
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY

THE TORCH

Celebration Sunday March 4, 2018: MAKE IT COUNT

Whether this is your first, fifth, or umpteenth Celebration Sunday, you are in for a treat this year. Mark March 4 in your calendar, attend either service (or both!) and celebrate First Unitarian Church: its dedicated staff, members, and friends; our commitment to social justice and the environment; the joyous music and religious education departments; and the different ways—large and small—First Church touches your life, impacts our shared community, and supports what's best within humanity, especially in these topsy-turvy times. This year's theme for Celebration Sunday is simple yet powerful: Make It Count. Whatever you do, do it with intention. Have a positive effect. Set things right.

Did I mention a treat? We are thrilled to welcome back a longtime friend of First Church, Lily Eskelsen García. Lily, who started her career as a cafeteria worker before becoming an elementary school teacher in the Granite School District, was the 1989 Utah Teacher of the Year. She now presides over the National Education Association, the largest Union in the country, in Washington DC. From teaching homeless and hard-to-place foster children in Salt Lake City to joining President Obama's Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, from writing parenting columns and protest songs (sometimes one and the same) to speaking out against Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos's undermining of the nation's public schools, Lily makes every day count. She's a Unitarian Universalist with close ties to many First Church members. She will be back among friends this Celebration Sunday to speak (and, we hope, sing) at the 9 am and 11 am services. Make your Sunday count—and don't miss Lily.

Here's another way you can make Celebration Sunday count: the day marks the beginning of our annual pledge drive, and your pledge, well, it counts! Whether you have signed the membership book or are a friend of First Church, your pledge is a major component of the annual budget and supports daily operations. We absolutely welcome collection plate contributions, but they don't allow us to create a budget—your pledge does. And because we have great things planned for next year, our goal for the pledge drive is ambitious but doable: \$583,000—a 5% increase over last year.

If we meet our goal, our church will continue to make it count. We will triple the budget of the music department from \$4,000 to \$12,000, which will allow us to recognize David Zabriskie as Associate Music Director. We will keep a second minister and significantly invest into security so that our programs and events will serve a growing congregation in a safe and welcoming environment. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, we will increase staff salaries. While we can't give our staff the 4% raise recommended by the UUA, after many years of static salaries we need to provide our professional staff with a 2% cost-of-living increase. To make these things happen, we need you to make it count—with your participation, your heart, and your pledge.

Stop by the pledge table in Eliot Hall between Celebration Sunday and Easter Sunday, and Make It Count!



"We know what is at stake (...). It is why we are fearless and why we will not be silent."
-Lily Eskelsen Garcia



THE TORCH

Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

The Bible is less concerned with alleviating the effects of injustice than in eliminating the causes of it.
—Wm. Sloane Coffin

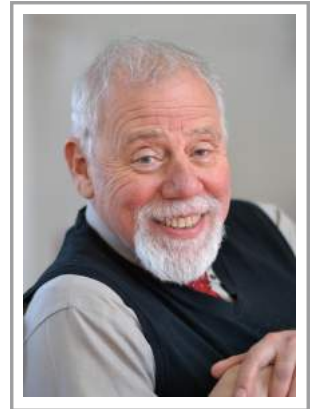
Have you noticed the correlation between keeping religion out of politics with conservative ideology? The more conservative the thinking, the less inclined towards religious precepts on morality and eliminating the causes of injustice. Conservative thinking places religion squarely in the category of private piety as though religion were detached completely from the care and concerns of others.

It has always struck me as a peculiar theology that the personal spiritual life devoted to seeking transcendence precludes the injunction to love one's neighbor. And as the pious proclaim that they are answerable only to God, I cannot fathom that God would not ask them: What have you done to improve the lives of your neighbor? One would think that God cares more about pervasive injustice on His creation than an individual's self-absorbed interest in his or her salvation alone.

Religion has bubbled over into public life because society can no longer separate the single thread that makes the wellbeing of society a focus of both politics and religion. Political fundamentals must deal primarily with how we treat one another. A huge chasm between rich and poor is not good politics. If the bonds of commitment to caring for others are not strengthened, that's bad politics.

The same holds true for religion. Churches that preach the increasingly popular gospel of wealth are practicing bad religion. Religion, according to The Prophets, Jesus, Pope Francis, and other leading practitioners of biblical compassion, herald the wellbeing of others as the fundamental principle in all of life. Religion and the public square are inseparable.

How can religion not enter politics when currently the government is using the lives of children as pawns in a strategic plan to care for the super rich? CHIP is on the chess table affecting the medical care of 9 million children. DACA is on the chess table affecting 800,000 dreamer immigrants who grew up in our country. We're talking human lives, young human lives as though they were dispensable in some insane political strategy attempting to bypass the wellbeing of people in society.



There are currently 1000 churches in the U.S. that provide sanctuary to immigrants facing deportation. We stand proudly among them. Our church has entered the public square as a corrective to bad politics. Once politics strays from the care of human beings, what other institution besides Houses of Worship can counteract the selfish motives infiltrating politics? Our theology includes maintaining a high moral standard of care in the public arena. Our theology demands empathy; the lack of it spells apathy. Our theology also calls for introspection in answering the decisive question: How are you treating people? TRG



THE TORCH

Assistant Minister's Corner

Rev. Monica Dobbins

On Monday, January 29, our congregation became the first in Salt Lake City to offer physical Sanctuary to an immigrant family seeking to avoid deportation. This effort has required hundreds of volunteer hours, deep prayer and reflection, and logistical arrangements from a large crew of people, both within and outside our church. What a thrilling moment, as we come together for love and justice, giving so much of ourselves for this precious family!

It's important to remember that this is not about us, though. We are the conduit through which justice may be carried out, but as in any act of love, we are putting the needs of someone else first, before our own needs and wishes. We are providing hospitality to a family we've never met – a family who's scared, away from home, unable to leave our facilities because of the immediate risk of deportation.

Most of us have had the pleasure of having overnight guests in our own homes, and that's a good starting place for us to think about how to be good hosts to this family. There are some crucial differences, however. Check out these tips on how to be a good host to a Sanctuary family:



1. ALWAYS LET THE GUEST LEAD. If you find yourself in a position to help our guests in any way, always check with them first to ask how they prefer things. For example, the guest may want to cook or wash up for themselves, instead of having someone do it for them. You aren't being inhospitable by refusing that request! Let them know you're ready to help if they wish, but respect their decisions.
2. It's natural to be curious and friendly, to want to introduce yourself and get to know our guests. But try to remember that they would much rather be at home than with us: they're in our church as a last resort in their pursuit of a legal path to stay in the country. We must be sensitive to the emotional exhaustion of being in that position.

And as in any case when you're spending time with strangers, even well-meaning ones, it takes time to build trust and get to know people. So a friendly hello is welcome, but try to be as unobtrusive as possible. When the guest is ready, they may wish to share their story with us and start making connections. Always let the guest lead.

3. Even when trust has been established and relationships are forming, there are some questions which are never appropriate to ask. We should avoid asking about our guests' documentation, about the situation they fled or why they are here in the US, or any other sensitive personal details. Think about the most sensitive or painful things in your life – we all have things we'd rather not talk about with anyone but our most trusted confidants. There are so many other things they might want to talk about – their profession, their hobbies, their favorite recipes, sports – anything!
4. There are so many volunteers who are contributing to this effort. They are committed to keeping our guest safe and as comfortable as possible. Our staff are also working hard to contribute to the effort. When you see them, be sure to thank them and ask how you can help!

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 12:20 pm

The membership of First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City will convene for a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 4, 2018 at 12:20 pm in the sanctuary. The purpose of this short meeting is to secure a formal vote of our members on the following declaration:

Definition:

As a Sanctuary Church, First Unitarian Church will offer a place of refuge for both short-term (symbolic) and indefinite-term (physical) sanctuary for individuals and families who face hardship, fear, and targeting by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agency. First Unitarian Church provides shelter, support, and advocacy in coordination with other faith communities which comprise the Salt Lake City Sanctuary Solidarity Network.

ALL INTERESTED CONGREGANTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETING. CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE VOTING PROCESS.



THE TORCH

Religious Education

Note: In this issue of The Torch, our Religious Education Director Julie Miller introduces new and prospective members of First Church to the essence of our Religious Education (RE) Program.

First Church’s RE curriculum, based on Unitarian Universalists’ values, enables us to embrace an inclusive, multigenerational church community that comes together on Sunday mornings and weekdays to do many things—share ideas, work on social projects (Refugee Resettlement, support for Homeless Teens, for example), enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded people and reflect on uplifting sermons. We embrace liberal religious values and a commitment to social justice and community action.

For infants and toddlers from birth through 3 years old, being a Unitarian means “I know that I am safe and loved.”

For Pre-K and Kindergarten: “I know that I can have fun and that I am a valued participant in our church.”

For 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders: “I am learning about the Unitarian Universalist Church.”

For 5th & 6th graders: “I’m learning about other religions and how they may be similar to—or different from—Unitarian Universalists.”

For the middle-school years: “I know what I believe.”

For high school students: “I can connect my Unitarian identity to my life and my chosen faith community.”

Julie Miller, Director of Religious Education

For adults: “I can maintain my commitment to service and community involvement and to my chosen faith.”



Through our Sunday worship services, and our educational and cultural activities, our overriding objective is to provide opportunities to reflect, serve and learn in a supportive environment. We’re always looking forward to meeting new friends.

As Unitarians, we are:

Learners seeking experiences that instill wisdom and guide us toward an ethical and spiritual life

Explorers from many faith traditions as well as multiple ethnic, racial, sexual and cultural identities

Doers, standing on the side of love, with helping hands and thinking minds who value deeds above creeds

We enthusiastically invite all such seekers to join us here at First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City.

Building Community

Since the fall of 2013, families have been meeting on the first Monday of the each month for Family Fun Night. This event brings over 20 families a month to form community and strengthen friendships. On Family Fun Night a volunteer makes a communal dinner for



everyone to share and then break off into different activities. We’ve had authors like Robert Fulghum, worked on service projects for the VOA Homeless Teen Shelter, played Minute to Win It games, and engaged in lively discussions with Rev. Tom. Please visit the RE table in Eliot for more information!



THE TORCH

A Message from the Ministry Team

Dear members and friends,

What a privilege it is to have a beautiful, historic church building, strategically located in a thriving neighborhood! We are well-placed to do fantastic ministry in Salt Lake City for years to come. This privilege comes with responsibilities as well, one of which is to maintain the facilities to keep up with the times. Just as we've addressed the changing needs of the church with expansions to our religious education facilities, this spring we will begin implementing new security measures.

The security concerns of the church are varied and complex; we do not look to address a single concern, but to consider all the ways in which the church ought to be safer for its worshippers, its renters, and importantly, its staff. Some of these challenges include:

- A spreading population of unhoused people, recently displaced from the Rio Grande area, whose needs we do not currently have the capacity to serve
- A successful preschool program
- Our administrative staff – especially our administrative assistant – who are frequently alone or isolated in the building
- Many evening and weekend programs, when staff are not on grounds
- Our unique position as a politically active religious minority in a conservative state

While there's no sense in being inordinately anxious, it does make sense to be realistic about the world in which we live, and update our facilities accordingly. However, updating our facilities won't mean much if we don't also change our behaviors.

That's why, from now on, we're asking folks who use the church buildings to **use only the main double doors to enter the building**. These main doors will have a keypad with a code you'll use instead of a key to enter the building. Other doors we've used in the past will no longer be accessible with a key.

At first, it might feel as though the church isn't as "open" as it used to be. That's true! But if you think about other public spaces you enter daily – schools, government buildings, hospitals – most of them have limited their entryways in recent years. The measures we're taking are commonsense and overdue.

The best thing we can do to be safe from unexpected threats is to use the church often and without fear. Being friendly, greeting people you don't recognize, and welcoming strangers is second nature to religious people, but also helps keep us safe. The next best thing we can do is to limit the number of doors through which people may enter, thereby reducing the possibility of people being in the building unnoticed.

The ministry team and the board of trustees have been working closely together on this challenge, and are prepared to answer your questions as we implement these changes. If you currently have and use a key to the building, and need to have a code instead, please contact our administrator Hal Gonzales as soon as possible.



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Upcoming Services

Sunday, February 11th
 Services at 9:00 and 11:00 am
“For Better, For Worse”
 -Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Sunday, February 18th
 Services at 9:00 and 11:00 am
“What Our Women Can Do”
 -Rev. Monica Dobbins

Sunday, February 25th
 Services at 9:00 and 11:00 am
 The 127th Anniversary of First
 Unitarian Church in Salt Lake City
“The Social Christian Ethic”
 -Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Sunday, March 4th
 Services at 9:00 and 11:00 am
 Celebration Sunday
“Make it Count”
 -Special Guest
 Lily Eskelsen Garcia

Important Dates

- February 4: Congregational Meeting 12:20 pm
 - February 5: Family Night
 - February 19: Church Offices Closed for Presidents Day
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- Every Sunday: Meditation Group meets in the Parlor 10:15 - 10:45 am
 - Every Wednesday: Choir Rehearsal
 - Every Thursday: Order of Service announcements due by 9 am
 - First Mondays (with some exceptions): Family Fun Night 6 pm
 - Second Mondays: Board of Trustees Meeting 5:30 pm Room 201
 - Second Tuesdays Women’s Sacred Circle (email for info: sacredcircle@slcuu.org)
 - Second Wednesdays: Young Adult Group 7:30 pm
 - Third Mondays: Anti-Racism Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Room 207
 - Last Mondays: Art Discussions in the Haven 7 pm

THE TORCH

First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

Rev. Tom Goldsmith
Minister

Rev. Monica Dobbins
Assistant Minister

Julie Miller
Director of Religious Education

David Owens
Director of Music

Hal Gonzales
Church Administrator

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Rebecca Heal

Don Walton

The Torch is published approximately 12 times per year (once per month).

Next Paper Torch Publication Date

March 5, 2018

Submission Deadline

February 26, 2018 (Monday)
 by 9:00 a.m.

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

Editor

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To subscribe/unsubscribe, notify Stefanie at 801-582-8687 ext. 202



THE TORCH

Announcements

Dinner and Dialogue

Wouldn't you like to get to know more people in our congregation? There are so many new faces and some old ones you may not know well, so here's one of the best ways I know: Sign up for Dinner and Dialogue! You can sign up to HOST (any day you choose) or ATTEND (any day that is available) a dinner of your choosing. Look for the white binder at the Congregational Life Table in Eliot Hall or contact Darlene Thayne at suppers@slcuu.org or 801-455-6553, and I will assist you in any way I can. We have several dinners in the works that are filling up fast and hope to have even more.

Mindfulness Group

Meditation is held Sundays, after the first service ends, around 10:00 am. We gather in the Parlor, up the stairs at the south side of Eliot Hall. Mindfulness practice is shared, then followed by 20 minutes of guided meditation, and closing with loving kindness. All are welcome for the first time, to investigate or to maintain mindfulness practice. For more information, contact meditation@slcuu.org

Artists Discussing Art

On the last Monday of every month Artists gather in the Haven at 7 pm to discuss each others art in progress or recently completed. This discussion is open to all visual artist, watercolor, acrylic, oil, mixed media, fused glass, and clay. Bring work to discuss or just come to listen. Bring a light refreshment to share. Please contact Bill Reed at artfair@slcuu.org with questions.

UU Hiking Club

To find out more about the group contact Catherine Groseclose at catcog@gmail.com or sonia at mountainclub87@mail.com for more details.

Upcoming Torch Publication Dates

- **March 5, 2018 issue**
Submission deadline Monday, **February 26th** by 9 a.m.
- **April 2, 2018 issue**
Submission deadline Monday, **March 26th** by 9 a.m.

Mail submissions to torch@slcuu.org.

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THE TORCH

In the Spotlight

Submitted by Jan Crane

Meet Donna and Evan Green

We are life-long Californians who moved to Utah a year ago. We still suffer from red state culture shock, and what a year it's been for that! We are happy to find First UU - a church that is actively involved in the community, both politically and in hands-on ways – it's like a support group. Now that we've signed the book, Donna joined the Caring Network, we're both signed up to help with the Sanctuary Church effort, we love our small group, and we're anxious to see where else we 'fit in' with the activities of the church.

We were married in a Catholic church where we promised to raise our children in 'the faith,' which we did until Donna got tired of so many things about the church, including attending without her non-religious spouse and reluctant daughters. In what could be interpreted as a moment of divine intervention: when she said she was going to look at other churches, he (aka non-religious spouse) said he would go along. And so we found a liberal United Methodist congregation where we both learned how to develop meaningful spiritual lives. How liberal? Well, Evan once gave a talk to the high school youth group titled "I don't believe in God," without getting in trouble. We participated in and led successful and failed projects from education to environmental and poverty issues. It was beautiful and messy and aggravating. Among the highlights were the *Living the Questions* (livingthequestions.com) educational program and *Open Table* (www.theopentable.org, which is like Family Promise on steroids). We come from a christian religious perspective but are excited by the broader vistas available in Unitarian Universalism.

We are (proud) parents of two grown daughters. Evangeline is a first-year medical student in Biddeford Maine and Valerie is starting her career as a civil engineer in San Francisco. If you give us an excuse to tell you more about how wonderful they are, we'll happily tell you. There's also Buster. He's a dog we found in a parking lot and acts as such.

Donna: After the girls started high school, I started a third career (research biologist, full-time parent/girl scout leader/volunteer, ...) as a high school biology and chemistry teacher. Unfortunately, I've been on several years hiatus while chronic and acute migraines have dramatically reduced my activity level. In fact, that's what brought us to Utah, because my pain level is lower and it's helping me get back to 'doing'. I'm an avid reader (favorite authors Barbara Kingsolver, Isabel Allende), and love baking and quilting.

Evan: I work as an independent engineering and management consultant (greenleafconsultingllc.com). I'm an electrical engineer by training and a manufacturing engineering manager by practice. My career includes a brief stint as a professor and many exciting years at a laser company during the build-out of the global fiber optic network. Ten years ago, for moral reasons, I decided to focus my work in alternative energy where I've been deeply involved in two start-ups which didn't quite do the 'up' part. When I'm not traveling for work, I play as much tennis as I can, and love hiking and photography.



We're looking forward to getting to know you. Drop us a line.

Peace,

Donna (d_e_green@sbcglobal.net) and Evan (edhgreen@gmail.com).