



Our Church Circular

Nuestro periódico iglesia

June 2015 Theme:

Our Awesome Youth

Tema de Junio 2015:

Nuestra increíble la juventud

*Alexander Castro Young played
"Thanksgiving" by George Winston
for the Coming of Age Service on
May 17. Senior youth will lead the
Youth Sunday service on June 7.*



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH *of San José*



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Mentors and Youth celebrate Coming of Age Sunday, May 17



What Will We Learn This Summer?

Getting Ready for a New Water Communion 2015!

by the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Homecoming Sunday—held annually on the first Sunday after Labor Day—brings out our highest Sunday morning attendance of the year. There’s something about that new beginning, about that ritual of “return” to our spiritual home (even if we haven’t traveled at all over the summer), and about the ritual of Water Communion that beckons us all.

Homecoming Sunday: September 13, 2015!

Right now we stand on the very threshold of summer, yet I am already looking ahead to this fall’s Homecoming Sunday on September 13. On that Sunday we will launch a year of celebrating the First Unitarian Church’s 150th anniversary. We will celebrate the Beloved Community that we are now and that we are becoming—a community of depth and meaning, of love, hope, and courage, dedicated to making Love visible in all that we do and say.

And of course we will participate in our annual Water Communion. For the past few years we have been working to make this ritual more meaningful. We have

learned to create a “communal poem” of place names, and I have *almost* trained you not to say “virtual water,” since *all* the water is symbolic, whether it came from your kitchen tap or from the Red Sea. The ritual flows more smoothly now.

But we can make it more substantive, truer to its real meaning. Drawing from the changes that Unitarian Universalist congregations around the country have made to their Water Communion, I suggest that this year, instead of naming the places where we have been on our spiritual or physical

“I suggest that this year ... let us name what we have learned over these summer months — still in just a few words, creating one communal poem.”

journeys over the summer, **let us name what we have learned over these summer months** — still in just a few words, creating one communal poem.

Here’s how it works:

“This Summer I Learned ...”

For Water Communion this year, each of us fills in the blank: “This summer I learned ...” We speak our learnings briefly into the microphone, then walk forward to the altar in the center of the labyrinth, and

pour the water that represents our very selves—our learning and growing humanity—into a common bowl.

No one will be left out, for every single one of us is growing, learning, changing every day, in huge ways and in tiny ones. And all of these learnings matter.

This is the community we are creating—a community of seekers and learners of all ages, races, ethnicities, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, theologies, and more. What a great way to bring to life this truth about who we are—using an old ritual that has tried to capture this meaning all along.

Some Examples to Inspire You

In April, on the 10th anniversary of you calling me to become your Senior Minister, many of you shared what you had learned in the past decade. Your notes have moved and encouraged me to keep growing. Your answers, rephrased to fit the new prompt for Water Communion, offer wonderful examples of how our Homecoming ritual may sound this year:

- I have learned that what we do matters and that it has a ripple effect.

Continued on page 4

Water Communion

Continued from page 3

- I have learned to be more courageous, more willing to take risks and to act on them.
- I have learned how to be “broken open” and to love awkwardly.
- I have learned to keep building relationships even when it is so hard to do.
- I have learned to be a more considerate person.
- I’ve learned to focus on doing good in the world and to just keep plugging along on at it.
- I have learned to be more loving.
- I’ve learned hope.
- I have learned that I’m truly OK just the way I am, warts and all.
- I have learned more about aging and how I want to be in these later years.

Can you hear how vulnerable and real these offerings are? Imagine creating a ritual where we bring this—our most honest selves—into the community. Imagine how that bowl of water will (symbolically!)

brim over with our learning, and how hearing others’ learnings will encourage each of us to grow.

Beloved Community, may you find some joy, peace, and rest this summer, no matter how many challenges life may bring. May you notice that each day you are learning and growing, making meaning of your life—and may you bring all of these riches back to this spiritual community throughout this summer, and especially on Homecoming Sunday, September 13!

Love,

Rev. Nancy

¿Qué Aprenderemos Este Verano?

Preparándose para una Nueva Comunión del Agua 2015!

Son ustedes del tipo de personas para quienes el—tema de mayo—Domingo del Regreso al Hogar—celebrada anualmente el primer domingo después del Día del Trabajo—trae nuestra asistencia del domingo por la mañana más alta del año. Hay algo en ese nuevo comienzo, ese ritual de “retorno” a nuestra casa espiritual (aunque no hayamos viajado en absoluto durante el verano) y sobre el ritual de la Comunión del Agua que nos atrae a todos nosotros.

¡Domingo del Regreso al Hogar: 13 de septiembre de 2015!

Justo ahora estamos en el umbral mismo del verano, sin embargo, Yo estoy mirando hacia adelante al Domingo del Regreso al Hogar de este otoño el 13 de septiembre. En ese domingo, iniciaremos un año de celebración del 150 aniversario de la Primera Iglesia Unitaria. Celebraremos la Comunidad Amada que somos ahora y en la que nos estamos convirtiendo—una comunidad de profundidad y significado, de amor, esperanza y coraje,

dedicada a hacer el Amor visible en todo lo que nosotros hacemos y decimos.

Y por supuesto vamos a participar en nuestra anual Comunión del Agua. Durante los últimos años hemos estado trabajando para hacer este ritual más significativo. Hemos aprendido a crear un “poema comunal” de nombres de lugares, y yo *casí* los he entrenado a no decir “agua virtual”, ya que *toda* el agua es simbólica, sin importar si vino del grifo de la cocina o desde el Mar Rojo. El ritual ahora fluye más suavemente.

Pero podemos hacerlo más sustancial, más fiel a su verdadero significado. Sacado de los cambios que las congregaciones Unitarias Universalistas alrededor

“Yo sugiero que este año ... nombremos lo que hemos aprendido durante estos meses de verano — en pocas palabras, crear un poema comunal..”

del país han hecho a su Comunión del Agua, yo sugiero que este año, en lugar de nombrar los lugares donde hemos estado en nuestros viajes espirituales o físicos durante el verano, **nombremos lo que**

Por la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones
hemos aprendido durante estos meses de verano — en pocas palabras, crear un poema comunal.

Aquí está cómo funciona: “Este Verano Aprendí...”

Para la Comunión del Agua de este año, cada uno de nosotros llenara el espacio en blanco: “Este verano he aprendido...” Hablamos de nuestros aprendizajes brevemente en el micrófono, luego caminaremos hacia el altar en el centro del laberinto y vertiéremos el agua que representa a nosotros mismos—nuestra humanidad aprendiendo y creciendo—en un tazón común.

Nadie quedará fuera, porque cada uno de nosotros estamos creciendo, aprendiendo, cambiando cada día, en grandes y pequeñas maneras. Y todos estos aprendizajes importan.

Esta es la comunidad que estamos creando—una comunidad de buscadores y estudiantes de todas las edades, razas, etnias, habilidades, orientaciones sexuales, identidades de género, teologías y mucho



más. Qué gran manera de dar vida a esta verdad acerca de quiénes somos—usando un viejo ritual que ha intentado captar este significado todo el tiempo.

Algunos Ejemplos para Inspirarlos

En abril, en el décimo aniversario de que me llamaron para convertirme en su Ministra Decana, muchos de ustedes compartieron lo que habían aprendido en la última década. Sus notas me han movido y animado a seguir creciendo. Sus respuestas, reformuladas para encajar en la nueva sugerencia para la Comunión del Agua, ofrecen maravillosos ejemplos de cómo puede sonar nuestro ritual de Regreso a Casa este año:

- He aprendido que lo que hacemos es importante y que tiene un efecto dominó.
- He aprendido a ser más valiente, más dispuestos a correr riesgos y actuar sobre ellos.

- He aprendido a como ser “yo mismo “ y amar torpemente.
- He aprendido a seguir construyendo relaciones incluso cuando es tan difícil hacerlo.
- He aprendido a ser más amoroso.
- He aprendido que estoy verdaderamente bien de ser como soy, con defectos y todo.
- He aprendido más sobre el envejecimiento y cómo quiero estar en estos últimos años.
- He aprendido a concentrarme en hacer el bien en el mundo y sólo seguir trabajando por ello.
- He aprendido a ser una persona más considerada.
- He aprendido esperanza.

¿Pueden oír cuán vulnerables y reales son estas ofertas? Imaginen crear un ritual donde traemos esto—Lo más honesto de nosotros mismos—en la comunidad. Imagínese cómo ese tazón de agua será (simbólicamente)! Rebosante de nuestro aprendizaje y cómo escuchar los aprendizajes de otros nos animará a cada uno de nosotros para crecer.

Amada comunidad, que ustedes encuentren alguna alegría, paz y descanso este verano, no importa que tantos desafíos la vida pueda traerles. Ustedes notarán que cada día están aprendiendo y creciendo, haciendo el significado de su vida—y que puedan traer todas estas riquezas a esta comunidad espiritual a lo largo de este verano y especialmente en el Regreso a Casa el domingo 13 de septiembre.

Amor,

Rev. Nancy

Sunday Services / Servicios Domingo

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

11 AM



YOUTH SUNDAY

Our older youth will share with us some thoughts about their experiences at First Unitarian and their connection with the larger youth ministry of our district and region; and how they are going to take their Unitarian Universalist values into the next phase of their lives. Youth who have participated in the World Religions class will receive special pins of recognition. Olga Loya will tell a story for all ages and Federico Zapiola-Madden will sing us a song. After the service everyone is invited to make (and eat) a Sunday Sundae!

Worship Leader: the Rev. Geoff Rimositis; **Worship Associates:** Youth

DOMINGO, JUNIO 7

11 AM

Domingo de los Jóvenes

Nuestros jóvenes mayores compararán con nosotros algunos pensamientos acerca de sus experiencias en la Primer Iglesia Unitaria y su conexión con el Ministerio Juvenil más grande de nuestro distrito y región; y cómo se van a tomar sus valores Unitarios Universalistas en la siguiente etapa de sus vidas. Jóvenes que han participado en la clase de Religiones del Mundo recibirán los distintivos especiales de reconocimiento. Olga Loya contará que una historia para todas las edades y

Federico Zapiola-Madden nos cantará una canción. Después del servicio, todos están invitados a hacer (y comer) ¡un domingo de helado!

Dirige: el Rev. Geoff Rimositis;
Asociado de Culto: Los jóvenes

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

11 AM



Present Tense ... Across the Decades: A Multigenerational Conversation

Worship Associate Vineet Mudupalli and Rev. Nancy take up a topic dear to both their hearts for a lively multigenerational conversation. Stay tuned for more specifics about the topic-to-be-named, and plan on bringing your perspectives into the mix!

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; **Worship Associate:** Vineet Mudupalli

DOMINGO, JUNIO 14

11 AM

Tiempo Presente ... Atraves de Decadas: Una Conversacion Multigeneracional

El asociado de Culto Vineet Mudupalli y la Rev. Nancy toman un tema querido en ambos corazones para una animada conversación multigeneracional. Estén atentos para más detalles sobre el tema-que-será-nombrado y planean traer sus perspectivas a la mezcla!

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones;
Asociado de Culto: Vineet Mudupalli

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

11 AM



Reclaiming Healthy Physical Affection: A Father's Day Celebration

In the modern era, men in the United States—especially straight men—get the message that touch is taboo. Issues of power, homophobia, and the potential for abuse play a part in limiting the kind of affection that men, whether cisgender or transgender, can express in our culture. What happens when we find ways to express our love through gentle, healthy, physical touch? Come hear old and new stories about men who are transformed by learning to be close.

Worship Leader: the Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; **Worship Associate:** TBA

DOMINGO, JUNIO 21

11 AM

Reclamando el Saludable Afecto Físico: Una Celebración del Día del Padre

En la era moderna, los hombres en los Estados Unidos — especialmente los hombres heterosexuales, tienen el mensaje que tocar es tabú. Temas de energía, de homofobia y el potencial de abuso desempeñan un papel en limitar el tipo de afecto que los hombres, cis o trans, pueden expresar en nuestra cultura. ¿Qué sucede cuando encontramos la forma de expresar nuestro amor a través del tacto físico suave, saludable? Vengan a escuchar historias antiguas y nuevas de los hombres

que son transformados por aprender a estar cerca.

Dirige: la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones;
Asociados de Culto: TBA

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

11 AM



Hymn Sing!

Join Choir Director John Ector, members of the Alegria Singers, and others for a Sunday morning filled with song. Planned by John with Rev. Nancy (who will be at General Assembly), this service will share the back-story on some of our hymns and pull from all our hymnals. Want to put in a special request? Please send it to jector@gmail.com. Even if you're not a singer, you will love this immersion in a "sound bath" of Unitarian Universalist theologies set to music.

Worship Leader: John Ector, *Choir Director*; **Worship Associate:** TBA

DOMINGO, JUNIO 28

11 AM

¡Canta Himnos!

Únanse al Director del coro John Ector, a los miembros de Alegria Singers y a otros para un domingo por la mañana llena de canción. Planeada por John con la Rev. Nancy (que estará en la Asamblea General), este servicio compartirá la historia de algunos de nuestros himnos y obtenidas de todos nuestros himnos. ¿Tienen una petición especial? Por favor envíensela a jector@gmail.com. Incluso si no son un cantante, les encantará esta inmersión en un "baño de sonido" de teologías Unitarias Universalistas con música.

Dirige: John Ector, *Director del Coro*;
Asociados de Culto: TBA

The 2015 Watkins Award goes to Joyce Miller!

Submitted by Robert Strong

The Watkins Award for Outstanding Leadership is our congregation's highest honor, a kind of "lifetime achievement award," recognizing a member's **on-going, extraordinary volunteer service** over the course of their membership.

The Watkins Award is named after Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Watkins, residents of Santa Clara who belonged to the San Francisco Unitarian Church, who became founders of this San Jose congregation: they had recognized the need for a liberal religious voice in San Jose, and so invited the Rev. Charles Gordon Ames to speak at the first Unitarian services held in San Jose, in November of 1865.

In the 150 years since then, this congregation has relied on and been supported by the many members and friends who generously have given their time and talents to our congregation.

Joyce Miller is and has been a leader and doer in many roles at the church. Technically retired, she is a volunteering powerhouse, **passionately committed to working for social justice and creating fellowship:**

- Joyce was part of the FUCSJ search committee that resulted in calling Rev. Nancy.
- She served as Personnel Officer for many years.
- As a PFLAG member, Joyce early-on helped educate the congregation about LGBTQI issues, and later campaigned for marriage equality.
- She is a long-time office volunteer, including putting together the Order of Service.
- She is active in our congregation's PACT-LOC, working on immigration



issues and building relationships with volunteers, many of whom are immigrants, from other churches. (Joyce was arrested along with Rev. Nancy at a social-justice action this past April!)

- Joyce created and continues to plan and lead the UU hiking group TWICE a week.
- She jumps in to help with many social events, from potlucks to Stewardship dinners and Circle Suppers.
- Joyce enriches the beauty of our sanctuary with her creative fabric art and chancel decorations.

Joyce was characteristically self-deprecating in accepting the award at this month's May Congregational Meeting: "I thought you had to have been President to win this! Thank you!" Joyce, we the Congregation of the First Unitarian Church of San Jose thank you! Thank you for your years of generosity with your time and talent, for sustaining us, and modeling for us all what it means to be a deeply committed contributing member of our faith community!

Children and Youth Summer Program



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 - four years

Location: Nursery, Church's Lower Level
Childcare Staff: Danni Fernandez, Kimberly Fernandez

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, Danni and Kimberly Fernandez, provides a loving presence, engaging children in games, stories and crafts with seasonal and holiday themes throughout the year.

Three- to five-year-olds: Chalice Children

Chalice Children delves deep into our Unitarian Universalist faith. It strives not just to teach about our faith, but also to provide experiences around the strength of

community, the wonder and awe that transcend everyday understanding, and life issues we all share. Early childhood (the years between ages 2 and 5) is filled with curiosity and wonder. In a group setting, with loving adult guides, young children can engage in spiritual seeking, develop their openness to sharing, and experience the benefit of a supportive community.

- **June 14** Session 4: Making Chalice
- **June 21** Session 5: All Around Us
- **June 28** Session 6: Chalice Necklaces
- **July 5** Session 7: The Beauty of Nature
- **July 12** Session 11: A Special Jigsaw Puzzle
- **July 19** Session 22: Imagination
- **July 26** Session 17: Wondering About Stars
- **Aug 2** Session 18: Wondering About the Moon

- **Aug 9** Session 19: The Wonder of Weather
- **Aug 16** Session 20: Rainbows
- **Aug 23** Session 21: Dreams
- **Aug 30** Session 23: My Shadow
- **Sept. 6** No Class, Homecoming Water Communion
- **Sept. 13** Fall Classes Begin

1st-8th Grades: Circle of Trees/ Gather the Spirit

Circle of Trees teaches that trees are an integral part of all life on earth, and they are facing stresses as a result of deforestation and pollution—stresses that threaten our very existence. As Unitarian Universalists who affirm and promote “respect for the interdependent web of all existence,” we cannot take trees for granted. This program helps participants understand trees as, lit-

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Submitted by the
Reverend Geoff
Rimositis

Unitarian Universalist Parents Meetup Group

<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 José <http://sanjoseuu.org> 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, Tel (408) 292-3858, ext. 25

First Unitarian Parents of Young Children

The monthly parent meeting is June 14. It is not always on the third Sunday of the month. There will be no parent meeting in July and in August it will be on the 23. Child care is provided. Rev. Geoff Rimositis facilitates meetings.

erally, “providers of life,” explore a spiritual connection to nature, identify threats to the web of life, and feel inspired to take action to protect trees and our environment.

Gather the Spirit teaches stewardship with a focus on water. There is no more compelling focus for our stewardship than the clean, drinkable water all life on Earth requires. Through a lens both scientific and religious, using activities a wide range of ages can do together, this program addresses the importance of water, the inequity of access to clean water, and actions we can take as Unitarian Universalist stewards. It asks: Can water sources be owned? Why is clean water scarce in parts

of the world? If clean water is abundant where I live, what difference does it make if I conserve it? What can I do to promote global water equity?

- **June 14** Workshop 1: Come Into the Circle
- **June 21** Workshop 2: Trees: Providers of Life
- **June 28** Workshop 3: Trees: Connected to All Life
- **July 5** Workshop 4: Trees: Sanctuary for the Spirit
- **July 12** Workshop 5: Trees: From Peril to Progress

- **July 19** Workshop 6: Council Among the Trees, Part 1
- **July 26** Workshop 7: Council Among the Trees, Part 2
- **Aug 2** Workshop 8: Come Be With Trees
- **Aug 9** Workshop 1: Gather the Spirit
- **Aug 16** Workshop 2: Gather in Sympathy
- **Aug 23** Workshop 3: Separate Fires, Kindle One Flame
- **Aug 30** Workshop 4: Conscience Refined
- **Sept. 6** No Class, Homecoming Water Communion
- **Sept. 13** Fall Classes Begin

THURSDAY -SUNDAY, JUNE 25-28, 2015

Junior/Senior High Backpack Trip

Leaders: Rev. Geoff Rimositis, Melinda Hoppe

Location: Meiss Wilderness in the Sierras

Youth entering 6th-12th grades are invited to have FUN! See, experience, appreciate, and learn about the wilderness. Walk with us in beauty and gaze at a night sky full of stars. Swim in pristine mountain lakes. Be amazed at fields of wildflowers and tall granite peaks. No experience backpacking is required. Equipment provided. For more information and to register contact Rev. Geoff Rimositis, GRimositis@gmail.com, 408-292-3858, 225



Grades 9-12: Senior High Youth Group, Youth Room

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, Matt Trask

For more information about our programs for children and youth please contact our family minister, the Rev.

Geoff Rimositis,
GRimositis@gmail.com

Democratic Governance

2015-16 Budget adopted at Congregational Meeting

The Congregation met as a body after the service on Sunday May 17th. There were two major items on the agenda: consideration and vote on the proposed budget for fiscal 2015-16, and the announcement of this year's recipient of The Watkins Award for Outstanding Leadership.

Nancy Coleman, our Secretary, called the meeting to order (as our President, Madeline Morrow, is traveling) at 12:30, beginning with an Invocation by Rev. Nancy, confirmation of a quorum, approval of the minutes of the previous Congregational Meeting, and approval of the current agenda.

Nancy Coleman gave an overview the purpose of the Watkins Award, and Frank Bosche (one of our Board of Directors) made the presentation of The Watkins Award for Outstanding Leadership to Joyce Miller. (Please read the description of Joyce's outstanding contributions to this faith community in the separate article in this same newsletter.)

The budget had been prepared by our Program & Operations Council (POC), and endorsed by the Board of Directors. In preparation for the meeting, the POC had provided to the congregation a Ratio-

“Discussion was then opened . . . and closed when there was none.

(All that preparatory work clearly smoothed the path!)”

nale explaining the adjustments from the prior year, and how the proposed budget is guided by and supports our statements of Mission & Vision, and Ends (the statement of what we want to accomplish towards our Vision). The POC held separate Q&A sessions to allow a deeper examination and explanation of the budget in the weeks leading up to the vote. This practice was put in place the last few years to allow clarity and consensus to build, and to allow any proposed amendments to be carefully considered and crafted.

In the meeting Nancy Coleman gave a brief reminder of our voting procedure, and our Treasurer, Bill Shepard, presented an

overview of the budget, noting in particular that the POC and Board considers this a prudent and fiscally conservative budget at 95% of expected income. He also pointed out that the 2014-15 fiscal year is pro-

jected to close with about a \$50K surplus.

Francisco Hernandez, our Program Officer and chair of the POC, made a brief presentation on the Budget Rationale, the linkage between the proposed budget and our Ends (the statement of what the congregation most wants to accomplish towards our Vision). Dena Dickinson, our Financial Officer, moved to adopt the 2015-16 Budget as proposed, and Karen Conrotto seconded. Discussion was then opened . . . and closed when there was none. (All that preparatory work clearly smoothed the path!) Nancy Coleman then called for a vote by a show of hands, and the budget was adopted. (The Budget portion of the meeting took a total of 17 minutes!)

In closing, Nancy Coleman announced that two active Board Committees are looking for members: the Audit Committee, and the 150th Anniversary Celebration Committee. (If you are interested in participating in either of these, please contact any Board member.) We were led in a benediction and the meeting adjourned at 1:00.

Please notice that the meeting was brief and to the point!

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Strong
Acting Secretary



Long-time members Billie and Saul Wachter.

Democratic Governance

Board Update: The Board Met Twice in April and Here are the Minutes from Both Meetings!

Summary of the April 23, 2015 Meeting

The Board of Directors gathered for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on April 23. Treasurer Bill Shepard updated us on the stewardship drive. We are two weeks ahead of where we were in the pledge process at this point last year, and Bill commended the POC on their accomplishment in maintaining the 2014-2015 budget.

Personnel Officer Sally Cooperrider then led us in a discussion of the 2015-2016 budget proposal from the POC. A motion was made to thank Sally and the POC for presenting the proposal, and to request that the POC provide a rationale statement aligning with our Global Ends and present a new proposal for our additional meeting, scheduled for April 30. The motion carried.

After some discussion on the procedure for approving delegates to General Assembly and other assemblies, Director Marnie Singer agreed to streamline our current process and to collect the names of those interested in being delegates for our review in May. Director Rob Strong took us through the steps he has fleshed out for the ministerial evaluation process. In addition, the June meeting was moved to June 18. Finally, we made plans for the congregational budget meeting on May 17.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Coleman
Board Secretary,
FUCSJ Board of Directors

Summary of the April 30, 2015 Meeting

In order to make progress on some pressing issues, the Board of Directors met twice in April. The following is a summary of the second meeting, held on April 30, with Bruce Halen, our newly elected Director, in attendance.

After some discussion, a motion was made to thank the POC for their attention to detail and responsiveness to Board feedback, and to accept the 2015-2016 budget as presented, for submission to the congregation for its approval. Motion carried.

A second motion was made to accept the revision in the procedure for Delegate Selection for District/Regional Assembly and General Assembly, simplifying

the steps for the application. Reminder: General Assembly will be June 24-28 in Portland; those interested in being delegates should e-mail Marnie Singer at marniesinger@sbcglobal.net immediately to find out how to apply. Delegates will be voted on at the May 28 Board meeting.

Discussion of the process for ministerial evaluation continued; we anticipate a vote on the document at our May meeting. We also made plans for the congregational budget meeting on May 17, including selection of the Watkins Award recipient for 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Coleman
Board Secretary,
FUCSJ Board of Directors



Left to right: Mary Helen Doherty, former FUCSJ Senior Minister Lindi Ramsden, 2015 Watkins Award Winner Joyce Miller and FUCSJ Senior Minister Nancy Palmer Jones at Third Street Community Center's Inspire Young Minds fundraiser on May 16.

May Spiritual Practice: Frank Bosche

Submitted by Frank Bosche:

Reverend Nancy Palmer Jones suggested the spiritual practice for May of noticing things, according to specific prompts that represent experiences of awe or wonder. She asked us to then share our photos or writings to Facebook and in the Church Circular.

Awe and Wonder, Small



A penny on the street, too small in value for most people to bother picking up. I always do. I always seem to find them when I'm most worried about whether I have enough money to make it through the month. To me they represent a promise that I am looked after and will not be left with nothing. I wonder how "It" knows when I need them.

Awe and Wonder, Large:



This is the Del Monte water tower, the tallest structure in my neighborhood at 160

feet. Eight years I've lived here and never paid much attention to it until today. It is most of what's left of the huge fruit canning plant where generations of San José folks worked. The wonder is that the condo developer was persuaded to preserve it. It held 5000 gallons!

Awe and Wonder, Heavy:



Not heavy by airplane standards, at 1,670 lbs. max, but heavier than I am. The awe and wonder were in learning the scientific principles that make it fly and how to make it go where I wanted. 35 years later I'm still in awe of this little bird and all it taught me. (About myself!)

Awe and Wonder, Familiar:



"noun

1. a demon supposedly attending and obeying a witch, often said to assume the form of an animal."

Nope, she certainly doesn't obey. And, whenever I think of her as familiar and predictable after twelve years together, she comes up with some new quirk or form of communicating with me and I am newly amazed at the person inside that cat-suit.

Awe and Wonder, Soft, Softness:

Water is the softest thing, yet it can penetrate mountains and earth. This shows clearly the principle of softness overcoming hardness.

Lao Tzu

meetville.com

Amazing amount to contemplate in this quotation, new to me today.

Awe and Wonder, Violet:



Amazingly beautiful when in bloom with their violet flowers, I knew I wanted a jacaranda tree today. Walked all over downtown before finding this one on campus at SJSU. Spiritual practice becomes quest, becomes 90 minutes of good exercise! Nap time.

Awe and Wonder, Fire:



Still amazed at the FIRE of enthusiasm I brought to my job interview Tuesday! I had to take a few days off this practice to focus my imagination on what I was going to say, but it paid off. I was at my best!

Announcements

MONDAYS

6-7 PM



Weekly Meditation Group

First Unitarian Church Sanctuary

We meditate starting at 6 pm for 30 minutes. We begin with the ringing of the meditation bell and setting the timer for 30 minutes. Come in the door at end of the ramp and quietly enter the sanctuary. You are welcome, no matter what time you arrive, to sit in a chair or on the labyrinth. You can bring a cushion to meditate on. You can leave after the meditation but all are welcome to stay afterwards for a brief check-in about our meditation experience and practice.

To be put on the meditation group email list, contact meditation group convener, **Rev. Geoff Rimositis**, GRimositis@gmail.com.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

8 PM



Dances of Universal Peace

Sanctuary

Come join us on the labyrinth under the dome of our church. The Dances of Universal Peace are a spiritual practice honoring the inherent worth and dignity of every human being, celebrating the interconnected web of all existence, and using sacred phrases from the world's religions.

Beginners and experienced dancers join together in these moving meditations. The words of the sacred phrases, as well as the melodies and the movements, are taught each time.

If you have questions you can email **Patrick Smiley** at patrick.smiley@sbc-global.net or telephone and leave a message at 650.596.8829.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

12:45 PM



Band of Writers (Bow) Meeting

Youth Room

The UU Band of Writers offers support and encouragement to people who enjoy writing. We have a monthly homework assignment and a 10-minute writing session during our meetings, which is always a lot of fun. New people are always welcome.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

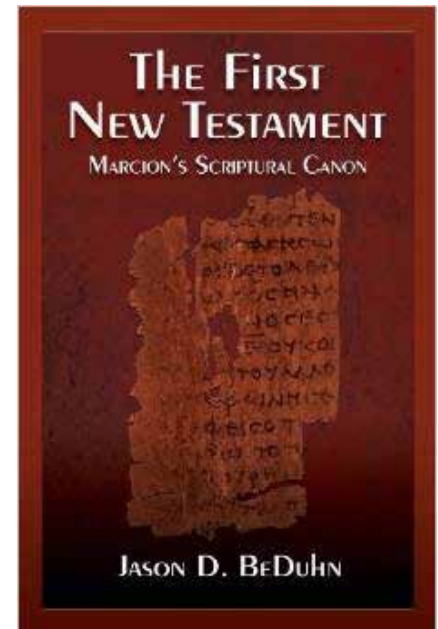
1-3 PM

Christian Origins Book Study: The First New Testament: Marcion's Scriptural Canon by Jason D. BeDuhn

Board Room, Led by Bob Miess joining us in a Zoom video conference, which will be set up by Nancy Lucid

On June 6 we will continue our reading of Jason BeDuhn's book, *The First New Testament: Marcion's Scriptural Canon*, about Marcion, a second-century heretic, and his New Testament. Marcion was the first known Christian to create a "bible," but his "bible" was different from what we think of as "the" bible today. In June we will continue to discuss the first part of Chapter 4 (pages 203-228), an introduc-

tion to Marcion's Apostolikon (the letters of Paul that were in his New Testament) and BeDuhn's approach to reconstructing it. Please bring a Bible with Paul's letters for comparison – any translation will do – or use one of our copies during the session. If you don't have one, you might pick up "The Authentic Letters of Paul" which provides a copy of the letters, along with some notes about what we know from recent scholarship. Questions? Contact **Bob Miess**, Bob@Heart-HealthyLifestyles.com, 408-753-0541.



MONDAY, JUNE 8

DEADLINE



Circle Suppers

Circle Suppers offer an opportunity for members of the church community to get to know one another at casual pot luck suppers. Small groups come together in members' homes to share food and conversation. Singles, couples, long-time church members or new to this commu-

community, all are welcome. Contact Barbara Derbyshire at CircleSuppers@AOL.com.

The suppers in June will be Saturday the 20th and Sunday the 21st. The deadline to sign up is Monday, June 8

MONDAY, JUNE 15 7:30PM



HUumanati Monday Meeting

Library

What's On Your Mind? Our meetings are no-pressure get-togethers and conversations about anything on your mind. There might be board games. Join us!

Social Justice

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY, JUNE 24-27



U.S. Social Justice Forum

Sanctuary

Of course, if you can go to General Assembly this summer, we need you there. But for those of us who can't, come to the U.S. Social Justice Forum in San Jose from June 24-27. We will be hosting some assemblies in our church. We need volunteers to be present and possibly act as ushers or just answer questions about where things are like bathrooms. Please let John Burk know. The Social Justice Forum is a movement building tool for visioning the world we need and developing strategies for social transformation.

The World Social Justice Forum is a global movement that began in Brazil in 2005. The first U.S. Social Justice Forum was in Atlanta, Georgia in 2007 with an

attendance of 5000, and the second one in Detroit in 2010 with an attendance of 30,000. In 2015, San Jose will be joining with two other cities: Philadelphia and Jackson, Mississippi. San Jose was chosen because of our grassroots efforts to bring to light the wide disparity of income and quality of life here in Silicon Valley, including the March to Heal the Valley from East San Jose to Apple and Google which took place in October, 2013. The expected attendance for San Jose is 5,000.

If you would like more information go to <http://www.ussocialforum.net/about>. Call or text John Burk at 408-259-3781 or email John Burk.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15 - SUNDAY, JULY 19

All-Church Campout

Atkinson Estate in Morgan Hill

Registration begins soon! Questions? Contact Claire Wagner at cwagner21@gmail.com



SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 1-4 PM
SATURDAY, AUGUST 22 10 AM - 2 PM
SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 1-4 PM

“Let's Play with Story”—A Workshop with Professional Storyteller Olga Loya

Sanctuary

FUCSJ member **Olga Loya** will work closely with participants to explore and develop their own storytelling styles, utilizing many fun and exciting storytelling games and exercises. This workshop focuses on folklore. Participants will learn a short folktale, myth, or legend and then present the stories to the congregation in worship on Sunday, August 23. Participants can work in teams if they desire. Please bring a short folk tale or myth that you would like to learn. And bring a lunch and beverage.

The cost is \$50. To register for this workshop, please contact Office Manager, **Dana Spinney** by August 1st: fucsoffice@gmail.com.



Olga Loya is a nationally known bilingual (English-Spanish) storyteller, performance artist, teacher, and writer who presents to all ages from preschool to seniors. She tells stories that support her beliefs that we can work together as a community, that we can learn to look beyond racial and class lines, and that we can take the time to enjoy ourselves through stories and song. For the last 30 years Olga has performed and led workshops all over the USA and Mexico. She has been featured in many festivals including the Guadalajara Storytelling Festival, the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, and at her home congregation of the First Unitarian Church of San José.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 7 PM
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 7PM
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 2:30 PM



Ultimate Idol

Hattie Porter Hall

The 6th Annual FUCSJ Mystery Musical Comedy fundraiser. Ultimate Idol may seem like any other TV talent show, but really it's a cauldron of deep feelings and motives for murder that boil under a surface of hilarious situations, jokes and songs that will keep you laughing and guessing all the way to the end.

2ND AND 4TH SUNDAYS 12:45 PM



Uuthful Spirits Lunch

Hattie Porter Hall by Newcomer's Table

Join our young adult/young-at-heart fellowship group for Sunday Lunch! Meet in Hattie Porter Hall near the Newcomer's table about 12:45 pm. We also host a happy hour on the first Friday. Questions? Contact uuthful_spirits-owner@yahoo.com

WEDNESDAYS 7:30-9:00 PM

Alegria Singers Choir Practice

Sanctuary

Join the FUCSJ choir in singing at Sunday services, special events such as solstice celebrations and Coffeehouses, and various church activities.



1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS 2:30 PM

San Jose Community Dances

Hattie Porter Hall

Enjoy English Country Dancing and Contra Dancing. All dances are taught, no experience necessary, no partner required. Suggested donation, \$8-10; no one will be turned away.



SATURDAY MORNINGS 10 AM

Saturday Morning Small Group Seeking New Members!

Submitted by Bob Miess

Want an opportunity to get to know some great people well and grow spiritually? Part of FUCSJ's Small Group Ministry program, this group meets on the first and third Saturdays each month, 10:00 a.m. to noon, with light snacks after. For more information, please contact SGM Coordinator Rebecca Marcos Mason at TheMasonMorisons@sbcglobal.net.

Hiking Schedule for June 2015

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

Saratoga Gap

Meet at US Bank parking lot in Saratoga at 8:30 am. Turn right at first driveway beyond the 76 Union Station at the corner of DeAnza and Highway 9 (Big Basin Drive) and drive to parking lot behind.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

Alum Rock, 5 miles moderate/strenuous depending on which trail we take.

Meet at VTA Park and Ride at Capitol and Alum Rock at 8:30 am. It is accessed by turning right on Capitol and going two blocks to the light rail station and turning right into a large parking lot which is shared with an apartment complex. Drive to the back.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

Skyline Ridge Loop, 7 miles

Meet at PageMill/280 Park and Ride at 8:30 am.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

Joseph Grant County Park, 6 miles moderate

Meet at VTA Park and Ride at Capitol and Alum Rock at 8:30 am.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

Almaden Quicksilver McAbee entrance. A shorter hike moderate to easy.

Meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond at 8:30 am. Plan to stay for lunch at Gwen's; she lives the neighborhood. (Lunch will be confirmed beforehand).

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Castle Rock State Park, 5 miles moderate

Meet at US Bank parking lot in Saratoga at 8:30 am.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

Sanborn, 6 miles moderate

Meet at US Bank parking lot in Saratoga at 8:30 am. Hike starts at Sunnyvale Mountain trailhead in Sanborn Park on Skyline, goes along Skyline and ends at Indian Rock across from Castle Rock.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

Butano State Park, 5-7 miles

This is a modified hike with fewer and shorter hills. We did it the last time, and everyone loved it. This is long day due to pie eating and goat cheese eating. Plan to return at 4:40 pm. Meet at PageMill/280 Park and Ride at 8:30 am.



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: fucsjs@sanjoseuu.org

or join the church's Yahoo Group:

groups.yahoo.com/group/uusj

Next issue copy deadline: 3 pm Wednesday, June 24

Mailing: Wednesday, July 1

View this newsletter online in PDF format at: 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 – or bring returnable bottles/cans for us to recycle!

Save the Dates

June 5, 8 pm, Dances of Universal Peace, Sanctuary

June 7, 12:45 pm, Band of Writers (BOW), Youth Room

June 7, 1-3 pm, Christian Origins Book Study, Board Room

June 8, Deadline to sign up for Circle

Suppers. Contact Barbara at CircleSuppers@aol.com

June 15, 7:30 pm, HUUmanati Monday Meeting

June 20 & 21, Saturday-Sunday, Circle Suppers.

June 24-27, U.S. Social Justice Forum, Sanctuary

June 24-28, UUA General Assembly, Portland, OR

July 15-19, Wednesday-Sunday, All-Church Campout at the private Atkinson Estate in Morgan Hill July 15-19. Registration begins soon. Questions? Contact Claire, cwagner21@gmail.com.

August 16, 1-4 pm, **August 22**, 10 am - 2 pm; **August 23**, 1-4 pm, "Let's Play with Story" — A Workshop with Professional Storyteller Olga Loya

October 9, Friday, 7 pm; **October 10, Saturday**, 7 pm; **October 11, Sunday**, 2:30 pm, Ultimate Idol, the 6th Annual FUCSJ Mystery Musical Comedy Fund-raiser for PACT, Hattie Porter Hall

READY TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER OF THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SAN JOSÉ? Contact Rev. Geoff, grimositis@gmail.com

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 to reach us: Nancy (408) 292-3858, ext. 223 Mon.-Thurs.; cell (408) 952-9418; e-mail: revnpi@yahoo.com. Geoff: (408) 292-3858, ext. 225 Mon.-Thurs.; cell (408) 309-7796; e-mail: grimositis@gmail.com.

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. 223 de Lunes a Jueves; cell (408) 952-9418; e-mail: revnpi@yahoo.com. Geoff: (408) 292-3858, ext. 225 de Lunes a Jueves; cell (408) 309-7796; e-mail: grimositis@gmail.com

How You Can Support This Congregation:

Your Presence and Time

Attend Sunday services, join a Small Group or one of the many social/activity groups, serve on a committee, come to events, like us Facebook. Visit www.sanjoseuu.org for more ideas!

Contribute to Fundraisers, Weekly Collections

Make an annual pledge of support (fulfill it by check, EFT, stock transfer or Paypal), attend fundraisers such as the service auction and mystery musical, watch for special collections.