

The Torch

MARCH 6, 2017

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Upcoming Services

March 5, 2017

Services at 9:00 and 11:00 am
Religious Education at 11:00 am

Celebration Sunday!

“To Show an Affirming Flame”

Join our huge worship production including our entire religious education program, our entire choir, two ministers, and the Holy Spirit. (The latter has merely been extended an invitation, but we hope the spirit of generosity will join us in our Pledge Kick-off). Special coffee hour to follow.

March 12, 2017

Services at 9:00 and 11:00 am
Religious Education at 11:00 am

“The Poor Will Always Be With You: A Look at Homelessness”

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

March 19, 2017

Services at 9:00 and 11:00 am
Religious Education at 11:00 am

“The Yoga of Church and the Church of Yoga”

-Rev. Matthew Cockrum

Show An Affirming Flame

-submitted by Julia Rossi

If you have never participated in CELEBRATION SUNDAY, you are in for a treat. We will have two services (9:00 and 11:00), excellent music, inspiring words, humor and amazing camaraderie. It's an absolute must see! This is a time to reflect on your personal commitment to our church and to keep your promise to yourself to stay involved and active in your community!

A few responses to my request asking members to share 'Why I Pledge'

We are actually pledging members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota, Florida, but we also spend five months each year in Utah, and attend the First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City every chance we get while here. We have pledged nearly every year since we started coming here, in 2005. We pledge because the church provides an opportunity for us to be among a community which shares and enhances our values and beliefs. We love that the church is full of enthusiasm and energy for social justice programs. We have deep admiration for Tom's sermons and wisdom, for Matthew's energy, and for David's and the choir's incredible music. It is our pleasure and privilege to pledge to help support the ministry and programs of this church and we hope to be able to do so for many years to come. Barbara Rowe and Chet Chmielewski

Most importantly, I pledge because the First Unitarian Universalist Church provides support and community that sustains my everyday life. Pledging also holds me to my commitment for the year—sadly, promises to myself don't always stand firm. Nancy Howard

SEE YOU ON SUNDAY!

Reverently Yours (Rev. Tom Goldsmith)

As much as I loathe putting people in boxes, and then drawing conclusions as though they might be speaking for the multitudes, I did have an occasion last week to be in conversation with a young adult from California. All right – let's call him a millennial; it slipped out that he was born in late 1982, so he qualifies for that box. We stumbled onto the topic of religion. As the media keeps massaging the profile of millennials, he was pretty classic. Church affiliation was the furthest thing from his mind. He seemed to enjoy talking with a

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minister who didn't seem judgmental. He didn't know I had a total of five children who live contented lives away from a church community. (And the cobbler's children have no shoes).

Our conversation actually began with a bit of braggadocio about his two children, then onto his successful career, and ending with a confession of utter exhaustion in keeping it all together. He was stretched as far as a 24-hour day would allow. But then he raised issues about how the world will be destroyed by the immoral values manifest in the current administration. He was concerned about the kind of world his children will inherit. He then shrugged and said there wasn't much he could do about it.

A quiet moment followed; it felt like grief hung in the air.

I asked him what he did to restore his energy, hope, and (if he pardoned the word), spirit. He seemed more eager to discuss spirituality than I anticipated. He leaned forward and began rhapsodizing about hiking the woods. He said he restored his spirit by hiking. "That's my God," he smiled. "Alone in the woods, connecting with nature, and beauty, and peace."

We swapped some stories about our favorite hikes: box canyons, slot canyons, moose on the path, unexpected storms, the joy of communing with nature.

"It feels pretty good," I ventured. He agreed.

"And then what?" I asked.

"Back to the old grind," he said. "But I need those breaks every so often to stay sane."

"Does it help your children any?"

"What?"

"Does it feel like you're moving the world forward in terms of your values, or is it just a momentary escape before you return to your unending responsibilities?"

He conceded it was a mere break in the action that did nothing to relieve his concern about where the country/world was heading.

I introduced a new perspective. I asked him to compare the spiritual strength that comes from a lone experience in the woods, with what might conceivably happen in community with others who had children, and who felt the same dread. "Gee, I don't know how to answer that. What happens in a community?"

I told him of our myriad opportunities in church to work towards a just world. I told him about involving the children so they gained a sense of what it means to help others. (That's pretty cool," he conceded).

"And most of all," I said, "don't we feel more powerful to influence change when working in a community than by a lonely walk in the woods?"

He asked a good question: "Are the two mutually exclusive?"

"No," I replied. In fact they are related. The moments of solitude feed the soul to become stronger in community. If you didn't have time for reflection and self-examination, you would burnout while working to restore confidence in the future."

He agreed, but I saw the wheels turning in his head: "Where will I find the time?"

Hands were shaken, even a hug. Smiles galore. He understood it all. Will it work? Will a millennial start attending church? I make no predictions. TRG

Youth Ministry

Stay in touch with the other youth and families involved in religious education at First Church! Be "in the know" about upcoming events and reports on progress of programs.

World Religions - grades 6 & 7 - Facebook Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SLCUUSixthSeventh/>

Our Whole Lives - grades 8 & 9 - Facebook Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SLCUUEighthNinth/>

High School - grades 10-12 - Facebook Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SLCUUHighSchool/>

A huge thank you for all of the support for the 10th-12th grade in recent months in their upcoming service trip to the Center for Ethical Living & Social Justice Renewal in New Orleans (<http://celsjr.org/>) and also by parents, teachers

and other congregants who helped out with the recent high school Our Whole Lives weekends.

Special thanks to the teaching team: Annette Ephroni, James Griner, Mary Elizabeth Mitchell and Randon Beckstead.

Sleepless thanks to the chaperones: Bryan VandenBirge, Cooper, Elaine Stehel, Jenica Davis-Hockett, Kaden Colton and Nick Shifrar

Additional thanks to panelists: Beth Jennings and Marlin Taylor.

You are all part of maintaining this flourishing and critical ministry at First Church!

Interested in helping out with future youth ministry projects? We'll begin selecting teachers, facilitators and mentors for the 2017-2018 church year in the coming months. To apply or ask questions please contact Rev. Matthew Cockrum at clminister@slcuu.org or 801.582.8687 ext. 205.

Adult Religious Education & Exploration

OYRP: Owning Your Religious Past - Tuesdays, March 14, 21, 28 and April 4. 6:45-8:45 p.m. - Join Revs. Matthew Cockrum & Tom Goldsmith in this powerful 4-session series designed to assist participants in examining and exploring their religious past while also articulating their present and future. These sessions are open to all and will contain elements specifically geared towards those with LDS background. Register on-line <http://www.slcuu.org/news/latest-news/item/495-register-for-owning-your-religious-past-class> at the church website, with Rev. Matthew Cockrum via e-mail (clminister@slcuu.org) or phone (801.582.8687 ext. 205) or at the Congregational Life table.

Seeking the Sources - Mondays, March 27, April 24 & May 22, 6:45-8:45 p.m. Room 201 - Join Rev. Matthew Cockrum in movement, meditation and inquiry of how we might benefit from accessing the six sources of our living tradition. No registration required, drop-ins encouraged. Come as you are. Bring your favorite yoga and meditation gear if you have any.

Consulting with the Consultant

Over 60 First Church folks joined Rev. Matthew Cockrum and the Support Team on Saturday, February 25, for the "Consulting with the Consultant" event. Gathered folks exchanged feedback about what they've appreciated and what could have gone better in the areas in which

Matthew has ministered in the past year. Matthew shared similar impressions. Breakout groups ensued with planning and strategizing in four areas of church life: Adult Religious Education, Youth Ministry Leadership, Paths to Membership & Faith Formation, and Leadership Development & Volunteer Management. A full report (synopsis of the event with summaries of feedback from congregants and Rev. Matthew) is forthcoming. Stay tuned. Thanks for your support and participation!

Consulting Minister for Congregational Life

Board Bits: Moving Forward as a Two-Minister Church

-Submitted by Sue Geary, Board of Trustees

In the Spring of 2015, your Board of Trustees approved the search for a Consulting Minister of Congregational Life, which was to be as a two-year tenure with an option for a third year. The Board, Minister Goldsmith, and other church leaders recognized that our church was experiencing the growing pains of transition from a pastoral-sized church (wherein congregants relate directly with the minister) to a program-sized church (wherein congregants connect within various groups within the church). There were several areas needing greater attention than could be provided by volunteers alone including, welcoming and integration of newcomers, membership development and retention, redesigning and expanding our Religious Education Program, and assistance with overall ministerial duties. Although we did not have the extra funding for a second position, everything that we read and heard about the transition to a program church advised that we must staff a bit ahead of the next growth point. A generous member of our congregation provided the financial underwriting for this temporary position.

We were indeed fortunate that Reverend Matthew Cockrum was available and willing to bring his broad experience, unique expertise, and many talents to this consultant assignment. (No, I'm sorry, we can't keep him.) During a gathering on Saturday, February 25, Rev. Cockrum provided a report of his work and his recommendations for areas that need further attention. Not only has he attended well to his assigned areas of emphasis, he has also demonstrated for the congregation just what a second minister, working in concert with the senior minister, can add to the effective

operation of our church and to our spiritual experience.

During our February meeting, the Board considered the costs of giving up the programs, services, and supports that we gained during Rev. Cockrum's tenure against the modest financial leap of faith required to establish a second minister position. The Board voted unanimously to begin the search for a second minister, who will begin her or his duties with the 2017-18 church year.

This position must ultimately be fully sustained through our pledge revenues, but we do have supplemental income for the next two years. In a report to the Board in January, the Church Endowment Committee recommended that a portion of the investment growth of our endowment funds be transferred each year for the ministry of the church. We will also direct the proceeds of our next two church auctions (2017 and 2018) to this position. Your generous pledge this year and in future years will secure this critical position for our growing church.

Social Justice Film - March 11th

-submitted by Barbara Taylor

The Unitarian Social Justice Committee and Utahns for Just Peace in the Holy Land invite you to view the film "the Settlers," Saturday, March 11, in Elliot Hall.

Watching President Trump stumble through policies affecting the Middle East is painful. So many people are whispering into his ear- King Abdullah of Jordan, son in law Jared Kushner, and American billionaire Sheldon Adelson (a right wing admirer of Mr. Netanyahu).

The most "telling" is the new, close, inseparable relationship Trump has with Bibi Netanyahu. At their joint press conference Donald made a flippant remark, off the cuff to Bibi, "Hold back on settlements for a little bit." Is this how he announces policy? What does he mean, "a little bit." There are so many settlements on Palestinian land now, that a separate Palestinian state (which has been US policy for 2 decades) may be impossible to achieve.

Israelis, like the Americans, are a divided people. About 40% of Israelis, allies of the right wing, see the West Bank which they call Judea and Samaria,

as holy. They don't even recognize it as Occupied Territory. Reminding us of George Orwell, they call it "Disputed Territory." They do not recognize international law, UN resolutions or the Geneva Convention. They ignore the green line which the UN recognizes as the West Bank border. They actually benefit from Palestinian resistance since it serves their purpose by providing reasons for a harsher military.

About 40% of Israelis (mostly living in Tel Aviv) see Israel as secular and loathe the settler movement, which they fear is changing their country from a democracy to a fascist state.

Please join us Saturday, March 11, Eliot Hall to view the film, "the Settlers," which examines the Zionist views and the Palestinian views. The film is directed by Shimon Dotan, a Jewish professor at NYU. The film last 1 hr 45 min. We hope to have an exhilarating QA following the presentation. Mark your calendars, please. Barbara Taylor

International Women's Day

-Submitted by Christine Ashworth, Women's Sacred Circle

In celebration of International Women's Day March 8, First Unitarian Church's Women's Sacred Circle is offering a drop-in gathering space for those who want to support *A Day Without a Woman General Strike*. In the same spirit of love and liberation that inspired women's marches across the globe, the strike will mark the day by recognizing the enormous value that women of all backgrounds add to our socio-economic system--while receiving lower wages and experiencing greater inequities, vulnerability to discrimination, sexual harassment, and job insecurity. Women and our allies will act together for equity, justice and the human rights of women, through a one-day demonstration of economic solidarity.

Join us in solidarity with women who take the day off from paid and unpaid labor. Solidarity with those who avoid shopping for one day (with exceptions for small, women and minority-owned businesses). Or, just stop by, even for a few minutes, to experience the warmth of our Beloved Community.

Date: March 8th

Time: 3:00 to 5:00 pm

Place: First Unitarian Church Eliot Hall

Activities Include:
Honk and Wave
Community Organization Pamphlets (Planned Parenthood, YWCA, Utah Women Unite, ACLU, Equality Utah, etc.)
Light Refreshments
Live Feed from Washington and Recordings of Women's Speeches
Postcard Writing Activity to Representatives

Environmental Ministry News

-Submitted by Joan M. Gregory

Environmental Ministry Update

The goal of this article is to share information on the work and plans of Environmental Ministry. Who IS the Environmental Ministry? We are the folks who plan and participate in Environmental Ministry programs, keep you informed about upcoming environmental and climate justice events/actions, support our church environmental stewardship efforts, represent Environmental Ministry in the broader community, and staff the Environmental Ministry table on Sundays. We try to make sense of what is happening on the environmental and climate justice front and encourage all of us to take action to defend a livable future. We typically meet on the first Sunday of each month at 12:45PM in Room 208 – with exceptions due to holidays. Below is an update.

“Sacred Activism” – Environmental Ministry Program Theme for 2017

While the Trump Administration furthers the chaos and confusion of its first month, it is difficult to focus on defending the health of our Living Systems and protecting our Environment when the EPA, the key federal agency for that protection, is under comprehensive assault. How do we preserve, defend, and protect *the interdependent web of life of which we are a part*, when Scott Pruitt, who as Oklahoma's attorney general, “*closely coordinated with major oil and gas producers, electric utilities and political groups with ties to the ... Koch [brothers] to roll back environmental regulations,*” has been confirmed to head the Environmental Protection Agency! How do we protect and defend a livable future for ourselves and our children? How do we *defend the sacred*?

Exploring these questions and finding answers—together—is what defines Environmental Ministry programs for 2017. In January, we discussed the

Valve Turners and their Direct Action that stopped the Canadian Tar Sands from flowing to the US for a day. Despite facing felony charges that could keep them imprisoned for the rest of their lives, they showed their own “defense of the sacred” in their actions. The video, beautifully facilitated by Kathleen Dean Moore, provided the basis for our conversation about grief, fear, hope and the motivations for their actions. This video can be reviewed here, and we have an update on the result of one trial.

Ken Ward, although unable to use the “necessity defense” (Tim DeChristopher was also prohibited from using that defense) nonetheless found that some of the jury did not believe he was guilty, so a mistrial was declared! Here is Ken's most recent post outlining the authoritative, well-documented climate data upon which his action was based (http://www.shutitdown.today/valve_turners_web_video_chat_with_kathleen_dean_moore). In our Environmental Ministry news and in the Direct Action Training that will be part of our training in the next few months, we will keep you updated on the Valve Turners and their trials.

Our February 21st program, began with the film “Breath of Life,” and included a conversation about “Action,” notifications about local and national actions, discussions about “Defending the Sacred,” and a beginning introduction to “Sacred Activism.” View the trailer to the film “Breath of Life,” here: <http://www.breathoflifefilm.com/>. Environmental Ministry has permission to show and share both the “Breath of Life,” and “Before the Flood” (which was screened in December). In addition, if you are interested in showing either film, we can loan it to you. Contact Joan for details: green@slcuu.org

In March, Environmental Ministry is sponsoring two programs. Our first 2017 Direct Action Training, *Know Your Rights*, will be presented by Pioneer Justice Center attorneys, Trent Richards, Stewart Gollan, and Monte Sleight on Friday, March 3rd at 7PM in Eliot Hall. As we plan to take action and support those who are taking action in the coming weeks, months, and years, what we learn in this workshop will serve as a solid foundation empowering us with the knowledge and skills needed to assure our rights and those of others are not violated and to stand on firm ground when they are.

The March 17th program (also at 7PM in Eliot Hall) will begin with a video on *defending the sacred*

and will focus on Standing Rock and on how we— together—may act to *defend the sacred*, and not just in North Dakota. Even though the Army Corps of Engineers following Trump's directive, has approved the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), and has evicted the water protectors, the concerted effort to *defend the sacred* continues. The Indigenous Environmental Network: website: <http://www.ienearth.org/stand-with-standing-rock-no-dapl/> and Facebook page continue to be invaluable resources, as is the website of the Camp of the Sacred Stone. Local representatives of PANDOS (Peaceful Advocates for Native Dialogue and Organizing Support) and the Utah League of Native American Voters (ULNAV), will serve as panelists sharing their own experiences *defending the sacred* at Standing Rock and here in Utah. There will be time for discussion and exploration of what it means to *defend the sacred*.

Sacred Activism will be the theme for our Earth Day Service at First Unitarian Church on April 23rd. Earth Day is Saturday, April 22nd. Environmental Ministry will celebrate Earth Day Sunday with the children through religious exploration on Apr 30th.

Environmental Ministry seeks to provide support, inspiration, and stability as we follow the lead of the indigenous people in *defending the sacred* in 2017 and for all times! Please visit our Environmental Ministry Sunday table, to catch up on the latest environmental, climate, and social justice events, training, actions, and news during these turbulent times.

List of Upcoming Environmental Ministry Events and Meetings

- Fri, Mar 3rd, 7PM Know Your Rights Workshop (Eliot Hall)
- Sun, Mar 5th, 12:45PM Environmental Ministry Planning Team Meeting (Rm 208)
- Fri, Mar 17th, 7PM Defending the Sacred (Eliot Hall)
- Sun, Apr 2nd, 12:45PM Environmental Ministry Planning Team Meeting (Rm 208)
- Fri, Apr 7th, 7PM Non-Violent Direct Action Training (Eliot Hall – planning in progress)
- Sun, Apr 23rd, 9AM & 11AM Earth Day Sunday Service - Sacred Activism (Sanctuary)
- Sun, Apr 30th, 11AM Earth Day Religious Exploration with the Children (Little Chapel)

Congregational Briefs

Arts Fair April 22nd The Annual First Unitarian Church Fine Arts and Crafts Festival will be held on Saturday April 22nd from 5 to 10 pm and Sunday April 23rd till 1:30 pm. Artists: Please register using the online form found on the Church Webpage: <http://www.slccu.org/component/rsform/form/7-artist-registration-form> . This is a fun family event with food and entertainment provided. Artists can show their art for fun at no charge. All sales are handled by the church. Church retains 25%, artist receive a check from the church for 75%. All arts and crafts welcomed. Display space is limited, so sign up early. If you have any question please contact Bill Reed at wbreed@gmail.com.

Refugee Resettlement Committee Needs Donations

Years before it became famous for the assassination of Julius Caesar in the Roman Senate, the Ides of March marked the first full moon of the new year in Rome. If your 2017 New Year's resolutions faded as fast as the frequency of your gym workouts, the time is at hand for a reboot. No need to beware the Ides of March and its implications for self-improvement, resolve to do something for someone in need. Donating your gently used furniture to the Refugee Resettlement Committee requires no more than a phone call to Joe Dubray at (904) 527-9773.

Dinner and Dialogue Are you new to our First Unitarian Church congregation? Well, we would like to welcome you and invite you join us for an intimate dinner in a member's home. There is a Dinner and Dialogue binder at the Congregational Life table in Eliot Hall where you can sign up. We have one dinner in March already set up for newcomers only and would like to encourage some of you "old timers" to help us by hosting several more. Of course, we also have dinners for everyone, so please look over the binder and see what might interest you. You can contact Darlene Thayne at suppers@slccu.org or 801-455-6553 if you need any assistance on this. Let's get acquainted!

Mindfulness Group Every Sunday, meditation is offered as a time to pause, practice calming our thoughts and setting an intention to be mindful in our daily life. Guidance for developing meditation

practice is shared along with suggested websites and reading. The community supports our intention to experience the benefits of being mindfully aware so that we may cultivate and live with calm, peace and ease. All are welcome. Sundays Following the end of the first service, in the Parlor.

UU Lunch Bunch A family-friendly group for anyone and everyone who would like to get together for lunch and chat with like-minded people. Meet at the Restaurant on Sundays at noon during the summer. For more information contact Sonia Carnell at (801) 262-1151 or lunchbunch@slcuu.org.

- March 5th: (Location Change!) Citrus Grill (3977 S Wasatch Blvd)
- March 12th: Cafe Med (420 East 3300 South)
- March 19th: Pho Thin (2121 McClelland St)
- March 26th: Saffron Valley East India Cafe (22 E Street)

In the Spotlight - Meet Carrie Black

-Submitted by Jan Crane

Hi, I'm Carrie Black, proud mum to four amazing boys. Gerry (18) newly minted UU student majoring in Musical Theater and trying to take classes in everything. Spencer (16) most obsessed with the visual arts and a dern good techie to boot. William (14) can't get enough of people and programming. Isaac (12) can be the sound effects of a movie all by himself and is constantly adding to his already encyclopedic knowledge of dinosaurs. Calvin, my fantastic husband, completes the people part of our family. Some of the chickens and ducks have also earned names and family member status. All indoor spiders are called Carmen and treated as essential and honored guests.

Mostly I raise and home school my kids. On the side I raise an insane amount of food on our ½ acre (70% of what we eat), make useful things out of junk I find on the curb (last project useless closet turned into bunk-beds and dressers), and indulge a learning fetish (current area of study how we learn stuff and brain plasticity). I have a BS in Botany and need a T-shirt that says 'Chlorophyll Junkie'. I'm happiest in my garden with dirt under my fingernails.

One of my favorite quotes is "The truth will set you free, but first it will piss you off." -Gloria Steinem

I came to the First Unitarian Church after leaving Mormonism (and then spending a few years recovering)- I was on the hunt for a new tribe. My kids don't have grandparents or extended family and they needed a place to belong just as much as I did. The first time I read the Seven Principles I burst into tears. The idea that a religious place could be a safe place for everybody was overwhelming, and, ultimately, deeply gratifying. We are social creatures, us humans, no way around it. We all need a safe place. I wanted a safe place that included a whole lot of get-off-your-butt-and-make-the-world-a-better-place kind of energy, a place where good ideals are given more than lip service. A place where shortcomings are okay and progress is celebrated.

I attend the Women's Circle with the most amazing group of ladies. They make my heart happy and I hope I have returned the favor at least a little. I also attend one Small Group Ministry and run another. Civil discourse is good for the soul. With my kids in RE, we spend a lot of time doing dishes after fundraisers and events. Working together is one of my favorite parts of being church-family.

I decided to sign the book because "There is safety in numbers, but only if we count ourselves out loud." -Barbra Kingsolver I also pledge because family means giving and receiving- helping out where you can and being helped.