

# Our Church Circular

First Unitarian Church of San José \* November 7, 2012 \* 7 de noviembre 2012  
160 N. Third Street, San José, CA 95112 \* (408) 292-3858 \* [sanjoseuu.org](http://sanjoseuu.org)



## Faith: tiny touchstones for the rocks on which we stand

by the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Like poets, most ministers love symbols and metaphors, because like poets, we are trying to express the inexpressible, to mine something that is so big and deep and true, so suffused in life that it is hard to tease it out in words. Maybe one bright image, one sensory-rich object, one vivid story can, for a moment, embody a hard-won truth.

This month our community focuses explicitly on Faith. How can we tease out its meaning in words? “What does it mean to have faith?” one congregant asks. “If I can’t quite articulate it, does it mean I really don’t have faith?”

### **Let me tell you a story:**

At the district’s fall retreat for Unitarian Universalist ministers, we have a beloved ritual. We give a small stone to each minister new to the area and to each one moving into a new job or new epoch in their ministry. The stones symbolize the touchstone of our collegiality: “Here, take this home with you, dear colleague; place it where you can see and touch it so that you may know how this community supports you always.” It’s a symbol, and we ministers love symbols.

We lay the stones out on a low table transformed into an altar in the center of the big living room where we gather. The givers of stones eye the collection, mentally picking out the one that will be perfect for the minister we’re called to honor. This fall, my eye goes immediately to a small stone that looks like a tiny scoop. There is nothing else like it on the table. Really, each stone is unique; it’s just that this particular stone catches my eye and heart. Then I step out of the room to get one more cup of coffee before our meeting begins.

When I return, “my” stone is gone! “Oh, well,” I think, “my minister-friend deserves something bigger, anyway—something that will represent the sheer size and weight of his new calling. I’ll pick out something else.”

The ritual flows sweetly forward. Everyone likes being recognized and honored; everyone likes receiving a present, even if it is just a rock.



Everyone senses what this symbol means, and we all feel a bit more grounded in our faith in each other and in our community.

When the ritual concludes, a new minister-friend whispers in my ear, “Nancy, would you come here for a minute?”

She takes me aside and hands me ... my rock! That little scoop-shaped triangular piece of dark stone. I am not new to the district, nor is my calling changing, but Sarah has overheard me say that I’ve never taken part in this ritual—and now she has given me the very thing I wanted.

Some of you are no doubt thinking, “You’ve got to be kidding me. You give each other ‘pet rocks’?” Conceived in Los Gatos in the 1970s by advertising executive Gary Dahl, Pet Rocks are actually resurfacing this fall. (See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pet\\_Rock](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pet_Rock) for a brief summary.)

### **Really, no. These are not pet rocks.**

My rock is about two inches long, one and a half inches wide, and three-quarters of an inch tall. Its rounded underside has a burnished coppery tone, as though it has been placed in countless fires. When I rub my thumb across the scooped upper surface, mahogany colored and slightly nicked, it becomes a “worry stone,” the sensations soothing and kind. When I place the stone in the palm of one hand and bear down on it with the other thumb, I can imagine some long-ago human grinding herbs or precious stones into a fine dust to use in medicines or cooking.

How in the world has this small object become a symbol for my faith? And how can something so small represent the “rock on which I stand,” as the truths of one’s faith are sometimes called?

Without my being able to articulate it until now, it speaks to me of my faith in the interdependent web of all existence. It connects me viscerally to earth, to weather, to the humans and other creatures who have touched this rock before, to evolution, and to the rock’s own inevitable changes.

This touchstone puts me in touch with these truths on which I stand:

- That we are all connected. We abide in an “inescapable network of mutuality,” as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called it. We must be, then, touchstones of love, courage, hope, and help for each other.

continued on page 3

November: faith + noviembre: la fe

# Fe: pequeños puntos de referencia de las rocas en las que estamos

por la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Como los poetas, la mayoría de ministros amamos los símbolos y las metáforas, porque como los poetas, estamos tratando de expresar lo inexpressable, extraer algo que es tan grande y profundo y verdadero, tan envuelta en la vida que es difícil para sacarlo en palabras. Tal vez una brillante imagen, un objeto sensorialmente rico, puede una historia viva, por un momento, encarnar una verdad duramente ganada.

Este mes nuestra comunidad se centra explícitamente en la fe. ¿Cómo podemos sacar su significado en palabras? “¿Qué significa tener fe?” pregunta un congregante. “¿Si no puedo articularlo bien, significa que realmente no tengo fe?”

## ***Déjenme contarles una historia:***

En el retiro de otoño del distrito para ministros Unitarios Universalistas, tenemos un ritual amado. Damos una pequeña piedra a cada nuevo ministro de la zona y a cada uno que se muda a un nuevo trabajo o por una nueva época en su Ministerio. Las piedras simbolizan el punto de referencia de nuestra colegialidad: “Aquí, toma este hogar contigo, querido colega; colócala donde puedes verla y tocarla para que sepas cómo esta comunidad te apoya siempre”. Es un símbolo, y nosotros los ministros amamos los símbolos.

Extendemos las piedras sobre una mesa baja, transformada en un altar en el centro de la gran sala donde nos reunimos. Los dadores de piedras observan la colección, eligiendo mentalmente una que será perfecta para el Ministro que estamos llamados a honrar. Este otoño, mi ojo se va inmediatamente a una pequeña piedra que parece una pequeña bola. No hay nada parecido en la mesa. Realmente, cada piedra es única; es justo que esta piedra en particular que atrapa mis ojos y corazón. Luego salgo de la habitación para tomar una taza más de café antes de que comience la reunión.

Cuando regreso, “mi” ¡piedra se ha ido! “Oh,

bueno,” pienso, “mi amigo ministro merece algo más grande, de todos modos—algo que representará el tamaño y el peso de su nueva vocación. Voy a recoger a algo más”.

El ritual continúa fluyendo dulcemente. A todo el mundo le gusta ser reconocidos y honrados; a todo el mundo le gusta recibir un regalo, incluso si es sólo una roca. Todos perciben que es lo que significa este símbolo, y todos nos sentimos un poco más plantados en nuestra fe en nosotros mismos y en nuestra comunidad.

Cuando concluye el ritual, una nueva ministra amiga susurra en mi oído, “Nancy, puedes venir aquí por un minuto?”

Ella me lleva a un lado y me da... mi roca! Esa pequeña pieza triangular de piedra oscura en forma de cuchara. No soy nueva en el distrito, ni estoy cambiando mi vocación, pero Sarah me ha escuchado decir que yo nunca había tomado parte en este ritual—y ahora ella me ha dado lo que quería.

Algunos de ustedes sin duda están pensando, “tienes que estar bromeando. Ustedes se dan mutuamente rocas de mascotas?” Concebido en Los Gatos en la década de 1970 por el Ejecutivo publicitario Gary Dahl, rocas de mascota están de hecho resurgiendo este otoño. (Ver [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pet\\_Rock](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pet_Rock) para un breve resumen.)

## ***Realmente, no. Estos no son rocas de mascota.***

Mi roca es aproximadamente de dos pulgadas de largo, una y media pulgadas de ancho y tres cuartas partes de una pulgada de altura. Su parte inferior redondeada tiene un tono cobrizo bruñido, como si hubiera estado en incontables incendios. Cuando froto mi pulgar a través de la superficie superior de la cuenca, coloreada en caoba y ligeramente mellada, se convierte en una “piedra de preocupación,” de las sensaciones relajantes y amables. Cuando coloco la piedra en la palma de una mano y presiono hacia abajo con el otro pulgar, puedo imaginar a algunos



humanos hace mucho tiempo moliendo hierbas o piedras preciosas en un polvo fino para utilizar en medicamentos o para cocinar. ¿Cómo en el mundo ha convertido este pequeño objeto en un símbolo de mi fe? Y ¿cómo puede algo tan pequeño representar la “roca en la que estoy,” como las verdades de una fe son denominan a veces?

Sin mi ser capaz de articular hasta ahora, me habla de mi fe en el tejido interdependiente de toda la existencia. Me conecta visceralmente a la tierra, al clima, a los seres humanos y otras criaturas que han tocado esta roca antes, a la evolución y a los cambios inevitables de la roca.

Este punto de referencia me pone en contacto con estas verdades en las cuales me baso:

- Que todos estamos conectados. Permanecemos en una «red ineludible de mutualidad,» como el Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. lo llamaba. Debemos ser, entonces, punto de referencia de amor, coraje, esperanza y ayuda mutua.
- Que todo evoluciona, incluyendo nuestras verdades, nuestra propia fe. Estar vivo es aprender a aceptar el cambio y moverse con él en las verdades más profundas que puedan revelar.
- Que nosotros, individual y colectivamente, tenemos el poder de formar muchos de estos cambios para bien o para mal. Nosotros, los Unitarios Universalistas estamos llamados, entonces, a ser agentes de cambio en la dirección de más bondad, más amor, más justicia para todos.

continúa en la página 3

## La fe: puntos de referencia

viene de la página 2

Queridos, ustedes también han construido—y están construyendo—su vida en ciertas verdades que mantienen en estima, a menudo verdades tácitas que los guían en tiempos de problemas y de calma. ¿Qué punto de referencia te recuerda estas verdades?

¿Sobre qué rocas se encuentran?

Cuando ponemos estas verdades en palabras, las podemos examinar una vez más, dudando, cuestionando, preguntándose si nuestra experiencia todavía las lleva a cabo o si están listas para un cambio. Esta es nuestra fe cuestionando. Esta es nuestra manera. Espero que se unan a nosotros.

con mi amor,

Rev. Nancy ●

### Faith: touchstones continued from page 1

- That everything evolves, including our truths, our very faith. To be alive is to learn to embrace change and to move with it into the deeper truths it can reveal.
- That we, individually and collectively, have the power to shape many of these changes for good or for ill. We Unitarian Universalists are called, then, to be agents of change in the direction of more goodness, more love, more justice for all.

Dear ones, you too have built—and you are building—your life on certain truths that you hold dear, often unspoken truths that guide you in times of trouble and of ease. What touchstones remind you of these truths? On what rocks do you stand?

When we put these truths into words, we can examine them once more, doubting, questioning, wondering whether our experience still bears them out or whether they are ready for a change. This is our questioning faith. This is our way. I hope you will join us.

with my love,

Rev. Nancy ●

## Faith of the free! ¡La fe de los libres!

by the / por el Rev. Geoff Rimositis

*“Faith of the larger liberty, source of the light expanding... Faith of the free! By thee we live...”*

—Vincent B. Sillman.

Last month forty eighth-to-tenth graders from congregations around the Bay Area joined together in the first of three Coming of Age Retreats. Coming of Age is our rite of passage program whose goals are to help youth recognize and accept responsibility for decision making, come to a positive understanding of their personal capabilities and unique qualities and test themselves against their own preconceived limits.

The main activity of the weekend was participating in the Four Winds ropes course in Occidental. Youth faced their fears by climbing high in trees and attempting to complete elements that required team work and communication. They put their faith and trust in their group’s adult leader and in the youth who were on belay teams and who served as spotters in case they fell.

### Faith in each other...

...faith within, to accomplish what fear would say we cannot do, is faith of the larger liberty...faith of the free! This faith is each person’s birthright. When we understand that we are deeply connected in a great interdependent web of creation, we know that we can place our faith in each other because this is what it means to be human and in community.

Faith of the free is experienced at our core—who we are and who we are becoming. Faith of the free opens us up to life to accept its gifts and learn its lessons. Faith of the free is a profound trust in the goodness of life and that we are worthy, that all are worthy, to receive life’s many blessings.

Our coming of age youth experienced that faith within and among themselves at their retreat. Their faith will grow and change as they do but they can trust it to

*“La fe de la gran libertad, fuente de luz en expansión... Fe de los libres! Por ti vivimos...”*

—Vincent B. Sillman.

El mes pasado, cuarenta jóvenes del 8-10 grado de las congregaciones de alrededor del área de la bahía, se unieron en el primero de los tres retiros de la mayoría de edad. La mayoría de edad es nuestro programa de rito de paso cuyos objetivos son: ayudar a los jóvenes a reconocer y aceptar la responsabilidad en la toma de decisiones; llegar a una comprensión positiva de sus capacidades personales y cualidades únicas y, probarlos a ellos mismos contra sus propios límites preconcebidos.

La principal actividad del fin de semana fue participar en el curso de cuerdas de los Cuatro Vientos en Occidente. Los jóvenes enfrentaron sus miedos escalando a lo alto de los árboles e intentando completar los elementos que

continúa en la página 4

be there for them when they need it.

### I invite you...

to experience faith as an embodied prayer. You can do this prayer with a partner or let your partner be the wide open universe.

*Facing each other recite: From you I receive (place your palms up and open in front of you to receive your partner’s hands), to you I give (now reverse hands and place your hands on your partner’s open palms), together we share (take your partner’s hand and place it on your heart) and by this we live (fold your hands in front of you in Namaste fashion, and bow to each other, recognizing each other’s uniqueness, each other’s divinity.)*

May faith hold us and keep us safe and bring us to ever newer understandings of how to live and love to the fullest extent possible. Blessings to us all! ●

requieren el trabajo y la comunicación en equipo. Pusieron su fe y confianza en el grupo de sus líderes adultos y en los jóvenes quienes estaban en los equipos de aseguramiento y quienes fungieron como observadores en caso de que ellos se cayeran.

La fe en nosotros y en los demás, fe interior, para lograr ese miedo que nos diría que no podemos hacer, es fe de la gran libertad... ¡la fe de los libres! Esta fe es el derecho de nacimiento de cada persona. Cuando entendemos que estamos profundamente conectados en una gran red interdependiente de creación, sabemos que podemos poner nuestra fe en otros, porque esto es lo que significa ser humano y estar en

comunidad.

La Fe de los libres es experimentada en nuestro núcleo — de quienes somos y en quienes nos estamos volviendo. La Fe de los libres nos abre a la vida para aceptar sus dones y aprender sus lecciones. La fe de los libres es una profunda confianza en la bondad de la vida y que somos dignos, que todos son dignos de recibir de la vida, muchas bendiciones.

Nuestros jóvenes en la mayoría de edad experimentaron esa fe interior y entre ellos mismos en su retiro. Su fe crecerá y cambiará como ellos lo hacen, pero ellos pueden confiarse para estar ahí para cuando ellos lo necesiten.

Los invito a experimentar la fe como una oración encarnada. Pueden hacer esta oración con una pareja o permitir que su pareja sea el universo abierto. Recitar el

uno frente al otro: De ti recibo (con las palmas de la manos hacia arriba y abiertas delante de usted para recibir las palmas de las manos de su pareja), a ti le doy (ahora invierta las manos y coloque las manos sobre las palmas abiertas de su pareja), juntos compartimos (tome la mano de su pareja y colóquela sobre su corazón) y por eso vivimos (con las manos juntas en frente de usted en forma de Namasté y hacer una reverencia uno frente al otro, reconociendo la singularidad de cada uno, la divinidad de cada uno.)

Pueda la fe sostenernos y mantenernos a salvo y traernos a los cada vez más nuevos entendimientos de cómo vivir y amar en la mayor medida posible. ¡Bendiciones para todos nosotros! ●

## *Theme-Based Ministry at FUCSJ 2012-13*

*As our Unitarian Universalist friends at All Souls Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, like to say:*

*"Be warned: Seriously engaging these themes could transform your life!"*

### **Theme of the Year: The Year of Cherishing**

We will place each monthly theme in dialogue with the practice of "cherishing." Prepare to be surprised as we wrestle with traditional language in nontraditional ways, and consider our own faith from many religious and spiritual perspectives!

#### **Monthly Themes:**

- ◆ November: Faith
- ◆ December: Joy
- ◆ January: Justice
- ◆ February: Grace / Blessing
- ◆ March: Prayer / Spiritual Practice
- ◆ April: Salvation
- ◆ May: Letting Go / Surrender

## *Consider serving on our Board of Directors*

*"To serve humankind, to the end that all souls may grow into the divine; this do we covenant together."*

### **Would you be willing...**

... to help us all "grow into the divine?" The Board of our church is a forward-thinking, elected body made up of members who, grounded in our UU ideals, are willing to think deeply about our mission and goals, and set policy for our church for the future. Could you serve our church for two years in that capacity? Terms begin in April, 2013. Let me know if you are interested, and we'll talk!

Sincerely,

Jan Theiss-Guffey,

Chair, Nominating Committee, [jantg@yahoo.com](mailto:jantg@yahoo.com)



## **Community Dances**

**Sunday, November 18, 2:30-5:30 pm,  
Hattie Porter Hall**

Nine or ninety, everyone can join the fun, dancing through history from Queen Elizabeth I to Henry Ford, with live music! Learn as you go, no lessons needed. Come alone or with a friend – switching partners for each new dance is encouraged, and dances are gender-neutral. Newcomers are especially welcome. Casual dress and comfortable shoes are encouraged. Suggested donation: \$5 to \$15; no one will be turned away. Next dances: first and third Sundays through June. ●

## **The Alegría Singers**

**Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00 pm, Sanctuary**

Join the FUCSJ choir in singing at regular Sunday services, at special events such as Solstice Celebrations and Coffee Houses, and bringing music to various church activities. ●

## Faith

The concept of faith—the very word itself—brings up a wide range of thoughts and feelings for Unitarian Universalists: curiosity, anger, hope, rejection, confusion ... and also certainty about a particular definition. Some people associate the concept of faith with “blind faith” or with a prohibition against questioning. Neither of these is true to our religion—our questioning and truth-seeking faith. Many people express their hunger for a deeper understanding: To what or to whom can we—individually and communally—give our loyalty? What makes someone or something worthy of our trust? Do we, indeed, have a “rock” to stand on?

This chorus of voices and the differences among us are themselves an expression of our faith. *Viva nuestra diversidad*—long live our diversity!

The varied responses from our congregants are interwoven here. You might also pick up one or more of the suggested resources for more insight into your own faith, as well as into the liberal and progressive religious tradition in which we stand. Then join us in worship and small-group ministry sessions as we continue to grow our faith!

### Congregants' responses

- What does it mean to have faith? If I can't quite articulate it, does it mean I really don't have faith?
- I would like to explore what faith means as a Unitarian Universalist, since we don't have dogma. Does it mean faith in each other, in the mystery?
- “Faith” with a capital F usually equates to religion or god; “faith” with a lower case f, to trust.
- I think it is important to separate faith as a belief, faith as a religious commitment (such as “our faith” or “our faith tradition”), and the act of faith (which I equate to trusting). When life is uncertain, real faith is called for. Is faith itself certainty? Or is doubt built into it?
- What does one have faith in, when we belong to a faith where not everyone agrees about the divine? How does faith inform our daily actions?
- When I am uncertain about the existence of a higher power, how can I have faith? Or should I be having faith in something else (like humankind, which unfortunately includes some rather undesirable characters)?
- Faith = belief without evidence. This is something I would rather avoid. Maybe we could focus on belief or hope instead.
- I think the word faith needs to be redeemed for people like me who see it as a vice rather than a virtue because it means “believing in things without evidence.”
- Faith means trusting in what one cannot “know.”
- Is there something solid without or within that we can rely on?
- What is the relationship between faith and science?
- Is there a biological definition of faith? What is the brain structure of faith? What enables us to keep going?

- The word faith comes from the same root as *fidere*, “to trust.” It is related to *fealty*, which has to do with being loyal, faithful.
- Why do some of us get hung up on the word? What does “faith” say to Unitarian Universalists that “trust” does not?
- Faith = trust? dogma? *credo*? commitment?
- What if faith is a characteristic of the way we do our journey? In other words, it's OK to not know what we're faithful to. It's how we move through life that matters. “We are going, heaven knows where we are going, but we know within. And we will get there, heaven knows how we will get there, but we know we will...” (# 1020 in our teal hymnal, *Singing the Journey*, “Woyaya,” words and music by Loughy Amoa, Soloman Amarfo, Robert M. Bailey, Roy Bedeau, Francis T. Osei, Whendell K. Richardson, and Mac Tontoh)
- I'm not interested in “blind faith,” based on believing things that might or might not be true, but rather in a deeper understanding that, as said in *The Desiderata*, “no doubt the Universe is unfolding as it should”—a faith that everything works together for good.
- There is the big Faith of Unitarian Universalism and the small (though not insignificant) faith of my own spirituality. This is our great calling now: to help people find their identity in the big and the small faith, to help people claim a life-affirming and transformative faith that moves through their lives. But how do we help those who have lost faith—in Unitarian Universalism, in religion, in themselves? I would like to see a regular prayer circle happen at church so people can pray for stronger faith(s), both large and small.
- The difference between “faith in Christ” and the “faith of Christ” is really important to me.
- I don't “do” faith. I “do” trust, and would prefer to think about how we rightfully, and righteously, gain and give trust with others. Trust would also be an appropriate topic for an election year/month.
- We need faith that we can keep alive regardless of the results of the election. We can continue to strive for justice in our country and our world, knowing that we may not see results immediately but that our taking action itself is an expression of faith.
- Often Unitarian Universalists are considered faithless. I would love to hear more about faith in a higher power/God—about a higher calling to morality.
- One of the best things about our religion is how it encompasses the whole spectrum of faith and how we encourage “the quest of [individual] truth.” There is no (or should be no) “my way or the highway.” A person can be an atheist (which, after all, is a kind of faith), a deist, a theist, and so on. And there is a fluidity that allows people to move or evolve from one way of thinking about faith to another.
- When and how do you decide when “God” is talking to you?
- For me, faith is about realizing I have a choice to take a positive thought or outlook.
- Great topic! I wonder if faith can relate to attitude. For example, when I think of an optimist, I think they have faith. Is faith more difficult for a pessimist?
- Faith: another dangerous inclination of the human psyche.
- Does our faith allow for diversity? Can we have faith that we were spirits first and the material world came out of that, or that we were

continued on page 6

## In Our Own Voices: Faith

continued from previous page

matter first and now think we have a spirit? Can we give diverse faiths equal time, or is there only one way to be Unitarian Universalist? Can we find common cause with Unitarians or Universalists from the past, or are we too evolved?

- I'm more interested in the results of having faith in terms of people's actions and behavior.
- I am still figuring out what this means to me.

### Suggested resources

- John A. Buehrens and Rebecca Ann Parker, *A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century*
- Sharon Salzberg, *Faith: Trusting Your Own Deepest Experience*
- Alain de Botton, *A Religion for Atheists: A Non-believer's Guide to the Uses of Religion*
- Nicholas Wade, *The Faith Instinct: How Religion Evolved and Why It Endures*
- Bruce H. Lipton, *The Biology of Belief: Unleashing the Power of Consciousness, Matter, and Miracles*
- Jill Bolte Taylor, *My Stroke of Insight: A Brain Scientist's Personal Journey*
- Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*
- Peter Rollins, *How (Not) to Speak of God* ●

### Housing Wanted

Do you have a room for rent? Perhaps if the right tenant came along? Well, don't look now, but the former President of the United States (in the church murder mystery) is seeking accommodations. He has his own furniture 100% of the time and his three sweet, adorable, hard-working children with him 50% of the time, so a fairly large, unfurnished room would be ideal, though tiny, furnished rooms will also be considered. Legitimate U.S. currency is available for the monthly ritual most people call "rent." Contact this deposed political kingpin at [henry\\_L@ruddle.com](mailto:henry_L@ruddle.com) or 408-234-3670 if this opportunity is just too good to pass up. According to the scandal rags, some still call him Mr. President, but his real name is Henry and he prefers it. ●

# Understanding Our Progressive Faith

In *A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2010), John A. Buehrens (former president of the Unitarian Universalist Association) and Rebecca Ann Parker (president of Starr King School for the Ministry) describe liberal and progressive religion from the "foundations" to the "roof," from the "garden" to the "welcome table."

What a spacious and welcoming home we twenty-first century Unitarian Universalists are building—and on such historic grounds!

Although both authors are ministers grounded in Unitarian Universalist history and theology, they recognize that the liberal or progressive expression of every religion shares a common focus. Here is their summary of what it means to hold a progressive faith:

"Within the theological house of progressive faith there is room for tremendous variety, diversity, and dissent. But there is also a defining focus: a devotion to the flourishing of life. People of progressive faith care for the sacredness of this world, this life, here and now. We do not look to a world to come that will

be more valuable than this world.

"We cherish our bodies, this earth, this time and place that is within our grasp. We reverence the intimate, intricate, and unshakeable reality that all life is connected. We honor and respect the bonds that tie each to all, that weave us into an inescapable net of mutuality.

"We vow to care for the interdependent web of existence; we desire all life to thrive, and therefore we resist those social evils and systemic injustices that benefit a few at the expense of many, or that allow a privileged existence for some while others have their hearts and bodies broken by exploitation, prejudice, censure, or lack of access to the rights and resources needed for life.

"We critique any conception of God that functions to bless an unjust status quo or to alleviate human responsibility. We affirm a covenant among all beings that we honor with our hearts, souls, mind, and strength. We will do everything in our power to assure that this covenant of life, for life, is honored.

"And we seek to connect our circle with other circles of life, to expand our circle into ever-widening ripples of influence for good." ●

## Spotlight on Social Justice

The Social Justice Council blog appears on the Church Webpage at: <http://www.sanjoseuu.org/socialjusticeblog/>. Subscribe to the Yahoo Group For Social Justice News & Events at: [sjsjuu-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:sjsjuu-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).



### *Walking the Walk: Annual UU Justice Leaders Summit*

**November 16-18, Presentation Retreat Center, Santa Cruz Mountains**

Join us for thought provoking workshops, inspiring worship, good food, and great UU justice community. Pick up practical training to strengthen justice ministries in your congregation. Refresh your spirit. Foster friendships. Explore UU strategies to advance immigrant justice, healthcare, LGBT

equality and environmental justice. Sing. Meet young adult UU justice leaders. Renew hope. Have some fun! The retreat will be held at the Presentation Center, 19480 Bear Creek Road, Los Gatos, CA 95033 in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Register at: [www.uulmca.org](http://www.uulmca.org) ●

# SUNDAY SERVICES / SERVICIOS DE DOMINGO

Year of Cherishing: November Theme: Faith ♦ El año del aprecio: Tema de noviembre: la fe

**10:15 am**

Servicios en español

## Todos los domingos – Alabanzas en Español

Media Hora de Reunión del Pequeño Grupo del Ministerio Multicultural. Venga a unirse a nosotros para este servicio simple de oración-meditación de media hora (sin sermón) a las 10:15 a.m en una mezcla de inglés y español en la sala Fireside Ramsden. Accesible e incluyente para todos, este servicio ofrece tiempo para cantar, meditar y reflexionar en un pequeño grupo en preparación para el servicio de las 11:00 am.

## Every Sunday – Alabanzas (Spanish Lauds)

A half-hour multicultural Small Group Ministry gathering. Come join us for this simple prayer-meditation service (without sermon) held in a mixture of English and Spanish in the Ramsden Fireside Room. Accessible and welcoming to all, this service provides time to sing, meditate, and reflect in a small group in preparation for the service at 11:00 am.

## Save the Dates

- ♦ **November 10, Saturday, 9 am-1:00 pm**, Service is Our Prayer Day, all Church
- ♦ **November 11, Sunday, 9:30-10:30 am**, Parents Meeting for K-1 OWL, lower level classrooms
- ♦ **November 16-18, Friday-Sunday**, UU Justice Leaders Summit, Los Gatos
- ♦ **November 17, Saturday, 5 pm**, Service Auction and Dinner
- ♦ **November 18, Sunday, 2:45-4:45 pm**, Historical Jesus book study, Board Conference Room
- ♦ **November 18, Sunday, 12:15 pm-1 pm** Empty Bowls Lunch and Auction Fundraiser, Hattie Porter Hall
- ♦ **November 18, Sunday, 2:30-5:30 pm**, Community Dance, Hattie Porter Hall
- ♦ **November 19, Monday, 7-8:30 pm**, HUUmanist meeting, Youth Room ●

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

**You make FUCSJ what it is! Whatever your talent and availability, there is an opportunity for you to serve. Contact Volunteer Coordinating Team members Liz Owen at [lowen@data-time.com](mailto:lowen@data-time.com) or Bob Miess at [bob@floweringenterprises.com](mailto:bob@floweringenterprises.com)**

**11:00 am**

Services in English

## November 11 / 11 de noviembre

### What can we count on?

#### What abides at the heart of liberal religious faith

In worship on Sunday, November 4, we talked about “our questioning faith,” and we sang, “Even to question truly is an answer.” But are we Unitarian Universalists only about question marks? Or is there an “abiding faith” that arises from our experience, our doubts, and our liberal and progressive religious tradition? On this post-election Sunday, we’ll seek what we can count on, even in constantly changing times.

We also relish the blues harmonica playing of special guest PCD Administrator Chuck Rosene; the thrumming accompaniment of Guitars Aloud; and a new solo from Beth Hilton. We will honor our veterans, too, on this Veterans Day. Please join us for a restorative Sunday together!

**Worship Leader: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones**

**Worship Associates: Bev Clifford and Brian Singer**

### ¿Con qué podemos contar?

#### Lo que habita en el corazón de la fe religiosa liberal

En el servicio del domingo 4 de noviembre, hablamos acerca de “nuestra fe interrogativa” y cantamos, “incluso que la pregunta realmente es una respuesta”. ¿Pero somos los Unitarios Universalistas sólo signos de interrogación? ¿O hay una “fe inquebrantable” que surge de nuestra experiencia, nuestras dudas y nuestra tradición religiosa liberal y progresista? En este el domingo post-electoral, buscaremos con lo que podemos contar, incluso en tiempos de cambio constante.

También disfrutaremos de un blues en armónica tocada por el invitado especial el Administrador Chuck Rosene, de PCD, con acompañamiento de Guitarras Aloud; y un nuevo solo de Beth Hilton. Vamos a honrar a nuestros veteranos también en este Día de los Veteranos. Por favor, únase a nosotros para un restaurador domingo juntos!

**Dirige: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones**

**Asociados de Culto: Bev Clifford y Brian Singer**

## November 18 / 18 de noviembre

### Festival of lights: an introduction to Diwali

#### Celebration Sunday: all-ages worship, followed by Empty Bowls Luncheon

On this introduction of Diwali (or Deepavali) into our congregational life, we ask, How do we, in our diverse Unitarian Universalist community in San José, enter into a celebration that takes many forms and meanings in India and other parts of the world? Answer: With respect, humility, authenticity, and joy! This “festival of lights” celebrates the “awakening” of a transcendent light that shines out from within each of us. It honors and gives thanks for the harvest. Co-created by congregants who know this celebration by heart, we will join in with music, story, and movement for all ages.

Following the service, please join us for our Coming of Age program’s Empty Bowls auction and light lunch, benefiting the Second Harvest Food Bank.

**Worship Leaders: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones and Rev. Geoff Rimositis**

**Worship Associates: Gautam Biswas, Ann Osborne, Marnie Singer, Kasthuri Veeraraghavan, and more**

## Festival de las Luces: Introducción a la celebración Diwali

Domingo de celebración: Servicio de todas las edades, seguido del Almuerzo de Tazones Vacíos

En esta introducción de Diwali (o Deepavali) en nuestra vida congregacional, preguntamos, ¿cómo, en nuestra comunidad diversa Unitaria Universalista en San José, entramos en una celebración que toma muchas formas y significados en la India y en otras partes del mundo? Respuesta: ¡Con respeto, humildad, autenticidad y alegría! Este “festival de las luces” celebra el “despertar” de una trascendente luz que brilla desde dentro de cada uno de nosotros. Honramos y damos las gracias por la cosecha. Co-creada por congregantes conocedores de esta celebración por el corazón, nos uniremos con música, historias y movimientos para todas las edades.

Después del servicio, por favor acompáñenos para nuestro programa de la mayoría de edad al almuerzo de luz de los tazones vacíos y subasta, beneficiando al Second Harvest Food Bank.

**Dirigen: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones y Rev. Geoff Rimositis**

**Asociados de Culto: Gautam Biswas, Osborne Ann, Cantante Marnie, Veeraraghavan Kasthuri y más**

### November 25 – 25 de noviembre

#### Sowing Seeds of Justice and Growing Community

This Thanksgiving weekend, a holiday about gathering in community and sharing in the bounty of a harvest, we gather to consider our relationship to one another and to the environment which sustains all life on this planet. In this age of climate change, ecological destruction, and extreme economic disparity, how can we create systems and communities that align with our liberal religious values—promoting justice and honoring the interconnected web of existence? Matthew McHale is a candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry and a third year student at Starr King School for the Ministry. He is an avid supporter of anti-oppression work and environmental justice. Recently, he has been an organizer with Occupy the Farm, which he will draw upon in the service.

**Worship Leader: Matthew McHale, Starr King seminary student**

**Worship Associate: Alice Lynch**

#### Sembrando las Semillas de la Justicia y Comunidad Creciente

Este fin de semana de Acción de Gracias, una fiesta acerca de reunirnos en comunidad y compartir en la generosidad de una cosecha, nos reunimos



## Children and Youth Classes

Children and youth in Preschool (3 years) through High School join the community for the first part of worship at 11 am and then go to their respective classes until 12:30.

### Nursery: Birth through four years

Location: Lower Level Nursery  
Childcare Staff: Cathy Castaneda and Sandra Sotelo

We provide a safe, clean environment in which to support each child in initiating play activities at the developmental level they manifest. Each week our paid staff, Cathy Castaneda and Sandra Sotelo, provides a loving presence as they engage children in games, stories and crafts with seasonal and holiday themes throughout the year.

There are two Unitarian Universalist curricula for 3-5 year olds: *We Are Many*, *We Are One* and *Chalice Children*. They are based on the philosophy that young children learn about religion through relationships. What is a person? Who am I? How am I related to others? What are

para considerar nuestra relación del uno con otro y el medio ambiente que sustenta toda la vida en este planeta. En esta época de cambio climático, la destrucción ecológica y la extrema desigualdad económica ¿cómo podemos crear sistemas y comunidades que estén alineadas con nuestros valores religiosos liberales—promover la justicia y honrar a la red interconectada de la existencia? Matthew McHale es un candidato para el ministerio Unitario Universalista y un estudiante de tercer año en la escuela Starr King para el Ministerio. Él es un ávido partidario de trabajo anti-opresión y la justicia ambiental. Recientemente, ha sido un organizador con Ocupar el campo del cual se utilizara como fuente en el servicio.

**Dirige: Matthew McHale, Starr King seminary student**

**Asociada de Culto: Alice Lynch**

my responsibilities? What kind of world do I live in? These are religious questions that children begin to answer as they become acquainted with themselves, other people, and their environment; all responses are mediated by the significant adults in their lives.

### Grades 1-4: Love will guide us

Children learn to seek guidance in life through the lens of our Unitarian Universalist Sources, with an emphasis on love. Together we ask questions such as, “Where did we come from?” “What is our relationship to the Earth and other creatures?” “How can we respond with love, even in bad situations?” “What happens when you die?”

### Grades 5-8: Junior High Youth Group: The Questing Year

The Questing Year invites participants on four quests tied to the themes of self, church, mystery, and social action. Here’s what the youth learn of the quests from a letter inviting them into the program:

- ♦ *Inner Quest* – Who are you? What are you like? How are you different? What’s your place in the world?
- ♦ *UU Quest* – What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist? What’s special about UUs? How do UUs live out their principles? You’ll meet and investigate outstanding UUs who will show you some answers.
- ♦ *Mystery Quest* – How can you understand what you can’t see? Like God? Or the great mystery? Or spirit and spirituality?
- ♦ *Action Quest* – How can you make the world a better place? A class social action project your group chooses and does will let you try out some answers.

### Grades 9-12: Senior High Youth Group

The senior high youth group meets on Sundays from 11:30-12:30. The group offers its members a safe place to share

their lives and find support and friendship among open-minded and loving peers. The group engages in discussions about issues relevant to youth's lives and communities. They plan social and service projects throughout the year.

They also participate in youth conferences in area Unitarian Universalist churches under the auspices of the Pacific Central District of Unitarian Universalist Congregations and Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU). The youth group's empowering philosophy educates youth to be leaders within the group, church community and denomination.

Youth Group Advisors: Rick Morris, Rev. Geoff Rimositis, Terra Wood-Taylor ●

### K-1 Curriculum:

## Our Whole Lives

Sexuality Education

Leaders: Rev. Geoff Rimositis, Kristyn Greenwood, April Spesock

**O**ur Whole Lives is a positive, comprehensive, and age appropriate educational program that promotes sexual health and is informed by the

guidelines of the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS).

The goals of this eight-week curriculum are:

- ◆ To strengthen and support each child's sense of self and self-esteem.
- ◆ To help children understand the place of sexuality in human life and loving.
- ◆ To help children recognize and appreciate their bodies as good and beautiful, private and special.
- ◆ To help children gain understanding and accurate information about human sexuality, reproduction and gender identification.
- ◆ To help children prepare for the normal changes they will experience as they grow and develop.

- ◆ To help children develop interpersonal skills that will keep them safe and healthy.
- ◆ To help children learn to make decisions that respect themselves and others and that anticipate possible consequences.
- ◆ To engage families with the Our Whole Lives program in open communication about all life questions.

See more at <http://www.uua.org/re/owl>. Parent Orientation November 11, 9:30-10:30 am in the classrooms; classes to be scheduled. If interested in participating in the course please RSVP to Rev Geoff Rimositis, [GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org), 408-309-7796. ●

### Grades 8-10:

## Coming of Age

*Coming of Age* is an opportunity for youth (grades 8-10) to challenge themselves both physically and spiritually; develop meaningful relationships with other youth and

adults; gain a greater understanding of Unitarian Universalism and what it means to them; and have lots of fun enjoying the many gifts life presents to us.

Each youth participant has a mentor (an adult member from the congregation) who will serve as an important companion throughout the year. The Coming of Age Task Force will help each participant choose a mentor that is right for him or her.

Supplementing local congregational involvement, there will be a series of three retreats and a celebration dinner during the year, in which we will join with other UU Coming of Age youth from around the Bay Area to do some fun and challenging activities like a Ropes Course, a Nature Vigil and a street retreat with the Faithful Fools Street Ministry in the Tenderloin section of San Francisco.

It is a program that requires a commitment from youth and their families and a level of maturity to be able to face the challenges of developing relationships with a diverse group of

continued on next page

## 2012-'13 Lifespan Faith Development Calendar

### Sunday, November 11

3-5 year olds	Helping others
1st -4th grades	Love in our congregation (part II)
5th-8th grades	A time of thanks
9th-12th	Group meets at regular time, 11:30-12:30
8th-10th	Coming of Age: Farm Worker's Reality Tour, Watsonville
K-1: Our Whole Lives	Parent information meeting, 9:30-10:30 am, classrooms

### Sunday, November 18

All ages	Diwali service for all ages – no classes
Coming of Age (8th-10th)	Congregation Empty Bowls Luncheon Fundraiser for Second Harvest Food Bank

### Sunday, November 25

3-5 year olds	Native Americans have taught us many things
1st -4th grades	Music / Yoga
5th-8th grades	Holidays (Part I)
9th-12th	Group meets at regular time, 11:30-12:30

For more information about our programs for children and youth please contact our family minister, the Rev. Geoff Rimositis, [GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org)

## New lifespan faith development class

### Our Neighboring Faiths for Adults

Join Rev. Nancy and ministerial candidate Marnie Singer in exploring the basic principles and practices of seven major religious traditions found in the Bay Area. Since Unitarian Universalism draws on all the wisdom traditions, how will these encounters impact our own faith and deepen our connections with our neighbors?

The first session took place during our all-church retreat on Saturday afternoon, October 13. Now the group meets on second Sundays from 1-3 pm, November, 2012 through April, 2013, for large-group learning and small-group reflection. Between class sessions, we will schedule visits to houses of worship and special religious celebrations.

#### Goals of the Class:

- ◆ Deepen our own spiritual life through reflection on these religious sources.
- ◆ Strengthen our compassion for others who hold these faiths dear.
- ◆ Expand our religious literacy.
- ◆ Build relationships with our neighboring faiths.
- ◆ Get to know each other in meaningful ways.

#### Book Discussion:

"From Jesus to Christianity" by L. Michael White

**Sunday, November 18, 2:45 – 4:45 pm, Board Conference Room.**

We will discuss pages 1-380, Chapters 1 to 14, with a primary focus on Chapter 14, Legitimacy and Order: A New Scrutiny, which describes how Christianity was not yet outlawed, but still viewed with suspicion, 100 years after the death of Jesus. We'll look at the result of the second Jewish revolt against Rome (Bar Kochba), and how it affected Christians. We'll also see how Christianity was increasingly becoming an institution. We'll also look at how theology was being formalized and harmonized with the major strains of philosophy of the time in the work of the "Apologists," who were not apologizing,

Suggested text with short readings: *The Usborne Book of World Religions*, by Susan Meredith, available new and used at <http://www.amazon.com/The-Usborne-Book-World-Religions/dp/0746017502#>. Huston Smith's *World Religions*, the Dalai Lama's *Toward a True Kinship of Faiths*, and many introductions to world religions provide great optional reading, too. We will offer a bibliography at the November class session.

#### Class Schedule: Sundays, 1-3 pm

(dates of off-site visits between classes to be determined)

**Session 2:** November 11: Hinduism

**Session 3:** December 9: Buddhism

**Session 4:** January 13: Sikhism

**Session 5:** February 10: Earth-based religions (Wicca, neo-paganism)

**Session 6:** March 10: Judaism

**Session 7:** April 14: Christianity

To Register: e-mail Office Manager Susan Burke to add your name and contact information to the list: [fucs@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:fucs@sanjoseuu.org) ●

## UU Parents Meetup

<http://www.meetup.com/UUParents/>

The Meetup group is a safe venue for parents and children who embrace a Unitarian Universalist philosophy to connect. The group was formed by parents in the First Unitarian Church of San Jose who wanted an easy way to get to know like-minded parents. The philosophy of the church, and the Unitarians of this group, is love.

Parents belonging to this group have many different lifestyles and beliefs, but we are united in our commitment to acceptance of each other and our children. You do not have to attend any church or consider yourself religious to be part of this group. Just go to our Meetup site, <http://www.meetup.com/UUParents/> and fill out a few profile questions, which are meant to verify you are a parent with some interest in this group, and an organizer will approve you.

For more information contact the Rev. Geoff Rimositis, [Grimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:Grimositis@sanjoseuu.org), (408) 292-3858, ext. 25. ●

**Coming of Age** continued from previous page youth and an adult mentor.

Youth must be willing to face the reality of homelessness and poverty that they will see in the Tenderloin and be willing to share with the congregation their evolving sense of what it is they believe, in their credo statement on Coming of Age Sunday, May 19, 2013.

If you would like to register for the 2012-13 Coming of Age Program (runs through May, 2013) or find out more information please contact Rev. Geoff Rimositis at [GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:GRimositis@sanjoseuu.org). ●

## Empty Bowls Fundraiser

### Sunday November 18

Immediately after the 11 am service, please join us for a simple meal prepared by our Coming of Age youth and their mentors to benefit the Second Harvest Food bank. There will also be a silent auction of bowls made by our youth and mentors that will benefit Second Harvest. ●

## Upcoming Events

### *Service Is Our Prayer Day*

**November 10, 9:00 am-Noon**

At the morning service on August 4th we learned about our beautiful stained glass windows. The Building Committee is offering the opportunity to do further study on those windows because on November 10 at the Service Is Our Prayer Day we intend to wash all of them. Also, we hope to wash the windows in Hattie Porter Hall, and to refinish the front door thresholds. In addition, we hope to do lots of touch-up painting. As always we will meet at 9 am for a blessing and work until noon when a delicious lunch will be served. If you want us to put a project on the list, contact Bob Miller at [Robert@drbobmiller.com](mailto:Robert@drbobmiller.com) ●

### *Service Auction & Dinner*

**Saturday, November 17, 5:00 pm, Hattie Porter Hall**

Mark your calendar for our biggest fundraiser of the year: 5 pm for the Silent Auction and 6 pm for dinner, with the live auction to follow! This year's festivities are sure to delight. The catalog of offerings will be posted on the main page of the church website. Donations for your special talent or service are currently being eagerly accepted. Consider signing up for a brief shift of the "behind the scenes" effort too. For more information, visit the Service Auction Table during Social Hour on Sundays or contact Jan Theiss-Guffey [jantg@yahoo.com](mailto:jantg@yahoo.com) ●

## Thank you letters

The InnVision Shelter Network wrote to thank us for our October 1, 2012 donation of \$1,601.52 to support their efforts.

"We deeply appreciate your commitment to our mission of empowering homeless families and individuals to achieve self-sufficiency and return to permanent housing," wrote Julia Gregory, manager of their annual giving program.

"Your contribution ... enables us to deliver services that go 'beyond the bed' to break the cycle of homelessness...."

### *HUUmanists Ponder Election Results*

**Monday, November 19, 7-8:30 pm, Youth Room**

Election Results and Future Topics" are the focus for our next meeting. For about half the time we can have an open discussion on the November elections. Then we can take a forward look at our future topics and a review of the mission of the group. We are open to all and welcome newcomers. [tjb@timblackwood.com](mailto:tjb@timblackwood.com) ●

### *UUthful Spirits*

**Second and fourth Sundays, 12:45 pm, Hattie Porter Hall**

Join our young-at-heart fellowship group for Sunday lunch! Meet in Hattie Porter Hall about 12:45 pm. We also host a happy hour on the first Friday. For information, contact [uuthfulspiritsowner@yahoo.com](mailto:uuthfulspiritsowner@yahoo.com) ●

### *Yoga Classes*

**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:15 to 10:15 am through December 20**

A unique, gentle approach to yoga that can help you relax and even help relieve chronic pain. Appropriate for beginners and those with chronic pain or limited mobility; something to offer experienced yogis as well. Drop-ins welcome. Suggested donation: \$5-\$15, but no one will be turned away. Classes benefit Third Street Community Center. (No class 11/22) ●

## *UU Hikers and Friends: November*

We hike rain or shine, unless there is a huge windy storm in which case I will cancel. I may change the venue to the Stanford Dish to avoid muddy trails. I will send out an email if I change the venue or cancel the hike. If you have not heard from me and wonder what the decision is, call me any time after 6:30 am at 408-730-1052, or 408-507-7052 the morning of the hike.

Call me if you plan to hike unless you are a regular. If I have not heard from anyone for a given hike, I may go somewhere closer to my home. Happy Trails! —Joyce Miller

**Wednesday, November 7**

Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve, 6-7 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond parking lot at Almaden Plaza shopping center at 8:30 am.

**Saturday, November 10**

Big Basin State Park, Berry Falls. We will do an out and back to the Falls, about 8 miles, moderate. It is a longer day due to the length of hike and driving distance. Plan on getting home around 3:30 pm. Meet at US Bank parking lot in Saratoga

**Wednesday, November 14**

Montebello Open Space/Grizzly Peak shuttle hike, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at PageMill/280 park and ride at 8:30 am.

**Saturday, November 17**

Skyline Ridge Loop, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at PageMill/280 park and ride at 8:00 am.

**Wednesday, November 21**

Wunderlich County Park, 5 miles, easy. Meet at PageMill/280 park and ride at 8:30 am Shorter hike today due to Thanksgiving preparations.

**Saturday, November 26, 2012**

Almaden Quicksilver, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond in Almaden Plaza shopping center at 8:00 am, or at the trail head at Hacienda entrance at 8:30 am ●

We also heard from James K. Bower, executive director of the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, thanking us for our contribution of \$870.81 to Health Legal Services, a program of the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley.

"As your neighbor, we are deeply touched by your decision to include us in your special collection [helping us provide] equal access to justice for those living with HIV/AIDS and those who are under-represented in our community." ●



## FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH of San José

160 North Third Street

San José, CA 95112

### Want to Receive the Newsletter?

To receive the newsletter on paper, fill out the form at this link:

<http://sanjoseuu.org/form/index.php?sid=2>

or call (408) 292-3858

To receive the newsletter via email:

[fucs@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:fucs@sanjoseuu.org)

or join the church's Yahoo Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uusj>

### Next issue copy deadline:

3:00 pm Wednesday, November 14

Assembly: Tuesday, November 20

Mailing: Wednesday, November 21

### View this newsletter online in PDF

format at: [sanjoseuu.org](http://sanjoseuu.org)

**Donations are welcome** to help defray the cost of printing and mailing. Suggested donation: \$18-\$20 per year – please mail to Office Manager.

### For Pastoral Care

**Our community strives to offer compassion, companionship, healing, and joy to all its members.** Our pastoral care coordinators can help you find the listening ear or helping hands that you may need in difficult times. Please contact the Rev. Geoff Rimositis.

### Contacting the Ministers

**Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones** and **Rev. Geoff Rimositis** feel honored to serve this congregation, and we cherish your trust! Here is how reach us: **Nancy** (408) 292-3858, ext. 23 Mon.-Thurs.; cell (408) 952-9418; e-mail: [revnpj@yahoo.com](mailto:revnpj@yahoo.com). **Geoff**: (408) 292-3858, ext. 25 Mon.-Thurs.; cell (408) 309-7796; e-mail: [grimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:grimositis@sanjoseuu.org).

### Cuidado Pastoral

**Nuestra comunidad se esfuerza en ofrecer la compasión, el compañerismo curativo, y la alegría a todos sus miembros.** Nuestros coordinadores en cuidado pastoral pueden ayudarle a encontrar un oído que escucha, o las manos que ayudan cuando ustedes lo pudieran necesitar en épocas difíciles. Para el cuidado pastoral, por favor, comuníquese con el Rev. Geoff Rimositis.

### Contactando a los Ministros

**La Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones** y **El Rev. Geoff Rimositis** se sienten honrados de servir a esta congregación y apreciamos su confianza! Aquí esta como puede contactarnos: **Nancy** (408) 292-3858, ext. 23 de Lunes a Jueves; cell (408) 952-9418; e-mail: [revnpj@yahoo.com](mailto:revnpj@yahoo.com). **Geoff**: (408) 292-3858, ext. 25 de Lunes a Jueves; cell (408) 309-7796; e-mail: [grimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:grimositis@sanjoseuu.org).

## READY TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER OF THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SAN JOSÉ?

Contact Rev. Geoff, [grimositis@sanjoseuu.org](mailto:grimositis@sanjoseuu.org)

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*Thanks for all the work you do and care you put into the newsletter.*

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