

MARCH 7, 2016

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 16



Celebration Sunday!



Photos by Ken Kraus.
More photos available on the
church's Facebook page.

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

**MARCH 6, 2016
9:00 AND 11:00 AM**

**"Outside the Box:
Thoughts on Creativity"**
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith & Rev.
Matthew Cockrum

Both Rev. Tom Goldsmith and Rev.
Matthew Cockrum will share their
muddled thought about creativity.

**MARCH 13, 2016
9:00 AND 11:00 AM**

**"Ecology as the New
Theology: The Simple
Truth of Good and Evil"**
Our special guest is Michael
Dowd, author of "Thank God
for Evolution"

**MARCH 20, 2016
9:00 AND 11:00 AM**

**"What is Meant by
Perseverance?"**
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

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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

March 21, 2016

Submission Deadline

March 14, 2016 (Monday)
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after March 22nd to ensure timeliness.

Editor

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Congregational Briefs

The Pledge Drive for the 2016-2017 Church Year is Officially Under Way!

Thank you to all who helped make Celebration Sunday such a wonderful event. Please help us get off to a great start by mailing in your pledge card or fill one out at the Pledge table on Sunday after church services.

First Church Info Sessions - Interested in learning more about First Church and Unitarian Universalism? Want to meet other newcomers? Check out our twice-monthly First Church Information Sessions. Generally held the first Sunday and third Thursday of each month, this month's sessions are:

- March 6th - 10:00-10:45 and 12:00-12:45 - meet Rev. Matthew at the piano after service and he'll lead you to the Parlor, no RSVP needed, or
- March 17th - 7:00-9:00 p.m. - meet Revs. Tom and Matthew in room 208. Snacks and childcare provided. RSVP to Rev. Matthew at clminister@slcuu.org

Adult Religious Education

On Sunday, March 6th in the chapel from 12:30-1:30 Alan Coombs will teach a class on the history of Unitarianism Universalism. In celebration of our 125 years, this will be a two-part course. On March 20th Alan will continue with The History of The First Unitarian Church in SLC.

Class descriptions for this and other upcoming Adult RE classes and sign-up sheets are available at the Welcome Table and online at slcuu.org. Registration can be done online or by filling out the form on the sheet.

Open Minds Book Group - new meeting day

The Open Minds Book Group will meet on Tuesday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Haven Room at the Church. The book is "Room" by Emma Donoghue. Starting in March the group will meet on THURSDAYS at the same time and place. The book for March 24 is "The Spectator Bird" by Wallace Stegner. All are welcome.

UU Lunch Bunch

A family-friendly group for anyone and everyone who would like to get together for lunch and chat with like-minded people. Meet at the Restaurant on Sundays at 1:00 p.m. For more information contact Sonia Carnell at (801) 262-1151 or lunchbunch@slcuu.org.

- March 6: Even Stevens - East Central (414 East 200 South)
- March 13: MacCools Public House (1400 South Foothill Blvd.)
- March 20: No Lunch Bunch due to Arts and Crafts Fair

Reverently Yours

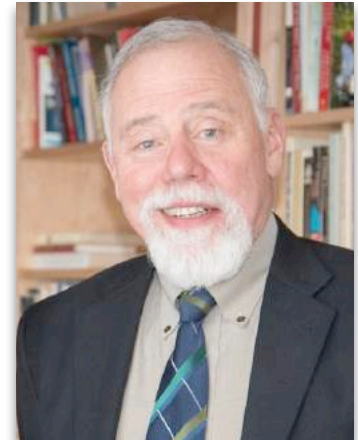
Our 125th anniversary celebration is now in the history books. It was a lively party with more events to continue through the year. Our celebration will culminate with a Dinner/Dance on September 24th. There will be many surprise guests dropping in. Please mark your calendars now.

Thank you all for such a marvelous response to the service held on February 28th in the Marriott Dance Theater on the University campus. Didn't it feel good to come together as one congregation? I should of thought of this earlier, but we should have had nametags, which not only gave our names but also advertised if we were 9:00 people or 11:00 people. Then we wouldn't feel so bad that we didn't know everyone. Maybe we'll adopt that idea for the 150th celebration where we will need to include the time of service we usually attend: The 9:00, 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, and the cocktail congregation that meets at 5:00.

After a huge anniversary celebration, it's impossible not to speculate about the future. At this point in time we can speculate about the size of the congregation in the next 25 years and whether or not we'll have a chapel that can accommodate us all. But other questions linger: what will people be looking for in a church in the years to come when online communities will be even more developed? The millennial generation will be mostly in their 50's and older; what will they be seeking? And politically, what will the tenuous threads holding our democracy together today, look like in the next 25 years?

Our current presidential race gives us (perhaps) an indication of the issues we will face in the years ahead. Either the divisions in our nation will be intensified, or we will have learned ways to improve respectful relations with one another. The fact that climate change is not discussed in this race does not bode well for a future whose environmental concerns will only be exacerbated by today's neglect.

Rev. Tom Goldsmith



I also wonder, now that Bernie Sanders (win or lose) has put democratic socialism on the table as a viable option, how will that shape what progressive thinking really means in future years? Many in our Unitarian Universalist world hold to a view of being liberal theologically but conservative on social issues. Will such a convenient dichotomy even be possible in the years ahead? Will religious liberalism necessitate embracing a less virulent form of capitalism? Will thinking religiously as liberals, require a more equitable distribution of wealth? I do believe that moral philosophy will move politically left in the next few years as inequality becomes more pronounced.

How will mass migration, only projected to loom on a larger scale than at present, affect us over the next decade or so? Will it be met with fear, violence, and hostility, or will the religious call for hospitality and welcoming the stranger, finally capture our hearts? How do we as religious liberals move forward to shape the world with a greater sense of love, sensitivity, and grace?

We have some deep thinking ahead of us. We have some major issues to deal with, as does every generation looking forward. The uncertainty of tomorrow creates fear; the solace of community gives us courage. If anything needs to be said about the future we face as a liberal congregation, it's that we must create an environment in our church community that is safe, welcoming, caring and responsive.

With an exciting anniversary celebration now completed, hang around. We have a lot of work to do in preparing for the next major anniversary. TRG

Religious Education News

Child Dedication - April 10th, 2016

9 am and 11 am services

Our church community would love to help you formally and publicly welcome your child into our congregation! Rev. Tom Goldsmith, is planning to include child dedications in our worship services on April 10th.

About the ceremony:

During the child dedication ceremony, we will recognize and celebrate each individual child. The congregation will affirm our commitment to offer a nurturing community both for the child and for the parent/guardian(s). This program is primarily designed for newborns and very young children. However, if you wish an older child to participate as well, we never refuse to bless a child of any age.

How to participate:

If you wish to participate in the upcoming Child Dedications, please send an email by April 3rd to Religious Education Administrator, Nancy Moos, reassist@slcuu.org. In order to prepare a certificate and include you in the program, she will need the following information:

- Full name of the child
- Full name(s) of the child's parent/guardian(s)
- Birth place of the child.
- Date of Birth.
- Service preference (9 or 11 am)
- One or two sentences about your child's "spirit" or personality



Celebration Sunday - while the adults were in the service, the kids were dancing!



First UU Arts and Crafts Fair March 19th

-submitted by Marica Scott (Performance Arts Chair) and Bill Reed (Visual Arts Chair)

The 2016 Fine Art and Crafts Festival at First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City will be held on March 19th from 5 pm to 10 pm. The festival will include over 25 local artists and performances:

5:00 - 5:30 Scandinavian Folk Dance - Tom Oesleby and Gwen Trefts, Little Chapel
 5:55 - 6:15 First Unitarian Church Youth Choir, Sanctuary
 6:40 - 7:10 Ukumania - Stacey Cole and Jim Thornburg, Little Chapel
 7:35 - 8:05 Art Lee - Nature Sings, Little Chapel
 8:30 - 9:00 Andrea Hughes - Classical violin, Sanctuary
 9:25 - 10:00 Tablado Flamenco, Little Chapel



This is a free family-friendly fun event with light refreshments and entertainment provided. Funds are raised for the church thru a 25% commission on sales of the art...so please come and enjoy the festivities, and if the mood strikes you, buy local art by local artists.



Anti-Racism Committee Events

-submitted by Joanna Straughn

All events sponsored by the Anti-Racism Committee of The First Unitarian Church of SLC.

On Celebration Sunday, it was a joy to meet with our whole congregation in one auditorium. We were treated to photos celebrating our past and energizing music inviting us to open ourselves to the future and to be a part of what will be best in it. Rosemary Bray McNatt, President of Starr-King School for the Ministry led us in contemplating a shift in our congregational life toward ethics beyond charity and toward solidarity. The Anti-Racism Committee, (ARC) acts in support of the mission of the First Unitarian church to nurture and challenge the spiritual and intellectual journey for all generations and actively engage in building a progressive and just world. We are seeking to end the injustice of racism in ourselves, our congregations, our

communities, and in social institutions. Understanding racism in our society and how to end it is a constantly evolving study. Whatever we think we may know about it today, we invite ongoing concern and investigation. The truisms of yesterday may misguide us today. We believe an anti-racist effort will involve a fearless examination of history and how social institutions came about and how they continue to operate. Racism is not simply a superstition that can be eradicated by our refusing to believe it any more just on a scientific basis (though it is true that it has no scientific basis). It is a cultural, economic, and political force in our lives and one that can be resisted and changed. It works in secret and out in the open—though even when it is out in the open, we witness it being explained away through forms of denial.

Anti-Racism continued on page 6

Anti-Racism Committee (continued from pg. 5)

We invite our fellow Unitarians and friends to explore some of the aspects we may not have considered before in two book discussions, one focusing on cultural socialization experiences and one on a history of social change movements, the difficulties that bring people together in solidarity and the difficulties that stand in the way of effective cooperation. By having the courage to reflect on our own experiences and the histories that brought us to this place, we can be better prepared and encouraged as we go out into our community and stand on the side of love against oppression, injustice, and racism.

March 2016 Book Discussion: *Learning to Be White* by Thandeka; Tuesdays, March 22, & 29, Junior High Room

Learning to Be White explores the politics of the white experience in America. Tracing the links between religion, class, and race, Thandeka

reveals the child abuse, ethnic conflicts, class exploitation, poor self-esteem, and a general feeling of self-contempt that are the wages of whiteness. Thandeka, a Unitarian Universalist minister and theologian, teaches at Meadville/Lombard Theological School in Chicago. She is an Emmy Award-winning producer, Journalist and talk show host. Start reading the book now and please attend both sessions.

APRIL 2016 Book Discussion: *Women Race & Class* by Angela Davis; Thursday, April 28, 6:30pm-8:30pm Parlor

A powerful study of the women's movement in the U.S. from abolitionist days to the present that demonstrates how it has been hampered throughout its history by the racist and classist biases of its leaders. Start reading the book now and be ready for a discussion in April.

Environmental Ministry News

Standing for the Future: Inspiring Science, Evolving Faith, Realistic Hope

Workshops presented by Rev. Michael Dowd. Hosted by Environmental Ministry at First Church.

We each have experienced times of trouble that threaten to overwhelm our individual lives. In such times, a vision of possibility is essential. The same holds for the punctuations in history when whole societies face troubles of an immense and uncharted variety. Truly, we here and now have arrived at such a time. Humans, unwittingly, have become a planetary force. We are changing, irreversibly, the very climate of our world. Henceforth, any actions we take as individuals and societies will be done in the new light of climate change. What vision will carry us forward through such times and inspire us to work together? How shall we frame the need to shed our business-as-usual outlook on life and take on a new vision of possibility that can unite us as a species in joyful self-sacrifice and service? What vision will charge us with a sense of heroic purpose that the future is,

indeed, calling us to greatness? Please join us for one or both workshops at First Unitarian Church, 569 S 1300 E, Salt Lake City, UT.

Monday, March 14: 7:00-8:30pm: "Ten Commandments to Avoid Extinction: Religion as if Survival Mattered"

What is Reality telling us, through evidence, about how we must now collectively think and act if we hope to spare our grandchildren from hell — and spare ourselves their condemnation? This program, geared for adults and teens, builds on Rev. Dowd's most recent TEDx talk, "Reality Reconciles Science and Religion", and his 20 minute youtube video: "Reality's Rules: Ten Commandments for Survival and Long-term Thrival". It also expands on material in his bestselling, bridge-building book, *Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World*, which was endorsed by 6 Nobel Prize-winning scientists, noted

Environmental Ministry continued on page 8

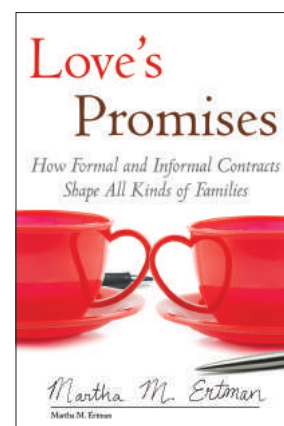
March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1) First Church Info Session (pg. 2) History of UUism Adult RE Class 12:30 (pg. 2)	7	8 Women's Sacred Circle 5:30 pm	9 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	10	11	12
13 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1) Daylight Savings - move clocks 1 hour ahead	14 Torch Submissions Due 10 am Board of Trustees Meeting 5:30 pm Rm. 201 Env. Min. Workshop (pg. 6) 7 pm	15 Env. Min. Workshop w/ Michael Dowd (pg. 8) 7 pm	16 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	17 First Church Info Session 7 pm (pg.2)	18	19 First UU Arts and Crafts Fair 5-10 pm (pg. 5)
20 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1)	21	22 Anti-Racism book discussion (pg. 6)	23 Memoir Workshop 4:30 pm (see below) Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	24 Open Minds Book Group 7 pm (pg. 2)	25	26
27 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am	28 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	29 Anti-Racism book discussion (pg. 6)	30 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	31	April 1	2

Adult Religious Education Memoir Workshop March 23rd

Come to a Spiritual Memoir Workshop with author MARTHA M. ERTMAN, former member of First Unitarian, now at the University of Maryland Law School on WEDNESDAY MARCH 23rd AT 4:30pm in Eliot Hall.

Contact Rev. Matthew Cockrum for more information at clminister@slcuu.org.



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Environmental Ministry News (continued from page 6)

skeptics, and by religious leaders across the spectrum.

Tuesday, March 15: 7:00-8:30pm: "The Future Is Calling Us to Greatness: Coming Home to Reality in the 21st Century and Beyond"

Science and religion are not enemies; indeed, they must work together if humanity is to survive the 21st century. Given our impact on Earth's climate, the seas, and other species, humanity is about to experience what could be called *The Great Reckoning*. The good news is that this will also be *The Great Homecoming*: the prodigal species coming home to Reality. This presentation will focus on 6 points of agreement held in common by tens of millions of religious and non-religious people across the globe — and how to stay inspired in the face of

rapidly changing climate and other large-scale challenges.

Rev. Michael Dowd is a bestselling evolutionary eco-theologian and pro-future evangelist whose work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *LA Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *Discover*, and on television nationally. Michael and his science writer / evolutionary educator wife, Connie Barlow — both climate hawks — have spoken to more than 2,000 groups throughout North America since 2002, including 450 UU churches. Their work has been featured on the cover of the UU WORLD twice, in 1997 (<http://www.thegreatstory.org/science.pdf>) and again in 2006 (<http://www.uuworld.org/articles/wonder-evolution>).