mailto:arc@slcuu.org).

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## Environmental Ministry Film Series

*-Submitted by Joan Gregory, Environmental Ministry*

*Environmental Ministry Film/Discussion Series Presents: Merchants of Doubt  
Friday, January 15, 2016, 7-9PM, Eliot Hall*

*"Inspired by the acclaimed book by Naomi Oreskes and Erik Conway, **Merchants of Doubt** takes audiences on a satirically comedic, yet illuminating ride into the heart of conjuring American spin. Filmmaker Robert Kenner lifts the curtain on a secretive group of highly charismatic, silver-tongued pundits-for-hire who present themselves in the media as scientific authorities – yet have the contrary aim of spreading maximum confusion about well-studied public threats ranging from toxic chemicals to pharmaceuticals to climate change." -- Synopsis, Merchants of Doubt, <http://sonyclassics.com/merchantsofdoubt/>*

This 90-minute documentary film exposes a concerted strategy to create doubt about the facts of climate change. Industry representatives, global warming deniers, environmentalists, and climate scientists are interviewed to create a riveting behind-the-scenes look at how the fossil fuel industry has been so successful in blocking government

action on climate. In **Merchants of Doubt**, you will learn how the climate denial movement has borrowed from the playbook used by the tobacco industry for years, and how climate denial is a risky game of deception with high stakes - preying on peoples' fears and creating societal division and climate inaction. "Doubt is our product," states a 1969 memo from the tobacco giant Brown and Williamson, "since it is the best means of competing with the 'body of fact' that exists in the minds of the general public."

Following the film, we will discuss the latest information about climate lying and denying by the fossil fuel industry – more specifically the investigations underway in New York and being called for in many other states about the role ExxonMobil and many other fossil fuel corporations have played in thwarting, blocking and delaying significant climate action. Bill McKibben calls on us to consider: "imagine if Exxon had told the truth on climate change" ... "with Exxon vouching for the science of climate change 25 years ago ... would we have wasted decades in fruitless argument?" Join us for the film and a lively discussion afterwards.



# January/February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1)	11 Board of Trustees Meeting 5:30 pm Rm. 201	12 Women's Sacred Circle 5:30 pm	13 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	14	15 Env. Min. Film 7:00 pm (pg. 8)	16
17 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1)	18 MLK, Jr. Day church offices closed	19 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	20 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	21 First Church Info Session 7pm (pg. 4)	22	23
24 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1)	25	26 Open Minds Book Group 7 pm (pg. 2)	27 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	28	29	30
31 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am	February 1 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	2	3 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	4	5	6

## Refugee Resettlement Committee News

A house party hosted by Sen. Jim Dabakis brought together refugees, politicians and providers of refugee-resettlement services in Utah a few days before Christmas. First Church was represented by Joe Dubray, Ron Anderson, Johanna Whiteman, Richard Anderton, Mohammed Mushib, Frank and Vickey Steffey, John and Nancy Rasmuson, Jim and Ellen Wilcox. Over the years volunteers from First Church have furnished hundreds of apartments for incoming families. The work is never-ending. If you would like to help, to donate gently used furniture or to mentor a refugee family, call Joe Dubray at (904) 527-9773.



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH  
569 South 1300 East  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

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