



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

SEPTEMBER 13, 2015 INGATHERING SUNDAY!

9:00 AND 11:00 AM
(RE at 11:00 am only)

“This is Who We Are”

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith &
Chancel Choir

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2015
9:00 AND 11:00 AM**
(RE at 11:00 am only)

“How We Live Our Lives”

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2015
9:00 AND 11:00 AM**
(RE at 11:00 am only)

“Giving Life the Shape of . . .”

-Rev. Matthew Cockrum

Congregational Briefs

Welcome Wanted

Isn't it great to feel welcomed? You can be part of making that happen for folks at First Church! Join the hospitality ministries at the Welcome Table and Ushers. Folks are needed on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month during the 9 a.m. service. If you're interested in signing up please contact Minister for Congregational Life, Rev. Matthew Cockrum at clminister@slcuu.org or 801.582.8687 x 205.

Small Group Ministry Registration Closes Next Week

Registration for this Small Group Ministry season closes next week. Don't miss out on the opportunity to make new friends in monthly discussion groups. Last year, we had 150 participants. We can accommodate more. This year, facilitators will lead structured discussions based on one of the Rev. Tom Goldsmith's recent sermons. The meetings are held once a month, from October to May. Some groups meet during business hours. Registration is simple. Go to the church website and follow the links. Help is available during the coffee hour in Eliot Hall at the Welcome Table. By registering today, you help us organize the several groups. Questions? Ask Bill Ashworth, John Rasmuson or Sandi Greene.

Fall Highway Cleanup

Please set aside a couple of hours on Saturday morning, October 3, to keep Utah beautiful by joining our group of volunteers to remove litter along a 4-mile stretch of State Road 65 extending from Mountain Dell towards East Canyon. Remember, you get to keep any treasures you find (\$\$\$\$ \$-?). Meet at THE church at 9:00 AM to carpool, or at 9:30 AM at the Parleys Canyon UDOT maintenance facility adjacent to the Mountain Dell golf course. The state requires that participants be eleven years of age or older.....BUT, there is no upper limit. Bring gloves and a positive attitude. We should be finished by 11:30 AM. For any questions, or to sign up, please contact Frank Steffey at 801-277-2509. Anybody interested in taking over the leadership of this beneficial activity should also contact Frank Steffey.

Congregational Briefs continued on page 2

First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

Rev. Tom Goldsmith
Minister, minister@slcuu.org

Rev. Matthew Cockrum
Congregational Life Minister,
clminister@slcuu.org

Julie Miller
Director of Religious Education,
dre@slcuu.org

David Owens
Director of Music, music@slcuu.org

Hal Gonzales
Church Administrator,
admin@slcuu.org

Board of Trustees

Christine Ashworth
Board President

Colleen Bliss
Peter Esko
Sue Geary
Rebecca Heal
Erin Phinney Johnson
Don Walton

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

September 28, 2015

Submission Deadline

September 21, 2015 (Monday)
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after September 29th to ensure timeliness.

Editor

Jennifer Killpack-Knutsen
torch@slcuu.org

To subscribe/unsubscribe, notify Jennifer at 801-582-8687 ext. 202 or torch@slcuu.org

Congregational Briefs (continued from pg.1)

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 September 22 is "We Are Called To Rise," by Laura McBride. The book for October 27 is "The Emerald Mile," by Kevin Fedarko. All are welcome.

Dinner and Dialogue

Make new UU friends while enjoying good food and stimulating conversation. Sign up at the Welcome Table to HOST a dinner in your home. You set the date and the menu, and decide how many guests you can accommodate. Guests sign up to ATTEND and contribute by bringing a dish to share. What could be simpler? Questions, please get in touch with Jan Crane, 801 870-1222 or suppers@slcuu.org.

Would you give it to your mother to use?

That's the standard the Refugee Resettlement Committee (RRC) uses to evaluate donations. Threadbare chairs and sofas covered with cat hair aren't appropriate for mom. Neither is furniture with broken legs. Mom also is appreciative of like-new towels and sheets. She's not keen on worn ones. Mom always deserves a new mattress and box springs. Used ones go to the landfill. The RRC believes that arriving refugees should begin their new lives in Utah with the best, second-hand furnishings it can provide. The need for donations is constant. Please support this important humanitarian issue., and once the mother standard has been met, call Joe Dubray at (801) 930-9640 to schedule a pick-up.

Anti-Racism Friend Raiser

-Submitted by Rev. Harold Straughn

The church's recently-formed Anti-Racism Committee will hold its first public event, a concert and dance featuring the Lee Shuster Big Band, on Thursday, September 17, at 7 p.m.

Weather permitting, the event will take place on the church's Plaza. Called a "Friend Raiser," the purpose is to inform people of the Committee's work and to invite others to join.

According to its charter, the goal of ARC is "to abolish racism in ourselves, our congregation, our local community, and local institutions." To this end, various programs of education and engagement are being planned throughout the year.

The Lee Shuster Band has been organized for several years and plays regularly in communities across the Wasatch Front.

Anti-Racism Committee continued on page 8

Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

The photo images of horrific suffering by mostly Syrian migrants desperate to find shelter and relief far from home have raised basic humanitarian concerns about our responsibility to care for those in need. The migrants also come from Iraq, Afghanistan, and Eritrea. While Germany currently leads the moral charge to accommodate the huge numbers of people seeking asylum, and France and Great Britain offer meager numbers to accept those in exile, the United States has done little in opening its arms to absorb the victims of war and drought.

Germany may feel the historical weight of repentance for their crimes against humanity during the Hitler regime, forcing thousands to flee for their lives. So you would also think that the historical shadow of The United States' reluctance to open its borders to Jewish immigrants would inspire our nation to be more proactive in welcoming those in exile these days. Sadly that is not the case.

Perhaps our nation may still soften its immigration policies, but in the meantime what we can do is correctly identify the circumstances that have created this tragic situation. Rather than call it a civil war or label ISIS as responsible, thereby washing our hands of any accountability, the United States could begin to heighten awareness around the world that climate change is responsible for the situation in that region of the world.

In all our reporting and photo journaling that wrench our hearts, what remains conspicuously missing is a lack of leadership prepared to connect the dots. Scientists have proven conclusively that the unprecedented drought in Syria from 2006-2009 was a result of global warming. Instead we distance ourselves from what is reported as an unfortunate situation caused by civil war and a bad person named al-Assad.

Perhaps intentionally, we reduce the plight to a civil war in 2011 from which ISIS sprang into existence. We fail to acknowledge the devastation of climate change to which we contribute considerably. In the sustained period of drought, the Syrian government offered no new water policies. Thus 1.5 million people migrated from rural farming areas to urban centers creating inhumane conditions. Once known as the "bread basket" of the region, they became major food importers.



We are beginning to understand that climate change melts arctic ice, causes flooding along the New York and New Jersey coasts, and causes drought. But we currently fail to understand how disasters like drought worsen the human condition. Forced overcrowding and poverty provide the spark that ignites civil discontent. And once human beings become desperate just to survive, anything can happen.

The image of a drowned Syrian toddler has become the face of human desperation. But our sorrow cannot just dissipate into helplessness as we continue our comfortable lives that increase the temperature of the Earth. The image of the little boy must be taken to Paris for the Climate Summit. We need international recognition that climate change has wrought mass migration, poverty, and war.

Climate change is not just about extinction tomorrow. It's about the untenable human condition today. TRG

In the Life



I once worked in a congregation where, upon my arrival, a fellow staff member advised me to look for her in the areas of the building where the lights were off. The church was working to save money, so she decided that one way she could do

her part was to conserve energy and use the lights as little as possible during the week. "I've been around here long enough anyway that I can find my way around in the dark pretty easily," she added.

I'll confess that at first I thought this was a bit eccentric. It wasn't long, though, after my arrival that I adopted those same patterns. Eventually I, too, was showing folks around in the dark, often forgetting to tell them about barriers that their eyes and senses might not intuit or perceive.

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

It's like that in communities a lot. We enter and everything seems new to us. Folks sometimes attempt to explain procedures, dynamics, history. At other times we find ourselves just needing to step into the flow and experience it...gaining understanding through direct sensation.

I'll bet you know some nooks and crannies of this place - Salt Lake City, First Church - that you've forgotten you know...that you take for granted. I challenge you to find someone - whether it's me or someone else - and share some of your favorite nooks and crannies with them. You may find that sharing these brings renewed excitement and appreciation. You may find that you have a hard time articulating and instead simply invite immersion and experience.

Either way...it's good to remember what you already know and cherish - lights on or off.

Here's to The Work, Friends.

Peace, Faith & Passion,
Matthew

Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change

-Submitted by Joan M. Gregory, Co-Coordinator, Environmental Ministry

ROOTS OF INJUSTICE, SEEDS OF CHANGE: Toward Right Relationship with America's Native Peoples

A Workshop and A Training for those Who would like to Learn how to Lead this Workshop
Co-Sponsored by: Social Justice Council, Anti-Racism Committee, and Environmental Ministry, First Unitarian Church

Facilitator: Paula Palmer, Director, Toward Right Relationship Project, Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee, Boulder Friends Meeting (Quakers), Boulder, Colorado
Workshop: Tuesday, October 19, 2015, 7:00-9:00PM
Training for Workshop Leaders (previous attendance at a workshop is required): Wednesday, October 20, 2015, 6:30PM-9:30PM
Location: Eliot Hall

Indigenous leaders are calling on people of faith to raise awareness about the historical and ongoing injustices committed against Native Peoples, and to seek ways of building right relationship with them in accord with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In response to this call and with the advice of Native American educators, the Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee developed a 2-hour workshop called, "Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with America's Native Peoples." Workshop participants enact a 40-minute script and then reflect on and share their responses in a "talking circle" or worship-sharing format. A Resource Kit is provided so that groups can

Roots continued on page 6

Religious Education News

Our **Ingathering Sunday** on September 13th will be the official launch of our new Religious Education Program for children and youth as we switch back to our schedule of 9am and 11am services. Remember, religious education classes will only occur during the 11 o'clock service, with child care available at 9 o'clock. We hope that children and youth of all ages will gather on the front lawn to meet their teachers and peers before the 11 o'clock service. We will parade into the Chapel en masse to the joyous song of our wonderful Chancel Choir. After a brief time of full community worship, the young people and their teachers will exit the Sanctuary together for our first "official" class meetings of the new church year.

Parents of High School students are invited to join us for the first YRUU of the year to learn about our plans for this year, including ideas for the service trip next summer. We will meet at 6:30 in the Haven on Sept. 13th.

Parents of 7th/8th graders are invited to an information session about our Coming of Age curriculum that will be presented this year, from 12:30-1:00 p.m. on September 20th in the Junior High room. We will also be providing a brief introduction to the Boston Heritage Trip.

Actively seeking Religious Education volunteers to lead adult classes Do you have an expertise that you would be willing to share with others? Are you a good discussion leader/facilitator? Would you like to help create a learning community for adults at First Church? Please contact Rev. Matthew Cockrum at clminister@slcuu.org or 801-582-8687 ext 205 to help develop and sustain our Adult Ed programs for fall.

Religious Education Contact Information

Infants - 6th Grade:

Julie Miller
Director of Religious Education
801-582-8687 ext. 206
dre@slcuu.org

7th Grade - Adult RE:

Rev. Matthew Cockrum
801-582-8687 ext. 205
clminister@slcuu.org

Religious Education Administrator

Nancy Moos
801-582-8687 ext. 207;
reassist@slcuu.org

YRUU Coordinator

Jillian O'Karma
yruu@slcuu.org

Please register your children and youth for our Religious Education Program! This helps us with our planning for how many adults we need in the classroom, and so we know who we have in our care each Sunday! You can register online at this address:

<http://slcuu.org/programs/religious-education/item/93-religious-education-registration-for-children-and-youth>

Roots (continued from pg. 5)

pursue further study of the issues and consider what "right relationship" might mean in their own circumstances. In the Doctrine of Discovery we find the roots of Injustice. In the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples we find the seeds of change. How can we nurture these seeds to bring forth the fruits of right relationship among all peoples? This workshop is a deeply moving and impactful experience. It will change you. And it will change how you understand history and the injustices committed against Native Peoples. <http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship/>

Toward Right Relationship Project Director, Paula Palmer, is a sociologist, writer, and activist for human rights, social justice, and environmental protection. She will be here in Salt Lake City for The Parliament of The World's Religions where she will present the workshop. Throughout her life Paula has advocated for Indigenous peoples' rights through research, writing, community-based projects with Indigenous peoples in Central America and the United States, and international campaigns. The American Friends Service Committee, the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, and the United Nations Association of Boulder County have honored her with human rights awards. Paula created workshops titled, *"Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples"* (for adults) and *"Re-Discovering America: Understanding Colonization"* (for middle schools and high schools) and has presented them more than 80 times in 16 states. She also trains and certifies volunteers to facilitate these workshops and extend their reach to faith communities, schools, colleges and universities, and civic organizations nationwide. <http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/paula-palmer-bio/>

RSVP Required: RSVP to Joan Gregory: joanmzg@gmail.com with: your name, phone number, email, and which event (workshop or training or both) you will be attending. If child

A Silver Bullet for Climate Change?

-Submitted by Carole Straughn, Environmental Ministry

What if a single law could change the market game that is sending the climate into global collapse? What if America's could muster the political will to pass that law?

California wildfires have been sending smoke haze to the Wasatch Front. Climate scientists predict that global warming will increase the chances of extreme weather of all kinds, including the drought that spurs wildfires.--Photo from Twain Hart Fire Department



First Unitarian **Steve Glaser** and former congressional candidate **Bill Barron** will explain the answer being proposed by Citizens Climate Lobby in op eds, letters to the editor and meetings with members of Congress. Join Steve and Bill in **Eliot Hall Friday, September 18 at 7:30 PM** to learn how a Carbon Tax and Dividend returned to all households could level the playing field for renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions by 50% while keeping the economy stable.

care is needed, please indicate how many children. If you are attending the Training, please note that previous attendance at a Workshop is required. Attendance is limited based on the number of chairs we can set up in a circle in Eliot Hall, so please RSVP.

Suggested Donation: Please come. Please RSVP. A donation is **not** required. However, donations will be gratefully accepted at the workshop and training. If you are able to make a \$5-\$10 donation to help with the costs of the workshop and/or training, please do so, but know that a donation is **not** required.

Questions: Contact Joan M. Gregory, Co-Coordinator, Environmental Ministry, CELL: 801-949-2906, EMAIL: joanmzg@gmail.com.

September/October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13 Ingathering Sunday! Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 pm (pg. 1) RE classes begin at 11:00 am (pg. 5)	14 Board of Trustees Meeting 5:30 pm Rm. 201	15	16 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	17 Anti-Racism event 7 pm (pg. 2)	18 Environmental Mn. event 7:30 pm (pg. 6)	19
20 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 pm (pg. 1) RE at 11:00 am Activities Fair following both services	21 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	22 Open Minds Book group 7 pm (pg. 2)	23 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	24	25	26
27 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 pm (pg. 1) RE at 11:00 am	28	29	30 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	Oct. 1	2	3 Fall Highway clean up 9am (pg. 1)
4 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 pm RE at 11:00 am	5 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	6	9 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	10	11	12

Sunday Sermon Titles are now found on page 1

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

Non-profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Salt Lake City, Utah
Permit No. 812

Return Service
Requested

Anti-Racism Friend Raiser (continued from page 2)

This performance will center on music that stems from African-American roots and will feature musician and poet Benjamin Cabey and other members of Poetry 365, a literary group prominent for recitations drawn from African-American cultural roots.

Currently nearly 50 members and friends of First Unitarian Church are on the Anti-Racism Committee Announcement mailing list, with some serving on its planning group and others signing up to participate in public meetings such as the current one along with films, workshops, rallies, and other events.

ARC was officially formed on May 24 after several weeks of planning and review by the Social Justice Council. On that day, Rev. Harold Straughn spoke on the subject of white privilege, and music was provided by singer Jasmine Mae. At the end of the service ARC members brought forward the church's BLACK LIVES MATTER banner, which has been prominently displayed on church property ever since—to bear witness to the violence that has contributed to the deaths of so many young black men, wherever their rights are violated, including, sadly, in our community.

In October, ARC will offer the following public events at First Unitarian Church:

- White Privilege Workshops – Thursdays, Oct 1, 8, 15 @6:30PM – led by Catherine Parnell
- “Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with America's Native Peoples”—co-sponsored by the Social Justice Council, ARC and Environmental Ministry. This workshop will be led by Paula Palmer on Tuesday Oct 19, 7-9PM. Then on Wednesday, October 20, 6:30-9:30PM, Paula will train those who are interested in learning how to lead the workshop. RSVP is required for both the workshop and the training. RSVP to Joan Gregory: joanmzg@gmail.com.