



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

APRIL 3, 2016

9:00 AND 11:00 AM

Religious Education at 11 am only

High School Service

“Learning”

APRIL 10, 2016

9:00 AND 11:00 AM

Religious Education at 11 am only

Child Dedications

“A Lifetime of Choices”

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

APRIL 17, 2016

9:00 AND 11:00 AM

Religious Education at 11 am only

Earth Day Celebration

“Reconnecting to Hope”

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

Building Our Future

-submitted by Henry Whiteside, Pledge Drive Committee

The Unitarianism of our founders differs appreciably from Unitarianism today. But our founders clearly understood the need for a free and open search for truth and meaning in a community more massively monolithic than anything we can imagine today.

The “foreseeable future,” is a comfortingly vague phrase. How far is that? Not very far, to judge by experience. Yogi Berra said it best: “Prediction is difficult, especially about the future.” So how do we build for a future we find so difficult to anticipate? Or do we build for the present we know, in the faith that doing so builds the future we want?

A “pledge” is a good faith guess about the foreseeable future: barring surprises, this is how much I hope to be able to give to support the church next year. Every one of those good-faith guesses is important, no matter what the dollar amount. Taken all together, pledges allow the board to make plans and commitments for the coming church year. (Like an “academic” year, July 1st to June 30th, the church year straddles two calendar years.) Sooner or later, every pledge is welcome and needed – but sooner is much more helpful. Planning for the church’s 2016-2017 “year” begins this April 15, a date most of us already have firmly in mind.

American historian Howard Zinn observed “The future is an infinite succession of present moments.” When we build now for the church we want, we build best for the future we can little imagine. Now is the time to build a more vital church for ourselves and our community.



First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

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The Torch is published approximately 23 times per year, every other week during the regular church year & once per month during the summer.

Next Publication Date

April 18, 2016

Submission Deadline

April 11, 2016 (Monday)
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after April 19th to ensure timeliness.

Editor

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Congregational Briefs

First Church Info Sessions - Interested in learning more about First Church and Unitarian Universalism? Want to meet other newcomers? Check out our twice-monthly First Church Information Sessions. Generally held the first Sunday and third Thursday of each month, this month's sessions are:

- April 3rd - 10:00-10:45 and 12:00-12:45 - meet Rev. Matthew at the piano after service and he'll lead you to the Parlor, no RSVP needed.
- April 21st - 7:00-9:00 p.m. - meet Revs. Tom and Matthew in room 208. Snacks and childcare provided. RSVP to Rev. Matthew at clminister@slcuu.org

Refugee Resettlement Committee

If you have been pondering how many angels can dance on the head of a pin, you will be interested to find that four Unitarians can sit on a recycled sofa. A few hours after the photo was taken, a refugee family sat on the couch and pondered a new life in a strange, snowy place. If you could spare a gently worn sofa or kitchen table for the next refugee apartment, please call Joe Dubray at (904) 527-9773 to schedule a pick-up.



Open Minds Book Group

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

Dinner and Dialogue

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

UU Lunch Bunch

A family-friendly group for anyone and everyone who would like to get together for lunch and chat with like-minded people. Meet at the Restaurant on Sundays at 1:00 p.m. For more information contact Sonia Carnell at (801) 262-1151 or lunchbunch@slcuu.org.

- April 3: The Corner Bakery (610 Foothill Blvd)
- April 10: Avenues Proper (376 8th Avenue)
- April 17: Fiddler's Elbow (1063 East 2100 South)

Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Robert Fulghum has been dancing on the periphery of First Unitarian Church for many years. He would lead a worship service now and then and make occasional appearances at Jazz Vespers. He became a member of our church almost two years ago, and he and I have been friends for many years. Before Fulghum became a household name, charming his way into the American cultural landscape as a profoundly gifted storyteller and writer, translated into more than 20 languages, Robert was an ordinary UU minister in the Pacific Northwest. Well, perhaps not that ordinary. Nothing about him ever was "ordinary."

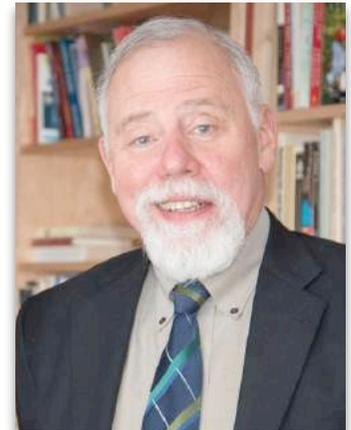
Fulghum's imagination knows no bounds, and so one day as we were engaged in conversation he asked me to imagine having him as part of First Church's ministry.

We were discussing the church's 125th anniversary and the need to look beyond the Salt Lake Valley to inspire UU growth more widely in the state of Utah over the next 125 years. As Utah's flagship church, he urged us to assume greater responsibility in nurturing new UU congregations and strengthening existing congregations throughout the state. I agreed that we were perhaps too parochial in our thinking.

The Board of Trustees liked the idea very much and supported creating a new position on our church staff called Minister-at-Large. The purpose of the position was defined as follows: The position of Minister-at-Large aspires to broaden Unitarian Universalist interests throughout the state of Utah under the auspices of First Unitarian Church. The Minister-at-Large will also fill various roles at the church itself, from supply preaching to adding an elevated spirit of joy to church celebrations. The minister-at-Large will commit as many hours per month as deemed necessary at a salary of \$1.00 annually.

Robert felt honored; we felt honored; and although no one really knows the exact shape of what's to come, we agree it's going to be an adventure for everyone. Robert's primary work will take place in Moab where he lives. Now that

he has a ministerial portfolio again, made possible by his clergy role in our church, Robert will add a UU presence among the clergy in Moab. What that may lead to is left up to our imagination. I have also asked Robert to look in on our fellowship in St. George, which he has agreed to do.



I cannot emphasize enough that a Minister-at-Large is not remotely connected to a second minister we need as a permanent fixture at First Church. In order to grow our church in Salt Lake programmatically and numerically, responding to the needs and wishes expressed by our congregation after a few years of compiling data from congregational surveys, we absolutely must have two ministers to fulfill the expectations our congregation has expressed. The next two pledge drives will prove pivotal in institutionalizing a second minister. A reminder: Our current Minister of Congregational Life, Matthew Cockrum, is with us only through the extraordinary generosity of one donor whose vision was to make a second minister permanent by showcasing the benefits for two years. Matthew's contract expires in the summer of 2017. We will need to form a search committee no later than April 1st, 2017. If our pledges are just a little more generous than usual, it will make all the difference for us to finally become a multi-clergy church. Again, it's this imagination thing that will help define where we're going as a church and what our responsibilities are as we move towards our sesquicentennial celebration in 2041. Our generosity today will shape the future of progressive religious thought in Utah for years to come. TRG

Please note: Tom Goldsmith has joined the 21st century by discontinuing his landline. If you need to reach him outside of the office, please call: 801.635.9622

In the Life

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

In my last article I used a word that raised some eyebrows: “anti-authoritarian.” In a passing comment I wondered if that was part of the culture here at First Church. I must confess that didn’t come out of thin air and wasn’t immediately or solely related to my experience here at First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City.

I am in the midst of reading a newly published text called “Turning Point: Essays on a New Unitarian Universalism.” Though reading about our tradition can sometimes feel self-absorbed this compilation of essays has me intrigued. The core assertion of this text is that Unitarian Universalism as we have it today is too much based on what the editor calls a “trinity of errors.” This trinity, he argues, should be corrected by a new “trinity of promises.”

The purported “errors” are all extreme embodiments or caricatures of some of the core elements of our tradition. Unchecked and ignored, they will lead to the ultimate demise or diminishment of the liberal and living tradition we share. These cultural “errors” are contrasted with “emerging promises” into which we and this faith tradition are being called. The promises exemplify a healthier embodiment of our traditions’ roots and a more sustainable application of living the principles.

Errors	Promises
Individualism	Generosity
Anti-Authoritarianism	Pluralism
Exceptionalism	Imagination

I do not think this framework is a cure-all or that it is an exhaustive, comprehensive assessment of Unitarian Universalism. Certainly an appreciative inquiry model of noticing what we’re doing right and well (locally as well as institutionally and internationally) can be more palatable and sometimes more effective. However, this framing of the discussion energizes me when I imagine how to make our tradition, our congregations and our institutions more relevant, more open to being influenced by the

increasingly diverse world in which we find ourselves. The UUA presidency of Peter Morales, winding down now, has focused a great deal on exploring the culture of UU tradition and institutions. This on the heels of the presidency of Bill Sinkford, who emphasized “coming in from the margins”



and exploring a “language of reverence.” It is noteworthy to me that both of these are men of color, the first two elected to the presidency of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

So what do you think, folks? Do the proposed trinities of errors and promises ring true to you? Do they feel real here at First Church as risks or possibilities? Are they “us” at our worst and best? Do they feel like personal challenges?

How shall we engage this conversation and carry it forward here, if at all?

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

P.S. I’ll be out of state April 4-9 taking vacation days. See you on the 10th!

First Church Info Sessions

Information sessions continue on the 1st Sunday and 3rd Thursday of each month. Join Rev. Matthew on Sunday, April 3 for a brief session in the Parlor following each service (10:15-11:00 and 12:15-1:00) or for a longer session on Thursday, April 21 in room 208, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Please RSVP for the April 21 session to cminister@slcuu.org. Childcare and snacks provided.

Adult Religious Education News

Don't miss the following opportunities to nourish and challenge your spiritual and intellectual journey:

- *Exploring Mindfulness Through Art* - Tuesdays -Facilitated by Shirley Ray and Rev. Tom Goldsmith. Plan on a quiet evening with a good book, projected art work and mindful conversation provoked by curiosity. Christophe' Andre's book presents the Buddhist foundations of mindfulness through his choice of various and compelling works of art. Enjoy reading *Looking at Mindfulness: Twenty- Five Ways to Live in the Moment Through Art* by Christophe' Andre, before the class so that your experiences may enhance our mindful exploration of art and mindful awareness. Tuesdays, through April 12th at 7:00 pm.
- *The Exonerated* - Sunday, April 10, 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel - A staged reading of a powerful drama about people wrongfully convicted of crimes. People Productions (Utah's premier African American themed

theater) brings the stories to life and all proceeds benefit the Rocky Mountain Innocence Center, which works to correct and prevent conviction of innocent people in Utah, Nevada and Wyoming. This presentation was inspired by the UUA Common Read of the book, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* - <http://www.uua.org/re/adults/read>

- *Owning Your Religious Past* - Tuesdays, April 26-May 24, 6:45-8:45 p.m. in Eliot Hall - A five-session series designed to aid "come-inners" to Unitarian Universalism. Whether you're new to First Church or just would like an opportunity to explore your roots, come join us. Guided exercises with homework provide powerful reflection, insight and renewal. Questions? Contact Rev. Matthew Cockrum at clminister@slcuu.org or at 801.582.8687 extension 205. Register online at <http://www.slcuu.org/programs/religious-education/item/226-adult-religious-education-registration-winter-spring-2016>

Art Fair 2016

-submitted by Bill Reed, Art Fair Chair

2016 Art Fair was held at First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City on March 19th and 20th, 2016. Saturday hours were 5 pm to 10 pm. Entertainment on Saturday was provided by Scandinavian Folk Dance – Tom Oesleby, & Gwen Trefts with dancing lessons on the Plaza, First Unitarian Church Youth Choir in Sanctuary, Ukumania – Stacey Cole, Jim Thornburg, & Max Willard in Little Chapel, Nature Sings – Art Lee in Little Chapel, Andrea Hughes – Classical Violin in Sanctuary, and John Major – Classical and Flamenco Guitar in Little Chapel. There was outstanding entertainment by world class musicians including, in my opinion, our own Youth Choir. Sunday hours were between services and after last service. Sales were essentially evenly split between the two days. We had 33 artists participating in the event.

Total sales were \$5,901.25 with \$331.13 expenses. The church retained 25% of sales and the artists 75%. Since some artist contributed 100% of their sales to the church, the art sales made a total (after expenses) of \$1,220.69 for the church. One artist was the winner selling close to \$1,300 of her art and crafts. She alone brought in over \$300 for the church. Expenses covered by the church included Square fees, wine, and light refreshments. The event continues to be an outstanding opportunity that is open to all church members and local artists who are Unitarian friendly. It continues to be a free admission premier church social event and very fun fund raiser. It is essentially the one time during the year that the visual artists in our

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Board Bits

-submitted by Erin Phinney Johnson, Board of Trustees

Strategic Plan

First Unitarian Church is fully committed to building an extraordinary and progressive community in Salt Lake City. To reach those goals, the Board and Executive Team created a strategic plan that is divided into five specific areas: communications, finance, congregational life (programs), growth, and integration (blending our various cultures, generations, and theologies into a respectful and dynamic church community). The strategic plan tries to balance personal and spiritual needs together with social outreach and mechanisms by which the church can be fiscally sustained. By working with the strategies designed to strengthen our purpose and direction, we hope that the church will not only grow numerically, but also thrive as a caring community.

The overall working objectives of this strategic plan are described below. For detailed strategies associated with each of these objectives please check out our website: <http://slcuu.org/about/strategic-plan>

Objectives

COMMUNICATION. Build a culture of communication by developing comprehensive plans to build a highly informed Church Community to promote individual sharing, invite diversity, and increase involvement and retention.

FINANCIAL. Strengthen institutional viability and financial stability by building a culture of generosity through pledges, donations, bequests, major gifts, and fund-raising activities.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE. Meet the needs of our congregants in all stages of spiritual, theological, and social development.

GROWTH. Grow our Church Community through welcoming, outreach, inviting diversity, and increasing involvement and retention.

INTEGRATION. Integrate and generate the different cultures, generations, and theological perspectives that everyone brings to our church.

Art Fair 2016 (continued from page 5)

church community can show their recent works to the congregation.

Chairs: Bill Reed - Visual Arts, Marcia Scott Walker – Performance Arts, and Jim Turner – Financial Officer and Head Cashier.

Visual Artists: Bill Reed, Lissa Lander, Christine Kende, Mary Pusey, Marty Waters, Judy Graham, Randy Laub, Christy Montrone-Burns, Art Lee, Brent Hale, Halley Bruno, Cooper Goff, Thatcher Goff, Kelly Goff, Stephanie Saint-Thomas, Spencer Black, John Stout, Betta Inman, Sandra Williams, Joyce Nunn, Mary Tull, Diane Johnson, Lori Shields, Joan Johnson, Rachael Lauritzen, Adrian Bangerter, Ron Molen, Norma Molen, Nathan Magleby, Laura

Sharp Wilson, Molly Hames, Barbara Pence, and Molly Connor.

Special thanks to all who made this event a success, including: Diane Johnson, Donna Drown, Cheryl Johnson, Mary Pusey, Greg Johnson, Marion Johnson, Kathy Payne, Dave Click, Sue Click, Hal Gonzales, Jennifer Killpack-Knutsen, David Owens, Lee Shuster, CJ Sadiq, Sonia Carnell, Tom Goodwin, Colleen Bliss, Sarah Coursen, and Nancy Howard. And a very special thanks to all performing artist, all who attended and especially the patrons of the arts who made purchases

Photos on page 8

April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p>Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1)</p> <p>First Church Info Session (pg. 2)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Family Fun Night 6 pm (contact families@slcuu.org for more info)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Exploring Mindfulness through Art 7 pm (pg. 5)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Young Adult Group in Haven 7:30 pm</p>	8	9
<p>10</p> <p>Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am</p> <p>The Exonerated 7 pm in Chapel (pg. 5)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Torch Submissions Due 10 am</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Women's Sacred Circle 5:30 pm in Haven</p> <p>Exploring Mindfulness through Art 7 pm (pg. 5)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm</p>	14	15	16
<p>17</p> <p>Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1)</p>	18	19	<p>20</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>First Church Info Session (pg. 2)</p>	22	23
<p>24</p> <p>Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Torch Submissions Due 10 am</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Owning Your Religious Past Class 6:45 pm (pg. 5)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Open Minds Book Group 7 pm (pg. 2)</p>	29	30

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
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Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

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First UU Arts Fair - March 19, 2016

