

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City



Annual Report 2017-2018

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“First Unitarian Church nurtures and challenges the spiritual and intellectual journey for all generations and actively engages in building a progressive and just world.”

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

First Unitarian Church
Annual Meeting Agenda
May 20, 2018

Call meeting to order and welcome

Welcome new church members

Board of Trustees Report

Board President's Overview

Key Data Dashboard 2017-18

Results of 2017 Congregational Survey

2018 Congregational Survey

Senior Minister's Report

Ministry

Operations Report

Programs

Elections

Nominating Committee members

Board of Trustees member (second term)

Financial Report

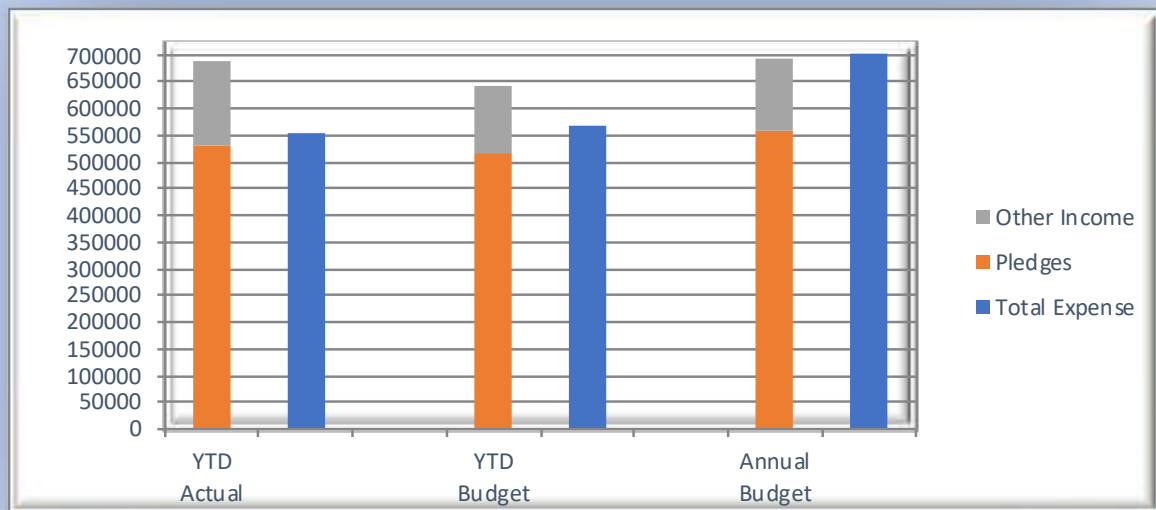
Review and approve 2018-19 Budget

Question-and-Answer with congregation

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD	Annual Budget
Pledges & Gifts	\$528,780	\$515,467	103%	\$ 556,624
Other Income	\$162,643	\$128,588	126%	\$ 136,250
				\$ 692,874
			Endowment	\$ 32,000
Total Income	<u>\$691,423</u>	<u>\$644,055</u>	107%	<u>\$ 724,874</u>
Total Expense	\$552,498	\$569,569	97%	\$ 703,886
	Intra Fund Tansfers		Plant Fund	\$ 10,000
			LT Maint.	\$ 9,600
			IT Fund	\$ 5,000
				<u>\$ 728,486</u>
Net	\$138,925	\$74,486		\$ (3,612)



Financial Notes for Apr 2018

	Actual	Budget	Month
Pledges & Gifts	\$49,920	\$50,000	100%
Other Income	\$17,719	\$14,920	119%
Total	<u>\$67,639</u>	<u>\$64,920</u>	104%
Total Expense	\$57,931	\$60,112	96%
Net	<u>\$9,708</u>	<u>\$4,808</u>	

2018-2019 PROPOSED BUDGET - SUMMARY OF CHANGES

2018-19 Budget:
Summary of Changes

INCOME

Net increase overall of 5% based on the following changes:

Pledges: 7%

- Pledge line item: Increase of 9%. (Pledge drive goal \$583,000 discounted by 3% = \$565,510. Gifts = \$30,000)
- UUSC (17-18 324 certified. 18 -19 330 certified.)

Other Collections: -3%

- Jazz Vespers reduced from \$7,000 17-18 to \$6,000 18-19 (14%) based on actual numbers

Rental Income: -10%

- Other Building Use decreased from \$12,000 to \$10,000 based on current actual numbers
- Church Ceremonies line item: 33% decrease based on current actual numbers.
17-18 \$7,500
18-19 \$5,000

Fundraising: No change

Other Income: No change.

EXPENSES

Net overall increase of 4% based on the following changes:

Church Programs: 11%

- Music and Choir increased from \$4,300 to \$9,000
- Guest Speakers 33% decrease from \$1,200

Church Committees: 32%

- Hospitality (formerly Membership/Volunteer Council) increase from \$900 to \$1,400
- Auction expenses increase from \$10,000 to \$15,000 based on current numbers

Utilities: 5%

- All line items increased by 3%. Increased demand on building
-

Building: 0% Increase

Office: 7% increase

- Office Expenses increased from \$9,000 to \$11,000

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

2018-2019 PROPOSED BUDGET

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

Proposed Budget

July 2018 through June 2019

	<u>Jul '17 - Jun 18</u>	<u>Jul '18 - Jun 19</u>	<u>Difference</u>
INCOME:			
Pledges			
Pledges & Gifts-Discounted @ 3%	549,124	595,840	9%
Pledges, Prior Year	7,500	9,000	20%
Total Pledges	<u>556,624</u>	<u>604,840</u>	9%
Other Collections			
Plate	20,000	20,000	0%
Coffee Hour	2,000	2,000	0%
Jazz Vespers	7,000	6,000	-14%
Total Other Collections	<u>29,000</u>	<u>28,000</u>	-3%
Rental Income			
CCNS Building Rental	25,000	25,000	0%
Other Building Use	12,000	10,000	-17%
Church Ceremonies	7,500	5,000	-33%
Total Rental Income	<u>44,500</u>	<u>40,000</u>	-10%
Fundraising			
Auction	50,000	50,000	0%
Art Festival	6,000	6,000	0%
Total Fundraising	<u>56,000</u>	<u>56,000</u>	0%
Other Income			
Operating Fund - Int & Dividend	750	750	0%
Christmas Fund	6,000	6,000	0%
Total Other Income	<u>6,750</u>	<u>6,750</u>	0%
Total Income	692,874	735,590	6%
Ministerial Assistance Fund		3,000	
Endowment Fund	32,000	20,000	-38%
TOTAL INCOME	<u><u>724,874</u></u>	<u><u>758,590</u></u>	5%
EXPENSES NON PERSONNEL EXPENSES			
Church Programs			
RE - General	13,000	13,000	0%
RE Council	1,000	1,000	0%
Guest Speakers	1,200	800	-33%
Music & Choir	4,300	9,000	109%
Summer Forum	2,500	2,500	0%
Coffee Hour	3,000	3,000	0%
Audiovisual	2,000	2,000	0%
Celebration Sunday	3,000	3,000	0%
Leadership Training	400	400	0%
New · Board Events	0	300	
Adult Education	500	500	0%
Sunday Flowers	1,200	1,200	0%
Pledge/Stewardship Committee	1,500	1,500	0%
GA Fees	1,000	1,000	0%
Minister's Discretionary	1,000	1,000	0%
Jazz Vespers (pass thru)	6,000	6,000	0%
Total Church Programs	<u>41,600</u>	<u>46,200</u>	11%
Church Committees			
Auction Expenses	10,000	15,000	50%
Membership/Volunteer Council	900	1,400	56%
Art Festival Exp.	5,000	5,000	0%
Social Justice (Reimbursement)	1,700	1,700	0%
Anti-Racism Committee	300	300	0%
Worship Arts Council	300	300	0%
New · Caring Network	0	300	
Total Church Committees	<u>18,200</u>	<u>24,000</u>	32%
Utilities			

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

2018-2019 PROPOSED BUDGET

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
Proposed Budget
 July 2018 through June 2019

	Jul '17 - Jun 18	Jul '18 - Jun 19	Difference
Telephone & Internet	8,500	8,925	5%
Gas	6,735	7,072	5%
Electricity	7,600	7,980	5%
Water	5,050	5,303	5%
Garbage	1,350	1,418	5%
Total Utilities	29,235	30,697	5%
Building			
Bldg/Ground Maint	12,500	12,500	0%
Maintenance Organ/Piano	1,000	1,000	0%
Property Taxes	250	250	0%
Property Insurance	9,300	9,300	0%
Elevator Monitoring	2,000	2,000	0%
Fire Alarm Monitoring	1,000	1,000	0%
Total Building	26,050	26,050	0%
Total Office Expense			
Postage	2,700	2,700	0%
Office Supplies	9,000	11,000	22%
Copy Machine Lease/Serv/Supp	9,000	9,000	0%
Accounting	2,500	2,500	0%
Bank Charges	75	75	0%
Credit Card Service Fee	3,750	3,750	0%
Total Office Expense	27,025	29,025	7%
Dues Expense			
UUSC Cont. @ \$1 per member	324	330	2%
UUA Dues	19,440	19,800	2%
MDD Dues	8,424	8,580	2%
Total Dues Expense	28,188	28,710	2%
Other Expense			
Website Maintenance	1,500	1,860	24%
Picnic Exp	700	700	0%
Denominational Affairs-MDD/GA	1,000	1,000	0%
Staff Appreciation	500	500	0%
Parking Lot Rental	7,000	7,140	2%
Iron Blossam Fees	294	300	2%
GA Delegates- Congregation	1,000	1,000	0%
Total Other Expense	11,994	12,500	4%
TOTAL NON PERSONNEL EXPENSES	182,292	197,182	8%
PERSONNEL EXPENSES			
Salaries	406,718	433,215	7%
Health Insurance	32,234	32,234	0%
Dental, Life, LTD	6,300	9,738	55%
UUA Pension Plan	33,205	37,775	14%
Professional Development & Prof. Expenses	17,000	12,000	-29%
FICA/Medicare/Workers Comp	26,137	23,392	-11%
Payments in lieu of FICA (Ministers)	0	13,054	
TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSES	521,594	561,408	8%
Expense	703,886	758,590	8%
Plant Fund	10,000	\$ -	-100%
Long-Term Maint.	9,600	\$ -	-100%
AV/IT	5,000	\$ -	-100%
TOTAL EXPENSES	728,486	758,590	4%
Net Income	-3,612	0	-100%

BOARD NOMINEES/NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Peter Esko

Peter has been a part of the First Unitarian Church community since 2001 when a friend lured him and his wife Amanda to Jazz Vespers one cold night. Since the birth of his daughter Grace, he has taken a much more active role in the congregation and has volunteered in nursery and RE classrooms, behind the welcoming table, marketing and design for the Auction Committee, and the last three years on the Board of Trustees. For the past two years Peter has been aiding Sue Geary as Vice President of the board.

Outside of the church community, Peter is a creative director for a marketing and advertising agency in Park City and works to help guide clients brands. Peter is also on the University of Utah Alumnae Association advisory board, helping to guide marketing and communication efforts.

As a long time Utahn, Peter enjoys all that the Wasatch front has to offer and is often found out skiing with his friends and two children or sneaking in a run around Sugarhouse Park.

NEW MEMBER LIST

First Name	Last Name	Member Sinc
John	Shavers	4/29/2018
Connie	Wilkerson	4/16/2018
Jim	Wilcox	4/16/2018
Ellen	Wilcox	4/16/2018
Linda	Waters	4/16/2018
Tracy	Walton	4/16/2018
Mitchell	Vice	4/16/2018
Barbara	Sloan	4/16/2018
Skip	Rynearson	4/16/2018
Janice	Roberts	4/16/2018
Doug	Roberts	4/16/2018
Pamela	Pulsipher	4/16/2018
Brie	Pinales	4/16/2018
Terry	Peterson	4/16/2018
Robert	Peterson	4/16/2018
Susan	Mumford	4/16/2018
Ellen	Morrow	4/16/2018
Nancy	McHugh	4/16/2018
Gene	Mahalko	4/16/2018
Amy	Lee	4/16/2018
Thea	Holcomb	4/16/2018
Heather	Heaton	4/16/2018
Karen	Hayes	4/16/2018
Lorraine	Haus	4/16/2018
Merrideth	Hammill	4/16/2018
John	Hammill	4/16/2018
Paul	Foster	4/16/2018
Carol	Foster	4/16/2018
Melissa	Ellsworth	4/16/2018
Jana	Brodyy	4/16/2018
Paul	Kuttner	4/2/2018
Madeline	Rossmann	3/18/2018
Natalia	Pitkin	3/5/2018
David	Lindsay	2/11/2018
Jean	Esplin	1/28/2018
Samantha	Overton	1/22/2018
Katie	Swade	12/10/2017
Tara	McMullin	11/15/2017
Janet	McEntee	10/19/2017
Evan	Green	10/8/2017
Donna	Green	10/8/2017
Michelle	Boyer	5/21/2017
Clara	Michael	5/18/2017

MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT - REV. TOM GOLDSMITH

Our church year, 2017-2018 has offered a whirlwind of excitement, opportunities for reflection, numerical growth, and a strengthening bond among its members. I need to begin with the most obvious: First Church opening its doors as a sanctuary church, the first in Utah. Regardless how much pre-planning we think we did, the experience itself brings a multitude of unexpected surprises and the need for quick thinking in a pinch.

Our church's sanctuary effort taps two great sources of pride that swell within me. First is the Steering Committee, with Joan Gregory serving as chair. The 10-member Steering Committee has worked tirelessly and selflessly in executing a master plan that proved more than efficient, paying quality time to the nuances of welcoming and nurturing a family who seek sanctuary in our church. It has been an exceptional privilege for me to work with this Steering Committee.

Secondly I am inordinately proud of the members and friends of our congregation who committed to volunteering on a regular basis. Without the support of about 200 volunteers, we would not have been nearly as effective as we have been. My deepest gratitude to all who made it possible for us to serve successfully as a Sanctuary church.

I was honored to fill the role in explaining to the media the various dynamics that entered the church's initial decision to provide sanctuary, as well as offering a glimpse into our church's long-time commitment to social justice. Between TV, radio, and print, I doubt there's a soul in all of Salt Lake City who doesn't know about the First Unitarian Church.

Our church year got off to an excellent start with Rev. Monica Dobbins joining our staff as assistant minister. She has contributed widely to the church's efforts in social justice, membership and welcoming, and religious education for secondary school ages. Monica has been a gift in the pulpit and has gotten acquainted with our church habits and patterns in record time.

Many facets contribute to the success of a church year, not the least of which is a Board of Trustees who help nurture and support the initiation of new ideas and programs. Sue Geary completed her second term as Board president, but she will fortunately stay on the Board for another year in order to share her wisdom gleaned over the past couple of years. My thanks also extend to the church's staff, an unusual configuration of people in that they care for the welfare of the church beyond just fulfilling their work tasks. Our newest staff person, Stefanie Park, has been a helpful addition, serving as assistant administrator. The staff as a whole works extremely well together; we would be a far less effective church without them.

In addition to tending to the usual demands of ministry: preaching, counseling, weddings, and funerals, I have worked side-by-side with other clergy in enriching the interfaith community. I am on an interfaith roundtable committee working hard all year on issues surrounding child abuse. (The LDS church has taken the lead on this one). I am also working with other clergy on issues of diversity in our city. (The

MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)

Catholic Church has taken the lead on this one). Most recently I moderated an interfaith panel on the question of finding common ground. (The Christian Science Church took the lead on this one).

I also enjoy working closer to home. I continue facilitating a group at Friendship Manor on a monthly basis, and facilitating a group of Young Adults on a bi-monthly basis. I had the opportunity to facilitate two programs for our Family Fun Nights. This program, now in its fifth year, has been a huge success in drawing young families to our church.

I also had the opportunity of facilitating a new program for our church: Aging and Spirituality. My wife, Mary Tull, co-led this program as we divided the classes by gender. The response has been very positive, and we will undoubtedly be doing it again in the fall.

Jazz Vespers completed its 29th season this year. Not quite sure how we will celebrate the 30th. And for fun, in addition to Jazz Vespers, I had the chance to write some skits for our 1947 radio show presented at Sugar Space with the help of Lee Shuster's Big Band and our own Java Jive singers.

As robust a year as we've been fortunate to enjoy, it is always tempered by the loss of dear people in our congregation who have died. A special memorial service was held on May 6th to honor them. I would like to conclude my report by listing them in honor of their contributions. Our love and sympathy extend to their families.

Audrey Jensen
Norma Molen
Katy Doak
Nick Kuzmack

Respectfully submitted

ASSISTANT MINISTER - REV. MONICA DOBBINS

It's been almost a year since I graduated seminary, accepted the vows of ordination, found this incredible job serving the First Unitarian Church in Salt Lake City, and moved across the country with my family to begin this new adventure of ministry. It has been a whirlwind of a year, but one of the finest years of my life. This church is healthy and strong, well loved and cared for, and filled with the fire of commitment. It is truly a privilege to serve you as your assistant minister.

Here are some highlights from this very busy year, from the perspective of my office behind Little Chapel...

Religious Education: We had a very successful Building Your Own Theology class in the fall, with several members of the class becoming signed members of the congregation and engaged volunteers. It was also my pleasure to be involved with our upper-grades children's Religious Education and Young Adult groups, helping them to prepare worship and plan for trips, and providing pastoral care.

Social Justice: When the year began, I couldn't have predicted that much of the year would be focused on one family: that of our Sanctuary guest, Vicky Chavez. Since the Chavez family came into our building in January, I have seen the congregation's heart grow at least three sizes. I've seen volunteers getting to know one another – sometimes people who've been members here for years, but never met! I've seen new leaders developing, and a new understanding of immigration issues and solidarity with immigrant families across our membership. As a member of the Steering Committee, my tasks included representing the congregation in the community and in the media, helping to establish best practices for committee proceedings, and providing pastoral care to other steering committee members to encourage growth and prevent burnout.

The second major social justice initiative in which I have been involved this year is with the People's Justice Forum, a citizen lobbying initiative connected to the work of Planned Parenthood. Please see details in the full report I wrote on this project.

Pastoral Care: This year, I am proud to say we were able to recruit over 100 volunteers to be a part of the Caring Network, and pastoral care among lay members of the church is significantly improved. We have provided meals, in-home visits, hospital visits, and other types of support – and lots of cards and phone calls!

Hospitality and Membership: One of the great successes of this church year was an increase in new members. 43 new members joined our church since the last congregational meeting, and 29 of those new members signed the book at a formal ceremony on April 16. Rev. Tom and I conducted two UU Orientation sessions which were well attended. I meet regularly with the Hospitality team to continually improve our guest welcome and new member integration.

Interfaith Work: One of the greatest joys of ministry for me is working alongside interfaith partners in the community to achieve a vision of pluralist religious community and cooperation. This year, I serve on the planning team for Salt Lake City's Interfaith Pride Worship, scheduled for May 31. I have also undertaken to study the history, theology, and cultural norms of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in order to better understand the faith background of many of our formerly-LDS members.

ASSISTANT MINISTER (CONTINUED)

Denominational Affairs: the UUA continues to wrestle with questions about the impacts of white supremacy on our movement, particularly in the areas of hiring and worship. Women and female-identified persons in ministry found a new voice in the #metoo movement, emboldened to speak about ministerial sexual misconduct and harassment that had been forgotten.

Professional Development: As a new minister, in my first full year of professional ministry, one of my great priorities was securing support and ongoing learning opportunities for professional growth. The Ministerial Credentialing Office of the Unitarian Universalist Association has offered several webinars this year, in which I was able to learn more about: first hurdles in a new congregation; staff team development and clergy compensation; and managing stewardship drives. I also took a series of webinars on conducting weddings and memorial services, offered by the UUA's top worship specialist, Rev. Erika Hewitt.

I regularly meet with my Committee on Ministry, served by: Debbie Bieber, Christine Ashworth, Cooper, Marlin Taylor, and Phil Davis. These meetings provide me personal support, and help me fulfill the obligations of pursuing final fellowship with the denomination. Also, I travel this month to participate in the First Year Ministers' Seminar in Boston at UUA headquarters.

Hopes/Dreams for the future: I anticipate that next year will be just as busy in our congregation. Here are some of my goals for our spiritual development together, as I hope to build on the successes of this year:

1. A class for new members, called Faith Forward, will provide identity formation and theological grounding for new UUs, as well as opportunities for longtime UUs to serve others by teaching.
2. The development of the second phase of the new Caring Network, a lay pastoral care team trained to make home and hospital visits.
3. Usher and greeter training that includes a fresh look at safety and security, and welcoming people of all ages and abilities into our worship spaces
4. Increased denominational awareness and engagement

My professional goals for next year include:

1. Honing my group facilitation skills.
2. Working with the Hospitality Team to close gaps in new member retention and development, and increasing and targeting volunteer engagement.
3. Developing a closer and deep involvement with our religious education students in upper grades.
4. Submitting more of my writing for denominational publications.

Once again, it has been an honor to serve you this year as your Assistant Minister. I could not have asked for a better opportunity, as a first year minister, and I am grateful beyond words. Thank you for your patience, your kindness, your generosity, and your enthusiasm. You renew my faith and restore my confidence that Unitarian Universalism can make a real difference in the world.

Yours in faith,

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - JULIE MILLER

Reflecting on this year, your Religious Education (RE) team would like to express a sense of accomplishment and growth. This year's highlights include the concentrated effort, spirit of dedication and the love that abounds in this congregation.

The addition of Amanda Esko as Assistant to the Director of Religious Education has brought new energy and improved communication and outreach to our families and volunteers. Lissa Lander, Assistant to *All* things RE, continues to support all our programs, but our youth programs in particular.

I feel we have achieved a comfortable rhythm and confidence now throughout Religious Education. We continue to expand our ability to welcome new families and find ways to touch and change lives. We will continue to involve families in leadership opportunities in our congregation and focus their positive energy and spirit into our practices.

RE Team Staff:

Julie Miller, Director of Religious Education

Monica Dobbins, Assistant Minister

Amanda Esko, Assistant to the Director

Lissa Lander, Program Assistant, all levels

Erin Cowley, Childcare

Betsy McHugh, Childcare

Bethany Moos, Childcare

Staff remained stable and worked diligently toward creating new approaches and freshening our vision throughout the year.

Team Work:

In addition to our work on maintaining informative and engaging models of curriculum, including two arts rotation blocks, we have devoted additional time toward researching policy, volunteer recruitment, family engagement, social action/community service, and improving the organization of our programs. We are immeasurably grateful for the robust efforts of our parents, youth, and volunteer teachers for sharing their talents and gifts of time and leadership in our RE program.

- Lower School Teachers: Beth and Coleen Jennings, Jennifer Heartel, Jojo Jui, Travis Chaston, Kevin Emerson, Kris Lander, Kendra and Raleigh Smith, Megan Daybell, Mary Tull, Laurie Robinson, Colleen Bliss and Charlie Johnson
- Upper School Teachers: Kristin Quinn, Kaden Colton, Carrie Black, Paul Kuttner, E. Cooper, Rob Richardson, Derek Gersdorf and Dot Verbrugge.

Other than paid child care workers in our Infant and Toddler room, over 800 hours of volunteer time were provided this year by our parents and church community to support our programs and annual events. We cannot thank our dedicated community enough for their support.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT (CONTINUED)

Our Theme: “Faith in Action”

The theme for this church year has been Faith in Action. As a community, we have focused on the idea that we live our faith through our actions in the world. Each month, we invited community groups to join us, for what we called, Service Sundays. Volunteers from the IRC, Salt Lake Sanctuary Network, Nuzzles and Co., VOA Homeless Teen Shelter, and Harvest for

Hunger joined youth in RE for discussion and social justice projects. Our youth learned what life is like as refugees, tied blankets and created art for sanctuary seekers, made dog and cat toys, packed lunches for homeless teens, and planted a garden to grow food for low-income families. Our year of action included the very important concept of financial giving and the financial literacy behind giving, in what we called, The Big Give. Our youth raised \$211 from shoveling snow to wiping baseboards. On Easter, we discussed the community groups who worked with us, and our youth chose who to give their hard earned funds to. This was an incredibly moving project that we hope has lasting impact in the community and the hearts of our youth.

Program Goals:

- To introduce Unitarian Universalist Principles and heritage to youth and help them connect these principles to their daily actions.
- To give children and youth the building blocks to explore their beliefs and faith formation.
- To provide intergenerational opportunities to build our sense of responsibility and leadership skills within and outside the walls of our church.
- To guide our children and youth by recognizing their infinite possibilities and creative talents.
- To stimulate curiosity and provide avenues for friendships and connections between and among generations.
- To connect families to one another and build dialogue and friendships throughout our congregation.
- Finally, to offer safe space to embrace our diversity and our unique identities.

Special Events:

RE hosted and participated in several special events throughout the church year. These included: Family Fun Night, Halloween Party, OWL Facilitator Training, Holiday Party, San Esteban Giving Tree, Christmas Pageant, Solstice service and dinner, and the Art Fair.

Our Whole Lives:

In November, First Unitarian Church, along with South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society and the Mountain Desert District Chapter of LREDA, hosted an OWL Facilitator training. This was the first OWL training in UT. All three OWL training levels, Kindergarten-First/ Fourth-Sixth grade, 7th-9th/10th-12th grade, and Young Adult/Adult levels were offered. Over 45 people from around the country attended, including 13 sponsored from First Church. Endless thanks are due to Liz Martin, Amanda Esko and Lissa Lander for spearheading, organizing, cooking and cleaning.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT (CONTINUED)

This year our fifth and sixth graders participated in OWL, a comprehensive, progressive and developmentally-appropriate sexual education program taught by trained volunteer OWL educators. This important program proved so valuable to families that an additional section was opened to accommodate all the requests for participation. This year, 24 youth participated in this vital and popular program. In 2018-2019, grades K-2, 8th- 9th grade will have the opportunity to participate in OWL.

Yearly Average Attendance:

The RE program depends on the cooperative efforts of our membership and dedicated families. Caring adults provide volunteer hours on Sundays to teach classes at all levels from preschool through high school. The infant and toddlers are supervised by paid staff each Sunday at the 9:00 and 11:00 am services. 150 youth registered for RE for this church year. Our largest registered classes were the Kindergarten-2nd grade class with 27 youth registered, and our High School Class with 28 youth registered. While attendance varied weekly, we have an average attendance of 71 youth. Our highest attendance occurred on September 10th, when 107 youth were at church. Our lowest attended "regular" RE Sunday was March 4th, when 54 youth were present.

Upper School Youth:

Our youth in 7th and 8th grade have been diligently working through the Coming of Age with their excellent volunteer teachers: Kristin Quinn, Carrie Black, Paul Kuttner, and Kaden Colton. Twelve youth have attended fairly regularly, and have enjoyed working with mentors from the congregation since February. They presented their faith statements to the Congregation on April 29th. We expect nine youth to travel to Boston this June with Rev. Monica Dobbins and Calvin Black. This group has worked incredibly hard to build their scholarship fund. Many thanks goes to Mary Elizabeth Mitchell and Liz Anderson for working tirelessly on this effort.

The high schoolers in grades 9-12 have been exploring Virtue Ethics from Tapestry of Faith with their teachers: Derek Gersdorf, Rob Richardson, Dot Verbrugge, and E. Cooper. This program's premise—in the words of the Buddha, recited in every workshop Opening—is that "our thoughts and actions become habits and our habits shape our character." They have learned that they have some control over their character, and can shape the person they want to be by making intentional, thoughtful decisions. They have explored virtues such as moderation, integrity, fairness, and courage to name a few. This year, we're conducting a short-range trip to the Topaz Internment Camps (west desert site where Japanese were interned during WWII) for high school youth. Thank you Lori Shields and Kendra Smith for spearheading this effort.

Thanks and Looking forward.....

Special recognition and thank you to Mary Tull for her expertise in writing and teaching a Mindfulness Curriculum for our fifth and sixth grade youth. Mary's teaching team included Laurie Robinson and Colleen Bliss—thanks to all!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT (CONTINUED)

I especially want to recognize the friendship and collegiality of Amanda Esko, Lissa Lander, Rev. Tom Goldsmith, Rev. Monica Dobbins, David Owens, Holly Stewart, Hal Gonzalez and Layne Owens for their guidance, hard work and dedication to the inclusion of children and youth in our church community.

It is a privilege to collaborate with wonderful people in this growing institution. We hope to see new faces step forward as we seek leaders for our programs. Please know that your RE team of paid staff and volunteers is working above and beyond the call of duty to nurture and guide our children and youth. Let's keep all this energy going!

In Faith,
Julie Miller, DRE, Amanda Esko, Lissa Lander

MUSIC DEPARTMENT REPORT - DAVID OWENS

Looking back over the last church year, the Music Department once again has an exciting and hopefully rewarding review of the previous year to offer to the annual report.

David Owens is concluding his official 19th year as Director of Music at First Unitarian Church and continues to enjoy his collaboration with Holly Stuart- Assistant Conductor to the Chancel Choir, and David A. Zabriskie- Associate Director of Music and Artist in Residence (more on that to follow).

Andy Walker continues to more than amply fill his role as Chancel Choir President as he begins his 6th year in this capacity. His dedication to the position has re-defined the role and not only expanded its parameters, but has helped to show us all what a true ambassador to First Church looks like. He, with his wife Marcia (Head Section Leader), are indispensable to the structure of the Chancel Choir.

It is with a deep nod of gratitude that we bid Beverly Stuart a fond farewell from the woefully under-acknowledged and exhaustive position as Chief Music Librarian and Chancel Choir Administrator. Her decades-long dedication to establishing and further refining this role will not only assist for years to come in how we wrangle, manage, distribute, retrieve, trace, track, and file the tremendous amount of printed repertoire we go through in our singing year, but will present us with the daunting challenge of finding those willing to help fill the gap in her stead. Thank You, Beverly.

While Beverly occupied a principal role in the above-mentioned position, let it not be overlooked that SO many others help EVERY week – some for Many Years now – pushing that endless pile of paper around. Deep Thanks to all of you for your dedication to this Sisyphean task.

Our usual task of offering a diverse and relevant Musical Ministry during Sunday Services – and otherwise- has hopefully been accomplished again this year following a many years' precedent of Chancel Choir, Junior Singers, Guest Musicians, Special Holiday Observances, etc.

Tangentially, from within the ranks of our congregation, we have a vast array of individuals who offer their unique musical talents to the needs of the church.

As well, Ensembles have emerged to offer musical entertainment and substance to any number of church events and functions. Among them; The Solstice Singers (Holly Stuart directing), The Java Jivers (Rebecca Heal directing), Quatro Amici –Madrigal Singers (Collaborative Direction), to name a few.

Though not under the direct auspices of the Music Department, this late autumn will see the beginning of Jazz Vespers' 30th year. A much needed and greatly valued niche to our local jazz aficionados - within our own congregation, and to the larger community - Reverend Tom Goldsmith has cultivated this cherished venue into the wildly successful program that it is.

Tom – with his very broad knowledge in the many disciplines of the musical world – remains a fierce champion of the Music Department here at First Church.

Related to the mention of Reverend Goldsmith, it should be noted here that the presence of our 'New Minister' – Monica Dobbins, brings a renewed resource and knowledge of musical wealth. Her background (BA in Music Education from the University of Alabama, an alumni of the Alabama

MUSIC DEPARTMENT REPORT (CONTINUED)

Symphony Chorus, [and a very fine singing voice !]), all lead to not only past rewards with her in our musical ministry, but exciting promise to our future music programs.

Perhaps one of the biggest developments to the Music Department is the Welcoming on Board of Dr. David A. Zabriskie as a Staff Member.

His kind contributions for some 8 years now to our music ministry have exceeded our wildest hopes. Moving from a position of Artist In Residence to Associate Director of Music will allow both us and him to exercise the full breadth of his musical expertise, not only in Choral Studies, Composition and Conducting, but also allowing our church and its programs to benefit from his extensive relationship with the Larger Musical Community. We welcome him and the generous musical blessings and community he brings to our church.

Of very great importance: This appointment was made possible by the generous tripled increase in Budget Allocation. Having struggled for years to remain within our annual operation budget of \$4000, this expansion of funding will offer exciting and new possibilities to grow the Music Department in order to better serve the Music Ministry of this church.

An exciting discussion of these ideas is currently underway. Not the least of which is the formation of a Second Choir (we have exceeded critical mass with the Chancel Choir), the expansion of diverse Instrumentalists to augment our Worship Services, an expanded Outreach Program, and as always, musical ways to engage and enrich our youth.

This fiscal year the Music Department has operated within its allocated budget.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT - SUE GEARY

Governance Structure and Board Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees continues to refine its implementation of policy governance. This governance model, which was adopted by a vote of the congregation in 2012, shifts responsibility for the administration of the church to the Executive Team and allows the Board to focus on its three primary functions. Our first obligation is to sustain First Unitarian Church through long-term visioning and strategic planning consistent with our principles and mission and in pursuit of our ends or outcomes: **Within** our own hearts, **Among** our congregants, and **Beyond** into the community. Second, the Board is responsible to monitor the performance of the Executive Team to assure “appropriate results and at appropriate cost and to avoid unacceptable actions and situations” (Governing Policies, Section 3 Board Responsibilities and Limitations). Finally, the Board serves a critical linkage function between the congregation and the Executive Team and staff and among the various church committees and groups.

Strategic Long-Term Planning. The Board held its annual planning retreat in August. Board members--along with Reverend Tom Goldsmith, Reverend Monica Dobbins, and Church Administrator, Hal Gonzales --reviewed the activities and progress of the previous church year and determined our priorities for the coming year. The Board appreciates the consultation provided by Gaylan Nielson, who has planned, facilitated, and prepared reports on the work accomplished during the Board’s annual two-day retreats for the past several years.

Priorities identified during the retreat were: (a) development of a communication plan, (b) greater attention to the Beyond end for improved responsiveness to and involvement with the larger liberal community, (c) greater use of social media for outreach, and (d) establishing a record of our success stories in writing and through film. Following the retreat, the Strategic Plan for 2016-18 was updated by Reverend Goldsmith and Reverend Dobbins, in collaboration Gaylan Nielson, to reflect our priorities, objectives, action strategies, and measures of success in each of five categories: Communication, Financial, Congregational Life, Growth, and Welcoming. The Board has asked the leaders of church committees and groups to align their goals and activities with the Strategic Plan to the greatest degree possible. The Board encourages all the members of our congregation to become familiar with the Strategic Plan, which is available on our website.

Other Board Activities and Actions During This Church Year.

- Policy Governance refresher course. As a means of sharpening our leadership skills, Board members began the church year with participation in a web-based Policy Governance 101 Training conducted by Laura Park of Unity Consulting.
- Welcoming our Assistant Minister. Over the past several years, First Unitarian Church has been in transition from a pastoral-sized church (wherein the number of congregants are few enough that each can relate directly with the minister) to the larger program-sized church (wherein the larger number of congregants connect within various groups and programs within the church). A two-year consultation by Reverend Matthew Cockrum affirmed our need for the addition of ministerial staff. The Board voted to approve funding for a full-time Assistant Minister. Reverend Goldsmith assigned

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT - (CONTINUED)

a selection committee to recruit and review applicants. We are extremely fortunate that Reverend Monica Dobbins accepted the position. Reverend Dobbins has made an impressive impact on our Religious Education and Congregational Life and on our new membership.

- Increasing our expertise at budget oversight. At the request of several Board members, our Administrative Assistant, Hal Gonzales, and our accountant, Josh Stats, conducted an in-depth training on reading and interpreting our financial statements. The Board began quarterly examinations of our Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statements, in addition to our monthly reviews of budget summaries. Congregants have every reason to be confident in the management of the funds that we receive through your pledges, fundraisers, rental income, and other sources of revenue.
- Updated the Senior Minister Letter of Agreement to reflect Board, congregation, and minister roles under policy governance and to assure our adherence to Unitarian Universalist Association compensation guidelines.
- Held Town Hall and Congregational Meetings for the purpose of determining the congregation's interest in advancing our status as a Sanctuary Church from short-term (symbolic) refuge to include indefinite-term (physical) sanctuary for individuals and families who face hardship, fear, and targeting by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agency. During the Congregational Meeting, held on February 4, a quorum of our membership voted unanimously for the declaration: *First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City is declared by its members as a Sanctuary Church.* We are extremely proud to be a part of congregation with such commitment to living its principles

Board Membership and Participation.

Tim Chambless, Jan Crane, Teresa Dieringer, and Peter Esko are in their first three-year terms. Becky Heal, Don Walton, and I are in our second terms of office. You are well-represented by your elected trustees. All have attended our monthly meetings and accepted a variety of assignments. Board members have worked closely with church committees in a liaison capacity, and have participated in a variety of church activities. Our Board members are experienced leaders and practitioners of varied backgrounds who all have an abiding commitment to the community that is First Church.

We extend our appreciation to Colleen Bliss, who took Board Meeting Minutes. We also acknowledge members of the Nominating Committee who attended and provided evaluations of our Board Meetings, including Frank Steffey, Amanda Finlayson, Phil Moos, Elaine Nielson, and Matt Wilson. We appreciate Peter Esko's service as Board Vice-President and we are all grateful for Becky Heal's serving an extra year as Board Secretary. It has been my honor to serve as your Board President in the company of such committed, thoughtful, and energetic colleagues.

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE REPORT-CATHY CHAMBLESS

ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR - MAY 2017 TO APRIL 2018

- The Endowment Fund (EF) has grown by 5.07% during the past 12 months. Albion Financial, L.L.C of Salt Lake City has managed the Church Endowment Fund since March of 2017. The funds are traded through Charles Schwab and overseen by the Endowment Committee. The Committee monitors the investments to ensure the holdings reflect the values of the Congregation, particularly in regard to prohibiting fossil fuel-related investments.
- The Endowment Committee held an informational webinar and discussion session on January 29, 2018, for church members and friends to learn about the new **Wake Now Our Vision Legacy Challenge** matching program. This exciting new program, offered through the UUA, encourages people to declare their intentions to leave a portion of their estate to the Church. By formalizing your bequest intentions, the church can receive a 10% match of your total bequest as early as 2020. The source of the matching funds is the Shelter Rock Church, a Unitarian Universalist-affiliated foundation in New York.
- The Committee encourages donations to the Endowment Fund throughout the year by means of a memorial gift, a bequest from your will or estate plan, or any other planned gift a family's special circumstances might allow.

ENDOWMENT FUND RESOURCES as of April 20, 2018

		4/12/17	4/20/18		
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	Annual \$ change	Annual% change
Equities	769,889 ^a	692,536	699,458		
Bonds	--	157,438	153,038		
Cash at Schwab	20,028	45,556	103,777		
Schwab Total	789,917	895,529	956,273		
Cash in University Credit Union	83,251	93,644	83,110		
Total of Accounts	873,168	989,173	\$1,039,383	50,210	5.07%
Cash value/ life insurance policies ^b	59,267	59,267	59,267		
Value of EF including life insurance policies	932,435	1,048,440	\$1,098,650		

^a Amount includes total of equities and bonds for 2015-16.

^b For auditing purposes the cash value of donated life insurance policies is noted. Three policies must remain as death benefit policies only as agreed upon with the insurance companies issuing the policies.

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE REPORT CONTINUED

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND (5/1/2017 to 4/30/2018)

Memorial Gifts \$ 22,050

The following people made memorial gifts to the Endowment Fund:

William & Christine Ashworth	Hugh & Janet Gillilan	June Orme
Bonnie Baty	Lex Hemphill & Nancy Melich	Robert Rees
Tim & Cathy Chambless	NancyHoward	Hugo & Julia Rossi
Coral & Jim Coffey	Mark and Pam Molen	

ENDOWMENT FUND DISTRIBUTION

The Endowment Committee approved a distribution from the Fund to the operations budget of the Church in the amount of \$20,429 on September 9, 2017 for the fiscal year 2017-2018 budget. The distribution is 2% of the value of the Endowment Fund as of June 30, 2017. This is expected to be an annual distribution as long as the growth of the Fund continues to be at or above historical patterns of at least 4% annually.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON SOCIETY:

Membership in the Church's Ralph Waldo Emerson Society is activated by a legacy gift made to the Church's Endowment Fund from individuals or their loved ones. Deceased Emerson Society members are memorialized with their names on brass plaques on the south wall of the Chapel. The following living persons have included the First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City in their wills or estate plans

Ron & Jan Anderson	Andrea Globokar	Joan Proctor
Christine & William Ashworth	Dolores Chase & Richard Haacke	Hugo & Julia Rossi
Tim & Cathy Chambless	Doug & Sandi Greene	Richard Teerlink
Alan & Marjorie Coombs	Nancy Howard	Darlene Thayne
Beverly Cooper	Cosette Joesten	Martha Veranth
Harold & Sonja Decker	Barbara Kreek	Henry Whiteside & Karol
Ed & Teresa Dieringer	Rob Mayer & Carol Blackwell	Andy & Marcia Walker
Sue Geary & Michele Page	Pam & Mark Molen	Flo Wineriter
Tom Goldsmith & Mary Tull	Bill & Ruth Ohlsen	Myrna Wolf (cont by Barbara Samuals)

Endowment Committee members are: Cathy Chambless, Mark Molen, Lex Hemphill, William Ashworth and Hugo Rossi.

AUCTION COMMITTEE REPORT - MICHELE PAGE

Event

The church auction was held at the Falls Events Center at Trolley Square on Saturday, November 4, 2017. The theme was “Women- the Ultimate Superheroes



Participants

Kate Kelly, civil rights attorney and founder of Ordain Women, was the recipient of our Fairly Free Thinker Award. Senator Jim Dabakis served as auctioneer.

There were 270 members and friends in attendance at the auction. We had over 130 individuals donate 13 vacations, 33 dinners and events, and many pieces of lovely artwork. Thirty three individuals or couples donated money as sponsors of the auction, and 21 more became sponsors the night of the auction.

Ogden’s Own Distillery donated all the alcohol for the evening. We provided guests with three signature cocktails with Five Wives Vodka, Madam Patterini Gin and Porter’s Fire Whiskey. Chef Evan Francois and his staff created a lovely buffet meal for everyone to enjoy. Sandy and Steve Harty donated wonderful cake for dessert.

The auction committee, as well as countless others, sold tickets, donated time and items, created amazing raffle baskets, decorated the venue, and helped in many more ways. This event could not have been successful without all of you. You know who you are.

Proceeds: The auction netted a final profit of over \$61,000; a record for the auction.

Committee Members:

Michele Page, Chair; Teresa Dieringer, Vice-Chair; Colleen Bliss, Alice Brown, Jan Crane, Heather Dorrell, Sue Geary, Di Johnson, Marion Johnson, Lissa Lander, Julie Miller, Adrienne Splinter, Suzanne Tronier.

Graphic Design for the theme, brochure, and silent auction displays generously donated by Peter Esko.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE - NANCY HOWARD & MARION JOHNSON

The Strategic Plan's goals for the Hospitality Committee are to create a warm welcoming environment and to promote congregational involvement in church activities. In accordance with those goals, the Hospitality Committee staffs two tables during coffee hour to greet visitors and assist new and current congregants connect and join the work and social life of the church.

The Welcome Table provides new visitors with: a warm welcome, basic information about church facilities, meeting times, church pamphlets and name badges.

The Congregational Life Table provides opportunities for visitors to form connections with other congregants on their first visit to the table. We do this by:

- inviting visitors to attend a Newcomers Dinner and Dialog so they may connect with other new people in a comfortable setting,
- assisting visitors identify UU committees or events that interest them,
- introducing visitors to committee people or congregants who share similar interests,
- writing personal notes to visitors who have completed a SLC UU Involvement Opportunities Form, thanking them for their interest, informing them we have referred their names to the appropriate Committee Chair(s) and inviting them back to the table to chat on a following Sunday.

The Congregational Life Committee also assists the Ministers, Committee Chairs and the Congregation by facilitating:

- Class Registrations
- Charitable Collections
- Small Group Ministry Registration
- Committee Sign-ups
- Event Promotion
- Dinner and Dialog for hosts and guests
- General problem solving

The Congregational Life Committee also provides support to the church ministers for the orientation meetings and the New Member Celebration.

Our goals for next year are: Improve newcomer data collection in order to increase membership, continue to help UUs connect with each other and continue to recruit and train other Congregational Life Table staff.

We are happy to report that a total of 41 people joined the church throughout the year and at the New Member Celebration on April 19, 2018.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE - ED DIERINGER

The Hospitality Program is Your Church **Connector** to help you find ways to find meaningful engagement in our community; our service committees of Sunday Greeting, Coffee Service, Welcome Table, Congregational Life, and Dinner & Dialogue assist church attendees in finding a sense of place within our community. The Hospitality Program also supports the Ministers' informational meetings to help congregants in their faith development and understand the purpose of being an engaged member of First Unitarian Church.

Sunday greeting requires the important, but brief, support of many volunteers. To cover all the bases each Sunday, we need 4 greeters for each service throughout the year. We have and welcome volunteers to work together as team to help church-goers feel welcome at our busy Sunday church services year-around. One only need remember their first days of attending our church to understand the importance of a helpful smiling face to help them get oriented. Participating as a greeter for even a couple Sundays a year is an easy way to enrich your connectedness to your fellow congregants while helping to distribute the work-load for a critical, but easy role. To put yourself on the greeter participation list, send your information and availability in an email to slcuuhospitality@gmail.com. You will get an email each week keeping you informed on what slots need to be filled, then it is up to you to fit yourself into the schedule as able.

The Welcome Table and Community Life Committee provide a wealth of information to help congregants engage in community life. We work with the Minister to facilitate a more integrated and enriched community life at First Unitarian Church. We are steadily developing systems and tools as we figure out old and new needs of our congregation so that can provide better support for our church leaders, committee chairs, and volunteers. Come visit our table to find out more and to get **Engaged!**

Thank you to Reverend Monica Dobbins for her kind and expert guidance in helping us continue to develop our Hospitality Leadership Team. Thank you to our Hospitality Team Leaders: Marc Peterson, Carol Romagosa, Nancy Howard, Marion Johnson. And thank you to all who have participated in Greeting, Welcome Table, Coffee Service, Congregational Life Table, and the Minister's Information Meetings during this very vibrant church year.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL - JOAN M. GREGORY AND CAROL FOSTER, CO-CHAIRS

The Social Justice Council (SJC), through its member committees, works within our communities to put into action the Unitarian Universalist principles to affirm and promote: the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equality and compassion in human relations; the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. SJC members recognize the common social and political forces that serve to sustain economic, racial, gender, and environmental injustices. SJC members seek change through education, advocacy, and collaboration with other groups; and through direct assistance, intervention, and action with or on behalf of individuals and groups who experience injustice.

The SJC is comprised of the leadership of the following committees: Anti-Racism Committee, Campaign to Save Lives, Environmental Ministry, Harvest for Hunger, Issues and Action Group, Planned Parenthood, Refugee Resettlement Committee, Sanctuary Steering Committee, and Unitarians for Justice in the Middle East. SJC also welcomes the participation of individuals interested in working for social change.

SJC areas of focus this year have included: racial justice, reproductive justice, environmental and climate justice, refugee and immigrant advocacy and support, LGBT equality, justice in the Middle East, serving meals for homeless teens, and supporting the movement against gun violence.

The Social Justice Council (SJC) met on many 3rd Sundays in 2017-2018. Coordinators of the various social justice efforts reported on their work and worked together to plan or support their collective efforts. The following four efforts: Environmental Ministry, Refugee Resettlement, Planned Parenthood People's Justice Forum, and Sanctuary are each described and reported in separate reports that follow this one. In addition to the work of these four efforts, the Social Justice Council supported the following activities, service, and actions this year:

- Anti-Racism Committee** co-chaired by Joan Gregory and Victoria Sethunya focused this year's efforts on education, analysis and action, including reading: *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving; examining what micro-aggressions look like in our own lives and communities, and how to combat them, first within ourselves through discussion, awareness, and practice and then within our church community by systemic changes; and supporting members of the broader community shining the light on racial injustice. As the year progressed, it became clear that the work of anti-racism could no longer be the work of a single committee, but rather the work of our entire congregation in collaboration with our ministers ... working to abolish racism in ourselves, our church, our community, and our country. There is still so much work to be done.
- Campaign to Save Lives** - Campaign to Save Lives is an organization founded by Ron and Norma Molen and dedicated to informing the public about gun laws and gun safety. A huge majority of Utahns favor a universal background check and a gun lock up law. This past fall, the Campaign hosted a screening of its new short film, produced by Don Walton and Ron Molen, focused on the realities of gun violence in Utah.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL CONTINUED

•**Feeding Homeless Teens** – In partnership with Volunteers of America (VOA), First Unitarian Church volunteers serve meals for homeless teens at the VOA Homeless Youth Resource Center. We have about 12 teams of volunteers, 5-6 people in each group. Each month, groups serve 1 breakfast, 1 lunch, and 1 dinner. Our kids make sack lunches. Volunteers may not bring their own children (adults only). The commitment is small (even for group leaders), there are several time slots to suit a volunteer's availability, and volunteers remark about how rewarding it is to do this work. Brenda Goodwin is the coordinator of this effort.

•**Harvest for Hunger**, is an organization led by Heather Heaton which aims to help people use their gardens and the gardens of others to grow their own food, and distribute excess to those in need. Volunteers in this effort have the opportunity to (1) host a garden in their yard (donating unused space with or without outside help), (2) volunteer the manual work of preparation, planting, weeding, harvesting, and/or (3) donate funds for supplies. Garden tools are needed and may be brought to the Environmental Ministry table following Sunday services.

•**Issues and Action**, coordinated by Mark Rothacher, has as its purpose to assist the members and friends of First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City to become better informed on political issues and to be more effective in communicating their views to politicians and the media through correspondence and other forms of communication. The objectives are to get politicians and the public to be more aware of and have more compassion for those in our society who are less fortunate, to encourage protection of our planet, and to communicate other concepts and positions on issues in line with the 7 UU principles.

•**March for Our Lives** - More than a million students, parents, teachers and anti-violence activists took to the streets on Saturday, March 24, 2018 for the worldwide March for Our Lives. The historic day of action was organized by the student survivors of the Valentine's Day 2018 massacre at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where 17 people were killed—14 students and three faculty. Here in Salt Lake City the march was planned and led by students from West High. Members and friends of First Unitarian Church painted and created signs in a sign-making party and gathered together to march from West High School and to rally at the Utah State Capitol. Salt Lake City crowd estimates were over 8K – making it one of the largest in the state's history.

•**Petitions** – On any Sunday this year, you were bound to find someone circulating Eliot Hall with petitions in support of getting one or more issues on the ballot – the focus was clearly on the importance of the involvement of the people at the grassroots in choosing what initiatives are or are not on the ballot each year ... in full support of our 5th principle of the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

•**Planned Parenthood - Sexual Health Jail Program**. This program sends teachers into the Salt Lake County Jail to teach sexual health. Currently, the program is in the women's minimum security pod only but there are plans to expand it. Diane Johnson is our only member who has been involved this year but other members will be on board next year.

•**Pride Parade** - Jun 3rd – The Social Justice Council has secured a place for the Utah Unitarian congregations in the 2018 Pride Parade. All are welcome! Kaden Colton is this year's Unitarian

SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL CONTINUED

Parade Marshall. The theme is: Get Salty! Join us. Wear your Side of Love T-Shirt and march with us. Join us in support of our SLC LGBTQIA community throughout the years.

•**Unitarians Universalists for Justice in the Middle East**, represented at First Unitarian by Barbara Taylor, gathered signatures for a letter written to our Representatives in Washington, supporting HR 4391, which promotes Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children. It's estimated that 10,000 Palestinian children have been detained by the Israeli military court system since 2000. The congregation responded by signing 38 letters to Congressman Stewart, 10 to Congresswoman Mia Love and 8 to Congressman John Curtis.

•**Young Adults** led and represented by Heather Heaton made a concerted effort to raise the profile of young adults in the church's social justice efforts this year and plan to continue to do so in coming years. Young adults offered their support, their skills, and their passion. Heather keeps the YAs updated about social justice efforts, events and actions through the FirstUnitarian SLCYoungAdultsFacebook page. Special thanks to Heather Heaton, Thea Holcomb, Katie Swade, Kaden Colton, and the many other young adults who have shared their energy, enthusiasm, and passion this year in our social justice efforts. We could not have done this work without your help and your willingness to jump in and take on leadership roles.

Environmental Ministry – *submitted by Joan M. Gregory, Judy Lord, Kathy Albury, Michael Mielke, and Brittany Bellows*

Our vision is unchanged: to affirm, promote, and act in congruence with the Unitarian Seventh Principle: "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." The focus of the work remains: what can we do to prevent harm to the environment and build a safer and more sustainable future for humanity? We respond to these challenges by sharing information, educating ourselves and the community, and taking action individually and collectively to keep fossil fuels in the ground.

In our programming, information sharing, educational programs, and action this year, Environmental Ministry has collaborated with many organizations, including the following: Association for the Tree of Life, Citizens Climate Lobby, Elders Rising, Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Utah Chapter Sierra Club, Utah League of Native American Voters, Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment, Utah Tar Sands Resistance, and Wasatch Rising Tide.

WALKING OUR TALK

Swap: Environmental Ministry sponsored one swap this year on Dec 16, 2017, at San Esteban Episcopal Church, our sister church in West Valley City. Items were donated from both congregations. Members, friends, and neighbors of both churches as well as the greater community were invited to bring what they no longer needed and take what they needed. No money changed hands.

Recycling: As in the past, the church continues to recycle paper, cardboard, aluminum, glass, and plastic once a week. Mark Molen and Judy Lord have been emptying Sunday coffee grounds into the compost bin. Two volunteer families continued to pick up and deliver batteries and CFLs to the

SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL CONTINUED

hazardous waste facility for proper disposal and/or recycling. Environmental Ministry continues to coordinate recycling for the annual church picnic. More volunteers from the congregation are needed to help with these recycling efforts. Jim French continues to recycle hard to recycle items via TerraCycle: toothbrushes and packaging from any brand of tooth care products; the plastic bags from ready-to-eat cereals; hair care, skin care and cosmetics packaging and containers; and the mylar wrappers from energy bars. Most of these items are not recyclable through our municipal waste recycling programs and each item is worth 2¢ to First Unitarian Church. We also collect electronics recycling for a Jr. High fundraising project.

Tabling: All but three Sundays of the church year, volunteers staff the Environmental Ministry table highlighting environmentally related information, activities and actions both within the church and in the larger community. Efforts highlighted this year have included: carbon fee and dividend, gardening, developments at the PR Springs tar sands mine site, climate change developments, support for Bear's Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monuments, and what our congregants are doing to help sustainability.

Reusable Place Settings: Environmental Ministry has contributed to church events over the years by gradually enhancing our collection of reusable bowls, salad plates, utensils and napkins to support our Winter Solstice dinner for over 150. As a result, these place settings are available throughout the year for use by other groups within the church for their gatherings and celebrations and were used this year at the Board's gatherings of church leadership, the church picnic, Environmental Ministry events, Solstice, and other functions. Thank you for reusing these resources and thereby reducing waste and consumption!

Garden: In 2017, 10 of 11 plots had gardeners. Two failed to ever plant their plots, or coordinate with us for alternatives until well into the hot part of the season, so those plots were dormant last year. Over the last year, several improvements to the garden were made. Bark mulch was placed along several walkways with weed barrier going down first to help control the never ending weed problem. Many improvements were made to the water systems and great strides were also made in cleaning up leftover debris and making the garden area more attractive. For the 2018 season the garden co-facilitators are Brittany Bellows and Marcia Walker. We are hoping to increase gardener involvement this year as we have really struggled with getting people to attend work days. We were unable to do another load of mulch walkway last year as a result of the poor attendance. This year, the garden is again a member of the Wasatch Community Garden network, enabling members of the garden to take free classes/workshops and to receive available plants and supplies.

Pride Parade: Environmental Ministry's banner, created by Art Lee, was proudly carried again in the 2017 Pride Parade, displaying our support of LGBTQIA rights and justice. Environmental Ministry will walk once again in the 2018 Pride Parade.

Walking Our Talk efforts are coordinated by Judy Lord and are made possible only through the efforts of many volunteers including Kathy Albury, Jim French, Mark and Pamela Molen, Richard Anderton,

SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL CONTINUED

Gertrud and Paul Carpenter, the Harty Family, Rick and Joan Gregory, Brittany Bellows, and Marcia Walker.

WORSHIP

It is rare to find a Sunday where our deep connection to the Earth and our profound responsibility to actively work for climate justice are not part of the sermon, the readings and/or the message.

On Apr 22, 2018, Environmental Ministry presented a program for the elementary children featuring Kaitlin McLean of Bags to Beds. She showed the children how to make plastic bag yarn (“plarn”) to be crocheted into sleeping mats for the homeless, an excellent reuse of one-use plastic shopping bags. We so appreciate the enthusiastic support and assistance provided by Julie Miller, Director, and Religious Education Assistants Lissa Lander and Amanda Esko.

EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS

Environmental Justice

Educating ourselves and our community about the environment and environmental justice continued with these programs:

Colorado River System: Songs, Photos and Stories by Art Lee. Attendees of this December program experienced the beauty and power of the Colorado, Green and San Juan Rivers. In the second part, migratory birds and pueblo ruins hinted at our vulnerability to drought.

Seed: the Untold Story, a film shown in January, follows passionate seed keepers protecting our 12,000 year-old food legacy and explains how biotech companies control the majority of our seeds.

A Fresh Look at Global Warming and Ecological Excess was presented by the Association for the Tree of Life in collaboration with Environmental Ministry in the fall, including solutions and responses. The class was suspended pending the release of the strategy and tactics that were assayed as legitimate responses to the interconnected crises discussed. A copy of the final draft of that report, *Delusions and Contradictions*, is in final production preparation before its formal release in May.

Chasing Coral, shown in February, tells the story of coral and what is rapidly happening to it due to global warming.

Recycling Presentation and Discussion. This program, presented in March by Jen Farrell of the Salt Lake City Waste and Recycling Division and Rebecca Smith, the sustainability director for Ace Recycling and Disposal, with an addendum by Kaitlyn McLean of Bags to Beds, gave information on what materials are specifically recyclable here, and explained why many other materials are not recyclable and what can be done with some of them. The program was so informative we may repeat it annually.

In June, Art Lee will present another music and slides presentation about the Colorado Basin.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL CONTINUED

VIGILANCE AND ACTION

Solar Energy: Rocky Mountain Power has tried to raise rates on all rooftop solar power customers. Several church members participated in the rooftop solar energy fight by attending the public hearing in August and some made comments at the hearing. Many more wrote comments to send by mail prior to the hearing.

Last Chance Tour and Rocking Chair Brigade: Environmental Ministry members continue to work with allies in an attempt to stop tar sands mining at PR Springs on the Tavaputs Plateau in eastern UT. In September several congregants joined Elders Rising's Last Chance Tour and Rocking Chair Brigade, which included a tour of the PR Spring tar sands mining area and an action at the gates to the processing facility.

Environmental Ministry promoted the tracking of legislation impacting the environment, especially the climate, and Indigenous People's rights, at state and federal levels. Many a petition was signed and many a phone call or email was placed and many a poster or banner held up by UU's at the Capitol, at marches and rallies, and at Town Hall meetings.

Promotion of the creation of Bears Ears Monument by the Interior Department under the Obama Administration was strongly supported by Environmental Ministry and many members of the congregation. President Obama designated Bears Ears National Monument on Dec 28, 2016. When President Trump threatened to cut the size of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments, our congregation responded in large numbers, protesting that possible action. However, President Trump signed a proclamation on December 4, 2017, cutting Bears Ears down to two small areas to be called Shash Jaa and Indian Creek National Monuments and another proclamation cutting Grand Staircase-Escalante down to three small areas to be called Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyons. Several entities are suing to stop those actions and, while we wait for the results of those suits, we will continue to stand strong with both Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante as originally proclaimed.

People's Justice Forum (Planned Parenthood) *Submitted by Rev. Monica Dobbins*

This year, members of the Social Justice Committee under the leadership of Rev. Monica Dobbins participated in the People's Justice Forum (PJF), a citizen lobbying organization first launched in 2016 by Planned Parenthood Association of Utah.

Background: First organized as the Reproductive Freedom Forum (RFF), the organization operates under the principles of Reproductive Justice:

1. The freedom to have a child
2. The freedom to *not* have a child
3. The freedom to raise one's children in an environment free from violence by individuals or the state

As more advocacy organizations joined the RFF, its Steering Committee began to receive feedback that

SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL CONTINUED

the RFF was perceived in the community as an organizing arm solely of Planned Parenthood. In an effort to better represent all the member organizations, to deemphasize Planned Parenthood itself, and to emphasize the member-led structure, the RFF was reimagined as the PJF.

Purpose: The PJF is a member-led forum which engages in citizen lobbying in the state of Utah for legislation that promotes the health and well-being of Utahns, particularly women, families, people of color, and other vulnerable groups. The Steering Committee (of which Rev. Dobbins is a member) helps focus the group on legislations of particular interest to the member organizations, and the individual membership develop strategy and carry out actions designed to influence legislators to vote in ways that benefit the above-named vulnerable groups.

Activities: Members of First Unitarian Church participated as individuals in the Forum in the following ways:

1. Attending weekly PJF meetings during the legislative session
2. Helping to develop strategic actions to be taken, such as meeting with legislators, writing letters/cards, using social media to influence legislators
3. Attended committee meetings, hearings, and votes during the session

Members involved: Heather Heaton, MariadelMar Gonzalez-Gonzalez (representing ACLU Utah), Jean Esplin, Katie Swade, Thea Holcomb, Diane Johnson, Carol Foster, Ellen Grove, Lisa Hyte

How did this activity serve the Mission and Strategic Plan of First Unitarian Church?

Mission: This activity reflects our mission in that it helps our members “actively engage in building a progressive and just world.”

Strategic Plan: This activity promotes the following objectives of the Strategic Plan:

1. Communication:
 - a. Strategy 2 - Formulate and refine the messages for leading and living progressive lives regarding kids, social justice, the environment, the community, and individual growth in Salt Lake City and beyond.
 - b. Strategy 3 - Ensure the Ministers are engaged in the public conversation through the media.
2. Congregational Life:
 - a. Strategy 2 - Strengthen the UU Identity among children and adults and manifest those qualities in the world.
3. Growth:
 - a. Strategy 4 - Demonstrate our progressive values and make them more accessible to all ages and ethnicities.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL CONTINUED

Refugee Resettlement Committee *Submitted by Joe DuBray*

For over twenty years, guided by the first UU principle, “to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person,” the RRC has offered First Unitarian Church members and friends information and volunteer opportunities involving refugee resettlement in the Salt Lake City valley. Fifty two current RRC volunteers, several new this year, assist and support the International Rescue Committee (IRC) resettling IRC sponsored refugees in the SLC valley, and have been making arriving and residing refugees feel welcome in their new Utah home.

The IRC is a nonsectarian, nongovernmental international relief and development organization based in the United States (US) founded in 1933 at the suggestion of Albert Einstein. IRC works worldwide, responding to crises, running refugee camps and resettling refugees, including programs in more than 16 US cities. IRC sponsored refugees have fled their home country and cannot return because of well founded fear of persecution based on religion, race, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. IRC refugees have registered with the UN High Commission on Refugees, been through a ten step US admissions process for resettlement by US State Department and been cleared by US Citizenship and Immigration Services. Each refugee receives medical and multi-agency security screening before being referred to a US resettlement agency such as in SLC the IRC or Catholic Community Services.

Of approximately 275 IRC sponsored refugees arriving in SLC from 11 countries in the past twelve months, RRC volunteers helped set up housing for 165, 28 families, average size of 6, many children, arriving from Afghanistan, Burma, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Sudan, Syria and Pakistan. RRC volunteers donated several hundred hours and thousands of volunteer miles in this activity. Using another several hundred volunteer hours and thousands of volunteer miles, RRC volunteers weekly collected donations of household goods, 119 collections, items then shared to meet living needs of both new and existing refugee families.

In the past twelve months, the RRC added solicitation of funding for and organization and delivery of welcome baskets, at an average value of \$150, since provided to 16 families, 94 people to date. And began the collection and delivery of new or reconditioned adult and youth bicycles, 40 so far, and new bicycle helmets, locks, and neon vests, to be given to both arriving or existing refugee families. 23 bikes have been delivered so far, with aid of a hundred volunteer hours and a thousand volunteer miles. First Church members, bike shops, a large SLC law firm, and others, have donated generously to enable and facilitate the welcome basket and bike efforts.

RRC volunteers also helped during the past twelve months move refugee families displaced by apartment fires, equipped several large refugee families with washers and dryers, assembled several sets of new bunk beds donated by IKEA, and on two occasions, using volunteers’ trailers and pick up trucks, collected dozens of boxes of new donated sofas and other furniture from a West Valley freight warehouse storage. And the RRC has established regular contact and collaborative interaction and

SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL CONTINUED

relations with the Assistance League of SLC, the Habitat ReStore and several area DI store locations regarding securing donations of items for refugee needs.

With the help of the First Church RE staff, the RRC organized and presented a November Sunday morning program on refugees to enthusiastic, grades 1 through 8, children of First Church, explaining the history of the IRC, the RRC, and using photos, slides, testimonials and exhibits, showed and answered many questions about refugee living conditions and the work of the RRC volunteers. First Church children have regularly supported RRC efforts through generous donations of toys.

At the invitation of the IRC, leaders of the RRC met in May, 2107, with the VP of the IRC US Programs and in August, 2017, with the new CEO of the IRC, to discuss refugee activity in SLC and IRC US activity, planning and programs. These small group discussions included representatives from a few other SLC area refugee supportive and faith groups, e.g. LDS, Catholic Community Services, et al., and local government officials from SLC, Park City, et. al.

The RRC also arranged and facilitated IRC staff led training at First Church for IRC volunteers on two Sundays in Fall of 2017. Volunteer opportunities with the SLC IRC (see Rescue.org/SLC) include: ESL tutoring; family mentor; employment mentor; front desk support; financial education volunteer; event volunteer; office support; youth-in-home tutor; health mentor; Spice Kitchen Incubator mentor; and support of group activity, such as the goat project and GenR. RRC volunteers and other First Church members, many formerly active in the RRC, continue to be involved in supporting many IRC activities.

For more information on SLC area refugee activity, current RRC activity, donation items needed by refugees, volunteer opportunities, etc., check the bulletin board information on the East wall of Eliot Hall, email the RRC at rrc@slcuu.org, or talk with one of the following RRC leaders. Respectfully submitted by, Joe DuBray, RRC Coordinator, and RRC Team Leaders Ron Anderson, Richard Anderton, Bonnie Baty, Andrea Globokar, Nancy Rasmuson, Johanna Whiteman and Jim Wilcox.

Sanctuary Steering Committee - Submitted by Joan Gregory

They say inclusion changes everything. Life at First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City certainly changed when on the evening of Tuesday, January 30th Vicky Chavez and her two daughters took sanctuary at First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City. Vicky was on her way to the airport to self-deport to Honduras after her stay of removal was denied. But she could not do it, could not expose her daughters to the violence rampant in the country that she fled from in 2014 to seek asylum in the United States. It was just too dangerous. So she took the brave step to defy deportation and take sanctuary, and we opened our doors, our arms, and our hearts to this amazing and courageous family. #KeepFamiliesTogether

It had been 8 years since the congregation voted to join the "New Sanctuary" Movement and pledged to provide short-term "symbolic" sanctuary. But in 2017, it became abundantly clear that "symbolic sanctuary" could no longer meet the desperate needs of immigrant families facing deportation. Long-term sanctuary was what was required.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL CONTINUED

About a year before Vicky entered Sanctuary, Joan Gregory and Phil Davis began attending meetings of the Enriching Utah Coalition (EUC), a coalition formed to bring together community-based organizations, congregations, and groups involved in supporting immigrants and refugees locally. Out of this coalition came the Salt Lake City Solidarity/Sanctuary Network (Network), coordinated by Kristin Knippenberg, to invite and support congregations in exploring what it would mean to offer sanctuary. In November 2018, a Sanctuary Steering Committee was formed at First Unitarian to begin our consideration and preparations for moving from short-term to long-term sanctuary. The Steering Committee has included: Amanda Esko, Bryan VandenBirge, Joan Gregory, Kelly Garrett, Kristin Knippenberg, Lauren VandenBirge, Lisa Hyte, Rev. Monica Dobbins, Samantha Overton, Sarang Joshi, Sven Haynes, and Rev. Tom Goldsmith with advisors from the EUC and the Network communities. A congregational meeting date was set and on February 4, 2018, the First Unitarian Church congregation voted to solidify and confirm its commitment to provide long-term sanctuary and to making this a ministry of First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City.

We had been preparing for months to host a sanctuary guest facing deportation but, in hindsight, the preparations were nowhere near what was needed and at the same time far more than what was required. Anything more than safe haven could come in time. Our understanding has come gradually over time as we prepared and as we continue to learn. We have stepped up to this critical call to action and Vicky has made it easy. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to serve in this way.

At the time this report is being written, nearly 200 people have signed up to volunteer for this effort, with about 90 actively serving as hosts (staffing the church 24/7) and 20 in special roles (e.g., teaching, coordinating, shopping, healthcare, etc.). Vicky sends her appreciation to all the volunteers. As of the writing of this report, we've logged over 4,200 volunteer hours and Vicky has been in sanctuary for 85 days. We are in relationship for the long haul. We've been advised that it is likely that the legal process will take 8 to 9 months or longer. In the meantime, we will provide a safe, secure, and fun sanctuary for Vicky and her daughters, prioritizing their needs, working along-side and in solidarity with Vicky's efforts to shine the light of truth, the warmth of love, and the energy of action on the injustices of deporting mothers and their children, the injustices of separating families. Join us ... sign up to become a host: <https://tinyurl.com/Volunteer4SLCSanctuary>. We look forward to your getting involved!

WOMEN'S SACRED CIRCLE - ADRIENNE SPLINTER

The Women's Sacred Circle was started around 6 years ago. There are several activities we enjoy throughout the year. We meet in the Haven at First Unitarian Church on the 2nd Tuesday of each month to explore our spiritual journeys. We also meet each month on the full moon at members' homes. In addition, twice a year we schedule retreats to Southern Utah to recreate our souls. Our spring retreat this year has a "Gypsy Camp" theme. It will take place April 28th-30th and has 15 women participating.

WSC's Second Tuesday Meetings:

At this year's planning meeting in September, we decided the direction our group will take for the 2017-2018 season. Using as our theme Sacred Places/Spaces, we focused on developing curriculum around spaces or places we find spiritually enlightening; whether they be public or personal. These spaces or places allow us to develop our spiritual practices. Examples of sacred places are the Sedona vortex, California redwoods, labyrinths, house altars, and inner spiritual meditations.

The presenter of the month decides on the curriculum; then, she develops a presentation of how the place has informed her spiritual growth. Notice of the topic and background information was emailed to the group prior to the meeting. Using the structure of our meetings, she presented the information to the group. Journaling is strongly encouraged throughout the year, so some type of record keeping mechanism (journal notebooks are handy) is brought to all meetings. The attendance at these meetings is an average of 13 per meeting, with about 75% of the participants being First UU members or friends.

Full Moon Circles

Using the format of our WSC meetings Full Moon Circles are held in member's homes each month. This year we studied flowers; their healing properties, historical aspects, or how to create gardens of beauty and delight. This was at the discretion of the presenter for that month. For example, Jan Crane presented violets. She served dishes using the flower, and each of us chose a postcard displaying violets. The attendance at these meetings is an average of 15 with about 50% of the participants being First UU members or friends.

Community Outreach

As a further extension of our activities, we donated pillows and made small fleece blankets for a South Jordan Women's Shelter. We also donated new underwear to the Road Home.

For more information feel free to contact: Adrienne Splinter at adriennefs2@gmail.com; Christine Ashworth at cashworth1313@gmail.com; Carol Romagosa at cjromagosa@gmail.com; or Donnie Davis at pdj7@aol.com

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY - DEREK GERSDORF

The Small Group Ministry (SGM) program at First Unitarian Church is integral to the five objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan: Communication, Financial, Congregational Life, Growth and Integration. Drawing from the Unitarian Universalist Association website “Small Group Ministry is a vital part of many Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations. Groups of 10-12 people meet regularly, usually monthly, to reflect on and discuss significant life topics. Small groups are great places to get to know other people and to get to know yourself. Over time, participants build deep connections with one another, with the congregation and with the sacred. Whether the topic is ‘good and evil’, ‘mindful living’ or ‘letting go,’ the conversation is respectful and caring and leads to greater understanding. In each session, facilitated by a member of the congregation, all participants have opportunity to share their perspectives, tell their stories, and listen deeply. The time together is structured: Groups begin and end with centered readings and often include a time of silence before the sharing begins. Many small groups engage in annual service projects, putting their faith in action. Most Small Group Ministries have an ‘open enrollment’ time once or twice a year, and request a commitment of one year or more”

SGM at First Unitarian Church touches on each of the five objectives in the Strategic plan: it is a time and place for members to communicate; be motivated to contribute more financially to the Church; increase their spiritual, theological and social development; continue to grow First Church as friends of SGM participants learn of the great discussions; and further integrate First Church as those of different cultures, generations and theological perspectives share and learn together.

During the 2017/18 church year, Derek Gersdorf was the lead facilitator. Sandi Greene continued to serve as the registrar and the topics were chosen by Derek Gersdorf selected from “A Small Group Ministry Resource Book” suggested by Rev. Tom Goldsmith. Gaylan Nielsen led an excellent training session with the facilitators. Thank you Sandi and Gaylan for your excellent service. We had eleven small groups, one more than last year, and the facilitators were: Derek Gersdorf, Shirley Ray, Don Walton/Colleen Bliss, Erin Phinney-Johnson (the children care group), Darlene Thayne/Gary Widdison (Bountiful/Northern group), Sheena Kauppila, Arwen Behrends, Teresa/Ed Dierenger, Mark Gardiner, Lynda Garlick and Sandi Greene with several groups having co-facilitators. Thank you all for making SGM a success this year. We had 112 register on the Church website this year. The discussion topics/titles included: Religious/Spiritual timeline, Living Simply, Share poem that influenced your life, Living and dying, Mothers, A Sacred Place, Mentors, Forgiveness. The goals for this year were to 1. Increase the number of those registering through better advertising, 2. Increase regular participation from those who register, 3. Continue to tie the discussions to the UU Church but increase the female voices/topics, 4. Coordinate better with the Welcome Committee. Those registered increased by 6 members over last year. The regular participation did not increase over last year and a couple of groups even disbanded. The topics were favorably received by most groups, but others chose their own topics instead of some of those given to them. The coordination did increase with the Welcome Committee, especially in registering members in the fall. I am stepping down as the lead facilitator and will coordinate with whomever decides to serve in that capacity.

COFFEE HOUR - MARION JOHNSON

The Coffee Committee provided really good coffee for every coffee hour, every Sunday the entire year.

Greg and I would like to thank Jack Avery for taking over the coffee supply duties. We know how much work this involves and are very grateful to Jack.

We would also like to thank Pauline Higgins and Jim Rossetto for recruiting, training and scheduling volunteers every coffee hour for yet another year. Please help Pauline and Jim by volunteering to brew coffee for a Sunday or two. *"The greatest gift one Unitarian gives to another is a hot cup of coffee."* Anon.

Lastly, we would like to thank all our volunteers for getting up early to brew the coffee or staying late to wash lipstick off the cups. We appreciate your dedication.

UU MINDFULNESS MEDITATION SANGHA - SHIRLEY RAY

The First Church Meditation Sangha meets Sundays between the first and second service and in summer, 9:00 am before the Sunday Forum. Sunday guided meditation offers an introduction to sitting meditation and mindfulness practice. We pause for reflection and insight for the coming week using the book, *The Wise Heart*, by Jack Kornfield, with the intention to understand and cultivate mindfulness, compassion and true wisdom in our lives. Each session concludes with sharing *metta/lovingkindness*. For a deeper understanding of meditation in daily life and how to establish a personal meditation practice we met for a 2 hour monthly session. Two meetings were held at Red Butte Garden for walking meditation. An auction event, Spring Silent Retreat, was offered for 20 participants to be held at Jane's Home in mid May. Lee Stanhope arranged labyrinths walks in the city.

Sunday Guided Meditation is led by Sue Click, Gina Kiechel and Shirley Ray

Sunday assistance by Arturo Hernandez, John Kiechel and Lee Stanhope

Our altar was donated by Bev Cooper.

Events, planning and communication by Joanne Ottos' and Colleen Bliss

Attendance has continued to increase and last Sunday there were 35 attendees in the parlor.

We send a monthly email to more than 60 signatures.

ART FAIR - BILL REED

First Unitarian Church 2018 Art Festival a big Success.

This fund raiser continues to be a lot of fun. This year we had over 40 artists raising approximately \$2,250 for the church.

Performances included:

Aerial Arts of Utah - Outdoor Plaza Performance, UU Children's Choir, Quattro Amici - Italian Madrigal Quartet, Java Jive - Jazz Vocal Ensemble and Tablado - Flamenco Guitar, dance and song.

Attendance was great. This is an event with a lot of helpers, too numerous to mention here. But special thanks to Marcia Walker, Jim Turner and Diane Johnson. The Festival would not be possible without them. Also special thanks to Art Lee for his heroic efforts during break down.

SUMMER CAMPOUT - JIM THORNBURG, AMANDA FINLAYSON

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. Children's activities are planned so there will be something to do for all ages!

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 \$36 per car.

Arrival Date: Thu Jul 26 2018 **Check-in Time:** 2:00 PM **Departure Date:** Sun Jul 29 2018 **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 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.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP - HEATHER HEATON

The First Unitarian Young Adult Group is for those age 18 through their 30's, or those young at heart. Our goal is to foster a young adult community at the church to engage in spiritual and intellectual growth, social events, and community outreach projects.

The Young Adults Group did get a late start to the church year, with our first meeting being in early October. Throughout the year we've experienced an influx of new Young Adult members, many of which are very involved in several aspects of the church, as well as an increase in the frequency of events held.

Membership & Interactions

We operate mainly through Facebook, with a growing number of people who prefer email interactions. Our public Facebook page, through which all public events are published is: @FirstUUYoungAdults. Our private Facebook group, through which all private conversations are held is: First Unitarian Young Adults SLC, and new membership requires approval by a member of the group to provide security and privacy to our members. Events and announcements are also regularly posted in the Sunday service program.

Facebook Group Members: 181

Facebook Group Active Members (people who interact with comments, views, and reactions): 120

Email Only Members: 5

New Members Since Sept 2017: 33

Overall Growth Since Sept 1, 2017: 13%

Events

Each month we meet with either Tom or Monica (alternating) for a discussion around a topic of the Minister's choice. Some examples of topics we've covered this year are: gun reform, self-care, holiday traditions and the stress that accompanies them, how to overcome tyranny, and sexual assault and the #MeToo movement. We also have at least one social event each month including dinner at local restaurants, brunch after Sunday services, board game/card game nights, a holiday potluck party, and a clothing swap. We have also started to include the high school students in some of our events to make them feel included as they transition from the youth program to adulthood within the church.

Total # of Events Held October Through April: 17

Discussions with Tom and Monica: 7

Social Events: 10

Attendance & Demographics:

Total # of People Who Have Attended at Least 1 Event: 50

of People Who Regularly Attend Events: 19

Average # of People in Attendance at Any Given Event: 8

Age Range of Regular Attendees: 19-44

