



Sierra Foothills

unitarian universalists

AUGUST 2015

SERVICES

Summer Sunday Services at 10:00 AM
Summer Religious Education for all ages at 10:00 AM
Summer Forums at 11:30 AM

August 2 THIS I BELIEVE

This is the latest in a series of recurring services in which SFUU members invite us to get to know them on a deeper level. Come hear Nancy and Meg share stories of their spiritual journeys and what it means to them to be Unitarian Universalists.

Worship Leaders: Nancy Winton and Meg Dorsey

August 9 MATURITY: ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE?

Are there benefits to being mature? What does maturity, including spiritual maturity, look like and feel like at different stages of life? Let us explore lessons from teachers of many ages, and the blessings of a multigenerational community.

Worship Leader: Rev. Lynn Gardner
With participation from several SFUU members and friends

August 16 WHERE SCIENTISTS AND MYSTICS ABIDE

Unitarian Universalism draws from many sources, including the guidance of reason, the results of science, and experience of that which transcends mystery and wonder. While some religions debate evolution and some scientists decry religious beliefs, here we affirm the many ways we come to know and experience life.

Worship Leader: Rev. Wendy Bartel
Worship Associate: Marsha von Dessonneck

August 23 SFUU IN-GATHERING: GATHERING OF WATERS, SOIL, AND STONES

Each year, we re-gather as a community to begin a new church year with our Gathering of Waters service. This year, it is earlier to better coincide with the school year. And, given the drought we are in, we invite you to collect small stones, small samples of soil, or—if you happen to be in a place that has abundant water—a small bit of water for the service. Whatever your summer adventures—gardening at home, hiking in the American River Canyon, camping at Yosemite, or taking a grand world trip—bring your small bits of stone, soil, or water to this In-gathering Sunday.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Lynn Gardner and Rev. Wendy Bartel

Aug 30 RESTORATIVE JUSTICE – REDISCOVERING THE HEALING POWER OF CIRCLES

In our time, the ancient power-of-wisdom circles is being rediscovered and applied to some of the toughest challenges in society: an expensive and ineffective criminal justice system; increasing poverty, homelessness, and mental illness; and educational systems that push kids out instead of addressing their needs. Spirit is inviting us to transform the ways we see and respond to our suffering neighbors.

Worship Leader: Rev. Carol Carter
Worship Associate: Valerie Bowman

For information about

- the Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalist (SFUU) congregation, please visit the SFUU website (www.mysfuu.org)
- Unitarian Universalism, please visit the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) website (www.uua.org)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS & VIEWS

Summer Rainforest Program Activities

In July, the K-5th grade children had the pleasure of hearing about some of our members' personal experiences in the rainforests of Ecuador, Suriname, and Brazil from **Harriet Stephens, Val & John Bowman** and **Debra Barbarick**. They also learned about rainforest animals, especially the sloth, with **Stevie Rea** and **Fred Waters**. We will continue our studies of the rainforest on August 2 with **Bob Niblack** talking about rainforest riches, food, objects and the large carbon footprint the rainforest gives the world as its gift. On August 9, **Amy Evans** and **Kelly Chandler** will talk about how we can help protect the rainforests. On August 16, **Jim Robison** will lead a Sunday session on meditation to the sounds of the rainforest, and on August 30, we'll wind down our rainforest activities with **Kara Bowman** and **Kim Schroer** doing some fun games and activities to celebrate the rainforest.

Intergenerational Service

There will be no R.E. classes on **August 23**, but children and youth will attend the Gathering-of-the-Waters Service at **10 AM** that morning. Child care will be available.

R.E. Volunteer Training Session

Training for R.E. volunteer teachers and assistants signed up to be in the child and youth R.E. for the 2015-16 school year will be held from **11:30 AM to 1:30 PM** on **August 23**. Lunch and child care will be provided. Volunteers will meet their other team members, learn about our exciting curriculum on Peace, Social Justice and the Environment, and sign up to help out one Sunday a month. Please RSVP to Leslye by August 16.

"Growing Peace Camp" Enrollments

Enrollment is filling up—don't let your child or middle school youth miss out on an exciting week of Growing Peace Camp, **August 3-7**, at Alta Vista School, Auburn. Growing Peace Camp is sponsored by the Placer People of Faith Together, with financial and volunteer support from organizations and individuals in the community. The camp serves children and youth from kindergarten to 8th grade.

The theme this year will be "Peace with Our Planet." A variety of specialists will work with children and youth, bringing activities that focus on fostering peace with one another and our planet. Highlights include:

- *Music* with singer **Hannah Jane Kile**
- *Nature Mandala* with **Stan Padilla**
- *Yoga* with **Chaundra ChaCha Martino**
- *Giraffes and Jackals (Compassionate Communications)* with **Valerie Bowman**
- *Drumming* with **D. Pierre Butler**
- *Animals and Solar Cooker* with **Kathryn Benedict MacRoberts**
- *Song Making and Creativity* with **April Walker**
- *Chain Link Poetry* with **Andru Defeye**
- *Nature Art/Hike* with **Eric and Paula Peach**
- *Community Tile Project* with **Katy Fries**
- *Media 101 & Urban Arts* with **Rocky Zapata** and **Marie Taylor** (for youth 6th - 8th grade)

Our awesome counselors from the past few years, **Vanessa, Cassee, Ashley,** and **Derek** will return this year. For more information and to obtain an enrollment form, contact Leslye or **Natalie Pohley** at nataliepohley@gmail.com.

New events and R.E. meetings will be listed in upcoming newsletters as they are scheduled. For SFUU-sponsored activities go to www.mysfuu.org and click on the calendar.

Leslye Janusz
Director of Religious Education (DRE)
(530) 889-9433 or sfuudreleslye@gmail.com



CO-MINISTERS' COLLOQUY

Wow! We are entering our sixth year as your co-ministers! SFUU has never had a long-term full-time relationship with clergy before. Some of you may not have really thought about it that way, but by your calling us to serve, we are in a committed relationship with one another. Some of you have arrived at various times during our tenure and don't know how far we've all come in 5 years together as a congregation. Every relationship needs some reflection. Here are some of our observations, hopes, feelings, and aspirations.

Things are often exciting at the beginning of a relationship—things are new. Those involved are often hopeful and figuring out how to be together. They try to figure out whether this relationship is worth committing to for a long time. Are we compatible? Do we want the same things? Can we handle conflict healthfully? Can we have open conversations about things that matter, such as decision making, spiritual practices, money, and goals? Can we trust one another?

These are important questions to continue asking ourselves—us, as your co-ministers but also yourselves, and then making those more explicit by asking one another. The two of us want Unitarian Universalism to thrive in the foothills and flatlands through meaningful worship that we lead, but also all 52 Sundays a year. The Worship Committee knows that excellent worship contributes to the growth of the congregation, and many new folks have come in our time here, though many have also left because they have moved, died, or chosen another path. Occasionally, someone has left because of conflict; others, because they haven't found a connection or a way 'in.'

SFUU has plateaued at the 130-140 member range for 2 years, growing from 90 in 2010. Bigger isn't necessarily better, yet we know that there are more people who could value being part of this religious community. The Pastoral Size (75-150ish) congregation transition to Program Size (150-350ish) is the hardest to make according to the experts at the Alban Institute and other congregational-life scholars. During this coming year there will be some opportunities to learn more about the systemic reasons SFUU's size has plateaued and how we might address those together. Your co-ministers hope you are willing to be part of these conversations and find ways to live more fully into SFUU's wonderful mission, living our faith boldly!

The two of us chose SFUU because of the congregation's stated commitment to peace-making. Our in-house Non-violent Communication (NVC) expert, Valerie Bowman, has thanked us for helping this become a more active practice in the congregation. Lynn, Wendy, and/or Val regularly provide support for hard conversations between folks in the congregation, including with the ministers or with folks who need to speak with someone in their family. It is a really incredible thing when folks decide to have conversations, rather than avoiding one another, leaving the congregation, or just pretending that everything is ok. Our shared ministries depend on this type of compassionate risking with one another. Otherwise, the trust in our community erodes. Is it easy? Not always. Is it comfortable? Sometimes not. Is it worth it? So far, we can't think of any time that people have risked saying hard things compassionately that relationships didn't get better. Often, there is personal transformation as well. What a gift. Many people come to SFUU looking for community, for deeper connections, and for personal transformation, and, through our authentic conversations, we can accomplish all three!

August marks our fifth anniversary together. How shall we celebrate? How shall we strengthen our relationship?

With open hearts,

Rev. Wendy & Rev. Lynn



MEMBERSHIP

Membership is an important step in deepening a relationship with the SFUU community. If you have been attending services and feel that this congregation might be a good fit for you, we invite you to come to a Saturday Supper and SFUU 101 orientation events to get more familiar with Unitarian Universalism and the Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists.

Saturday Supper – Sept. 12 at 5:30 PM. This is an informal gathering of newcomers and long-timers to SFUU to gather over a meal for conversation. Hosted by Nancy Winton and Tammy Zavinski.

RSVP to Nancy Winton nlwinton@sbcglobal.net. Childcare will be provided if requested by Sept. 7.

MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

Cathie Tritel 2004

Sue Dunbar and Robert Ludgate 2014

ADULT PROGRAMS

Men's Group

The Men's Group meets at SFUU on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. This group is open to any men wishing to join us for personal sharing and conversation. For more information simply come to one of our meetings or contact Jim Robison at jimrobison66@gmail.com or 209-277-6201.

Special Forum: Introduction to Social Justice Discernment and Engagement

Join us in the SFUU sanctuary on **August 9** from **11:15 AM - 12:00 noon** for an introduction to the upcoming fall series on Social Justice Discernment and Engagement. See Social Justice article on page 5 for details, or contact Janie Evans at janie.evansod@gmail.com.

The()logies* on Tap

Will meet **3rd Wednesdays** from **August through December** from **7:00 - 9:00 PM**. Let us gather with different views and different brews. Over a pint, we'll explore perspectives on life, spirituality, and other things that matter. All are welcome. Hosted by Bill Boyce, Rev. Wendy Bartel, and Rev. Lynn Gardner. Watch the e-Beacon for more info.

- August 19: *Belief as Choice* —In your lifetime, what faith have you given up and what have you claimed. At the New Belgium Deli, Auburn, CA.
- September 16: *The F-word*. Location TBD
- October 21: *Honoring the Dead with Our Living*. Location TBD
- November 18: *Why Be Thankful?* Location TBD
- December 16: *Mystery, Wonder, and the Blues*. Location TBD

Brewed Awakenings

Will meet on **last Tuesdays** from **August through December** from **10:00 - 11:30 AM**.

Ponder the()logical* views while you enjoy a hot beverage. Support a local business. Meet new people. Over a mug, we'll explore spirituality and other things that matter. All are welcome. Hosted by Rev. Lynn Gardner and Rev. Wendy Bartel. Watch the e-Beacon for more info.

- August 25: *Belief as Choice*- In your lifetime, what faith have you given up and what have you claimed. Location TBD
- September 28: *The F-word*. Location TBD
- October 27: *Honoring the Dead with Our Living*. Location TBD
- November 26: *Why Be Thankful?* Location TBD
- December 29: *Mystery, Wonder, and the Blues*. Location TBD

*allowing for gender inclusivity of the divine

FORUM: GROWING PAINS AT SFUU—August 16, 11:30 AM

Several people have raised questions recently with Board members and the ministers about the possibility of staying at only 1 service year-round. It has been suggested that this would be a way to address our budget deficit, among other things. There will be a presentation on how and why we decided to move to 2 services as well as the various ways SFUU would be affected by the decision we make in the Fall. If you have ideas or input related to these issues, please come and share them with the Board, the ministers, and others in the SFUU community. The board will consider this feedback as we make decisions in the coming months.

BUILDING A NEW WAY: GA FORUM

SFUU had 18 people, including 5 youth, go to General Assembly this year. What did they do? What did they learn? How might the congregation benefit from that? Join us **Sunday Sept. 13** to get a taste of the exciting and powerful experiences these folks had.



SOCIAL JUSTICE



Call to Action—SFUU Social Justice Discernment & Engagement Program Rapidly Approaches!**

*"A premise for our actions: we work to improve society rather than simply to aid the victims of society's malfunctioning."
~ Dr. Loretta J. Williams*

This fall, SFUU's Social Justice Committee (SJC) will host Evan Junker, Executive Director of UU Justice Ministry of California (www.uujmca.org), as he guides our congregation through a 3 part program to help us focus our social justice work. We will assess our current social justice program(s), develop a vision for the future based on UU values, and design a plan to achieve the vision we create together.

This program moves us through a process of discernment and reflection in:

- choosing no more than two specific areas of social justice work that will be our focus for the near future;
- developing a plan to incorporate a full range of justice action work on the issue(s), including education, advocacy, witness, community collaboration, leadership training and service; and
- providing a process for periodic assessment of our chosen social justice issues and actions.

Because we are developing these in a process together, it is key that we have input from **every member** of SFUU. Your attendance will benefit the process by bringing your passions for social justice, your past experiences, your knowledge base, and your diverse points of view. Your input matters!

Here is the timeline—

Introduction: To introduce the series, we will have a brief after-service Forum on **Aug. 9** from **11:15 AM - 12:00 noon** to explain and answer questions about the process such as:

- what does discernment and engagement mean?
- what are the six pillars of social justice-making and what are some examples?
- how might this process change what we do for service and action projects in our church?
- what is the timeline for any changes we might want to implement—do our decisions have renewal/re-evaluation dates?
- why is all this important to our UU values and our congregation?

Part 1, Sept. 20: This first session will look at SFUU's past history around social justice work, allowing time to celebrate our successes and identify areas for improvement. We will hold up UU values, UU justice history, and models of engagement. We will explore what it means to be an effective ally in right relationship. All this will help us understand the components of transformative social justice work. Participants will begin to identify directions for the congregation's future in social justice.

Part 2, October 25: In the second session, participants will consider specific critical social justice issues identified in session one that, if properly addressed, would lead to a more effective social justice program. Much of this work is done in small groups with sharing. We will discuss and practice democratic methods for choosing issues for further exploration. In this session we will launch a survey asking for congregational feedback on a focus for social justice work.

Part 3, November 15: The third and final session brings it home by having the leadership team present the results of the feedback and evaluations for possible issues for our focus. Based on feedback from participants, the leadership team will make recommendations and set up the process for final issue selection and planning. Finally, a process for ongoing evaluation of our new approach to social justice work will be established.

Much of the above information is taken directly from the UU Justice Ministry website. To see the content in its entirety, visit www.uujmca.org, and click on Training and Education, then select Curriculums and Resources from the dropdown menu.

***This month's Social Justice Page of the SFUU Newsletter is purposefully devoted solely to the upcoming Discernment and Engagement Program. Please visit the **Faith in Action** page of our SFUU website www.mysfuu.org for more Social Justice news and celebration of US Supreme Court decision on Marriage Equality and the Affordable Care Act this past month.*

From Our Board President

It is my honor to have been elected to serve as President of the SFUU Board of Trustees for 2015-16. I will be part of a committed, thoughtful group as we work to fulfill our responsibility to look after the overall health and well-being of SFUU. New beginnings always present opportunities as well as challenges and this new Board year has some of both. Our budget is showing a projected deficit; and many of us are concerned about the future. Several people have suggested recently that going back to having only one service all year might address the deficit while allowing us all to be together on Sunday morning. Many of our current members weren't around when we made the decision to go to two services, and some of our longer-term members might not remember, so the board has scheduled a forum for August 16 after the service so that we can review the implications of a decision to have one versus two services (see article, page 4). We hope everyone will attend this forum so we can share our concerns, worries, hopes, and brilliant ideas about the future of SFUU. Where do we want to go as a congregation? How can we work together to get there? We are more powerful when we work in community, and the Board can only consider your input if you share it with us. I hope you will be there.



WORSHIP ASSOCIATE TRAINING

Are you interested in being part of the magic and meaning-making on Sunday mornings? We will have a Worship Associate Training on Saturday September 12, 9 AM - 12:30 PM for anyone interested, with light snacks and a continuation of training until 2:00 PM for those interested in also learning how to work with guest worship leaders. Current worship associates, former worship associates, and folks considering becoming a worship associate are all invited to this training to see if this is a good match for your gifts and schedule this year. Please RSVP to Rev. Wendy at revwendyb@mysfuu.org or Rev. Lynn at revlynn@mysfuu.org and Amy Evans at amyevans@wavecable.com.

CHILD DEDICATION DEC. 13

Save the date! The Multigenerational Wholly-Family Service on Sunday, Dec. 13, will include a child dedication. If you are a member of the congregation and have a child or children that you'd like to participate in this congregational ritual of blessing, please contact Rev. Lynn at revlynn@mysfuu.org.



Children/Youth R.E. continued from page 2

From the Loft up the Street

August will find the combined Jr. and Sr. Youth Groups engaging in some discussions about more involved social justice actions we will be taking on in the fall. The youth themselves will bring ideas to the group on various projects that would make sense to take on. We are checking into projects related to economic justice, environmental justice, immigrant justice, and voting rights. If you have any ideas about projects that might be of interest to the youth groups please let Leslye or Theresa know.

A big thank you goes to the congregation for its strong support of our youth who attended G.A., and to those who have already signed up to be on a youth group team for next year. Your support and encouragement is deeply appreciated.



Theresa Cote, Youth Leader
(530) 368-2115 or sfuuyouth@mysfuu.org

The fall will see a schedule change: the Senior Youth Group will meet from 10 to 11 AM, and the Junior Youth Group will leave after the story for all ages during the 11 AM service and finish up at noon.

R.E. Calendar of Upcoming Events for August 1 - September 13, 2015

- August 3-7: Growing Peace Camp
- August 23: Gathering of the Waters, Intergenerational Service. No R.E., only Childcare
- August 23: R.E. Volunteer Training, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM. Lunch and child care provided
- August 29 and 30: R.E. youth and family pool parties at the Koerner's house
- September 6: No R.E. classes. Children and youth are invited to stay in service. Childcare available.
- September 8: Our Whole Lives (OWL) orientation for parents of enrolled 8th - 10th graders, 6:30-8:30 PM
- September 13: Fall R.E. classes begin. Return to two services, 9:00 and 11:00 AM
- September 13: December 13: OWL Class for registered 8th - 10th graders, 4:00 - 8:00 PM

Enjoy the rest of your summer!
Stay cool ... stay safe.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Community-Wide Food Drive for Food Closet

In this nation of plenty, 1 in 7 people are food-insecure, and local food banks are crucial to the health and well-being of these individuals and families.

The Auburn Interfaith Food Closet will hold a community-wide food drive during September Hunger Action Month. Supporting church and community partners will form teams, dropping bags and flyers off at homes in an assigned area after church on **Sunday, September 20**, and picking up the filled bags on **Sunday, September 27**. Please plan on joining us on one (or both) days. Contact Laurie Soper at **530-401-1382** or lasoper43@gmail.com for more information or to sign up for a team. Stay tuned for more details!

BOARD MEMBERS
July '5— June '16

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Joan Lacktis
president@mysfuu.org

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vicepresident@mysfuu.org

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Jim Robison

STAFF

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Ronda Pate
sfuuadmin@mysfuu.org
(Office hours on back page)

Music Director
Patricia Leftridge

Children/Youth R.E. Director
Leslye Janusz
(Contact information on R.E. page)

Youth Leader
Theresa Cote

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Adult Programs/Adult R.E.
John Bohland

Building & Grounds
Bob Niblack

Caring Ministry
Beryl Mayne

Communications
Laurie Soper

Finance
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Social Action
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Joan Lacktis

CO-MINISTERS

Rev. Lynn Gardner
Rev. Wendy Bartel
(Office hours and contact information on back page)

Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists

190 Finley Street
Auburn, California 95603

Mail Return Service Requested

**A LIBERAL FAITH IN
PLACER COUNTY**



Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists
A Welcoming Congregation

Our mission
*is to build beloved community
that respects diversities,
as we nourish the spirit,
care for the Earth,
and inspire faithful acts of peace
and justice.*

SUMMER SUNDAY SERVICES: 10 AM
190 Finley St
Auburn, CA 95603

Phone: **(530) 823-0953**

Our e-mail address:
sfuadmin@mysfuu.org
Our website: www.mysfuu.org

We welcome ALL who attend our Sunday services and activities. Child care is available during the service, and your children are welcome in our Religious Education program. Please join us for conversation after the service. If you would like information about SFUU, please take literature on display in the foyer or speak with the greeters, our ministers, or any member of the congregation.

If you have **announcements** or **calendar items** to share with the congregation, you are encouraged to submit them, as follows:

- For announcements to share by weekly “E-Beacon”, contact the Church Administrator at sfuadmin@mysfuu.org by **6 PM each Thursday**.
- Submit items for the Sunday Order of Service by **6 PM each Wednesday** to the Church Administrator, sfuadmin@mysfuu.org or **530-823-0953**.
- Submit items for the website to the to Joan Lactis at joansac@pacbell.net
- Submit items for the monthly newsletter by MS Word attachment to an e-mail on or before **Friday, August 21**, to Laurie Soper, lasoper43@gmail.com.

SFUU Office Hours & Contact Information

Rev. Lynn Gardner & Rev. Wendy Bartel

Our co-ministers work from their home office most days of the week. General office hours at SFUU are:

Tues: 3 - 5 PM*
Thurs: Off
Fri: 11 AM - 2 PM*

** Please call or e-mail before coming in; they are sometimes in a meeting or off site. They are happy to make an appointment with you outside of office hours as needed.*

revlynn@mysfuu.org
revwendyb@mysfuu.org
Church: 530-823-0953, *2 at the prompt
Home office: 530-887-1375

Our co-ministers are on Facebook. If you would like to connect that way, search for RevWendy Bartel and RevLynn Gardner (no space between Rev and their first names).

Church Administrator, Ronda Pate

In-office hours are:
Fri: 11 AM - 3 PM
Sun: 9:15 AM - 2:15 PM
Tues. and Wed.: Off

Contact Ronda at sfuadmin@mysfuu.org