

The Torch

MAY 15, 2017

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 21

Upcoming Services

May 14, 2017

Services at 9:00 and 11:00 am
Religious Education at 11:00 am
“Denying Justice to Women”
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

May 21, 2017

Services at 9:00 and 11:00 am
Religious Education at 11:00 am
Requiem Sunday
The Requiem by Bradly Ellingboe
-Presented by the Chancel Choir with Instrumental Ensemble - under the Direction of David A. Zabriskie

May 28, 2017

One service only at 10:00 am
“Sending the Earth Back to God”
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

First Unitarian Church Annual Meeting Agenda May 21, 2017 following the 2nd Service

Call meeting to order and welcoming

Introduction of new church members

Board of Trustees Report

Review of Governance Structure and Process

Review of Strategic Plan

Becoming a program church
Challenges and Opportunities

Senior Minister's Report

Ministry

Operations Report
Programs

Elections

Nominating Committee member

Board of Trustees members (second term)

Financial Report

Approve 2017-18 budget

Questions and answers

It's almost that time of year again!

**We go to one service only Sundays at 10:00 am
May 28th through June 11th.**

**Our Summer Forum series begins June 18th and
also happens at 10:00 am. Summer Forum is a
10 week series of speakers on various topics.**

**Summer Forum this year will run June 18th
through August 20th. More information about
topics and speakers if forthcoming. Child care
is provided during Summer Forum for young
children.**

**Our Religious Education program ends on May
28th and will resume Sept. 10th for the
2017-2018 church year**

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Reverently Yours (Rev. Tom Goldsmith)

One of my favorite Noel Coward songs from a long time ago begins with the line:

"Last night I went to a marvelous party." He then goes on to sing about some characters who were guests at the party. And they were some characters, of course; the song terribly humorous and clever as only Noel Coward can be.

Last Friday it was my turn to go to a marvelous party at the church. It was thrown for Matthew and me. Not only was it marvelous, but great characters showed up. What one naturally wants at a party are characters with flare and humor; unforgettable figures who simply refuse to blend into the woodwork because...they're characters. And we had a great time reminiscing about my unthinkable tenure of a thirty-year ministry and counting. Recalling some of the memories took us well into the evening.

The party served as a mixture of farewells to Matthew with deep gratitude for his two-year ministry with this congregation, and also recognition of a marker 30 years for me. The guests of honor even received gifts, from the children and from the adults. It was a marvelous party.

Whom to thank? The list is endless. Sandi Greene and Christine Ashworth served as emcees, Becky Heal worked up some singularly funny songs with David, Todd Seymour broke onto the stage as a very funny songwriter a la Noel Coward, and the Java Jive Singers wowed us with multi-layered harmonies that stirred the soul. The set-up crew, the cleanup crew, the food crew, the childcare crew, all contributed to making it a marvelous party. My heartfelt thanks, awe, and amazement extend to you all and all the guests in attendance.

And then there was also the sentimental book of inscriptions from everyone, guaranteed to make you weep for a week upon reading the commentary filled with wise words, wise cracks, and wise advice. Thank you everyone!!!

Just the day before the party I was downtown at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building for a luncheon. As I left the lunch walking hurriedly to my car I noticed out of the corner of my eye three men in obvious LDS attire. We had already walked

past each other when my name was called out. I stopped, turned around, and one of the men who served as head of the LDS Public Relations 30 years ago and is now long retired, recognized me and waved me over. I remembered that he served a mission in Berlin, so we immediately broke into German as was our custom, leaving the other two much younger men a bit perplexed. To shed some light on their confusion, my old friend said to them while pointing at me: "Take note. THIS is what a Unitarian looks like!"

Thirty years ago I never could have imagined being stopped on South Temple by an LDS leader for a bit of kind teasing. But much happens over the span of three decades. Unlikely friendships, connections, and bonds are formed. It really begins to feel a lot like home, offering a level of comfort that only a home can provide. Thirty years have gone by all-too-quickly, as is what always happens when looking at time in retrospect. It can be very sentimental, meaningful, and fun. Hey - - last night I went to a marvelous party...Thank you so very much. TRG

[Photos from the event can be seen on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/First-Unitarian-Church-of-Salt-Lake-City-116011744733/>]

Among Ourselves

First Church is deeply saddened by the death of Christine Wood. A Memorial will take place on June 3rd at 11:00 am at First Unitarian Church.

First Church also sends its love and sympathy to Sally Smith. Her sister, Kate died last week after a long illness.

A Greeting from you new Assistant Minister, Monica Dobbins

"The ancient human question 'Who am I?' leads inevitably to the equally important question 'Whose am I?' – for there is no selfhood outside of relationship." - Douglas Steere, quoted by Parker Palmer in *Let Your Life Speak*

You and I find ourselves in the opposite position, don't we? You already know by now "whose" I am – I am yours! I am your new minister. But you probably don't know "who" I am. I am anxious to tell you about myself, and curious to learn about you as well – your lives, your values, your history,

the things you love and that matter to you. I want you to know these things about me too.

I graduate from seminary in just a couple of weeks, so this will be my first full-time professional ministry. As a graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, I have focused my efforts on multicultural and anti-oppression ministries, social justice efforts, and pastoral care. I love to preach, and I am an avid student of history. These are the gifts I'm bringing to my ministry among you.

But I'll bet you'd like to know something a bit more personal about me. So I'd also like to tell you that I have been married to a fantastic fellow, Drew Reamer, for 15 wonderful years, and we have a daughter, Hana Dobbins-Reamer, who will be 10 by the time you meet her. Hana is a spunky, self-assured, free-thinking young lady, and our closest friends sometimes call us "the Gilmore Girls". Our family loves hiking and camping – Hana and I are both Girl Scouts – and we are big fans of Harry Potter and the Rick Riordan books for young readers. I love to quilt, when I have time, and I love to cook. Of course, it's hard to beat the food in Alabama, but I welcome you to prove it to me otherwise!

I'm a proud Southerner, and you'll know when you talk with me: you'll hear that Southern drawl in my voice, and you'll often hear me sing and clap and laugh out loud. Yet I love to travel, and I'm so excited about this adventure to the Mountain West. Nothing makes me feel more alive than seeing a new place and getting to know its land, people, and cultures. I cannot wait to share this journey with you.

Yours in faith,
Monica Dobbins

In the Life (Rev. Matthew Cockrum)

Celebrate Big Love.

One last farewell and thank you. It has been a rich and full few weeks of leavetaking. What wondrous and heartfelt exchanges we've shared. Thank you for your cards, notes and gifts, the beautiful kintsukuroi bowl - "more beautiful for being broken" - the painting from the children and youth. I am humbled to know that my photo will join those of your former ministers along the walls of this great, good place. Your portraits will hang in the halls of my heart as I journey on.

Two things as I go.

First, it occurred to me, as it often does after the fact, that there's something I wish I would have said on my last Sunday with you. That is this: As Unitarian Universalists we believe in Big Love. The heritages of which we are inheritors and stewards embodied this differently, but the outcome was and remains the same. There is always more room. The Love from which we come, in which we live and move and have our being and to which we return is immense. It is that which I address as "Most Holy Beloved" in times of meditation, prayer and contemplation. I was reminded of this by the painting presented to me on behalf of the children and youth of the church. Though the heart contained within its words of affirmation and support chosen by our religious education participants, there was so much more room in that heart. So it is with the Big Love in which we believe. There is always more...more room, more work, more to do, more to include, more to work and fight for...and more to receive, rest in. There is more room in the heart of First Church and I know you will make space for Monica Dobbins when she arrives to continue the work of a second minister here.

Second, stay true to the values of this place. Though I have spoken often of covenant, of mission and vision, of the seven principles and the six sources of our tradition, I have not often spoken of the expressed values of First Church. I hung them on my office wall during my time here, drawn from the work that helped articulate your strategic plan. At one point they were on the church website. Are you familiar with them?

Inclusion
Compassion
Human Responsibility
Engagement
Celebration

During my two years with you I have witnessed and participated in your work for inclusion and compassion. I have been deeply impressed by your dedication to human responsibility and engagement. What has most impressed me in my last weeks with you has been the opportunity for Celebration. It was a privilege to come alongside Rev. Tom Goldsmith in this, his 30th year of ministry with First Church. Likewise, it was a privilege to be part of the Thank You & Farewell Celebration on Friday, May 5 with desserts, entertainment, gifts of

gratitude and a surprise visit from Rev. France Davis of Calvary Baptist to honor Tom's years of service and dedication. Music from the Java Jive with cheeky solos by Becky Heal and Todd Seymour were highlights of the night along with the great desserts and decorations coordinated by Amanda Esko and Christine Ashworth.

What stood out to me in the midst of wake of this was how difficult it can be sometimes to celebrate. As with Big Love there is always more...more to do, more to strategize about, plan for, respond to, recruit for. Celebration is one of the core values of First Church in its ministries. Make sure you continue to take opportunities to celebrate. Celebrate your victories and accomplishments. Celebrate your learnings and aspirations. Celebrate not only your ministers but more importantly the ministries... the contributions people make to the work of this place. The Hebrew psalmists among others proclaimed that God lives or is inhabited by our praise. When we celebrate we reveal and build up that which is most holy.

So, Dear Friends, as you continue in this place...as you defend the sacred, work for a progressive and just world...as you learn and explore, deepen and grow, serve and tend...take every opportunity to Celebrate. It will generate the nourishment you need to labor on. It will refresh and renew you. It will give you a view of the vast expanse of what lies within and among you. It will show you the Big Love for which you labor, in which you live and move and have your being.

Celebrate Big Love, Friends.

And thank you once again for the privilege of joining you in ministry here.

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

Religious Education Important Dates

5/21/2017: Childcare available for Congregational Meeting from noon - 2:00 pm

5/25/2017: RE Free screening of "Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age" in Eliot Hall at 6 pm. Donations accepted.

5/28/2017: One service only at 10:00 am. Last day of RE Classes for the 2016-2017 church year - however, the last OWL class for 1st and 2nd grades will still happen at 11:00 am.

6/4/2017: Pride Sunday - child care only at the one 10:00 am service.

6/11/2017: Last Sunday of the church year before Summer Forum begins. Childcare only during the 10:00 am service. End of church year picnic at Sugarhouse Park follows this service.

Endowment Fund News

Thank you to recent donors to the Endowment Fund:

Hugo and Julia Rossi
Kathryn Lenton

Memorial Gifts to the Endowment
Thank yous are owed to:

Trude Sedlar
in memory of her mother Connie

Bill and Christine Ashworth
in memory of Judy Evans

Afton Morris
in memory of Pat Capson Brown

Environmental Ministry Film Screening and Discussion

-submitted by Joan Gregory, Environmental Ministry

AWAKE, A Dream from Standing Rock
Friday, May 19, 2017, 7-9PM Eliot Hall
Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/209864938>

AWAKE, A Dream from Standing Rock, released on April 22, 2017, follows the dramatic rise of the historic #NODAPL native-led peaceful resistance at the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation near Cannon Ball, North Dakota, which captured the world's attention as one of the biggest stories of 2016. Thousands of activists converged from around the country to stand in solidarity with the water protectors (activists) standing strong against the construction of the \$3.7 billion Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), being built to carry

fracked oil from North Dakota's Bakken oil fields through sovereign land and under the Missouri River, the water source for the Standing Rock reservation and 17 million people downstream.

A unique collaborative documentary created in three chapters, each helmed by a different filmmaker, the feature length film is directed by Academy Award nominated filmmaker and activist Josh Fox (*Gasland, How To Let Go Of The World And Learn To Love Everything Climate Can't Change*), Academy Award nominated filmmaker James Spione (*Silenced, Incident in New Baghdad*) and indigenous filmmaker and Digital Smoke Signals founder Myron Dewey.

Each of the three sections of the film tells the story of Standing Rock in the unique perspective and style of the filmmaker who created it. The immersive documentary features emotional first-person accounts as well as gripping verité footage of militarized local police and private security teams confronting water protectors and journalists with rubber bullets, mace, tear gas, water hoses, and weaponized dogs. But the film also takes us behind the front lines to reveal the intimate day-to-day life of the camp community, as indigenous and non-indigenous protectors gather for peaceful prayer and song, and engage in daily tasks like clearing snow, raising tipis, distributing clothing donations, or building sleeping barracks for the many veterans who arrived to join the water protectors.

Standing Rock has awakened the nation and has forever changed the way we will fight for clean water, our environment and the future of our planet. A discussion will follow the film.

[photos from various recent environmental events, including Climate March and Bears Ears event can be see on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/First-Unitarian-Church-of-Salt-Lake-City-116011744733/>]

Summer Church Campout - July 21-24

-submitted by Bill Reed

The camping trip is attended by approximately 80 to 140 people depending on campsite. It is a community building activity where attendees of both services and their families can take time to get to know each other away from the church. For many attendees it is a family church tradition. The

event covers 3 nights and 4 days on average. Family friendly activities take place every day and there is a huge pot luck that is often also attended by people who drive up just for the day (another 10 people or so).

This summer we will be camping at Pine Valley North Group Site C located up Mirror Lake Highway. The site holds 140 people (number of vehicles 25). Cost is \$30 per car.

Arrival Date: Fri Jul 21 2017 Check-in Time: 2:00 PM
Departure Date: Mon Jul 24 2017 Check-out Time: 1:00 PM

Overview: Pine Valley North Wasatch Cache Group Campground is located on the beautiful Mirror Lake Scenic Byway in the Uinta Mountains of northeastern Utah. The Uintas are known for their abundant recreational opportunities and scenic beauty.

Natural Features: The campground is situated among shady pines and aspens at an elevation of 7,400 feet. The dense stands of trees provide nice shade.

Recreation: The Lower Provo River is nearby, offering good trout fishing. Numerous hiking, biking and horseback riding trails crisscross this beautiful mountain area, including North Fork and Shingle Creek Trails. Off-road vehicle trails are in the vicinity.

Facilities: The campground contains three group sites with picnic and serving tables, grills, campfire circles and large paved parking areas. Vault toilets, and trash collection are provided. We are in Site C.

Nearby Attractions: Mirror Lake Scenic Byway parallels the Lower Provo River as it snakes across a portion of the Uinta Mountains, leading to numerous high alpine lakes and streams, countless trails, breathtaking scenic viewpoints. Fishing, canoeing, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and biking are popular activities. The High Uintas Wilderness can be accessed from several trails along the byway.

There is limited parking, so please sign up early at <http://www.slccu.org/component/rsform/form/6-intermountain-unitarian-universalist-camping-trip>.

Congregational Announcements

Church Picnic June 11th - First Church Needs Your Help! This year's picnic is Sunday, June 11, and we have several volunteer opportunities. Help is needed for a supplies and food run (Friday, June 9); hauling tables, chairs, food, etc. to Sugar House Park (Sunday morning), and set-up at the site; grilling hamburgers, veggie burgers, and hotdogs, mixing (soft) drinks, and assistance with cleanup. Religious education has offered to plan activities for our youth. Volunteers to coordinate other youth or adult activities will be warmly welcomed. Contact Joe Herring at jherring5@gmail.com, or 801-440-5521.

Refugee Resettlement Committee Sweep the dust off your porch, wipe the frost off your windows and critically scan inside your house for vibrant living and dining furniture, table lamps, wall art, etc. Spot what you can do without, and can share with families of tired, bright faces new to the Salt Lake Valley arriving in need our help. Seize the item and call Joe DuBray (904-527-9773) or email (dubrayfj@gmail.com) and someone from the RRC will pick it up, promptly, to welcome and brighten the Spring of a refugee family.

Social Justice film Have we got a film for you. If you are gay, lesbian, Moslem, atheist, minority of any kind; if you have been afraid to "come out" to your parents, if you have left the denomination of your family, if you have lived in a city where you didn't fit in; we have a film for you. This is the story of 3 gay Palestinians who move to Tel Aviv to explore their sexual identity. "Oriented" will be shown Thursday, June 1, 7:00 pm, Eliot Hall. Sponsored by Tanner Center for Human Rights, Unitarian Social Justice Committee and Utahns for a Just Peace in the Holy Land. Free. Panel discussion following 80 minute film. As Unitarians we try to build and more just and inclusive world.

Dinner and Dialogue Due to the amazing and generous support of so many of you, our Dinner and Dialogue events have been going very well. It seems that we are getting to know each other better! Please feel free to host a dinner (or lunch or brunch if you wish) on a date and time of your choosing in your home, or sign up to attend one. We have newcomers and old-timers alike participating, so be sure to look over the white binder at the Congregational Life Table in Eliot Hall to see what might interest you. You can contact Darlene Thayne at suppers@slcuu.org or 801-455-6553 if you need any assistance on this. Let's get acquainted!

Mindfulness Group Every Sunday, meditation is offered as a time to pause, practice calming our thoughts and setting an intention to be mindful in our daily life. Guidance for developing meditation practice is shared along with suggested websites and reading. The community supports our intention to experience the benefits of being mindfully aware so that we may cultivate and live with calm, peace and ease. All are welcome. Sundays Following the end of the first service, in the Parlor.

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 pm. For more information contact Sonia Carnell at (801) 262-1151 or lunchbunch@slcuu.org

- May 14: Provisions (3364 South 2300 East)
- May 21st: Congregational Meeting - no lunch bunch today
- May 28th: Flatbread Neapolitan Pizzeria (2121 S. McClelland, Ste. E)

In the Spotlight - Meet Mark Rothacher

Mark is a retired banker who originated and approved construction loans for homes and businesses; most recently he was with Zions Bank. Richard Henry, a previous minister at First Unitarian Church, performed the wedding of Mark and his wife Pat, 38 years ago. They have two grown sons. Mark feels very 'in tune' with the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism, and officially signed the book about five years ago. He believes that pledging is an important contribution one should make to support the church. The sermons, the art and culture, and the excellent conversation he finds at First Church help him feel connected, as well as his membership on the Social Justice Council, where he is chair of the "Issues and Action Group." This is an email based group that addresses current political issues; Mark likes to get involved and try to make a positive difference. Another interesting fact- back when Barack Obama was just getting his campaign going- and no one thought he had a chance of success, Mark was one of the team that started "Utahans for Obama."

Mark shares an essay, "This I Believe," he wrote back in 2010, and finds it still holds true for him today.

I believe that most people can agree on most things. Some politicians try to divide us for their own political motivations. They try to frighten us about communists, Jews, Muslims, gays, liberals, taxes, deficits, etc.

Most people just want to be able to live in a safe and comfortable home, have enough to eat, be able to educate their kids, have a job that pays a living wage, and have financial security against getting sick and getting old. There is enough wealth in this world to provide all these to everyone.

The problem is that some people are greedy and want much more than they need. They create fear to divide the average workers so that they will not organize against the wealthy. If the workers suggest taxing the rich more the rich call this class warfare, when in fact they are waging war constantly against the working class.

The wealthy and their politician friends wage war against the working class by importing and hiring illegal workers which drive down wages and undermine benefits because illegal workers cannot demand fair wages or benefits. They wage war by supporting a health insurance system that can bankrupt a worker and his family if a family member gets sick and the family cannot afford health insurance premiums. They wage war by encouraging constant consumption and debt which makes people virtual slaves to their jobs. They wage war by eliminating pensions so that people have to work into their later years. They wage war by requiring employees to sign a "termination at will" agreement which allows the employer to fire an employee for any reason, without explanation.

The root of the power of the wealthy is the campaign financing system that requires huge amounts of money for a politician to get elected. The politicians must constantly be trying to raise money for their campaigns. Where do they get their money? You guessed it; they get it mostly from the rich and from businesses. Are there strings attached when funds are given to politicians? Of course there are. That is way the system works and the way the wealthy keep their power. If we could have limits on funds to campaigns or a publicly financed campaign system, the power would shift to the average worker because there are many more of us. This is critical for our democracy to flourish.

Capitalism could still thrive. The rich would still do well, because even if they had higher taxes, there would be more people with adequate income to purchase goods from business owners. There would still be differences in incomes but the amount of difference would be less. That would be a good thing for us all.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

May 19th: Environmental Ministry Film, 7 pm Eliot Hall

May 21st: Congregational Meeting following the 2nd service; lunch fundraiser in Eliot Hall between the service and meeting

May 25th: Screenagers film at 6 pm in Eliot Hall

May 28th: One Sunday service only at 10 am; last day of the Religious Education program (OWL class meets at 11:00 am)

June 1st: Social Justice Film, 7 pm in Eliot Hall

June 4th: Pride Sunday. One Sunday service only at 10 am - childcare provided for little ones

June 11th: One Sunday service only at 10 am - childcare provided for little ones; Church picnic at Sugarhouse Park, Mt. Olympus Pavilion following the service

June 18th: Summer Forum begins, 10 am.

July 21- 24: Church campout

First Monday of each month: Family Fun Night

2nd Monday of each month: Board of Trustees Meeting; 5:30 pm in Room 201

2nd Tuesday of each month: Women's Sacred Circle 5:30 pm in the Haven (may be held off site during summer months).

3rd Mondays: Anti-Racism Committee meeting in room 207; 6:30 pm