



A bi-monthly publication of the Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists

SFUU CONNECTIONS

MAY/JULY 2017

CO-MINISTERS COLLOQUY

What an amazing journey the last nearly seven years have been serving as your co-ministers. As we prepare to leave SFUU and embark on this next leg of our ministerial journey, we are acknowledging the ‘lasts’ and this is our final SFUU Colloquy. We have also been reflecting on how we and the congregation have grown and changed.

When we interviewed for this job, a few things were articulated as needs-
1. Dynamic meaningful worship, 2. To grow and sustain full-time ministry, and
3. To become known in the community.

We worked with the Worship Committee, Associates, and Lay worship leaders over the years and SFUU has consistently good worship every Sunday. Average attendance has gone from 60 to 100, and on Easter we had a record-breaking 135. In 2012, SFUU moved to two services. There was a great group of folks who orchestrated that shift, as it impacted lots of people. Many of you have served as worship associates, offered reflections, lit the chalice, shared gifts of music, participated in a story, or led a full service. Such great shared ministry!

The interview team had different ideas about what growth might mean. We shared with them that we wouldn’t focus on growth. We would focus on doing church well and that growth might be a side effect of that. SFUU had 90 members in 2010 and has 136 now. But more importantly, we’ve grown spiritually. We’ve witnessed so many of you becoming more healed, more whole, more fully yourselves. You’ve shared your journeys, struggles, and insights with us and we have been blessed.

SFUU has also grown into your size, where activities and social justice are more coordinated and clear. There are policies and procedures and a new mission statement that help guide the shared ministry of the congregation. More of you are skilled at non-violent communication. You’ve grown in generosity. You have succeeded in sustaining full-time ministry for seven years! You have supported the growth of staff, programs, and events. You’ve grown in awareness of the district, region, and denomination with which we covenant. Many folks went to Sacramento for District Assembly in 2014 and to Portland, OR for General Assembly in 2015!

SFUU has become better known in the community through hosting forums, partnering with other religious leaders, and revamping the MLK celebration to include more community leaders. SFUU has made the news. More of you are willing to tell folks that you go to church and even invite your friends! We have provided a haven in the despair after the election. There is no need to hide your light under a bushel! The community needs you!

With profound gratitude and love, Rev. Wendy and Rev. Lynn



MONTHLY THEMES

MAY:

ACCEPTANCE

JUNE:

PROPHETIC

IMPERATIVE

SIERRA FOOTHILLS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS WELCOME YOU!



SFUU CONNECTIONS

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Ian Duncan
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Interim Selection Team

Suzanne Borth
Ken Evans
John Bowman
Barbie Laderman-Jones
Jenny Ferris

Our Office Administrator is in the office on most Wednesdays 11am-3pm.

If you wish to meet with one of the co-ministers, please contact them for an appointment. Their day off is usually Thursday. Their reading/research/writing day is Friday.

Submissions for our publications are as follows:

Weekly e-Beacons & Order of Service Announcements – Due Tues, 5pm
This info is usually generated through Calendar Requests made through the website. Please submit any additional information or clarifications to our Office Administrator Ronda Pate at sfuuadmin@mysfuu.org

To submit a calendar request, please visit www.mysfuu.org, sign in on the Members tab, and follow the instructions for calendar requests. Contact our administrator Ronda or Amy Evans if you have forgotten the member password.

Bi-monthly Newsletter – Due 10th of these months: July, Sept, Nov, Jan, Mar, May by 5pm to Ronda at sfuuadmin@mysfuu.org

To Learn More about Unitarian Universalism



www.UUA.org

SFUU is part of the Pacific Western Region of the UUA - www.uua.org/pacific-western and the Pacific Central District of the UUA - www.pcd-uua.org

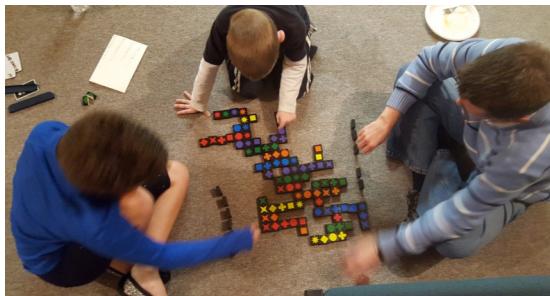


Reflecting and Learning: Children and Youth

Acceptance and The Prophetic Imperative seem to be opposites, yet a great opportunity presents itself when we consider these spiritual themes one after the other. The key is that Acceptance does not preclude action! As we cultivate understanding of things-as-they-are, we can also work for change. I have found a good way to do this is to change my language from 'but' to 'and,' making more room in myself to allow the world to be as it is. Consider how hard it is to accept the gravity of climate change. If we set the up the world-as-it-is against the world-as-it-should-be (not accepting), then we create a big fight in ourselves that crushes our spirits before we can even reach out to act. If we can fully accept the gravity of the situation, however, then we naturally are moved to action. We take the fight outside of ourselves! As we work with challenging situations in these next few months, let us practice acceptance and offering our prophetic voice with "and" language. ~ Adrean Louise Dills, M.Div.



Family Fun Night



There was fun to be had for folks of all ages on a Family Fun Night on March 24, 2017.

Adult Religious Education and Programs

The(*)logies on Tap is a program of the Adult Religious Education Committee of the Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists to bring together an interesting mix of people to honestly and respectfully talk about spirituality and other things that matter while enjoying a beverage. Currently co-hosted by Andy Cramer and Bill Boyce, meetings are held every 3rd Wednesday at 7pm in Auburn or the Roseville/Rocklin area and are open to the congregation and the larger community through Meetup. "After each meeting," said Andy, "I am left with a deep sense of appreciation for the stories that we all carry." ~ Jan Lowry

"THE CURIOUS PARADOX IS THAT WHEN I ACCEPT MYSELF JUST AS I AM, THEN I CAN CHANGE."
CARL ROGERS

Wild Flower Hike. Join Bill Jensen and Janet Russell for a hike in the American River Conservancy's 605-acre Salmon Falls Ranch in time for a showy spring wildflower display. Bill, an experienced ARC docent, will lead a moderate up and down 4-5 mile hike with vistas of the Sierra and American River adding its flow to Folsom Lake. See how slope and aspect create a vegetation mosaic pattern in this rolling oak woodlands setting. Visit an historic lime kiln and life-supporting Indian Springs Creek that meanders through this historic cattle ranch. We'll stop for lunch mid day, so be sure to bring both food and water. A \$10 donation to the Conservancy is suggested. We'll meet at SFUU at 8:15. Hikers coming from El Dorado county can meet us at the trailhead. Call or email for directions. Please RSVP to Janet Russell at janetnrussell@gmail.com or 530.305.5013

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Adult R.E.

Jan Lowry

Building & Grounds

Bob Niblack

Children/Youth RE

Tricia Caspers

Communications

Laurie Soper

Finance

Maureen Bauman

Membership

Vacant

Social Justice

Shannon Dooley-Miller

Worship

Amy Evans

TEAMS & TASK FORCES

Bylaws

Stevie Rea

Stewardship

Gary Koerner



Shared Ministry: Commitment to Compassionate Communication

A GROOVY TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

On Saturday, April 29, the gathering hall of the First Congregational Church in Auburn was transported back in time to 1969 and the Summer of Love. The decorations, the costumes, the music, and the food all contributed to our really feeling the love. In addition to having good conversations and dancing, the congregation



showed some love for all the wonderful items in the auction—our fundraiser was another success. Thanks to ALL the volunteers who made it happen and the congregation for stepping up and stepping out!

Peace, love, and SFUU!

Volunteer Spotlight—George Lowry: Worship Associate



George joined the Worship Associate (WA) team within a year of joining SFUU as part of his “year of saying yes”, a principle that helps him engage with new groups and fulfill his desire to pitch in. George enjoys working with the ministers to develop that week’s theme, developing a Welcome message and short reflection, and helping in the mechanics of the service as needed. He finds the work fulfilling, especially when the congregation appreciates his contributions. George suggests that a fear of public speaking should not stop you from participating, because the rewards outweigh

the fears. On the theme of The Prophetic Imperative, “attending worship sustains us spiritually and brings us into community with people who support each other in working for justice.” If you are interested in being a WA, he suggests talking to some of them, then attending the next WA training. ~Joan Lacktis

Get Involved – Worship

The Worship committee, chaired by Amy Evans, is responsible for helping the ministers create meaningful services. When the ministers are present, our role may be small – recruiting worship associates to help out, for example. But when the ministers are away, the Worship committee steps up, helping to find speakers/guests prepare for service at SFUU and worship associates learn the ‘tricks of the trade’. Our worship associates go through training, are provided supporting documentation, and have support from the entire committee when they prepare to host or co-host a service. If you have interest being part of making services at SFUU meaningful, relatable, and, at times, fun – please reach out to Amy Evans or the ministers and they will be happy to talk to you about how to become a worship associate.



President's Message



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Hey, hey, hey! By the time you read this, the Board of Trustees will have applied for an interim minister, assembled an interim minister search team, and chosen (or be close to choosing) someone wonderful who will help us transition over the next two years!

Our congregational meeting, at which we will approve the budget, elect a new board for 2017-18, and recognize this year's Pillar of the Church, will be on June 4. I hear a rumor that there will also be a potluck that day. Yum.

Finally, we want to send Rev. Lynn and Rev. Wendy off in style. A planning team for this is in the works. I know that I am profoundly grateful for everything "the Revs" have done for the church, and for me personally, over the past seven years. So ... let's celebrate the time we have shared together and wish them great success with their future congregation (those lucky dogs)!

~Jenny Ferris, Board President

Money Matters: Finance and Stewardship

Stewardship Wrap-up

Thanks to generous support from our congregation, we have achieved our goal of maintaining the pledge income from last year into next year. We anticipate this will support a strong budget for next year.



We really enjoyed gathering with 90+ people at the congregation-wide Stewardship Dinner. Seeing all your smiling faces in one place made for a special evening. Who knew that we had such the "table cloth artists" among us?

Congratulations to all of us. -Your Stewardship Team

Stronger Together: Denominational Opportunities

District Assembly May 5-6 in Walnut Creek, CA www.pcd-uua.org for more info

General Assembly is in New Orleans, LA this year June 21-25, 2017. We'll be electing a new President of the UUA. You can learn more about all the candidates at www.uua.org/uuagovernance/elections

The Transitions Office will be assisting our congregation to find the best interim for where we are and where we want to go. The Rev. Sarah Schurr from the Western Region will also be assisting us.

Faith in Action

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

Back in the fall of 2015, we engaged in a discernment process to focus our environmental justice efforts to focus on water justice. There was a very informative Public Meeting that SFUU hosted with a panel discussion about the impacts the Centennial Dam would have in our community. We were also blessed to have the film maker John Marlow show his film "Voice of the Bear River." You can see the film on Youtube - a 20 minute beautiful photography documentary film.

<http://www.voiceofthebearriver.com>



Our panelists included Jack Sanchez representing Friends of Bear River and Save Auburn Ravine Salmon and Steelhead (SARSAS), Traci Sheehan from Foothills Water Network, Wanda Batcheir representing the Nisenan tribe, and our very own SFUU Bob Niblack who is very knowledgeable about water storage and groundwater basins with years of experience working with the California Department of Water Resources to speak with us about the proposed Centennial Dam project.

This matters to me as a UU because I care about the Bear River and water justice. I want us to have some free-flowing rivers that nourish the animals, provide respite and recreation for people, and benefits the surrounding areas because we are all interdependent. There is a prophetic imperative to care for the



SFUU Folks on a historical and forestry tour of Allen Edwards' 550 acre tree farm near Colfax.

"BELOVED COMMUNITY IS FORMED NOT BY THE ERADICATION OF DIFFERENCE BUT BY ITS AFFIRMATION, BY EACH OF US CLAIMING THE IDENTITIES AND CULTURAL LEGACIES THAT SHAPE WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE LIVE IN THE WORLD." bell hooks

Committee Highlight: Communications Committee

UUs cannot accept an unjust status quo. Our Seven Principles and our history require that we advocate—loudly, insistently—for social justice and a better world. The various communications supervised by the SFUU Communications Committee—newsletter, e-Beacon, website, media ads/interviews/articles, social media—seek to convey what SFUU is doing within our congregation and in the wider community that reflects the strong connection between our spirituality and social action. Members of the CommComm, as we call it, also like each other, keep the meetings short and to the point ... and have a lot of laughs! For more information, contact Chair Laurie Soper, lasoper43@gmail.com, or just attend a meeting.



UPCOMING WORSHIP

Worship Services are on Sundays at 9 and 11am in November.

May 7: The Acceptance Spectrum
D. Scott Cooper

May 14: All That Has Given Us Birth Rev. Wendy Bartel

May 21: Journey of the Heart
Rev. Wendy and Rev. Lynn

We will recognize our newest members on this day!

*Please note: there will be ONE **Sunday** service at 10 AM from May 28-Sept. 3*

May 28: Body, Mind, Heart, and Spirit Barbie Laderman-Jones and Kelly Chandler

June 4: Searching for Truth: A UU Odyssey and Youth Bridging Ceremony!

C/YRE students and teachers, Rev. Lynn, and Rev. Wendy

June 11: Campfire Wisdom: Sleeping with a Mosquito

Rev. Lynn and Rev. Wendy

June 18: Teach Your Children Well
Lauren Way, seminarian

June 25: What Makes Robs Come Alive? Rob Bietz and others

July 2: Worship from GA

July 9: Fare Thee Well...
The Revs. last service with us

See the website for other worship services in July.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

Children/Youth Summer All-Stars Contact Adrean Dills, DRE, dre@mssfuu.org

Adult RE

Spring Wildflower Hike May 18. Janet Russell 530.305.5013 or janetnrussell@gmail.com

Men's Group meets 2nd & 4th Wed of each month, 6pm-7:30pm, SFUU Social Hall. -Jim Robison, jimrobison66@gmail.com

Compassionate Communication

Circle on the 2nd Thur of the month from 6:30-8pm at SFUU in the Social Hall -Val Bowman, valeriebowman2@gmail.com

Crafties meets monthly in the Social Hall 9-11am on the 2nd Fri and 12:30-2:30pm on the 4th Fri. Val Bowman, 916-751-9188

Improv Comedy Games/Performances meets at 1pm in the Sanctuary on the 4th Sunday. Sue Fegley, starzanne@hotmail.com

Deepening Conversations

The(*)logies on Tap 7-9pm
May 24 Acceptance Location TBA

June 21 Prophetic Imperative Little Belgium Deli, Auburn

Hosts: Bill Boyce & Andy Cramer
Andrew_cramer@sbcglobal.net

PATH TO MEMBERSHIP

May 21 New Member Recognition during the 9 & 11 services
We'll honor our newest members.

CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS:
Watch for more details!

June 4 Congregational Meeting

Check the e-Beacon, announcements, and website for the most up to date info.

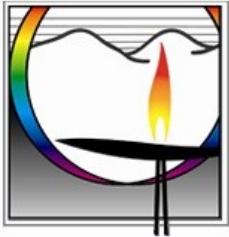
Visit our website to view calendar for when committees meet.

www.mssfuu@mysfuu.org

"ALL BLAME IS A WASTE OF TIME. NO MATTER HOW MUCH FAULT YOU FIND WITH ANOTHER, IT WILL NOT CHANGE YOU."
WAYNE DYER

THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER IN JULY BUT WILL RETURN FOR THE AUGUST/SEPTEMBER EDITION

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**SFUU
190 FINLEY ST.
AUBURN, CA 95603**

WWW.MYSFUU.ORG

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**AN LGBTQ
WELCOMING
CONGREGATION**



**THE MISSION OF THE SIERRA FOOTHILLS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS 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.**



Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- ♦ The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- ♦ Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- ♦ Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- ♦ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- ♦ The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- ♦ The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- ♦ Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.