



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

APRIL 17, 2016

9:00 AND 11:00 AM

Religious Education at 11 am only

Earth Day Celebration

“Reconnecting to Hope”

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith will be joined by members of the Environmental Ministry with special music provided by Art Lee.

APRIL 24, 2016

9:00 AND 11:00 AM

Religious Education at 11 am only

“Living Within Fire:

Readings and Reflections on Conflict”

-Lay Service Committee

MAY 1, 2016

9:00 AND 11:00 AM

Religious Education at 11 am only

“Statements of Faith”

-Coming of Age Youth

Help Us Stay on Track

-submitted by Dylan Zwick, Pledge Drive Committee

Fellow Unitarians –

I'll start with the bad news.

Right now, we're not on track to meet our goals for the pledge drive. Our pledge numbers are lower than they were at this time last year, and lower still than they were two years ago. Our goal is higher than it's ever been. We still have a long way to go.

The good news, as many of you who've been following politics this year have no doubt thought or said, is that it's not over yet!

A pledge is a statement of support for our church. It keeps our church working. It keeps our church's voice in our community strong, so we can continue to advocate and work towards making the world outside our church more like the world inside.

If you haven't yet pledged, please do so soon, and please pledge generously. You can fill out your pledge card and mail it in, or you can pick up a card at the pledge table in Eliot Hall after any church service. If you have any questions, would like to pledge by phone, or would like another pledge card mailed to you, please contact Hal at admin@slcuu.org or call at 801-582-8687, ext. 201.

Thank you!

A note about our April 24th Service: Given the theme of the service, conflict, the service contains strong, adult themes, including violence and language, something close to a PG-13.

Congregational Briefs

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

May 2, 2016

Submission Deadline

April 25, 2016 (Monday)
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after May 3rd 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

Attention Committee Chairs! It's that time of year again. Please send your committee reports to Jenni at asstadmin@slcuu.org by Sunday, May 1st to be included in the Annual Report for the 2015-2016 church year.

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 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
- May 1st - 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.

Open Minds Book Group

The Open Minds Book Group meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:00 in the Haven Room at the church. The book for April 28 is "Orphan Train," by Christina Baker Kline. The book for May 26 is "Three Farmers on Their Way to a Dance," by Richard Powers. All are welcome.

Dinner and Dialogue

Please take a minute to sign up at the Welcome Table for a future Dinner and Dialogue, either as a host or guest. Hosts set the date, menu and number of guests they can accommodate, and guests contribute by bringing a dish to share. It's a great way to get acquainted with other like-minded people in our church. Questions?? Contact Darlene Thayne at 801-455-6553 or suppers@slcuu.org.

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.

- April 17: Fiddler's Elbow (1063 East 2100 South)
- April 24: Pie Pizzeria Underground (1320 East 200 South)
- May 1: Even Stevens (414 East 200 South)

Denominational Briefs

Our Region's UU Leadership School

Why Leadership School? Why you? It's not just for board members. It's for anyone who wants to deepen their religious leadership skills, in everything from social action to stewardship, from worship to Web outreach. Check it out at www.uua.org/pacific-western/leadership-school. (Early-Bird Discount until May 2!)

Reverently Yours

Whenever I mention in passing that our church is celebrating its 125th anniversary in Utah, a glazed expression usually sweeps across the eyes of people who are (minimally) quite astonished. They may venture: "You mean the beginnings of Unitarianism generally?" "No," I reply, in Utah.

Why they seem embarrassed by their ignorance of this fact escapes me; they somehow feel they should have known. But it's a great way to begin discussing our past as well as what we're currently doing. As a congregation, maybe we ought to spend a little more time contemplating the future.

Radio West, hoisted by Doug Fabrizio, had me on their show along with Rev. John Buehrens, former UUA president and who is currently serving the UU Society in San Francisco. Doug acted quite surprised upon learning that Unitarianism extended much further back than the time of the American Revolutionary War. I wanted to put in a good plug for George Washington, who against great pressure from orthodox Christians not to hire John Murray as a chaplain for our soldiers, went ahead anyway and honored the man responsible for bringing Universalism to our shores from England. Indeed, America's Father of Universalism served our nation as chaplain in the Revolutionary War. (But there wasn't time to get into this during the show. Darn).

Doug, along with 99% of the American population was startled by our rich historical beginnings in 16th century Transylvania during the Protestant Reformation. He laughed when I explained we actually had a Unitarian King back then. The interview was fun, and John contributed a lot to the conversation.

Our 125th anniversary, to be celebrated for sure, also raises a need to renew our memory of history and trigger some critical reflection about our role as progressive religious thinkers in the Salt Lake Valley. It really is quite stunning to think about our longevity in a conservative environment, what we've accomplished, and where we intend to go in the decades ahead.

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Especially as new people join with our congregation, it may be time for both a review of where we've been and some creative thinking to determine the direction we need to go. Given the division in our nation along religious/cultural lines, the increasing growth in secularism, and the idea of community interpreted more as meaning "virtual" community through technology, we must focus not only on Unitarianism twenty years from now, but prepare for more immediate concerns.

I look forward to more discussion among ourselves as to next steps, new concepts, and how to remain religiously relevant in these changing times. It will be exciting for I am sure we all have very different ideas. (What else is new?) Please begin to articulate some ideas about our church in the near future. We would be well served by drawing a blueprint for our future right about now. The 125th anniversary gives plenty of justification to move ahead in our thinking. TRG



Among Ourselves

First Unitarian Church sends its love and sympathy to the family of our long time member, **Janet Minden**, who passed away on March 27th. A memorial service for Janet will take place here at the church on May 14, 2016 at 1:00 pm.

In the Life

You never know where connection will take you.

In one of my first Sundays with you I shared a reading from Terry Tempest Williams' "Refuge." It was a long shot...a Hail Mary pass...and here my sports references are exhausted. I confessed in that service that I'd never read TTW's work before, but was introduced to her when I'd asked Tom about some "native" Utah voices. The excerpt I shared in service recalled the author/activist's experience with the threatened habitat of burrowing owls, among other birds, at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge just up the road to the north of us here in Salt Lake City.

Following the service Sylvia Gray inquired as to whether I was a birder. (I am not.) Sylvia then offered to take me up to Bear River sometime, as it is a favorite place of hers. This was in September. Imagine my surprise when, in February, Sylvia reminded me of her offer and we began examining our calendars. In the tail end of March I was fortunate enough to be introduced to the Refuge and the world of birding by Sylvia along with a few other veterans (thank you Nancy and Carole!). I began the day-trip knowing and vaguely curious about a handful of birds and ended the day with a list of over thirty species we'd seen.

Now my eyes are often tracking the movements of birds in the trees around me. Now my ears are often listening for different songs, calls...even rustles of grass and leaf.

I'd set out to find a reading that would in some way introduce me to this land and communities. I wound up succeeding in that and being introduced in much more intimate and immediate ways...ways that carry on into my daily life and surroundings...even when I'm away on vacation!

In this season of spring, new life, liberation and life passages (graduations, comings of age, child dedications), I urge you to pay attention to your connections. How are the relationships

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

in your life - family, workplace, friends, peers? What are these relationships opening you up to? How can you allow them...even invite them...to surprise you and take you to new, unexpected places?

You never know where Connection will take you.

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



Info Sessions - New to First Church or Unitarian Universalism? Been here a while but want to learn more and meet others seeking deeper connection in this community? Check out our monthly Info Sessions!

- Thursday, April 21, 7-9 p.m. in room 208 - RSVP childcare needs and ages to Rev. Matthew Cockrum at clminister@slcuu.org; or
- Sunday, May 1, 10:15-10:45 a.m. and 12:15-1:00 p.m. in Parlor - meet Rev. Matthew at piano after each service. No RSVP required.

Adult Religious Education News - Have you heard about the great things going on in Adult Religious Education at First Church? This year has featured standout history lectures by professor in residence, Alan Coombs, a powerful staging of The Exonerated coordinated by Andrea Globokar, and creativity, mindfulness and art offerings by Shirley Ray and Revs. Tom and Matthew. There's still time! Check out the upcoming acclaimed series, "Owning Your Religious Past," led by Rev. Matthew. This five-session series is a great opportunity to explore and integrate your

Continued on next page

religious heritage - whatever it may be. Register on-line at: <http://www.slccu.org/programs/religious-education/item/226-adult-religious-education-registration-winter-spring-2016> or in person at the Welcome Table. Questions? Contact Rev. Matthew Cockrum at 801.582.8687 ext. 205 or clminister@slccu.org

See Yourself Involved - Have you noticed the sparkling new bulletin board in Eliot Hall? Nancy Howard and CJ Sadiq were inspired to create an eye-catching display of

Congregational Life leaders...folks we're now calling Ambassadors. Basically, this is part of an effort to make involvement easier and connection clearer. Don't see your group represented? Contact CJ, Nancy or Rev. Matthew to have your photo taken and/or your group description posted. With so much wonderful and meaningful activity at First Church, there's always something to do and someone to connect with. Check it out!

Religious Education News

Supplies Needed for YRUU Service Trip Pine Ridge Children's Arts Camp

Our YRUU group will be traveling to Pine Ridge, South Dakota in June to assist with art and music camps for Lakota Sioux Children. If you would like to help donate supplies, see the list below. Please leave any donated items in the box in the Little Chapel! We will be collecting supplies throughout April. Thanks you for your support!

- Watercolor paper
- Plaster wrap (dickblick.com)
- Felt
- Acrylic paints: Red, Yellow, Blue, Black and White

- Brushes
- Construction Paper
- Hot glue sticks
- Sharpies
- Yarn
- Spray paint
- Face paint
- Needles and thread
- Hides for drum-making
- Wooden dowels (1/2 inch thick)
- Ribbons
- Pony beads

Photos from the High School Service - April 3, 2016



Board Bits

-submitted by Christine Ashworth, Board of Trustees

Did ya know?

First Unitarian Church has a Facebook page. Check it out!

Did ya know?

Our website (www.slcuu.org) offers an introduction to First Unitarian Church to seekers searching for a religious home. The website is also a wonderful source of current information for members/friends wanting to check out

interesting events on the church calendar, explore committees and their ministries, watch a Sunday service video, or catch up on church news through the Torch newsletter. The "ABOUT" section has been expanded to include the UU 7 principles, First U's Strategic Plan, and an updated governance section.

Check it out!

Environmental Ministry News

UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY PROGRAMS

Stronger Together

*Friday, April 29, 2016, 5:00-7:30PM, Eliot Hall, First Unitarian Church
Elders Rising*

Elders Rising and Environmental Ministry invite YOU to join us to unite our efforts to work for Climate Justice for all generations and species. April 29, 2016, 5-7:30, Eliot Hall. If you wish, bring finger food or drinks, but most importantly, bring yourself!

Elders Rising is a grassroots group of elders working together for climate justice to ensure a livable world for the future generations of all species. We believe in the protection of our commons—the air we breathe, the oceans that encircle our earth and our public lands. Elders Rising is calling upon the generation who came of age in the sixties to reawaken and fulfill the dreams we had to create a better world. We recognize that this is all the more critical, for now we are defending a livable future not just for ourselves but for our children and grandchildren. We believe the State of Utah and the United States Government must respond with the imperative leadership needed to combat the crisis of climate change. And as individuals, we acknowledge that it is our time to become true Elders in the traditional and deepest sense and act as visionaries and

guardians on behalf of generations to come.
Contact: Kathy Albury, kfa44@yahoo.com

Climate Coalition – Facing the Climate Crisis & Taking Action.

Declaring a Global Warming State of Emergency.

*Friday, May 6, 2016, 7:00PM, Eliot Hall;
Association for the Tree of Life*

The ecological bottleneck we face and the Climate Crisis we are already experiencing are both terrifying and overwhelming. Particularly since so little that is effective has been forthcoming for a very long time. When we face the scope, scale and urgency of these unprecedented crises, simultaneously intertwined with the necessity of addressing Environmental and Climate Justice, how can we find hope and encouragement?

The Association for the Tree of Life (ATL) takes seriously the global warming emergency and is working to implement effective responses that meet the scope, scale, and urgency of the crisis. ATL is leading the call and catalyzing the broad-based media, educational, and grassroots campaigns that can result in an Emergency Climate Mobilization to produce net zero US carbon emissions within a decade.

Expect at the end of the Program to understand where and how to locate

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April/May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 Regular Sunday schedule (see below)	18	19	20 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	21 First Church Info Session (pg. 2)	22	23
24 Regular Sunday schedule (see below)	25 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	26 Owning Your Religious Past Class begins 6:45 pm (pg. 5)	27 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	28 Open Minds Book Group 7 pm (pg. 2)	29 Env. Min. program 5 pm (pg. 6)	30
May 1 Regular Sunday schedule (see below) First Church Info Session (pg. 2)	2 Family Fun Night 6 pm (contact families@slcuu.org for more info)	3	4 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	5 Young Adult Group in Haven 7:30 pm	6 Env. Min. program 7 pm (pg. 6)	7
8 Regular Sunday schedule (see below)	9 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	10 Women's Sacred Circle 5:30 pm in Haven	11 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	12	13	14

Regular Sunday Schedule

- Sunday services at 9 am and 11 am; Religious Education Classes at the 11:00 am service only (see page one for sermon titles)
- Coffee Hour follows each Sunday service in Eliot Hall
- Mindfulness Group meets at 12:35 in Room 201
- UU Lunch Bunch meets at select restaurants at 1:00 pm (see page 2 for schedule)

Looking Ahead: Congregational Meeting - May 15, 2016 after the 2nd service. Church Youth will be selling lunch between the service and meeting as a fundraiser for upcoming service trips. More information coming soon.

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

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Return Service
Requested

Environmental Ministry News (continued from pg. 6)

legitimate and active hope related to these critical emergencies. Expect to see plausible ways and means that scale responses can be mustered and how you and your group can participate. Environmental and Climate Justice will be a framing part of the discussion. Come with your questions and comments, a lively conversation will be had. **Contact:** Joan Gregory, joamzg@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE for our June Environmental Ministry Program: Fri, Jun 3rd, 7PM, Eliot Hall, First Unitarian Church, ***Nature Sings: Spirit of Our National Parks.*** Songs, photos and stories by Art Lee.