



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

MARCH 20, 2016

9:00 AND 11:00 AM

Religious Education at 11 am only

**“What is Meant by
Perseverance?”**

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

MARCH 27, 2016

9:00 AND 11:00 AM

Religious Education at 11 am only

**Easter Service with
Chancel Choir**

**“The Changing Meaning of
Resurrection”**

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

APRIL 3, 2016

9:00 AND 11:00 AM

Religious Education at 11 am only

High School Service

“Learning”

Pledge Driven

-submitted by Henry Whiteside, Pledge Committee

Some years ago the dons of an Oxford college received the disturbing news that the elaborately ornamented oak trusses of their great hall were close to failing. Replacement in kind seemed impossibly expensive and they had little appetite for cheap steel replacements. Someone recalled that the college's endowment included forested land in the north and it seemed worth asking. The forester's reply? "We were wondering when you'd be wanting the timber, sir." The oaks had been planted 300 years before when the college was built.

The congregation and the board have resoundingly affirmed that we want a second minister. Now that we are well into our two-year trial with Matthew Cockrum as our consulting minister, what have we found? A permanent minister for congregational life would nurture the congregation's spiritual life by working specifically with junior and senior high students, adult education, and fully integrating new seekers into the life of the church and putting them on the path to membership. A second minister would strengthen our public voice for liberal religion at a time of growing need.

Our pledges build the spiritual community we cherish in First Unitarian and help shape the wider community we all share. Now is the time to commit to build the future we want for ourselves, our congregation, and our community. Walk up to the pledge table after service, call up the church office, sign up and drop it in the mail (form welcome but optional). Nothing could be easier. This may be Woody Guthrie's first appearance in a First UU pledge drive (so give him a big hand): "Nobody here can walk it for you, you gotta walk it for yourself."

Adult Religious Education

Thanks to the work of a stalwart crew (Andrea Globokar, Alan Coombs, Carrie Black and Nancy Rasmuson) there are some fine offerings of Adult Religious Education this Spring. We encourage you to take advantage of upcoming sessions, which prove to be energizing and engaging. Check out:

- First Unitarian Church History - a lecture by historian Alan Coombs followed by Q&A. Sunday, March 20, 12:30-1:30 in the Chapel.

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Congregational Briefs

First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

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Next Publication Date

April 4, 2016

Submission Deadline

March 28, 2016 (Monday)
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after April 5th to ensure timeliness.

Editor

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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:

- April 3rd - 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.
- April 21st - 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

Refugee Resettlement Committee

The crisis of displaced people around the globe was one of the biggest news stories of 2015. Oxford Dictionary's language-monitoring corpus showed the word *refugee* increasing by 110% and *migrant* by 158%, as compared to 2014. Considerable attention has been focused on the distinctions in meaning between the two terms: a *refugee* is a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster, whereas a *migrant* moves from one place to another in order to find work or better living conditions. Thanks to the generosity of the First Church congregation, hundreds of refugee families have been resettled in Salt Lake City. More arrive each month. The need for dining room tables and other furniture is urgent. Please call Joe Dubray (904) 527-9773, to make a donation.

Open Minds Book Group

The Open Minds Book Group meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Haven Room at the church. The book for March 24 is "The Spectator Bird" by Wallace Stegner. The book for April 28 is "Orphan Train" by Christina Baker Kline. All are welcome.

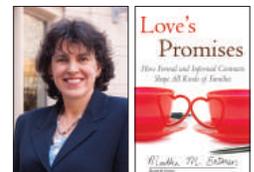
UU Lunch Bunch

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 20: No Lunch Bunch due to Arts and Crafts Fair
- March 27: Silver Fork Lodge Restaurant (11332 E. Big Cottonwood Canyon Rd)
- April 3: The Corner Bakery (610 Foothill Blvd)

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.



Reverently Yours

This is the fifth year in which I extend an invitation to our church community to consider joining me for a course I teach in Centennial Valley, Montana. From July 11 to July 15th. I will be joined by Maeera Shriber, chair of Religious Studies at the University of Utah in teaching Spiritual Ecology. It's a three-credit course for undergraduates at the U, but we always have had a number of people join us from the adult community as well, mostly people from our congregation. Over the years we've probably accumulated a stunning total of 25-30 Unitarians, all of whom (I believe) would render great reviews not only of the course but the splendor of the valley. Our "alums" constitute our own Yelp connection to verify a good experience, indeed.

The strength of the program rests mainly on a mix of nature adventures that take us canoeing, hiking, and birding, with time for photography, writing, painting, and meditating. The classroom experience itself absorbs but a small part of the day. The point is to experience Centennial Valley, which serves as a migratory corridor between Yellowstone and the Yukon for grizzlies, wolverines, etc. The University setting abuts the Red Rocks Wildlife Refuge, originally established in 1935 to protect the trumpeter swan. (Yes, they are still there). It's also home to the sandhill crane, whose peculiar call is a sound I look forward to hearing each morning on my hike to Lower Lake.

You may want to Google the Taft-Nickolson Center and view not only the photos, but also a

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

six-minutes video of the valley and the Center itself. The accommodations are very comfortable cabins, each with its own private bath and small refrigerator. The meals are quite extraordinary, and the experience of interacting with college students both stimulating and fun.



The Unitarians who have attended (and I'll be glad to provide a list) have sparked tremendous conversation/dialogue on the materials Maeera and I present. The dozen or so University Students have always mixed well with the adult crowd and have appreciated the cross-pollination of ideas. Meals are especially fun.

This is neither camp nor school. It's a unique experience to ponder some of the deeper questions relating to both spirituality and ecology. And it provides a remarkable opportunity to explore a breath-taking landscape. Give it some thought, investigate the Center on the Internet, and ask me questions as they arise. July is almost upon us. The Center is just a little more than 5 hours from Salt Lake. It would be lovely to see you in Centennial Valley. TRG

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

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In the Life

It's hard to believe that a quarter of my time as a Consulting Minister with First Church has elapsed - 6 months of the two-year contract. As the Board solicits input from the congregation and as your Pledge Drive Committee seeks financial support for the coming fiscal year, I continue to hear questions about my tenure, about next steps, about focus and findings. I must confess I am still working to find ways to capture and communicate my sense of this place, my impressions and my recommendations. For now, though, let me begin with this:

Minister for Congregational Life - This title is built upon the assumption that the congregation's life and work is something open to additional professional presence, guidance and input. Specifically, the work of inviting people into deepening engagement in this religious community and into consideration of becoming financially supporting Friends and Members.

This congregation, like many UU congregations, seems to be ambivalent about additional professional input, coordination and guidance. In many ways we are a religious movement with an anti-authoritarian streak.

Additionally, this congregation, like many UU congregations, seems to struggle with clarifying and communicating its expectations. Sometimes congregations struggle with this because they're worried about losing folks. Sometimes they struggle because they're not clear, themselves, about what they expect. Sometimes they're worried about offending folks by having expectations.

My sense of this place thus far is that there are expectations, it's just a matter of unearthing and articulating them. Some of them I've sensed thus far are:

1. Show Up - Be present on a regular basis for Sunday services. This is, above all, a religious community. Though Sunday morning isn't mandatory, it's a high profile day and it's a place and time to see and

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

meet a lot of folks...as well as getting your spiritual and intellectual boost and challenge.



2. Sign Up - Become active in a ministry area that speaks to your passions. Sign up to help out with Refugee Resettlement, Coffee, Religious Education, Environmental Justice. Don't just put your name on the line...put your body into the work.
3. Grow Up - Engage in this community in a way that will help you grow into your best self. That means taking responsibility for your growth and nourishment. Take classes. Attend events. Stretch. If you're here to be comfortable you'll probably be disappointed before long.

So for now...those are my senses of this place and what you expect of each other and the community around you. How does that sound? Does it ring true with your experience of this place? What's missing? What's off?

We've got another 18 months together (til August 2017). However this position winds up, I trust we can find ways to make this congregation and its ministries stronger and healthier by our work together.

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

Religious Education News



First Church Spring Performance Art Program

This spring, elementary-age kids in the RE Program at First Church will have an exciting opportunity to take classes from performance artists of all mediums. From dancers and singers to story tellers and visual artists, our kids will be introduced to each art form and learn to to create their own stories, songs, dances and sculptures.

Each guest artist will give a short performance and talk about his/her art form with our kids over the next eight weeks. The Performance Arts Program is designed for grades 1 - 6. For the PreK/K group, we will provide a special program focusing on literacy and visual arts activities based on our Seven Principles. Patrick Weeks will be the Guest Artist for this age group.

Three artists/performers will oversee the eight-week program:

- Amy Childress, a Salt Lake City writer and book artist. Amy earned a B.A. in English from the University of Utah. Her writing has been published in Mixed Fruit Literary Journal, the Selective Echo and the Utah Review. She loves the art of storytelling and working in arts education. Currently, Amy is an Associate Librarian at the Salt Lake City Public Library

and assists with children's programs at the Day-Riverside branch.

- Lexi Johnson holds a B.A. degree in Fine Arts from the University of Utah. She works for the Salt Lake City Library and the Salt Lake Film Society. She enjoys spending much of her creative time painting abstract expressionistic dreamscapes and making videos.
- Patrick Weeks, a Salt Lake City native, loves drawing, writing, bicycling, photography, cooking, gardening and dancing. He seeks to inspire others and nurture their creativity.

In addition to the performers noted above, the children will also be introduced to a Guest Artist each week throughout the program. Each artist will give a short performance and talk about his/her unique art specialty.

March 20: Emily Munk, modern dancer
 March 27: Emma Wilson, contemporary dancer
 April 3: teacher "TBD", a singer
 April 10: Aaron Kramer, actor
 April 17: Madison Donnelly, sculptor
 April 24: Aaron Woodall, comedian
 May 1: Denny, storyteller
 May 8: Final Day

In service,
Julie Miller, DRE

Child Dedication (continued from page 2)

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

First UU's Refugee Resettlement Committee Reaches 19th Year of Service

-submitted by Ron Anderson, Refugee Resettlement Committee

The UU World News, Spring 2016 has a great article on "UU Congregations Aid Refugees". The article describes how UU congregations are embracing and sponsoring Syrian refugees in the U.S. and Canada.

For those that may not know, First Unitarian of SLC has been mentoring and delivering furniture to refugee families since 1997. We have been assisting the International Refugee Committee (IRC) of Salt Lake City by setting up apartments and mentoring families. It is estimated that we have provided help to more than 1,200 refugee families. In 2014 Utah took in 290 refugees from Iraq, 279 from Somalia, 126 from Burma, 108 from Congo, 93 from Bhutan, and 58 from Sudan plus smaller groups from 18 other countries.

A little history: In 1997 Andrea Globokar had organized a group to help undocumented families with furniture while Ron Anderson was

assisting several Bosnian families. Andrea suggested that the groups combine. The first deliveries were done by Frank and Andrea Globokar, Bob Kron and Ron Anderson with their trucks and van. From this modest beginning of 9 families and 4 volunteers in 1997 our committee has grown to over 65 family apartment set ups and over 30 volunteers in 2016. We are proud of our growth and service.

Thanks to all of you who have made donations for without them we could not do this work. Joe DuBray is the coordinator of our Refugee Resettlement Committee and has done an outstanding job creating growth and suburb organization. We always need tables and chairs so please call Joe when you can donate: 904-527-9773.

Divestment Topic Approved for General Assembly

-submitted by Barbara Taylor, Social Justice Council

In January, members of our congregation signed a petition for divestment from corporations complicit in the violation of Palestinian rights to be included on the agenda of the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly (UUA GA) this summer. The petition--which seeks divestment from five companies making a profit on Israel's illegal occupation -- has been accepted for the UUA GA agenda in June 2016 in Columbus, Ohio.

Israel's half century old military and governance systems for maintaining its occupation dominate all aspects of Palestinians' daily lives, leaving them powerless, as a people without a country, without rule of law, and without rights. These abuses violate the basic principles of our Unitarian Universalist faith and therefore UUs for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME) is presenting this

resolution to divest from five major corporations which support the occupation and its abuses of human rights: Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise and G4S. These corporations supply the Israeli military with tools and services for demolition of homes, biometric identification, expansion of Israeli settlements, surveillance of Palestinians, seizure of Palestinian farms and orchards, and prisons that hold children and political persons without due process. This resolution will have accomplished its work when these corporations end their direct profiting from these abuses.

To read the full resolution, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/uujme-divestment-resolution>. To learn more about UUs for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME), check out: <http://uujme.org/home>

March/April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>20</p> <p>Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1)</p> <p>1st UU History class 12:30 in chapel (pg. 1)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Anti-Racism book discussion (see previous Torch)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Memoir Workshop 4:30 pm (pg.2)</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Just Mercy Class 7 pm (pg. 8)</p> <p>Open Minds Book Group 7 pm (pg. 2)</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Torch Submissions Due 10 am</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Anti-Racism book discussion (see previous Torch)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>April 1</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1)</p> <p>First Church Info Session (pg. 2)</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am</p> <p>The Exonerated 7 pm in Chapel (pg. 8)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Torch Submissions Due 10 am</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Women's Sacred Circle 5:30 pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>

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Adult Religious Education (continued from page 1)

- **Book Discussion: Just Mercy**, by Bryan Stevenson. This book looks closely at the life stories and circumstances of people who have been sentenced to die at the hands of the state or given a life sentence in prison. The author explores ethical, moral, and spiritual questions as he uncovers truths many would prefer not to know. In story after story, he details the horrors faced by people on the margins of United States mainstream society—poor people, mentally ill people, children, and people of color—when they come in contact with the systems we have built to respond to criminal or antisocial acts. As a group we will explore values and ideas that are vital to us as a people of faith: justice, mercy, compassion, redemption, restoration, and hope. Considering this quote, “Each of us is more than the worst thing we’ve ever done.”, our discussion will invite participants to identify experiences in their own lives that connect them to the lives of those incarcerated and to explore our common

humanity as we to act with mercy and compassion toward those least able to advocate for themselves. March 24th 7p.m. Eliot Hall

- **The Exonerated** - as a follow-up to the Just Mercy book study, First Church is pleased to host People Productions' staged reading of this play based on the experiences of people who have been wrongfully imprisoned. \$10 requested ticket at the door. All proceeds go to benefit The Rocky Mountain Freedom Project. April 10th 7 pm Chapel.
- More info at http://www.slcuu.org/programs/religious-education/item/download/64_c2e4ce12ccb6c677a418f8adc1a5778c

