



ur Church Circular

January 2016

Enero 2016 / Nuestro periódico iglesia

January 2016 Theme:

Justice

Tema de Enero 2016: Justicia



Solidarity with Our Muslim Neighbors

See pages 5 & 11 for details and photos



*Small Group Ministry
Open Enrollment*

See Circling Around, page 8



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH *of San José*

150 YEARS
OF MAKING
LOVE VISIBLE

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The Alegría Singers, Choir Director John Ector, and accompanist Dianne Saichek at special December 10 holiday service "Held in the Arms of the Earth."



January Theme: Justice

From Joy to Justice and Back Again

by the Reverend Nancy Palmer Jones

Here at First Unitarian, we move from December's worship theme of Joy into January's theme of Justice on purpose. It's no accident that these themes sit side by side in this church year. Does this surprise you?

Many of us think of justice-making as hard work—and indeed it is. Systemic roadblocks and our human failings often make the road to justice a long, winding, muddy, and difficult journey.

But we Unitarian Universalists have a mind and heart for justice. A vision of a better world, the conviction that we can help to create it, and a passion for taking action in solidarity with our kin near and far—all these act like a compass for the journey. And in my experience, once we set out along the road, we discover just how much joy comes with the journey itself. No wonder coauthor Karin Lin and I have chosen as our book's working title *The Joy of the Journey: Unitarian Universalist Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism!* For us, justice and joy walk hand in hand, just as injustice travels with pain, delay, and frustration. When we live leaning toward justice, we encounter all of these companions.

Some of my learnings on this journey keep me moving forward. Let me offer these conversation starters for our month of renewed exploration of this theme:

Justice is partial—by which I mean two things:

First, justice usually arrives in bite-sized pieces. We never get every change that we want; no justice is “final.” This means that it's crucial to celebrate every move in the right direction. Marriage equality was a big win in 2015! We know we have much more work to do—for transgender rights and understanding, to name just one area where lives are at stake. Relishing the joy of each win gives us energy for the work to come. We will spend some time this month lifting up our progress toward justice in the past year.



Second, justice is partial in the sense that it is “biased”; it leans in a particular direction. The scales of Lady Justice tip toward all that's loving, compassionate, and inclusive. Justice leans in the direction of

those who are oppressed and marginalized by society's broken assumptions that some categories of people are “better” than others based on race, gender, gender identity, abilities, sexual orientation, class, education, ethnicity, religion, and so on.

Yes, no doubt some of you are already objecting to my description of Lady Justice here. Isn't she supposed to be impartial, with the scales neatly balanced? I claim poetic license, along with the wisdom of such traditions as liberation theology, where Jesus' “preferential option for the poor” marked a new era in justice making. We need a compass for the journey of justice making—and this is as strong a compass as I know.

Perhaps Dr. Cornel West better sums up what I mean when he says, “Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public.” As always, the love referred to here is muscular and active, not sentimental and passive—a Love that connects us to something larger, extending beyond our individual limits, yet it

gets expressed in sturdy, practical ways through our individual and collective words and deeds. Love made visible in all that we say and do.

See JUSTICE, page 5

Tema de enero: Justicia



De la Alegría a la Justicia y de Regreso Otra Vez

por la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Aquí en la Primera Iglesia Unitaria, pasamos del tema alegría del servicio de diciembre al tema de enero de justicia a propósito. No es casualidad que estos temas están lado a lado en este año en iglesia. ¿Esto les sorprende?

Muchos de nosotros pensamos de hacer justicia como trabajo duro— y de hecho lo es. Barreras sistémicas y nuestros defectos humanos a menudo hacen el camino a la justicia un viaje largo, sinuoso, fangoso y difícil.

Pero nosotros, los Unitarios Universalistas tenemos una mente y corazón para la justicia. Una visión de un mundo mejor, la convicción de que podemos ayudar a crearlo y una pasión para la acción en solidaridad con nuestros familiares cercanos y de lejanos— todos estos actúan como una brújula para el viaje. Y en mi experiencia, una vez que salimos por la carretera, descubrimos cuanta alegría viene con el viaje en sí mismo. No es de extrañar que la coautora Karin Lin y yo hemos elegido como título de nuestro libro *La Alegría del Viaje: Las Congregaciones Unitarias Universalistas en el Camino al Multiculturalismo!* Para nosotras, justicia y alegría caminan de la mano, apenas como la injusticia viaja con dolor, demora y frustración. Cuando vivimos inclinados hacia la justicia, nos encontramos con todos estos compañeros.

Algunos de mis aprendizajes en este viaje me mantienen avanzando. Permítanme ofrecerles estos iniciadores de la conversación para nuestro mes de la renovada exploración de este tema:

La justicia es parcial—Lo que para mí significan dos cosas:

Primero, la justicia llega generalmente en pedacitos. Nunca conseguimos cada cambio que queremos; no hay justicia es “final”. Esto significa que es crucial celebrar cada movimiento en la dirección correcta. ¡La igualdad del matrimonio es una gran victoria en el año 2015! Sabemos que tenemos mucho más trabajo

por venir. Vamos a pasar algún tiempo este mes levantando nuestro progreso hacia la justicia en el año pasado.

Segundo, la justicia es parcial en el sentido que es “partidista”; se inclina en una dirección determinada. La balanza de la Señora Justicia apunta hacia todo lo que es amoroso, compasivo e incluido. La justicia se inclina en la dirección de aquellos que son oprimidos y marginados por los supuestos de la sociedad descompuesta de que algunas categorías de personas son “mejores” que otros basados en la raza, género, identidad de género, habilidades, orientación sexual, clase, educación, origen étnico, religión, y así sucesivamente.

Sí, sin duda algunos de ustedes están ya oponiéndose a mi descripción de la Señora Justicia aquí.

¿No se supone que es imparcial, con la balanza perfectamente equilibrada? Reclamo la licencia poética, junto con la sabiduría de estas tradiciones como la teología de la liberación, donde “la opción preferencial por los pobres” de Jesús, marco una nueva era de hacer justicia. Necesitamos una brújula para el viaje de hacer justicia— y esto es tan fuerte como una brújula que yo conozco.

Tal vez el Dr. Cornel West resume mejor lo que quiero decir cuando dice, “Nunca olviden que la justicia es como luce amor en público”. Como siempre, el amor aquí referido es musculoso y activo,



por hacer—los derechos de las personas trans-género y la comprensión, por nombrar solo un área donde las vidas están en juego. Saboreando la alegría de cada victoria nos da la energía para el trabajo

“Nunca conseguimos cada cambio que queremos; no hay justicia es ‘final’. Esto significa que es crucial celebrar cada movimiento en la dirección correcta.”

no sentimental y pasivo—un Amor que nos conecta con algo más grande, que se extiende más allá de nuestros límites individuales, sin embargo, es expresado de manera robusta, práctica a través de

nuestras palabras y acciones individuales y colectivas. Amor hecho visible en todo lo que podemos decir y hacer.

La justicia que se basa en relaciones auténticas y responsables a través de toda clase de diversidades.

Y esa es la verdadera alegría del trabajo—la diversión, el interés, la curiosidad, la calidez, la compasión y la humanidad.

En las respuestas de la congregación a nuestras conversaciones de la visión 2020, los líderes de la Primera Iglesia Unitaria oyen su hambre por un mundo mejor que nosotros ayudamos a crear. La justicia

racial, justicia económica, la justicia ambiental; problemas de falta de vivienda y salud mental, estos aspectos de nuestra vida claman por nuestra atención y nuestro cuidado. Tal y como hemos descubierto en diciembre, cuando giramos hacia lo que amamos con un profundo, permanente amor, descubrimos la alegría que nos guía y nos impulsa para el viaje que tenemos por delante. ¡Vengan, Únanse en el viaje! Seamos compañeros alegres, comprometidos unos a otros en el camino a la justicia!

Con renovado amor y compromiso,

Rev. Nancy



Showing Solidarity with our Muslim Neighbors



First Unitarians at the Bay Area Mosques Coalition's "Stand Together in "Solidarity" event, December 16--mourning the losses from the shootings in San Bernardino and rejecting the anti-Muslim incidents that have followed that tragedy

Justice

Continued from page 3

Justice making relies on authentic, accountable relationships across all kinds of diversities.

And that's the real joy of the work—the fun, and interest, and curiosity, and warmth, and compassion, and humanity of it.

In congregants' responses to our Vision 2020 conversations, First Unitarian's leaders hear your hunger for a better world that we help create. Racial justice, economic

“We never get every change that we want; no justice is ‘final.’ This means that it's crucial to celebrate every move in the right direction.”

justice, environmental justice; issues of homelessness and mental health—these aspects of our lives cry out for our atten-

tion and our care. Just as we discovered in December, when we turn toward what we love with a deep, abiding love, we discover the joy that both guides us and fuels us for the journey we have ahead. Come, join in the journey! Let us be joyful, committed companions for each other on the road to justice!

With renewed love and commitment,

Rev. Nancy

In Our Own Voices: JUSTICE



“In Our Own Voices” shares congregants’ free-flowing responses to the theme of the month. We draw these responses from on-line surveys.

The responses to January’s theme show how much we Unitarian Universalists care about and wrestle with our commitment to justice-making. Some voices express dismay at how far we have to go to create a just and fair society for all. Examples of inequalities and corruption abound, and lately they seem to outweigh all the good news we can assemble. Oth-

ers confess to compassion fatigue or to bewilderment about how to tackle our most persistent problems.

But other voices ring out with passion, conviction, and hope, calling us to “keep on moving forward” and guiding us in our next steps for building a better world locally, nationally, and globally. These First Unitarians remind us that working together, we are the agents of change, one day at a time, day by day by day.

At the root of my commitment to, and joy in, justice-making lies Love. My love for the people, creatures, and places of this

planet—that’s what fuels my energy for building relationships, changing personal habits, and working for systemic change. “Justice is what love looks like in public,” Dr. Cornel West says. I give my life to making that Love visible.

The responses here move from acknowledging the difficulties of justice making, to actual visions for a just society, and more. I hope you gain energy from them.

With love for you and all we can do together,

Rev. Nancy



Questions ...

Can we trust that the arc of the universe bends toward justice? It’s probably about as hard as really practicing belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every human being. But we try.

Is anger a part of justice? Should it be? Is justice equality? Is it the Golden Rule? Is my justice the same as your justice? Justice is fairness, but that is so difficult to define.

How do we respond when life is not just, not fair? I’m already thinking about compassion fatigue, because I’m feeling a bit overwhelmed today. How do we hold a balance between seeking a more just world and accepting the world the way it is?

How do we act for justice in our ordinary, day-to-day actions? As we here at First Unitarian celebrate our 150th year, what do we need to do now to continue to act for justice—not just within our congregation but in denominational (PCD/UUA) affairs, and at the local, state, national, and global levels?

Another aspect of justice: when rights collide. Like religious freedom and the right for all, gay and straight, to marry. How will this play out in the courts? What do Unitarian Universalists think?

How can there be justice when honesty is impossible? How can there be justice when all the facts cannot be known (and history)? How can there be justice for one when it creates injustice for another? How can there be justice when it is impossible for all?

We Pledge What?

Our flag salute ends with the words “with liberty and justice for all.” But as we’ve seen so many times recently, that’s not necessarily the case.

Wow! Every time we recite the pledge of allegiance at school, I want to raise my fist in the air when we say “Liberty and Justice for all,” what with police killings of innocents, our

incarceration system, the rich getting richer while the homeless crowd our streets... Our nation, our world needs justice!



The Transforming Power of Love

It seems like you can’t talk about justice without talking about forgiveness.

It’s interesting that I associate work for justice with last month’s theme, Joy. Right now I am passionate about our Second Unitarian Universalist Source: “the words and deeds of prophetic women and men who confront structures and systems of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.” I define evil as anything that dehumanizes, that ruthlessly or unconsciously destroys, that disconnects where connection is the deeper truth. I am interested in staying in the work for the long haul, in believ-

ing in the strength of our solidarity, in celebrating the small steps. Let's not overlook small-j justice for lack of arriving at capital-J Justice. There is such hope and enlightenment and warmth and love in connecting across the unnatural boundaries that separate us—humans, creatures, all of existence. This work gives me energy!



We have come to think in this world that justice is about punishment. Nothing could be further from the truth. Justice is about extending love and seeing truth and value beyond the appearance of things in this world of form. Justice is about extending love, not only to those we see as unfortunate or oppressed, but extending that same love to those caught up in their fortunateness or those caught up in oppressing. All spiritual paths teach us not to judge, but to look to Spirit for discernment and then guidance. This and only this will bring about true justice.

Visions of a Just Society

Personally, I think justice can often be hard to separate from revenge. I struggle with people who are seeking to imprison or kill another in the cause of "justice." For me, justice is when we can live our lives in balance with fulfilling our own egotistical needs not at the expense of others, which at times can be very hard. Unfortunately, in the world today it seems as though mostly justice is an ideal rather than a realization. Unitarian Universalism is a great beacon for justice, although it is an uphill battle.

Fighting for justice is insufficient. "No justice, no peace" is also an insufficient formulation. In order to truly reach a just society, it must be based upon human relations and institutions that are democratic, egalitarian, cooperative, kind, and sustainable. Otherwise, we will be fighting for justice within our existing undemocratic, exploitative, and unsustainable institutions until we die, and the reforms we are able to achieve can be wiped out or regress soon after. What we need are new institutions to replace the

ones that cannot be reformed, new institutions that in their core are democratic, egalitarian, cooperative, kind, and sustainable, like cooperatives, public banks, land trusts, and accountable public institutions (providing education, health care, transport, etc.). Unitarian Universalists understand this innately but rarely take action to create these new institutions, which would be a bold and forward-looking move.



Environmental Justice

I believe justice is not only about people. We Unitarian Universalists understandably express great concern for oppressed peoples. We also need to seek justice for other species and for the Earth. Endangered species are disappearing, we only hear about those few most visible to us. Just treatment of our planet can bring just treatment to all its inhabitants.



About #BlackLivesMatter

Treating others differently because of who and what they are—"othering" human beings—is the greatest injustice I know, and I commit my life to fighting it.

I closely associate justice with fairness. It's like the legal representation of fairness. Very much a part of what I think of as "UUness." I have often thought of the fairness of life—its whims and accidents; how I have come to be me and not someone else; how fortune, good and bad, affects us all. I think life can be unfair, but institutions can be fair. However, our institutions too often are not fair; they can be unjust. And the people in our institutions—"the authorities"—can be outright corrupt, or they can be unconscious of the unfair way they act. This is something—

unlike the unfairness of life—that we can change. Today, we are more aware of the injustice of racism in our institutions, and we know we must find ways to change it.

Justice means everyone gives each other an appropriate opportunity to succeed and ultimately be satisfied. About Black Lives Matter: All Lives Matter. Raising up one demographic amongst others trivializes all others. Raise them all up.

I grew up steeped in the fact that my life matters—just soaked in it. I'm white, and everything in society supports the feeling and the circumstances that say my life matters. I think this country has done a remarkable job of integrating immigrants into its fabric—much better than Europe, for instance—but with one exception, and that's Africans and African Americans, from the very beginning. With all the killings and incarceration—their house is on fire. Right now! It's got to stop. That's why I say "Black Lives Matter." It doesn't mean that mine doesn't!



A Lifetime of Justice Making

Justice has been a central theme of my life since I was a child. My mother's Ph.D. thesis was on racial prejudice in preschool children. My father was on the committee that implemented bussing to desegregate the Berkeley public schools in the 1960s, the first city in the country to do so voluntarily without a court order. I was a member of the Freedom Now Young Democrats at Berkeley High School in 1965-67. I became a labor lawyer because of work I did with the United Farm Workers during 1970-71, while I was still in college at UC Santa Cruz. I continue to be involved in justice issues, both locally with the homeless in South County, immigrant and inmate rights, and globally through Amnesty International, Jewish Voice for Peace, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Circling Around

by Torchy Hunter

OK, now: final warning: if you want to join a small group, January is the best month to sign up.

Right now there are 12 small groups that meet different days and locations—eight at night and four during the day.

I would claim the credit for this, but **Rebecca Marcos Mason** (themasonmorisons@sbcglobal.net or (408) 768-6318.)

actually runs the thing and keeps track who goes where and when. If you would like details or to contact one of the group leaders, contact Rebecca or find the SGM table during social hour.

It's just about to be Christmas, so I might as well give some holiday cheer to **Dana Spinney**, church office manager and torch singer extraordinaire, who is helpful, on top of everything and besides that, cheerful. You'll have to ask her about the "torch singer" part.

Kristin Rivers and company are creating a huge, huge wonderful history of the church! There's an exhibit at the MLK library put together by Kristin, **Catherine Pelizzari** and **Ervin Barrios**. No wonder your knees hurt; you are 150 years old. At the service on the 13th, Kristin showed

lots of slides of old old pics of early Unitarians, one of them standing with President McKinley. And all the really strong women: Red Cross, Union and Southern soldiers being helped (sawn up). What presents we get from ourselves. Be very kind to each other and seek and recognize joy!



The FUCSJ history display at the King library fills five display cases outside the California Room on the 5th floor.



Deep Gratitude to Our Building Committee Volunteers

On Sunday, November 16, Rev. Nancy came to church early on Sunday as she usually does only to find that the sump pumps had failed and the church office was flooded from heavy rains.



She of course called our reliable and dedicated building volunteers, **Alec MacLean**, **Bob Howd** and **Steve Saunders** who came down, mopped up, organized volunteers (**Kristin & Elara Rivers**, **Bob Owen** and others) to take stuff out of the office, called Service Master to come down to assess the damage and begin the recovery process of sucking out the water and bringing in fans to dry out the carpets (which took several weeks).

Luckily the damage was minimal but the costs of drying out the offices and replacing the pumps will be over \$20,000.

Because of our healthy **Building Maintenance Reserve Fund** and the strong **Building Committee** (*who would welcome new partners to join their ranks!*) this crisis was well managed.

We can also thank ourselves. Because of our financial pledges and the work of our church leadership to be financially prudent and sound, we are in a strong enough place to "weather" an occasional "act of god!" We were certainly fulfilling our mission to make love visible in all that we say and do. There is nothing like a crisis to make it visible!

Democratic Governance

Board Meeting Report from December 3:

by Rob Strong, Board Secretary

The Board of Trustees met December 3rd. Our Board is charged with assuring the health and future of our church by creating policy, and by monitoring the execution of these policies by the executive body, the Program and Operations Council. All meetings of our Board are open to members of the congregation (except executive session when personnel issues are discussed). Our Board meets first Thursdays of each month in the church offices.

During the December meeting, two special reports were received and discussed (from the Finance Committee and from the Investment Committee), along with continuing work on the *Ministerial Evaluation* for **Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones**, the 150th Anniversary celebrations, and the development of "Vision 2020." Our Treasurer, **Bill Shepard**, also reported that the cash flow on pledges has improved



Treasurer Bill Shepard and Stewardship Chair Diana Wirt getting out the mid year here's-how-you're-doing-on-your-pledge letters--and announcing the great news that we brought in \$20,000 OVER budget in donations in the month of November alone!

considerably during November (after an effort was made to contact donors).

Dena Dickinson, our acting Financial Officer, reported that the book value of our non-building fixed assets (things like the printers, computers) had never been depreciated: the Finance Committee has written these down to \$0 (from \$94.8K) to simplify the budget process.

Our newly formed Investment Committee had been charged by the Board to determine if any of our (non-endowment) cash could be prudently invested and how. **Jim Rumbaugh**, the Investment Committee Chair, reported that they had determined that we have the capacity to invest up to \$71K, but to be prudent about cash flow, the committee recommends that only \$25K be moved into investment at this time. To assure the appropriate investments are made, the committee recommended the Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment fund. Our Board acted on these recommendations by voting to empower the Finance Committee to invest \$25K in the UUA Common Endowment Fund, and thanked the Investment Committee members for their good work and continuing advice.

This is our 150th year as a church! The 150th Celebrations continue, with **Kristin Rivers** guiding us through *History Moments*, stories from the decades past about our church and the issues of those times. These are offered during worship on the 2nd Sunday of each month, and the materials from each will be posted as displays in the Sanctuary. Thank you, Kristin! And our archivist, **Catherine Pelizzari**, and **Ervin Barrios** have created a display in the Martin Luther King Public Library - California Room on the 5th floor. Please stop in and see the photos and artifacts!

Our Board is beginning a cooperative reflection and review for **Rev. Nancy**

Palmer Jones this spring. We'll be guided by our newly developed Ministerial Evaluation Process.

"Black Lives Matter" continues to be an important focus for our anti-oppressive conversations. The Board is considering a town hall meeting, to discuss what and how our congregation can be more engaged, to be held in January. This will be further considered in the January 7th Board meeting (7:00 pm, Conference Room downstairs).

Our Board is also guiding the development of "Vision 2020." So far we've had a congregational town hall meeting, and another with the Youth & Young Adults, and further input was gathered from our Small Group Ministries. Our Board is digesting these visions, these thoughts, these desires, to re-draft our Vision into a more current and "actionable" Vision 2020 for our church. We hope and expect to have a draft ready for congregational review during February.

The Board received the Ministers' reports. **Rev. Geoff Rimositis** is headed out on Sabbatical! **Emily Carroll** will be the interim Religious Education leader, while Rev. Geoff will be working on more adult programming (Wellspring) during his six month sabbatical. Also, **Christie Baker's** Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) internship occurs in Fall 2016. **Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones** will be focused on writing the first draft of her book project during January. In this Board meeting, Rev. Nancy submitted the required one-year-in-advance request for her upcoming sabbatical in Winter-Spring 2017. By motion and vote, the Board approved her request.

If you are interested in learning more about our church governance, please attend any Board meeting, or chat with any Board member during the social time after the services. I hope your holidays grow with Joy!



by the Reverend
Geoff Rimositis

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 9:30 - 10:45 AM (DOWNSTAIRS CLASSROOMS, CHILDCARE AVAILABLE)

Attachment and Connection

Parent Meeting featuring *Roots & Wings: UU Parenting in the Millennium*

Curriculum author: Linda Ann Scacco, Ph.D. • Facilitator: Emily Carroll

“The family is both the fundamental unit of society as well as the root of culture. It . . . is a perpetual source of encouragement, advocacy, assurance, and emotional refueling that empowers a child to venture with confidence into the greater world and to become all that he or she can be.”

—Marianne E. Neifert,
Dr. Mom’s Parenting Guide.

Parents will explore a few studies looking at the relationship between parenting and child development.

Future Topics:

Raising Children in an Affluent Age, Children and Money, Children and Spirituality, Children and Media, Raising Girls, Raising Boys, Children & Nature. . .

Unitarian Universalist Parents Meetup Group

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 at **First Unitarian Church of San José** <http://sanjoseuu.org> who wanted an easy way to get to know like-minded parents. 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.



Children and Youth Classes

For a full description of our 2015-2016 curriculum, please refer to the September 2015 Church Circular.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

1st -4th grades — Our New Year
5th-8th grades — Why People Act
9th-12th — Group meets at regular time, 11:30-12:30 pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

1st -4th grades — Mardi Gras
5th-8th grades — What Is Justice?
9th-12th — Group meets at regular time, 11:30-12:30 pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

1st -4th grades — Rosa Parks & Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
5th-8th grades — Why Justice?
9th-12th — Group meets at regular time, 11:30-12:30 pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

1st -4th grades — Mawlid al Nabi (Prophet Muhammed’s Birthday)
5th-8th grades — Sources of Injustice?
9th-12th — Group meets at regular time, 11:30-12:30 pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

1st -4th grades — Ramadan
5th-8th grades — Sources of Justice
9th-12th — Group meets at regular time, 11:30-12:30 pm

Our Whole Lives

7th-9th Grade Sexuality Class

Our Whole Lives is based on the philosophy of comprehensive sexuality education, which helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior.

On-going Sunday afternoon three-hour classes will be held at Connections, 39055 Hastings Street, Suite 106, Fremont 94538. <http://connectionscenter.org> All-day Saturday retreats will be held at The First Unitarian Church of San José.

It’s not too late to sign up! Classes start January 31. For information contact **Rev. Geoff Rimositis**, GRimositis@Gmail.com

Deepening Our Welcome:

Get-Acquainted Light Lunches 2016

by the Reverend Nancy Palmer Jones

On certain Sundays, the smell of fresh-baked bread wafts up from the kitchen downstairs, then floats through the sanctuary into the Library.

The aroma invites First Unitarian's newcomers to gather with a small group of members and friends for a potluck light lunch (bread, soup, salad, etc.) right after the worship service in the cozy round room just off our entryway.

The host asks everyone in the circle to share their names and a little bit about the journey that has led them to First Unitarian. Like a small-group ministry session, the conversation invites people into FUCSJ's practice of deep listening.

Longer-term members then share the church activities that enliven them. "Let us help you get connected."



Volunteer to Help!

Email **Ed Gardner** ednatsj@sbcglobal.net to attend or to volunteer to help.

Lunch Schedule 2015-16

All lunches take place in the Library from 12:15 – 1:15 pm

- Sunday, January 31
- Sunday, March 6
- Sunday, May 1



Save the Date: March 12, 2016

Inspire Young Minds

This signature event supports the Third Street Community Center's work to bridge the achievement gap, promote STEM education, and create a college-going culture for disadvantaged children in San José. Please contact Rosemary at rosemary@3street.org for information or to help with the event.

Pledge Carnival!
Saturday, March 19th
 A one-day combination Retreat/Day Camp/Fiesta for all ages! Drop in or stay all day to maximize the fun.
Raffles throughout the day
 Earn raffle tickets by pledging AND by showing up.
Mark your calendars!



Rev. Nancy with interfaith and civic leaders at the "Stand Together in Solidarity" event at the Muslim Community Association, December 16



Left, Rev. Nancy with Sameena Usman (CAIR) and Fr. Jon Pedigo (Our Lady of Guadalupe) at the same event (BTW, the moment of our taking this selfie ended up on TV)

Like us on Facebook!
 Help us grow our online presence and continue the conversation on our Facebook page. "First Unitarian Church of San José." New articles, thoughtful quotes, and photos every week! www.facebook/FUCSJ

Rev. Nancy and FUCSJ member Sharmeen Enayat (with the Smart Yards nonprofit) and Rev. Nancy with FUCSJ staff member Anabel Hernandez at the Human Agenda Banquet (FUCSJ member Richard Hobbs's visionary nonprofit)



Sunday Services / Servicios Domingo

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 11 AM



Make a Joyful Noise for Justice

Launch the New Year with readings and songs for justice! Recover a sense of energy and hope by lifting up the words and tunes of those who have spoken truth to power on a whole range of issues. Bring one of your favorite brief readings about justice, hope, fairness, and the world we long to create, and help Rev. Nancy and John Ector create this potluck post-holiday service!

Worship Leaders: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones and John Ector, Choir Director

DOMINGO, 3 DE ENERO 11 AM

Haciendo un Jubiloso Ruido por la Justicia

¡Iniciar el Año Nuevo con lecturas y canciones por la justicia! Recuperar un sentido de energía y esperanza para elevar las palabras y las melodías de aquellos que han hablado del verdadero poder en una amplia gama de temas. Traigan una de sus lecturas breves favoritas sobre justicia, esperanza, imparcialidad y el mundo que deseamos crear, y ayudar a la Rev. Nancy y a John Ector ¡a crear este servicio post festividades compartido!

Dirigen: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones y John Ector, Director del Coro

ALBANZAS EN ESPAÑOL (SPANISH LAUDS) 10:15 AM

Venga a unirse a nosotros para este servicio simple de oración-meditación de media hora (sin sermón) a las 10:15 am en una mezcla de inglés y español en la biblioteca de la iglesia.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 11 AM



Spiritual Justice: Action Guided by Love

So much so wrong! So much to do about it! Might so often seems to make right. Can right create might? Is justice an imperative from outside us, or a movement within? Where do we get the motivation, the energy, the hope, the dedication, and the perseverance to help give life the shape of justice when injustice is all around? Through story, parable, and self-exploration we will dig into the spiritual resources embedded in human experiences that draw us into making justice possible. Join us as we ponder how life, guided by love into action, can bend the arc of the universe toward justice.

Worship Leader: Bob Miess; **Worship Associates:** Jeff Norment and Marta Norment

DOMINGO, ENERO 10 11 AM

Justicia Espiritual: Acción Guiada por el Amor

¡Mucho esta tan mal! ¡Mucho que hacer al respecto! Podría tan a menudo parece que se hace lo correcto. ¿Podría lo correcto crear lo bueno? ¿Es la justicia un imperativo desde fuera de nosotros, o un movimiento desde adentro? ¿Dónde conseguimos la motivación, la energía, la esperanza, la dedicación y la perseverancia para darle vida a la forma de justicia cuan-

do la injusticia esta alrededor? A través de la historia, la parábola y la auto exploración nosotros extraeremos en las fuentes espirituales incrustadas en las experiencias humanas que nos arrastran a hacer posible la justicia. Únanse a nosotros mientras reflexionamos cómo la vida, guiada por el amor en acción, puede doblar el arco del universo hacia la justicia.

Dirige: Bob Miess; **Asociados de Culto:** Jeff Norment y Marta Norment

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17 11 AM



We're All Crayons in a Chalk Box

The Race Card Project invites strangers into a "Beloved Conversation" on race, culture, and ethnicity, much like those we have begun here at First Unitarian—with one unique twist. This project asks us to consider the word "Race," and then boil our experiences, thoughts, and observations about race down into just six words. Yes, we know that there's just one race—the human race—yet we live in a world where "race" plays a huge role in our lives. Visit theracecardproject.com for examples and inspiration from the generous, thoughtful contributions. Then join us for our own version of the conversation. On this Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, let's break down the barriers that divide us by sharing our diverse experiences!

Worship Leader: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; **Worship Associate:** Julia Rodríguez

DOMINGO, ENERO 17 11 AM

Todos Nosotros Somos Crayones en Una Cajas de Gises

El Proyecto de Tarjeta de Raza invita a extraños a una "Amada Conversación" de raza, cultura y etnicidad, al igual que las

que hemos empezado aquí en la Primera Iglesia Unitaria, con un toque único. Este proyecto nos pide considerar la palabra “Raza” y luego agitar nuestras experiencias, pensamientos y observaciones acerca de raza en sólo seis palabras. Sí, sabemos que hay sólo una raza—la raza humana—sin embargo, vivimos en un mundo donde la “raza” juega un enorme papel en nuestras vidas. Visite el sitio theracecardproject.com para ejemplos e inspiración de las generosas, razonadas contribuciones. Entonces únense a nosotros para nuestra propia versión de la conversación. En este fin de semana del Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. vamos a romper las barreras que nos dividen, compartiendo nuestras diversas experiencias.

Dirige: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones;
Asociada de Culto: Julia Rodríguez

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24 11 AM



Unitarian Universalism and the Black Lives Matter Movement

The Black Lives Matter movement has Unitarian Universalist roots: one of its co-founders, Opal Tometi, is a UU young adult. Since the movement’s beginnings in 2013, many Unitarian Universalists have served as leaders and supporters, while others have objected to the movement’s name and tactics. In this service, Rev. Nancy brings stories from her research about Unitarian Universalist congregations that have wrestled with if, when, where, and how to engage with Black Lives Matter. Let’s bring this conversation home to First Unitarian. Come to the service, then stay for the conversation, led by our Board of Directors.

In response to one common objection, Opal Tometi says, “When we say black lives matter, we’re not saying that any other life doesn’t matter. That has never, ever been our message. Our message has always

[come] from a place of love for our people and even love for our society.” In the spirit of such Love, do you—would you—support the movement? Let’s get real about where we stand.

Worship Leader: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; **Worship Associate:** Jeff Norment

DOMINGO, ENERO 24 11 AM

El Unitario Universalismo y el Movimiento la Vida de la Gente de Color Importa

El Movimiento La Vida de la Gente de Color Importa tiene raíces Unitarias Universalistas: uno de sus cofundadores, Opal Tometi, es un adulto joven UU. Desde los comienzos del movimiento en el 2013, muchos Unitarios universalistas han servido como líderes y simpatizantes, mientras que otros han objetado por el nombre del movimiento y la táctica. En este servicio, la Rev. Nancy trae historias de su investigación sobre las congregaciones Unitarias Universalistas que han luchado con esto, cuándo, dónde y cómo comprometerse con la Vida de la Gente de Color Importa. Vamos a llevar esta conversación a casa, a la Primera Iglesia Unitaria. Venga al servicio, luego quédense para la conversación conducida por nuestra Mesa de Directores.

En respuesta a una objeción común, Opal Tometi dice, “Cuando decimos la Vida de la Gente de Color, no estamos diciendo que cualquier otra vida no importa. Ese nunca ha sido nuestro mensaje. Nuestro mensaje siempre ha [proviene] de un lugar de amor por nuestra gente y aun amor para nuestra sociedad.” En el espíritu de tal Amor, ¿ustedes—podrían ustedes—apoyar el movimiento? Vamos, seamos sinceros sobre donde estamos parados.

Dirige: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones;
Asociado de Culto: Jeff Norment

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 11 AM

A Home Base at the Intersection of Love and Justice

As little children grow in courage and curiosity, they venture further and further away from the loving caregiver to whom they used to cling. But every now and then, they scamper back to touch their loved one with a look or a hug or a word. Yes, this

touch assures them: “home base” is still there! We humans never really lose these needs: we long to venture forth and explore, to express ourselves and make a difference in the world; and we also long for a home base from which to feel safe enough to launch our adventures. What is our home base? Where is the touchstone that gives us the courage to keep on keeping on? How can this community serve as a home base, located right at the intersection of Love and Justice?

Worship Leader: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; **Worship Associate:** Frank Bosche



DOMINGO, ENERO 31 11 AM

Un Cimiento en la Intersección del Amor y la Justicia

Como los niños pequeños crecen con valor y curiosidad, ellos se aventuran más y más lejos del amoroso cuidador a quien utilizaban para aferrarse. Pero de vez en cuando, corretean hacia atrás para tocar a su ser querido con una mirada, o un abrazo o una palabra. Sí, ese toque les asegura: “el cimiento del hogar” ¡todavía está allí! Los seres humanos nunca perdemos estas necesidades: nosotros nos aventuramos mucho más lejos y exploramos, para expresarnos y hacer una diferencia en el mundo; y también deseamos un cimiento desde el cual sentir suficiente seguridad como para poner en marcha nuestras aventuras.

¿Cuál es nuestro cimiento? ¿Dónde está la piedra angular que nos da el valor de seguir? ¿Cómo puede servir esta comunidad como un cimiento, situada justo en la intersección del amor y la justicia?

Dirige: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones;
Asociado de Culto: Frank Bosche

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 the 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.

1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS 2:30-5 PM



San Jose Community Dances

Hattie Porter Hall

Great exercise, great LIVE music, great fun! All dances taught — beginners welcome.

You can find detailed information at bacds.org/series/community/san_jose or [facebook.com/groups/SanJoseCommunityDance](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SanJoseCommunityDance)

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 Lunch!

Meet in Hattie Porter Hall near the Newcomer's table at about 12:45 pm. Questions? Contact uuthful_spirits-owner@yahoo.com

WEDNESDAYS 7-9 PM



Alegría Singers Choir Practice

Sanctuary

Join the FUCSJ choir in singing at Sunday services, special events such as solstice celebrations, Coffee-houses and other activities.

Questions? [Liz Owen lowen@data-time.com](mailto:LizOwen@data-time.com)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1 8 PM



Dances of Universal Peace

Sanctuary

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.

Come join us on the labyrinth under the dome of our church. **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, JANUARY 3 10-11 AM

HUManati Sunday Forum: Read Aloud!

Hattie Porter Hall

We gather, socialize, check in, read aloud, write haiku, play games, or whatever. Come by to tarry awhile, share your thoughts, or just listen. It's fun, and interesting talk always happens.

We meet at the table nearest the coffee. For more information, contact **Amy Baldwin** at 408-730-9622.

MONDAY, JAN. 4 DEADLINE SAT. /SUN., JAN. 16-17 SUPPERS

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 and couples, long-time church members or new to this church community, all are welcome. Contact **Barbara Derbyshire** at CircleSuppers@AOL.com.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7 1-3 PM

Women's Alliance

Ramsden Fireside Room

We are discussing *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Ch. 16-20, pp. 196-266), as well as *Belief & Unbelief: Womanhood Beyond Religion* by Barbara Walker (Essay #11 "Religions as the Root of Sexism" and Essay #12 "Islamic Holocaust").

Please contact **Nancy Coleman** at 408-985-5778 or nbc Coleman@gmail.com for further information. All are welcome.

MONDAY, JAN. 12 7-9 PM

Social Justice Council

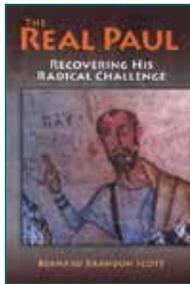
Conference Room

The Social Justice Council meets on 2nd Mondays. You are invited to attend.

A current social action issue is discussing Congregational Study/Action Issues

(CSAIs) that our congregation thinks should be added to the 2016 General Assembly agenda for four years of study, reflection, and action. For information about Congregational Study Action Issues go to www.uua.org/statements/current. To weigh in on these issues, join the Social Justice Council meeting. If you have questions or plan to attend the meeting, please call or text **John Burk** at 408-259-3781.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13 6-8 PM



Christian Origins Book Study

**Conference Room, or by Video/
Teleconference wherever you are**

***The Real Paul: Recovering His Radical Challenge* by Bernard Brandon Scott**

On January 13 we begin a new 5-month study of a historic shift in perspectives on Paul of the New Testament.

In his new book, Biblical historical scholar Bernard Brandon Scott presents a radical new interpretation of what Paul was about. We'll begin by discussing the first 37 pages, in which Scott introduces his claim that Paul's message was a subversive challenge against the Empire of Rome. As we read and discuss we will begin to form our own perspectives, and consider whether Scott's re-interpretation makes sense, and if so, whether Paul's radical challenge to Rome has something to say to us in our time. Questions? Contact **Bob Miess**, Bob@Bob-Miess.com, 925-392-5901.

MONDAY, JANUARY 18 7:30-9 PM



HUUmanati Monday Meeting

Library (to the left in the front lobby)

Come join us, rest your feet, check in, and chat about what's on your mind.

There may be board games and other easy activities, also. Questions? Contact **Amy Baldwin**, 408-730-9622.

SUNDAY, JAN. 31 1-3 PM

Young Adult Group (18-35) Begins

Youth Room

A new young adult group for ages 18-35 is starting January 31 from 1-3 pm in the Youth Room!



We will use the Unitarian Universalist curriculum "Finding Your Path" by Michael Tino to explore who we are and where our passion and the needs of the world intersect in order to live a more meaningful life. It's a time to pause from the busyness of the day, reflect on what matters most, and connect with other young adults! Fa-

cilitated by sabbatical Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE) **Emily Carroll** faithlovegratitude@gmail.com. **Pizza will be provided.** We hope to see you there!

SATURDAY, FEB 6 1-3:30 PM

Jean von Kaenel Tea to Benefit Partner Church

Hattie Porter Hall

The Jean von Kaenel Tea is a church favorite and a time to break out your hats when our church is decked out with its finest linens and china.

There will be great food and entertainment as well, and always a few surprises. This is a good time to treat your mom, neighbors and other friends to an enjoyable afternoon at our church. We suggest a \$20 donation for adults and \$10 for children and youth, which will help us bring villagers from our Partner Church in Transylvania to San Jose in 2017.

If you can donate food, perform, or help with the event, contact **MM Feldman**, mm@feldmo.com, 408 393-7979

Hiking Schedule (January 2016)

Please call or email Joyce Miller if you plan to hike so I know that you are joining us and can tell you if plans have changed: home phone 408-730-1052 or cell 408-769-0534; j408miller@sbcglobal.net

SATURDAY, JAN. 2 8:30 AM

Portola Redwoods State Park, 5.5 miles, moderate. This is a beautiful hike. Plan to get home around 2:30 pm due to a longer drive. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6 8:30 AM

Canada del Oro, 6 miles, moderate to strenuous. Meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond.

SATURDAY, JAN. 9 8:30 AM

Huddart Park. 5 miles, moderate. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13 8:30 AM

Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve. Two hikes: one long around 7-8 miles, moderate to strenuous; and one short around 4.5 miles, moderate. We carpool from the parking lot at the Berryessa Community Center, 3050 Berryessa Road. We can decide how many cars to take based on how many do each hike.

SATURDAY, JAN. 16 8:30 AM

Big Basin State Park, about 8 miles. We hike out and back to Berry Falls only. Allow for a longer day--getting back about 3:30 pm. Meet at the parking lot in Saratoga behind what used to be US Bank.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20 8:30 AM

Grizzly Flat Trailhead/Long Ridge to Horseshoe Lake in Skyline Ridge Open Space. It is out and back, about 6 miles. This is a section of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Meet at the parking lot in Saratoga behind what used to be US Bank.

SATURDAY, JAN. 23 8:30 AM

Santa Teresa County Park, 6 miles, moderate. We hike the Stiles Ranch trail. Meet at Bed, Bath and Beyond.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27 8:30 AM

Montebello Open Space, 5 miles, moderate. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park and Ride.

SATURDAY, JAN. 30 8:30 AM

Sunol, 5 miles moderate. We hike a flatter trail with less elevation gain. Meet at VTA Park and Ride on Capitol off of Alum Rock.



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: fucsjooffice@gmail.com or join the Yahoo Group: groups.yahoo.com/group/uusj

Next issue copy deadline: 3 pm Wednesday, January 20

Mailing: Wednesday, January 27

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

January 1, Friday, 8:00 pm, Dances of Universal Peace, Sanctuary

January 3, Sunday, 10-11 am, HUU-mananti Forum, Hattie Porter Hall

January 7, Thursday, 1-3 pm, Woman's Alliance, Ramsden Fireside Room

January 10, Sunday, 9:30-10:45 am, Roots & Wings-Unitarian Universalist Parenting in the Millennium

January 12, Monday, 7-9 pm, Social Justice Council, Conference Room

January 13, Wednesday, 6-8 pm, Book Study, Conference Room or Video/Teleconference

January 16&17, Saturday & Sunday, Circle Suppers, contact Barbara at CircleSuppers@aol.com; sign-up deadline January 4, Monday

January 18, Monday, 7:30-9 pm, HUU-mananti Monday Meeting, Library

January 31, Sunday, 1-3 pm, Young Adult Group, Youth Room

February 6, Saturday, 1-3:30 pm, Jean von Kaenel Tea to Benefit Partner Church, 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: revnpj@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: revnpj@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 on 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.