



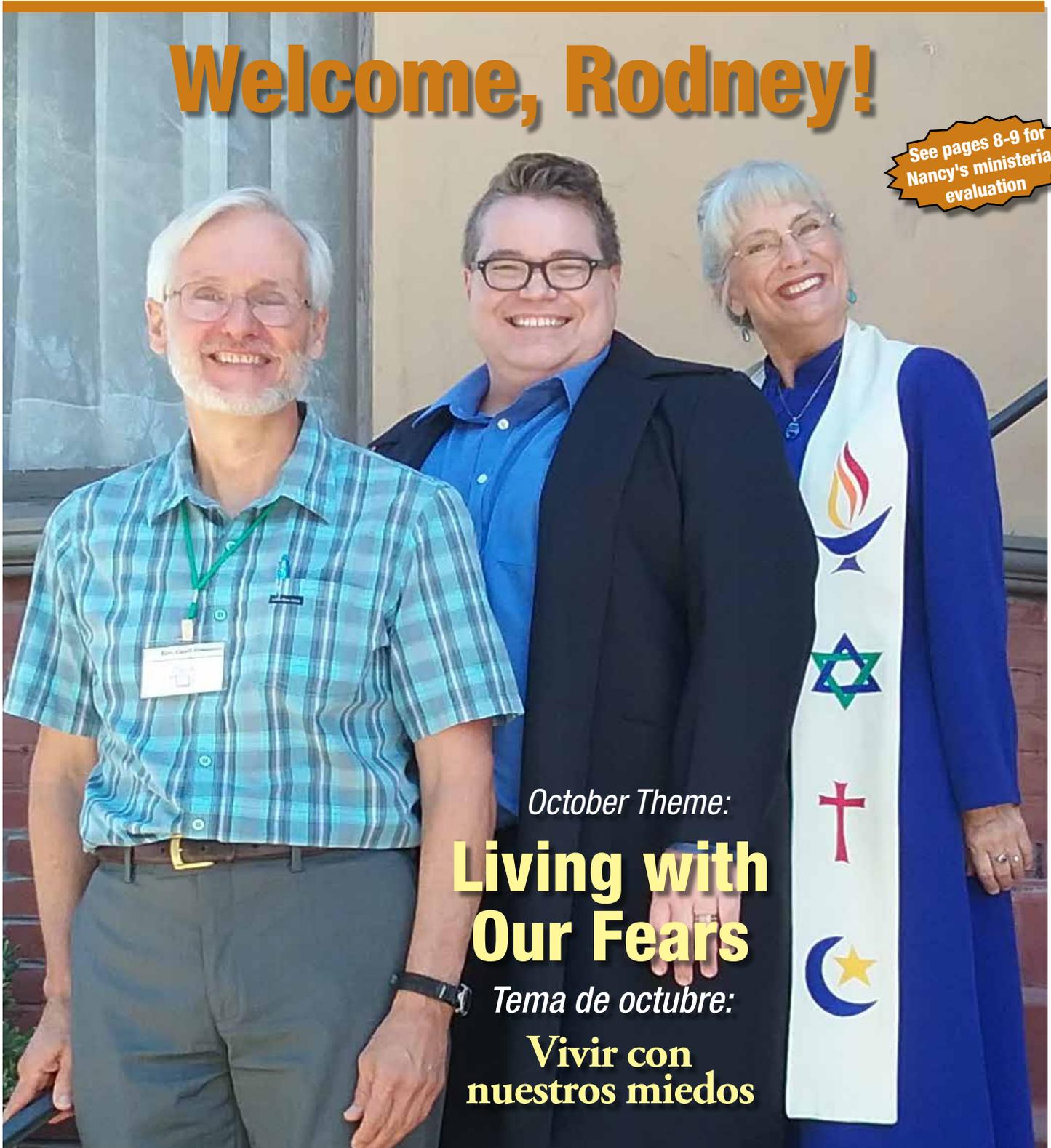
ur Church Circular

October 2016

Octubre 2016 / Nuestro periódico iglesia

Welcome, Rodney!

See pages 8-9 for
Nancy's ministerial
evaluation



October Theme:

Living with Our Fears

Tema de octubre:

Vivir con nuestros miedos



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH *of San José*

150 YEARS
OF MAKING
LOVE VISIBLE

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editorial Team:

Sherry Howd, Mina Kelly, Catherine Leeson Pelizzari, Circular.Editors@gmail.com

Designer: **Henry Ruddle**

Our Church Circular is published on the last Wednesday of each month. Circulation is about 500.

Translator: **Roberto Padilla**

Assembly Coordinators:
Andrea Dinolt, Rebecca Mason

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

We need photographers and writers. Come join the communications team! Contact Henry Ruddle at rcreative1@gmail.com

Church Office

HOURS: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 am - 4 pm

Phone: (408) 292-3858 (plus staff extensions)
Fax: (408) 292-4744;
fucsjooffice@gmail.com

Website: www.sanjoseeu.org

Rentals: (408) 841-7542 or
rentals@sanjoseeu.org

Officers

PRESIDENT

Rob Strong (2016-2018)
strong00@pacbell.net

SECRETARY

Marnie Singer
(2016-2018)
marniesinger@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER

Bill Shepard (2016-2018)
bshepard@cooforum.org

PROGRAM OFFICER

Francisco Hernandez
(2016-2018)
macapie@att.net

PERSONNEL OFFICER
(open)

FINANCIAL OFFICER
Mary Idso (2016-2018)
mridso@sbcglobal.net

Church Staff

SENIOR MINISTER

The Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones, Ext. 223, revnpj@yahoo.com

ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR FAMILY MINISTRIES

The Rev. Geoff Rimositis
Ext. 225,
grimositis@gmail.com

CHOIR DIRECTOR,

John Ector
jector@gmail.com

OFFICE MANAGER,

Sharmeen Enayat, Ext. 221,
fucsjooffice@gmail.com

BOOKKEEPER,

Sue Evanicky, Ext. 227
bookkeeper@sanjoseeu.org

CUSTODIAN, **Edgar Cruz**

NURSERY, **Danni Fernandez,**
Kimberly Fernandez

Board of Directors

Susan Miller (2016-2018)
smillerteacher@aol.com

Kristin Rivers (2016-2018),
knrivers66@gmail.com

Bruce Halen (2015-2017)
brucehalen@yahoo.com

Program & Operations Council (POC)

John Burk, Greg Smith, Social Justice,
tbonejohnburk@aol.com,
Smith122@purdue.edu

Henry Ruddle
Communications,
rcreative1@gmail.com

(open), Building,

Diana Wirt, Stewardship and Fundraising,
stewardship@sanjoseeu.org

(open), Inreach

(open), Religious Education and Family Ministries

Inside This Issue:

In Our Own Voices: Living With Our Fears.....	3
From Rev. Nancy / Para Rev. Nancy.....	4-5
Rev. Geoff: "A Place to Face our Fears" / Gratitude Corner	6
Children and Youth Program / Lifespan Faith Development.....	7
Sabbatical FAQs	8-9
Democratic Governance / Ministerial Evaluation	10-11
Reflection: Just Stoppin' Here to Witness.....	12-13
Volunteer Fair	13
Sunday Services / Servicios de Domingo.....	14-15
Circling Around	16
Upcoming Events / Announcements.....	16-19
Save the Dates / Contact/Donate.....	20



As a thank you for helping them incubate here, Rev. Nicole Lamarche (right) of the Silicon Valley Progressive Faith Community gave Rev. Nancy a "Woman of the Cloth" t-shirt at the September 25 service.

In Our Own Voices:

Living with Our Fears

By the Reverend
Nancy Palmer Jones

“In Our Own Voices” shares congregants’ free-flowing responses to the theme of the month. For October’s theme, the questions and associations come from the Worship Associates’ quarterly training in May 2016.

Please do look for the all-church emails that invite you to participate in on-line surveys about our worship themes, and click on the link to participate. Your voices influence our approach to worship services and to the Small-Group Ministry sessions on each theme, as well as add richness to this column in each newsletter.

What would you say about “living with our fears”?

Then, please join us in worship each week where we add music, stories, and diverse voices to the conversation, exploring how these themes relate to our lives, to our times, and to our faith.

With infinite love for this community of love, hope, courage, and change,

Rev. Nancy

We almost called this theme “Overcoming Our Fears.” I prefer the idea of “taming” our fears rather than overcoming them.

Fear is the mind killer. Can a person be brave if they are afraid? Actually, maybe that is the only time they can be brave.

There’s a power in naming a fear. What does the fear highlight? What can we learn from our fears?

Anxiety and fearfulness: Having too many fears.... Letting go of fear.... Handling my fears.... Accepting fear as a part of life, since we all have fears. So, acceptance—that’s what I’m working toward.

Some fears can be greatly diffused by things like investigation, logic, and writing down possibilities and the percent likelihood of each.

“Courage is fear that has said its prayers.”—Karle Wilson Baker (1878-1960)

“Do one thing every day that scares you.”—Mary Schmich (Interesting note: This quotation is often misattributed to Eleanor Roosevelt, but it actually comes from Schmich’s column titled “Advice, Like Youth, Probably Just Wasted on the Young,” Chicago Tribune, 1997.) Three actual quotations from Eleanor Roosevelt about fear and courage:

“Courage is more exhilarating than fear and in the long run it is easier. We do not have to become heroes overnight. Just a step at a time, meeting each thing that comes up, seeing it is not as dreadful as it appeared, discovering we have the strength to stare it down.”

“The danger lies in refusing to face the fear, in not daring to come to grips with it. If you fail anywhere along the line, it will take away your confidence. You must make yourself succeed every time. You must do the thing you think you cannot do.”

“The encouraging thing is that every time you meet a situation, though you may think at the time it is an impossibility and you go through the tortures of the damned, once you have met it and lived through it you find that forever after you are freer than you ever were before. If you can live through that you can live through anything. You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, ‘I lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.’”

Hymn: “I Know This Rose Will Open”

A classic self-help book: Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway: Dynamic Techniques for Turning Fear, Indecision, and Anger into Power, Action, and Love—20th anniversary edition, by Susan Jeffers

Big 150th and 125th Anniversaries:

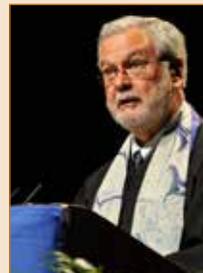
Celebrating 150 Years of Making Love Visible

Sunday, November 13, 2016

By Madeline Morrow

Join us at First Unitarian Church of San Jose as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of our founding as well as the 125th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of our historic building.

For 150 years this congregation has worked for compassion and justice in our community. We reflect on the gifts from the past that help us continue the work of building Beloved Community. **Rev. Peter**



Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will be our worship leader, and the President’s Council—a



nationwide group of prominent Unitarian Universalists—will join us.

The service will include a children’s story about one of our founders, Laura J. Watkins, and a commendation from **City Councilmember Raul Peralez**. We encourage you to come in costume, of any time from 1865 to the present and beyond. Represent our church’s history or dress like its 2116!

Worship begins promptly at 11 am, with a reception and party (with lunch) following. Celebrate with us!



“I Need You to Survive”

by Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

As I write on September 23, it has been an especially hard week for all of us committed to the Movement for Black Lives.

In Tulsa, Oklahoma, a police officer shoots and kills Terence Crutcher, an unarmed African-American man seeking help because his car has broken down. In Charlotte, North Carolina, Keith Lamont Scott, also African American, dies after being shot by police under unclear circumstances, and the community's decades-long—no, centuries-long frustrations erupt in protests. Our Unitarian Universalist colleagues in these towns issue powerful statements of grief and solidarity. My heart is heavy.

At the same time, my commitment to our own work here in San José and Santa Clara County grows fiercer. We are building multiracial, multifaith, multigenerational, justice-seeking community here through the Beloved Community Movement, which brings law enforcement, elected officials, faith leaders, and community together to create transparency, trust, mutual respect, and even—dare I say it?—affection across all our relationships and our practices. A movement for justice and the recognition of the sacred value of life—I am so grateful that we at First Unitarian are part of it.

You can join in through the Voter Engagement Campaign—never has it been more important to show up, beloveds!

It is also poignant that in this week of tragic loss and unrest, we could watch our Unitarian ancestors, the Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp, “defying the Nazis” (the title of Ken Burns’s documentary). During World War II, the Sharps go behind enemy lines again and again to rescue those most at risk of extermination. Such models of courage, of putting our faith into action! Please watch for a showing of this documentary at FUCSJ in the months to come. Today, I ask myself: Would I have been that courageous then? Can I be that courageous now?

In times such as these, when sorrows combine with so many other traumas and uncertainties, I keep repeating: We not only need to act in solidarity with each other and with those most at risk, but we also need to double-down on the spiritual practices that ground our actions in faith, hope, and love. Our capacity to Make Love Visible in all that we do and say is only as strong and wide as our foundation in our faith, in our connection to our deepest selves and to that Something More within us and beyond us.

So yesterday, I set out on one of my Morning Walks. These Morning Walks are my prime urban spiritual practice, but they have been in short supply lately, as I race

to accomplish all that must be done before I leave on sabbatical on October 15. With a heavy, hungry heart yesterday, I go looking for some shout of abundant Life from the earth, and some link to centuries of human good.

Sure enough, within a block, this multicolored daisy-like creature reaches out over the sidewalk on her slender stem, casting a filigreed shadow on the cement. She lifts her head, directly in my path, and says, as clearly as if she really does speak English: “STOP!”

“Oh, you beauty,” I breathe. I pause to take a photo. And as I walk on, David Frazier’s gospel song begins to thrum over and over inside until it rings out: “I need you, you need me, we’re all a part of God’s body ... I pray for you, you pray for me, I need you to survive, I won’t harm you with words from my mouth, I love you, I need you to survive ...”

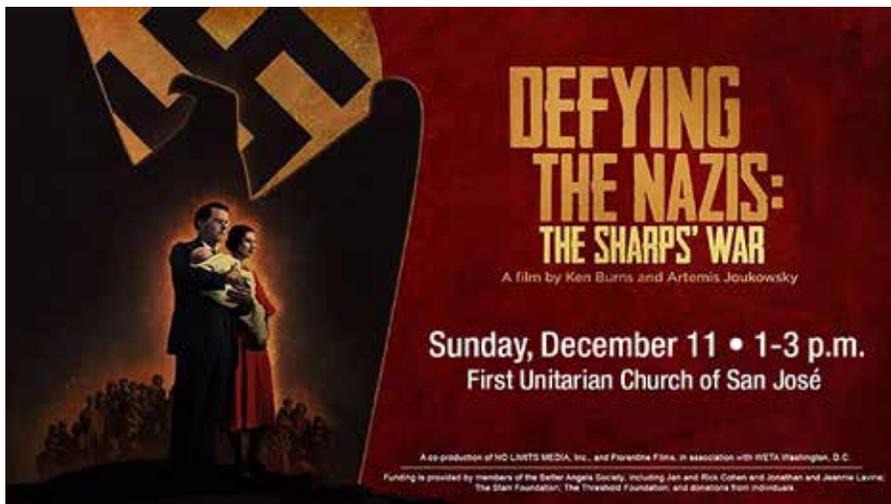
Friends, though we may be physically apart during my book-writing sabbatical (October 15-March 13), we need not fear that we are ever truly separated. We are, each and every one of us, part of one Sangha body, as Thich Nhat Hanh says, working together for the good of all. “I need you, you need me”—yes! And oh, how I love you! We need each other to survive, and equally, we need each other to fulfill our call: to further the abundance of Life on this earth and to carry forward centuries of human good! I can’t wait to share what wonders we discover, what hope we create, and what community we build during the time that I am away!

Now: please go watch and hear Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout (director of music and worship at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor) lead the General Assembly 2016 Choir in David Frazier’s gorgeous song, “I Need You to Survive”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKUaO4EBiQ8&feature=youtu.be&t=37m41s>

With all my love,

Rev. Nancy



“Te Necesito para Sobrevivir”

Mientras escribo en el 23 de septiembre, ha sido una semana especialmente difícil para todos nosotros comprometidos con el Movimiento para las Vidas de los Negros.

En Tulsa, Oklahoma, un agente de policía dispara y mata a Terence Crutcher, un hombre afroamericano desarmado buscando ayuda porque su coche se había descompuesto. En Charlotte, Carolina del Norte, Keith Scott Lamont, también afroamericano, muere tras ser tiroteado por la policía bajo circunstancias poco claras y largas décadas de la comunidad—no, largos siglos de frustraciones estallan en las protestas. Nuestros colegas Unitarios Universalistas en estos pueblos emiten declaraciones de duelo y solidaridad. Mi corazón esta triste.

Al mismo tiempo, mi compromiso con nuestro trabajo aquí en San José y en el condado de Santa Clara crece más feroz. Estamos construyendo una comunidad multirracial, multiconfesional, multigeneracional, que buscan la justicia para la comunidad aquí a través del Movimiento de la Querida Comunidad, que trae la aplicación de la ley, funcionarios electos, líderes religiosos y la comunidad juntos para crear transparencia, confianza, respeto mutuo, e incluso—¿me atrevería a decir?— afecto a través de todas nuestras relaciones y nuestras prácticas. Un movimiento por la justicia y el reconocimiento del valor sagrado de la vida—estoy tan agradecida que nosotros en la Primera Iglesia Unitaria seamos parte de esto. Ustedes pueden inscribirse a través de la Campaña de Participación Electoral—¡nunca ha sido más importante demostrarlo, amados!

También es conmovedor que en esta semana de trágicas pérdidas y malestar, podremos ver a nuestros antepasados Unitarios, el Rev. Waitstill y Martha Sharp, "desafiando a los Nazis" (el título del documental de Ken Burns). Durante la II Guerra Mundial, los Sharps van tras las líneas enemigas una y otra vez para rescatar a los que están en mayor riesgo de exter-



minio. ¡Qué modelos de valentía, de poner nuestra fe en acción! Por favor esperen para una proyección de este documental en la FUCSJ en los próximos meses. Hoy, me pregunto: ¿Yo hubiera sido tan valiente entonces? ¿Puedo ser valiente ahora?

En tiempos como estos, cuando los dolores se combinan con muchos otros traumas e incertidumbres, me sigo repitiendo: no sólo tenemos que actuar en solidaridad con los demás y con los que están en mayor riesgo, pero también necesitamos ser más tenaces en las prácticas espirituales que arraigan nuestras acciones de fe, esperanza y amor. Nuestra capacidad de Hacer el Amor Visible en todo lo que hacemos y decimos es sólo tan fuerte y amplio como la fundación de nuestra fe, en nuestra conexión con nuestro ser más profundo y Eso Algo más adentro de nosotros y más allá de nosotros.

Así que ayer, en uno de mis paseos por la mañana. Esos paseos de la mañana son mi principal práctica espiritual urbana, pero han sido un corto suministro últimamente, mientras corro para lograr todo lo que se debo hacer antes de irme a mi año sabático el 15 de octubre. Con un pesado y hambriento corazón ayer, yo voy buscando algún grito de vida abundante de la tierra, y algunos vínculos de siglos de bien humano.

Efectivamente, dentro de un bloque, esta una margarita multicolor como una

para la Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

criatura que busca sobresalir sobre la acera en su esbelto tallo, proyectando una sombra de filigrana en el cemento. Ella levanta la cabeza, directamente en mi camino y dice, tan claramente como si ella realmente hablara inglés: "¡ALTO!"

"Oh, tu belleza," respiro. Hago una pausa para tomar una fotografía. Y mientras paso de largo, la canción del Evangelio de David Frazier comienza a tamborilear una y otra vez en el interior hasta que suena hacia fuera: "Los necesito, me necesitan, todos somos una parte del cuerpo de Dios... Yo orare por ustedes, ustedes oren por mí, los necesito para sobrevivir, no los dañare con palabras de mi boca, los amo, los necesito para sobrevivir..."

Amigos, aunque estemos separados físicamente durante mi año sabático escribiendo mi libro (15 de octubre-13 de marzo), no necesitamos temer que estemos verdaderamente separados. Nosotros somos, todos y cada uno de nosotros parte del cuerpo de Sangha, como Thich Nhat Hanh dice, trabajando juntos por el bien de todos. "Los necesito, me necesitan"—sí ¡Y oh, cómo los quiero! Nos necesitamos mutuamente para sobrevivir, y de igual modo, nos necesitamos mutuamente para cumplir con nuestro llamado: ¡para promover la abundancia de Vida en esta tierra y para llevar hacia adelante siglos del bien humano! ¡No puedo esperar para compartir las maravillas que descubrimos, qué esperanza creamos y que comunidad construimos durante el tiempo que estoy lejos!

Ahora: por favor vayan a ver y escuchar al Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout (director de música y adoración en la congregación Unitaria Universalista de Ann Arbor) conducir el Coro de la Asamblea General 2016 en la hermosa canción de David Frazier, "Te Necesito para Sobrevivir":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKUaO4EBjQ8&feature=youtu.be&t=37m41s>

con todo mi amor,

Rev. Nancy

A Place to Face Our Fears

by the Rev. Geoff Rimositis



When I was in the 1st grade in Sacred Heart School, a primarily Polish parish, in North Bergen, New Jersey, one of the older children pointed to a room where the teachers went (The Teacher's Lounge) and told me that's where they kept the spanking machine. I was forever fearful from that moment on that I would do something bad that would cause me to be strapped to the spanking machine.

And if that wasn't enough for a first grader to deal with, when the Catholic sister, in a full head-to-toe habit, asked the class what they wanted to do when they grew up, I took my turn to stand and

share my dream, that immediately caused the class to erupt in confusing laughter. I couldn't understand what was so funny about telling the class that I wanted to be a nun. I loved my nun who was kind and who taught me things. I think then and there I became a serious introvert who would rather ride a wild bull than to stand up in class and say anything.

After 27 years of professional ministry I still sweat like a cat on a hot tin roof when I stand before a group of people and speak. Facing my fears has become one of my spiritual practices. It causes me to reach deep within myself and find that still calm place and recite my mantra: I am good. I am capable. I am loveable.

Religious community provides us that safe place to face our fears. Here we have people who will listen deeply to us in confidence in our small group ministry circles that are held in people's homes. To be the recipient of caring compassion is a rare gift in this anxiety-filled world. Our Pastoral Associates make this their ministry in our church. You can always find one, at the Pastoral Care Table after church in our social hall, who is eager to invite you to light a candle and, if you wish, share what is on your mind and in your heart.

This month our coming-of-age youth will go to their first retreat in Santa Rosa and participate in a ropes course. No matter how well you are harnessed in with every possible safety device connected to your body, fear always finds its way in. With fellow youth and adults cheering you on, either high in the trees or navigating a balance beam just a few feet off the ground, it's that supportive energy that causes you to lose your fear long enough to try something you've never done before. It imprints on you that fear is best faced with friends. You don't have to go it alone.

What are you most afraid of?

- The boogeyman in all his frightening guises?
- Lying there with eyes wide open and not a single muscle to twitch?
- Coming to die and haven't crossed anything off your bucket list?
- That the meaning of life has no meaning at all—except what you make of it?

Let's work on that meaning-making thing together by pooling our resources, refusing to throw in the towel, and by making love visible in what we strive to be good at—honoring the inherent worth and dignity of all people.

Gratitude Corner:

Julian Street Special Collection

By the Reverend Geoff Rimositis

I wanted to pass on a big thank you for all who contributed to Julian Street during our Special Collection Sunday. We had bags of tangible goods people brought in from the wish list, \$1,521.00 in funds, and four gift cards were received in the special collection.

Thank You for Standing on the Side of Love!

By the Reverend Nicole Lamarche

Being on the receiving end of wild generosity has always been difficult for me. I feel like it all has to even out, as if somewhere a score is being kept and I know I can never fully repay. But that is not how it works. True generosity is a gift shared to depths beyond our perception, sending love out into the world!

In her charming book, *"Eat, Pray, Love,"* Elizabeth Gilbert writes, "In the end, though, maybe we must all give up trying to pay back the people in this world who sustain our lives. In the end, maybe it's wiser to surrender before the miraculous scope of human generos-

ity and to just keep saying thank you, forever and sincerely, for as long as we have voices."

Thank you! Forever! Sincerely! That is how I feel about so many things and to one person in particular, I feel gratitude beyond what I can express. In the spring of 2014, when it felt hard to know how to move forward, my colleague and friend and your minister, the **Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones**, smiled and said, "Why don't you use our place?" She opened her arms and this beautiful congregation welcomed us. Before we knew it, we had keys.

Thank you to the people of First UU San Jose! Thank you for generously sharing your space and for showing up in body and in spirit for a new progressive church downtown. Thank you for standing on the side of love by making room for us!

Since September of 2014, we have gathered twice a month and on Sunday September 25th, we say farewell. Your building has been a sacred place for us, as we have grown together in our love of one another and the downtown San Jose community. Nancy has accompanied me and supported our new congregation with grace and openness and it has been a holy game changer for us. Thank you! Forever!

Children and Youth Classes



Youth Classes for October

SUNDAY OCTOBER 2

1st -4th grades — Session 7: Democratic Process (Chalk)

5th-8th grades — Palestine in the Time of Jesus

9th-12th grades — Group meets at regular time, 11:30-12:30

Coming of Age Mentor-Youth Meeting —12:45-2 p.m.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 9

1st -4th grades — Session 8: Power (Hammer)

5th-8th grades — The Religion of Jesus' People

9th-12th grades — Group meets at regular time, 11:30-12:30

SUNDAY OCTOBER 16

1st -4th grades — Session 10: Courage And Conviction (Saddlebags)

5th-8th grades — The Boy Jesus and His World

9th-12th grades — Group meets at regular time, 11:30-12:30

Coming of Age Retreat in Santa Rosa, October 14-16

SUNDAY OCTOBER 23

1st -4th grades — Session 11: Listening (Stethoscope)

5th-8th grades — John The Baptizer

9th-12th grades — Group meets at regular time, 11:30-12:30

SUNDAY OCTOBER 30

1st -4th grades — Session 14: Justice (Flashlight)

5th-8th grades — John Baptizes Jesus

9th-12th grades — Group meets at regular time, 11:30-12:30

Upcoming Adult RE Events

By the Reverend Geoff Rimositis

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 9:30 AM

Roots and Wings UU Parenting 0-10 Years Group

Classrooms 4-6, Childcare Provided

Session: From Parenting to Being a Parent

"If parenting is the wrong model, what's the right one? 'Parent' is not actually a verb, not a form of work, and it isn't and shouldn't be directed toward the goal of sculpting a child into a particular kind of adult. Instead, to be a parent— to care for a child— is to be part of a profound and unique human relationship, to engage in a particular kind of love. Work is central to human life; we couldn't do without it. But as Freud and Elvis both remarked, apocryphally at least, 'Work and love are the two things that make life worthwhile.'"

In the book, the author says, "I'll focus on two kinds of paradoxes: paradoxes of love and paradoxes of learning. These paradoxes are built into the evolutionary nature of childhood itself. The parenting model just can't deal with them." We will explore Berkeley professor Alison Gopnik's new book, *The Gardener and the Carpenter: What the New Science of Child Development Tells Us About the Relationship Between Parents and Children*.

Roots and Wings meets on Second Sundays in classrooms 4-6 at 9:30 am, childcare provided. Meetings facilitated by Rev. Geoff Rimositis

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 9:30 AM

Support Group for Parents of Teens and Tweens

Classrooms 4-6, Childcare by Request

Parenting is one of the most important

and least supported roles in society. How can we support each other to stay compassionate with our children, our partners, and ourselves when the inevitable breaks in connection happen? How do we repair the connection? How do we get out and stay out of power struggles? These are some of the goals of this new group for parents of teens/tweens. We support each other, share deeply, and learn from each other and are also reading the book *Getting to Calm* by Jennifer Wyatt. Fourth Sundays, classrooms 4-6, 9:30 am, Childcare provided by request.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 1:30 PM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25 7:00 PM

Young Adult Group

Youth Room

Spiritual discussion group for ages 18-35 meets 2nd Sunday afternoons and 4th Tuesday evenings for reflection, connection, meditation, discussion, and laughter! We are using the UU curriculum *Finding Your Path* by Michael Tino. Young adult life is filled with decisions and transitions. An incredible number of the most important decisions people in our society make in their lives are made between the ages of 18 and 35. Choices about family, career, relationships, community and calling are all at the forefront of our lives as young adults.

This group is a chance to get to know ourselves, to sit down and really understand what motivates us, and to connect our passions and our values with our career aspirations. Through this exploration, we will have a better sense of who we are and how we are called to live our lives in the world in a deep and meaningful way.



Frequently Asked Questions About Rev. Nancy's Sabbatical!

When can we talk with Rev. Nancy about this sabbatical?

Please join Rev. Nancy for a free-flowing conversation about her sabbatical, following worship on Sunday, October 9, at 12:30 p.m. in the Ramsden Fireside Room. In worship that morning, Rev. Nancy will offer her wishes for the congregation during this time apart. Come to the Fireside Room after worship with your questions, curiosities, and good wishes!

Bonus: At this gathering, you will also get an update from our Treasurer about First Unitarian's financial health so far this year. What a team!

Here are Rev. Nancy's answers to frequently asked questions about sabbaticals in general, and about this sabbatical in particular.

When is this sabbatical again?

My sabbatical begins on Saturday, October 15, 2016, and I return five months later, on Tuesday, March 14, 2017.

Who's "in charge" while Rev. Nancy is away?

Rev. Geoff Rimositis will serve as Lead Sabbatical Minister. Over his 25 years in the ministry, Rev. Geoff has taken on this role many times, but is especially excited about this one. Just back from his own sabbatical, he brings renewed energy and vision, and a passion for all the growth and opportunity afoot at First Unitarian right now! Intern Minister Rodney Lemery joins our ministerial team, learning and growing alongside us. Our Office Manager Sharmeen Enayat can answer questions about space use and events. And our volunteer leaders will actually run the congregation and all our programs—as they are already called to do!

Before I leave, we will produce a list of "whom to call" (or email) for different aspects of our congregational life while I am away. In fact, even when I am not away, often you should reach out to these lay leaders or other staff members for answers to your questions and help with your needs, rather than turning to the Senior Minister each time. This is a chance for us to establish some new and healthier habits that will sustain us all over the long haul!

How does a congregation benefit from a minister's sabbatical?

A minister's sabbatical—especially the Senior Minister's sabbatical—gives the congregation a chance to remember and experience how amazing YOU are. Without one individual serving as the symbolic focal point of congregational life—as my role often does—long-time members and brand-new visitors alike see how lively and shared our ministries really are. The imaginative, heartfelt, consistent work that our volunteers are already doing—to run the congregation; to present special events; to keep worship vital, meaningful, and creative; to offer deep and loving care to all in need; and more—all of these things become visible, and grow stronger, when the Senior Minister is away.

In the next five months, you will hear new voices in worship—and I urge you to SHOW UP on Sundays to honor these very special guests; truly they are all-stars in the firmament of San José's faith communities! You will celebrate our 150th Anniversary of Making Love Visible with the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the President's

Council (Sunday, November 13)! You will weather the storms of this election season, participate in Voter Engagement, and show up for our ministries in the public square, setting a tone for what we need to be and do as a faith community in the difficult months and years to come. For our work is ever evolving; we don't want to lose any momentum now.

When I return, we will meet each other with renewed strength and commitment! I can't wait ... But first, we all need this sabbatical.

How do ministers earn their sabbaticals, and how long are they usually?

For every year of service, a minister earns one month of sabbatical, up to six months total. The sabbatical "clock" restarts when the minister returns from a sabbatical. The time away can include that year's month of vacation time, as long as the total does not exceed six months. My first sabbatical took place January to June 2011, so this sabbatical arrives right on time.

What's the difference among "sabbaticals," "study breaks," and "vacations"?

It's confusing, right? My Letter of Agreement with you (our "contract") follows the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association guidelines. Every year I get one month of study break and one month of vacation. This plan recognizes ministers' need for ongoing study as well as rest and refreshment. Each year, I usually break up these benefits into chunks, taking shorter breaks during the main part of our "church year," and a bigger chunk during the summer. In the last two years, all of this time away has been spent researching my book project.

A sabbatical offers an extended period of time away. Everything goes deeper with this extra time: completing a major project (see "book project"!); learning new skills, deepening my spiritual life, exploring new practices in ministry, "thinking outside the box," establishing a renewed balance between personal and professional life, returning with fresh energy ...

Why do ministers get sabbaticals?

In a just world, EVERYONE would get a sabbatical! Ministerial life also presents special challenges. Here are just a few of the things I am called to do on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis: preach, teach, offer spiritual guidance and pastoral care, inspire (suggest?) a vision for our work together, manage some of the programs that bring this vision to life, speak for our faith in the public square, engage in community organizing and transformational change, study, write, tell stories, answer emails, make calls, rally the staff, coach congregational leaders ... Well, you get the picture!

Congregational ministry is often a 24/7 job, despite our combined best efforts to bring it down to 24/6 or better. It wakes us ministers up at night; it occupies 90-95% of our waking thoughts;

it both lifts and burdens our hearts; it stretches us to be better people than we could have imagined being. It is challenging, exhausting, sometimes hard on friends and family—yet filled on a daily basis with unexpected grace and beauty. I love it. I am grateful for it.

So: ministers really need sabbatical time to step away from the "tyranny of the urgent" and rest, reflect, reconnect with friends and family, get the "big picture" of where we're going together—and complete major projects! For instance ...

How will Rev. Nancy spend this sabbatical?

I will complete my major book-writing project, which has been in the works for two years! During this sabbatical, co-author Karin Lin and I will actually write the book we have been researching for Skinner House Books: "The Joy of the Journey: Unitarian Universalist Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism" (working title, forthcoming fall 2017). I am the primary writer, with Karin editing and consulting every step of the way. So I will be visiting lots of libraries and coffee shops on my travels, where I will be getting all those words on the page. Over the course of this project, Karin and I have grown into a transformative relationship, learned so much about ourselves and the congregations we have studied, and we have finally reached the point where we are ready to risk sharing our truths and observations, our hopes and dreams for our faith in this timely journey toward a multicultural, antiracist, 21st-century Unitarian Universalism.

You have my heartfelt thanks and love for the wise and generous practice of offering your ministers sabbaticals! Please do join me for a free-flowing conversation following worship on Sunday, October 9, at 12:30 p.m. in the Ramsden Fireside Room. Come to worship at 11:00 where I will offer my wishes for the congregation; then come to the Fireside Room after worship with your questions, curiosities, and good wishes!

With all my love,

Rev. Nancy



Democratic Governance

"A Leader and Voice for our Church"

— 2016 Ministerial Evaluation: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

by Robert Strong, Board President



One of the responsibilities of the Board of Trustees is to perform a "ministerial evaluation" of our ministers. The purpose of Ministerial Evaluation is to strengthen and focus the capacities and relationships of our Church and our Senior Minister to fulfill the Mission of this Church, to "Make Love Visible in All that We Say and Do".

The Evaluation Team completed its report this past week. Last spring, the Board appointed an Evaluation Team consisting of the elected Board members and **Madeline Morrow** and **Nancy Coleman** (the former President and Secretary).

Using the Board's written Ministerial Evaluation Process, 40 congregants were interviewed using the specified interview questions, concerning the work of the First Unitarian Church of San Jose's Senior Minister, **Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones**. The Board then wrote an evaluation, answering the specified evaluation questions, and Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones independently wrote a self-evaluation concerning the same questions. We then exchanged our writings, and together produced our report.



The summary states

From the Evaluation Team:

The Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones' goals, actions, voice and energies continue to be an excellent fit for the Mission, Vision and Ends of the First Unitarian Church of San

Jose. We, the Evaluation Team, see in her a leader and voice for our Church for this time and into the foreseeable future.

The Evaluation Team believes the challenges for our future can be well met by the congregation continuing to build its lay leadership and coordination, and by continuing to strive to "Make Love Visible in All We Do and Say".

Our desire is that as the congregation builds its lay leadership and coordination, our senior minister may focus more fully upon hearing her call, upon communicating it to and through our Church, and upon guiding us toward becoming an embodiment of the "Beloved Community".

From Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones:

The First Unitarian Church of San Jose and I remain a good match! The similarities between my responses to the ministerial evaluation questions and congregants' feedback are remarkable and reassuring. My strengths and areas for growth are listed below. [in the details]

Key needs: We need to get a Congregant Engagement (used to be called "membership") system in place. And I need to

strengthen my practices for self-care on a daily, weekly, monthly, seasonal basis.

The full report makes interesting reading, especially Rev.

Nancy's thoughts on her "call" and goals, and is available in the Newsletter Archives at <http://sanjoseuu.org/WhatsHappening/Newsletters/2016MinisterialEvaluation--Rev.NancyPalmerJones--FINALSept17.pdf>

(The newsletter archive is password protected. If do not have the password, please contact the Church office.)

In addition, during the interviews, many comments and suggestion were collected that are about the Church more broadly than the specific ministry of Rev Nancy Palmer Jones. These are included in the **supplemental report Opportunities and Needs of the Church** (which is included in the same document above). The Opportunities and Needs of the Church is directed to the lay leadership, to inform it of the suggestions and desires expressed during the interviews.

Homecoming

The September 11 service featured a youth procession of gifts for Julian Street Inn as well as the traditional Water Communion.



“Opportunities and Needs of the Church”

by Robert Strong, Board President

During the just-completed evaluation process for Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones, 40 congregants were interviewed to gather information about her ministries.

Since many concerns and hopes for the Church are not the direct responsibility of the senior minister, these were collected into a supplementary report, "Opportunities and Needs of the Church" directed to the lay leadership. This "Opportunities and Needs of the Church" is included in the final report of the Evaluation Team on the website with the Newsletter Archive at <http://sanjoseuu.org/WhatsHappening/Newsletters/2016/MinisterialEvaluation—Rev.NancyPalmer-Jones—FINALSept17.pdf>

Here is what the report highlights as concerns:

To support our ministers more effectively, the lay leadership and congregation should consider the following needs and opportunities of our Church identified during the evaluation process:

- We need more coordination and support for **development of leaders** and for **volunteerism**. This will enable both a shift of existing tasks to volunteers, and enable more to be done by more hands, and deepen connections among the community. Offer **direct service opportunities!** (Julian Street Inn; Habitat for Humanity — but you can get creative about the possibilities.)



- Our **social justice efforts** are central to our identity as a congregation. These need to be sustained and strengthened, particularly in regard to **Beloved Community**, and to the **homeless**. Among other initiatives, our senior minister's **book project** supports these efforts and also develops our minister's capabilities. The Homelessness Concerns Group has new wind beneath its wings. Leadership needs to work with them and with our interfaith partners (who have already done this) to open our space as a rotating winter shelter in the coming season.
- More **awareness of volunteer responsibilities** by the congregation may allow a wider window to establish engagement, than just the senior minister. This may allow the senior minister **more time for self-care**, as we expand our emphasis on volunteerism.
- The newly formed Young Adult group is an exciting development in the **expansion or continued support of the youth programs** and of the **parents**, along with the recently formed family support group of younger ages. Both of these are positive steps toward supporting our membership. However, more support of teens and their parents will be critical as we move forward, deepening our connection and support of each other.
- **Membership engagement** is central to our vision of our church in 2020. We seek to develop **leadership development and volunteer intake systems** that reach more folks where they are in these busy and traumatic times, and that engage everyone: first time visitors, longtime members, friends, and the community.

- We need to renew our efforts at **clear and engaging communication**. Our newsletter is vibrant. We need to update the look and feel of the **website**, and keep our **online presence** vital, inviting, and impactful. Perhaps our website can be better informed by/integrated with the newsletter. We also might consider how better to use our web presence to enable our congregants. We can help them find and engage with each other and our leadership with more sharing of what we are doing within our community and at large.
- We need to **structure the liaison role for the Building Committee** so that it is once more integrated into our monthly operations team.
- First Unitarian Church of San Jose needs to continue **mentoring of ministers-in-the-making** (Welcome, **Rodney Lemery!**)



By having a strong identity in social justice, by having a strong and vibrant youth programs, by having active coordination and recruiting of volunteers, by having clear and vibrant and engaging communication, we will attract, engage and retain members, thus sustaining and fulfilling our vision: strengthening our beloved community.

Reflection:

Just Stoppin' Here to Witness

By Robert Strong

The high point of this year's General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio—that annual gathering of thousands of Unitarian Universalists from all over the world—was an absolutely inspirational revival, led by the Rev. Dr. William Barber, the leader of North Carolina's NAACP, with music by the Holy Ghost (I kid you not!), proclaiming a new “justice movement” in America. Jumping up and down, rocking, shouting—who knew Unitarian Universalists could be this way?

Throughout the week, African-American Unitarian Universalists told stories of injury, transformation, recognition, and resolve. So often our religion gets stereotyped by some of our ancestors—those New England white elites. But at this year's General Assembly, black UUs talked about how important this faith is to them—and about how it's just missing a certain vitality. “Oh yeah,” I thought, “if we kick up the vitality, we can really speak at the heart level, not just the head.” I felt inspired! I've always wanted to be an evangelical UU!

Leaving GA, I traveled north to the town of my birth, Ionia, Michigan—to look in on a building I inherited on Main Street, and to tend the graves of my mother and father, and of my oldest brother. A pretty emotional visit.



I stayed in Grand Rapids, which has become very hip, with many college students and a revived downtown. And it has my favorite brewery, Founders. The downtown neighborhood near the brewery is active and a bit dicey, what with panhandlers and hookers and plenty of people just hanging out.

One night I was walking back from downtown to my AirBNB, when I saw ahead of me a police car stopped with its lights flashing. I crossed to the other side of the street—just force of habit, minding my own business.

But as I passed, I saw two white policemen speaking with a black couple, a man and a woman. And then I did something uncharacteristic: I stopped to watch.

One of the policemen took a card from the man (I presumed an ID),

and returned to the patrol car while the other continued talking with the woman.

I thought, this might be a touchy situation, maybe even dangerous for me. I realized I was afraid, but my fear was of the police; after all, they were the ones clearly carrying guns. And with that, I realized that I needed to step into this ... I felt like my presence would help ensure that the situation would stay calm. So I started practicing what I might say to the police: “Just here to witness, just to witness, what's going on.” And as slow and natural as I could muster, I walked across the street. I leaned casually on a parking meter, and watched.

The policeman stayed focused on the conversation with the young woman. “Are you sure you don't have any ID? Would you please check your pockets again?” The man with her spoke loudly: “She's with me. I'm responsible for her. She's with me.”

“Oh,” I thought, “this might be what a pimp & prostitution stop would look like.”

Oh man, judgments! I was there to witness, not to judge. Just to witness.



The policeman looked over at me. I raised my hands, shook my head a little, and said, “Just here to witness, just to witness, what’s going on.” He turned back to talk with the young woman.

I could not hear much. His manner was polite, and he appeared to be giving the woman some advice. She gave him her full attention. The other policeman returned, gave the ID back to the man, who reiterated, “She’s with me,” and the conversation wound down. I stayed where I was, did not say anything, still leaning on the parking meter. The policemen returned to their vehicle and left.

And this is when it gets embarrassing. With the police gone, I felt a rush of adrenaline. I felt like I still had to do something.

I was there to witness. Well, witness has many meanings. So witness I did.

Speaking primarily to the woman, I said I was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church. I told her that if she needed help, she would be welcomed at any Unitarian Universalist church. Not to convert her, but to help her.

Oh man, so many presumptions I made right there. About her circumstances, about the man she was with, about whether any random UU church would actually be helpful if she even needed it!

A new wave of judgments washed over me—judgments about myself. Whatever “change” I had experienced at General Assembly sure didn’t know how to express itself yet.

So I thanked them both for having allowed me to witness. And I turned and walked away.

And the comic note: almost imme-

diately I ran back to them. “I got turned around. Could you point me toward Division Street?” They pointed, and I headed off again.

What had just happened? This was not my usual sensible thing to have done. It was a huge change, to break my routine and step into my fear of authority, especially an authority whose abuses have recently become so public. What had happened?

Slowly it dawned on me: my experiences at General Assembly had taught me something about living life as a full human being. In a time of fear, what does it mean to live life as a full human being? What does it mean to have some relative power in a situation like this? Because to be able to stop and watch a police encounter, and be reasonably certain about my safety in doing so—this is part of what it means to be a privileged white male. If not me, who—even if I do make mistakes with all my assumptions? The change in me is still developing.

As I walked on home, these words came to me. An evangelical rap, unbidden. If I were evangelical, I would say I felt filled by the Holy Spirit.

*Any time I
see a person
being talked to
by police
I can lean on
a parking meter
and witness
casually.
When the police turn
and see me
I can say
so casually:
“Just stoppin’
here to witness.
Just to witness
carefully.”
“Just stoppin’
here to witness.
Just to witness
carefully.”*

Homecoming Volunteer Fair

We have a new annual tradition! The Homecoming Volunteer Fair after the September 11 service gave 23 programs and groups — from the coffee hosts to the choir to the service auction — a chance to exhibit themselves to the rest of the community. Photo credit: Dana Grover



Sunday Services / Servicios Domingo

Tema de octubre, 2016:
Vivir Con Nuestros Miedos

October 2016 Theme:
Living with Our Fears

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2 11 AM



“How Long ’til the Power of Love Will Come?”

“How long ’til this world is free from suffering?” the Alegría Singers ask in this Sunday’s haunting anthem. In this global moment, even the optimists among us may be struggling to find hope in the midst of so much sadness in our lives and in the world. October’s theme—“Living with Our Fears”—asks us first to face these sadnesses together, and then to discover the deeper resources that ground us in the real power of Love. The Reverend Nancy’s next-to-last sermon before her sabbatical offers a vision for what we can do, and how we can be, in the midst of these uncertain times.

Worship Leader: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones; **Worship Associate:** Bill Bowman

DOMINGO, 02 DE OCTUBRE 11 AM

“¿Hasta Cuánto el Poder del Amor Vendrá?”

“¿Hasta cuándo este mundo estará libre de sufrimiento?” Alegría Singers preguntan en un himno inolvidable este domingo. En este momento global, incluso los optimistas entre nosotros pueden estar luchando para encontrar esperanza en medio de tanta tristeza en nuestras vidas y en el mundo. El tema de octubre—“Vivir

con nuestros miedos”—nos pide primero afrontar estas tristezas juntos y luego descubrir los recursos más profundos que nos cimientan en el verdadero poder del amor. El sermón, el penúltimo de la Rev. Nancy antes de su año sabático, ofrece una visión de lo que podemos hacer, y cómo podemos estar, en medio de estos tiempos de incertidumbre.

Dirige: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones
Asociado de Culto: Bill Bowman

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 11 AM



Together When We’re Apart

What binds loving friends and communities together even when they experience separations of months and miles? What connects us at our core, across differences and distances? On this Sunday, we look right into the heart of our “separation anxieties” and find the sweet solace of our lasting commitments. And the Reverend Nancy shares her hopes and dreams for herself, for this community, and for all whom we touch during the Senior Minister’s upcoming sabbatical.

After worship, please join the Reverend Nancy and other leaders in the Ramsden Fireside Room for questions and answers about Rev. Nancy’s sabbatical and the book she is co-authoring, as well as a quick update on our congregation’s finances. Transparency and togetherness—two of our commitments that Make Love Visible!

Worship Leader: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones, with Rev. Geoff Rimositis and Rodney Lemery; **Worship Associate:** Mary Martin

DOMINGO, 09 DE OCTUBRE 11 AM

Juntos Cuando Estamos Separados

¿Qué une a los queridos amigos y comunidades incluso cuando experimentan separaciones de meses y de millas? ¿Lo que nos conecta en nuestro centro, a través de las diferencias y distancias? En este domingo, miramos justo en el corazón de nuestra “ansiedad de separación” y encontrar el dulce consuelo de nuestros compromisos duraderos. Y la Rev. Nancy comparte sus esperanzas y sueños para ella, para esta comunidad y para todos los que tocamos durante el próximo año sabático de la Ministra Decana.

Dirige: Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones, con el Rev. Geoff Rimositis y Rodney Lemery
Asociada de Culto: Mary Martin

Worship / Small-Group Themes for 2016-17

Based on congregants’ responses to the Spring, 2016 Worship Survey, FUC-SJ’s Worship Associates and Small-Group Ministry Content Team, working with Rev. Nancy, have chosen these themes for September 2016 through May 2017! Let’s go deep!

- September 2016: Change
- October 2016: Living with Our Fears
- November 2016: Integrity
- December 2016: Earth
- January 2017: Stages of Life
- February 2017: Kinship and Friendship
- March 2017: Understanding “the Other”
- April 2017: ... The Boundaries That Harm and That Heal Us
- May 2017: Forgiveness

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16 11 AM



Courage in the Face of Fear

Greek Philosopher Aristotle once said, "Courage is the first of human virtues because it makes all others possible." On this Sunday Intern Minister Rodney Lemery will explore the ways in which our lives and experiences both have the potential to stagnate us in fear and inspire us into courage. How might we harness the power of love to bolster courage when we most need it? We welcome you to come find out!

Worship Leaders: Rodney Lemery
Worship Associate: TBA

DOMINGO, 16 DE OCTUBRE 11 AM

Valor Frente al Miedo

El Filósofo Griego Aristóteles dijo una vez: "La valentía es la primera de las virtudes humanas, porque hace que todo lo demás sea posible". En este domingo el Ministro interino Rodney Lemery explorará las formas en las cuales nuestras vidas y experiencias tienen el potencial para estancarnos en el miedo e inspirarnos en valor. ¿Cómo podemos aprovechar el poder del amor para reforzar el valor cuando más lo necesitamos? ¡Le invitamos a venir a averiguarlo!

Dirigen: Rodney Lemery
Asociado de Culto: TBA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 11 AM

Baseball is...

Baseball is life...is this true? Join us as we bring you back to the innocence of

youth and the memories of baseball....and be invited to explore the deeper meaning of the game!

Worship Leaders: Sharon Grennan, Gareth Gill; **Worship Associate:** Julia Rodriguez



DOMINGO, 23 DE OCTUBRE 11 AM

Béisbol es...

Béisbol es vida... ¿es esto cierto? ¡Únase a nosotros trayendo de regreso la inocencia de la juventud y los recuerdos del béisbol... ¡y ser invitados a explorar el significado profundo del juego!

Dirige: Sharon Grennan, Gareth Gill
Asociada de Culto: Julia Rodriguez

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 11 AM



Diwali: A Festival of Lights

On this Sunday we celebrate the annual Indian Festival of Lights, Diwali! Offering special music, lighting the diyas, wearing festive Indian clothing, and sharing stories with substance, we build a homegrown Diwali tradition that honors its origins and blooms with new meaning in our sanctuary. Come draw on the wisdom of this tradition for the light it sheds on our here-and-now lives. Special treat: Our Day of the Dead

altar will already be up, getting ready for our celebration of Día de los Muertos the following Sunday! A First Unitarian experience through and through!

Worship Leaders: Rev. Geoff Rimositis, Gautam Biswas, Ram Kakarala, Sundar Mudupalli, and Kasthuri Veeraraghavan
Worship Associate: TBA

DOMINGO, 30 DE OCTUBRE 11 AM

Diwali: un Festival de Luces

¡En este domingo nosotros celebramos el anual Festival de las Luces de la India, Diwali! Con música especial, iluminación de las lámparas de aceite, vistiendo con ropa festiva de la India y compartiendo historias con sustancia, nosotros construimos una cosecha propia tradición de Diwali que honra sus orígenes y florece con nuevo significado en nuestro Santuario. Vengan a extraer en la sabiduría de esta tradición para que la luz ilumine sobre nuestras vidas aquí y ahora. Obsequio especial: Nuestro altar de Día de Muertos ya estará preparándose para la celebración del Día de los Muertos el siguiente domingo! ¡Una experiencia de la Primera Iglesia Unitaria de cabeza a los pies!

Dirigen: Rev. Geoff Rimositis, Gautam Biswas, Ram Kakarala, Sundar Mudupalli y Kasthuri Veeraraghavan
Asociado de Culto: TBA

ALBANZAS EN ESPAÑOL 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.

Come join us for this simple prayer-meditation service (without sermon) at 10:15 am, held in a mixture of English and Spanish in the Church Library.

CIRCLING AROUND

by Torchy Hunter



If I could write an elegy (too sad), I would write one for summer. So to feel better, I went around asking you what you did this summer.

An intellectual, introspective, sober group like us will understand when I first list our Leader: **Rev**

Nancy wrote a book. Nobody came close. The funniest pair of answers I got was from the **Guffeys**: **Jim** looked blank

and finally said "Nothing". **Jan** said they went to Alaska and saw Denali two days in a row! **Joy-Ellen Lipsky** took up with the Compassion Games.org. **Bob and Jenny Redfern** drove 6,000 miles in a Subaru and the only problem was a rock in the windshield. **Liza Shamakian** became Special Ed Dept. Chair at her school. **Rick Morris** took one of the kids to the Copa America Centenario.

Gary MacCumber laid bricks. (He might be available.) **Steve Rodriguez** built a shed, as the supervisor. Does that count? **Nancy Coleman** is another "nothing"-sayer. Hardly believable, considering **Jean Embree** has 100 new friends in the new facility she moved into. **John Ector** is teaching a jazz class at Mission College,

in which he starts with musical innocents and removes their innocence. **The Halens** made it to Hawaii. You probably didn't know I was born there, in Laupahoehoe on the Big Island. The town was removed by a tsunami. **Olga Loya** was in good ol' Chicago, and **Ed Gardner** is relieved to report his daughter has graduated from the University of Oregon, with a degree in Archaeology, and is living at home.

Mary Helen Daughtery escaped to the Sierras, at Immigrant Basin, a place one of the presidential candidates would clean out in a hurry.

Dan says I have to learn to like, if not love, fall. Ripeness is all, and all that, instead of grudgingly looking at it as prelude to winter. I will need your help.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TUESDAYS

8-9 PM



Guitars Aloud!

Fireside Room (in Library Oct. 11)

Guitarists! Let's get together each Tuesday to play UU hymns and other music suitable for services. This free event (for multiple levels) will help you develop your musicianship as you serve the church and its ideals. Ages teen through adult are welcome. Please call **Sally Cooperrider** (408-204-1046) before attending for the first time as the group occasionally skips a week.

WEDNESDAYS

7-9 PM



Alegría 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. Questions? **Liz Owen** lowen@data-time.com

WEDNESDAYS

6 PM

"Breathe in Peace, Breath out Love" Silent Meditation

Ramsden Fireside Room

We meditate in the Ramsden Fireside Room. We begin with ringing the meditation bell and setting the timer for 30 min-

utes. Come in the door at the end of the ramp and quietly enter the Fireside Room from the hall past the elevator. You can sit in a chair or bring a cushion to meditate on. All are welcome to stay afterwards for a check in about our meditation experience and practice. Contact, the **Rev. Geoff Rimositis**, GRimositis@gmail.com.



2ND AND 4TH SUNDAYS 12:45 PM

Young-at-Heart Fellowship Group Sunday 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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2 10-11AM

HUUmanati Forum

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. More information: **Amy Baldwin**, 408.730.9622.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2 12:45 PM

Band of Writers

Youth Room

Writers are encouraged to look through the things they've written over the past few years and submit the best of them to **Catherine Pelizzari** at caleeson@aol.com for inclusion in the newest Band of Writers published collection. 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, OCTOBER 2 12:45 PM

Homelessness Concerns Group Sunday Meeting

Ramsden Fireside Room

This newly-formed group meets on the 1st Sunday of the month to concentrate its efforts on finding a meaningful way to add to the resources already available to the homeless in our own neighborhood. At the October 2nd meeting speakers from PATH, one of the organizations at work in

our neighborhood, will tell us what they are doing as well as educate us about the population they are serving. Please join us!

SUNDAY, OCT. 2 2:15-5:30 PM



South Bay Contra Dance

Hattie Porter Hall

Social dance for all ages to live music. If you can walk, you can contra dance. No experience or partner needed. All dances taught and called. First time visitors are free if they come to the newcomers' lesson at 2:15. Dance starts at 2:30. Wear comfortable shoes. Suggested donation - \$5-\$10; no one will be turned away for lack of funds. All details available at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/South-BayContraDance/> or <http://bacds.org/sbc>.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6 1-3 PM

Women's Alliance

Ramsden Fireside Room

We will be sharing our thoughts on Chapters 1-4 of Ayaan Hirsi Ali's bestselling memoir, *Nomad: From Islam to America: A Personal Journey Through the Clash of Civilizations*. Contact **Nancy Coleman** at nbc Coleman@gmail.com or 408.256.1622 for further information. All are welcome.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7 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 on his cell phone: 408-421-6492.

MONDAY, OCT. 10 & 24 7 PM

UU Knitters

Julia Rodriguez's Home

Join the drop-in group of lively crafters: including knitting, crochet, beading (so far) on 2nd and 4th Mondays. All levels of experience are welcome! Call **Julia** at 408 379-0759 for directions.

Continued on the next page

Stay Up-to-Date with Facebook & sanjoseuu.org/whats happening



The latest church events, photos, and updates can be found on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/FUCSJ and our website sanjoseuu.org — find out about upcoming services on the homepage, and all other events under "What's Happening."



MONDAY, OCTOBER 10 7-9 PM

Social Justice Council Meeting

Conference Room

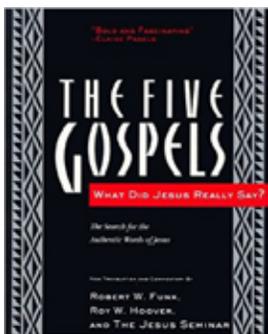
Please join the council on Monday, October 10, at 7:00 pm in the downstairs conference room to make your voice heard about the issues under discussion. We regularly meet the 2nd Mondays of the month. For more information or if you are locked out, call or text **John Burk** at 408-259-3781.

THURSDAY, OCT. 13 11:30 AM-1 PM

SiVIC Forum: The Ways of Compassion (Open to Everyone, Free) Chung Tai Zen Center, 750 E. Arques Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94085

The Ways of Compassion: Method to Practice Forgiveness and Loving-kindness Goal.

THURSDAY, OCT. 13 & 27 7-9 PM



Christian Origins Book Study – The Five Gospels: What Did Jesus Really Say?

by the Jesus Seminar and Robert Funk

Our Christian Origins Book Study is scheduled for the fourth Thursday each month from 7-9 pm. The October 13 session will be a repeat/extension of the first session in September, focusing on the Preface and front matter (pages ix-xxii) and the Introduction (pages 1-38). These first few pages introduce us to the foundations of the scholars' work in determining what is historical. The October 27 session will focus on Mark 1-8 (39-81) [42 Pages]. Mark, as we will learn, is the first of the gospels to be written (not Matthew), and we will begin to see what the scholars decided Jesus was most likely to have said. Questions? Contact **Bob Miess** at Bob@BobMiess.com or 925-392-5901.

FRI., OCTOBER 14 7:30PM
SAT., OCTOBER 14 7:30PM
SAT., OCTOBER 22 7:30PM
SUN., OCTOBER 23 2:30PM



The Last Chance Lounge — Our Annual Musical Mystery Comedy

Hattie Porter Hall

Thing just aren't right at **The Last Chance Lounge**. There's trouble brewing among the staff, health code violations, a love triangle, suspicious pasts and a few surprises! Laugh along at our 2016 mystery musical comedy and help us figure out who will be murdered by suggesting motives.

Karaoke!

The lounge offers karaoke one night a week, and audience members are invited to show their stuff! (Please sign up by contacting **Henry Ruddle** (rcreative1@gmail.com) so we can arrange a song rehearsal before your big night.

Tickets

This year, tickets are just \$15 for every performance. Come an hour early and join in a potluck dinner or lunch! Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase during the show. Buy tickets from **Jay Porter** during social hour or online at: sanjoseuu.org/lastchancelounge.html

MONDAY, OCT. 3 DEADLINE
SAT/SUN, OCT. 15 & 16 SUPPERS

Circle Suppers

Have you been hearing about Circle Suppers?

I like circle dinners because I meet new people and old friends in the warmth of people's homes. I enjoy hosting the dinners because I don't have to cook! I enjoy the rich conversations that UU's engage in allowing us to get to know each other on a deeper level.
Joyce Miller

I like that I make one dish and end up with a multi-course feast. Les Faby



Why not give it a try this month?

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. Hosting is not a requirement for all attendees. Singles and couples, long-time church members or new to this church community, all are welcome. Some folks attend often and others only occasionally.

The suppers in October will be Saturday the 15th and Sunday the 16th. The deadline to sign up is Monday, October 3. Contact **Barbara Derbyshire** at CircleSuppers@AOL.com.

SUNDAY, OCT. 16 2:30-5:00 PM

San José English Country Dance

Hattie Porter Hall

Enjoy truly social group dancing to classical and folk music from the last five centuries! In our pattern dances, you dance with the whole room. Come alone or with friends — we change partners after every dance. All group dances taught and prompted, no experience necessary, no complicated footwork. For the best experience, come at the beginning of the dance — later patterns are more complex. Suggested donation: \$5-\$10; no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

MONDAY, OCT. 17 7:30-9:00 PM



HUManati 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.

SATURDAY, OCT. 29 7 PM

Carl Franzen Studio Concert

Sanctuary

Join us for gala concert with the students of the Franzen Opera Studio featuring Grand Opera arias and musical theater. Reservations are not necessary. Free will donations will be accepted at the door – proceeds go to the First Unitarian Church Music Program.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 7 PM



WHADDA UU KNOW? — A Comedy Game Show

Hattie Porter Hall

Enjoy an all new show with all new games and contestants, as well as a new VIP, Councilman Raul Peralez of the Third District.

Contestants go head-to-head in trivia games heavy on word play, music and fun

led by your emcee **Nerdy Hurdle** (Henry Ruddle). Music Director **Trench Mojo** (John M. Ector) will co-host and, along with **Hankie Candies** (Dianne Saichek), provide music and musical games. Table games will entertain you during the boring bits (if any).

Come Join the Fun!

It's easy and fun to be a contestant, and fun for the audience as well (of course!). For example, during our August 13 event, the game "Celebrity Mash-Ups" sounded intimidating at first, but once the contestants caught on it was easy. The clues hinted at three names of celebrities that could be arranged in a chain because of matching first and last names. Here's one:

If the director of "She's Gotta Have It" and "Malcom X" got together with the tough guy from "The Dirty Dozen" who sang in "Paint Your Wagon" and the Motown singer best known for "Let's Get it On" and "Heard it Through the Grapevine," you would get ... Answer: Spike Lee Marvin Gaye.

Here's another one:

If an enormous white whale got together with the host of American Bandstand and the alterego of Superman, you would get ... Answer: Moby Dick Clark Kent.

Tickets

Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase. Free will donation at the door or buy tickets in advance with PayPal or a credit card at <http://sanjoseuu.org/ContactUs/donate.shtml>. (Suggested: \$10). All proceeds benefit the music program. For questions, to offer help, e-mail (emcee) **Henry Ruddle** at rcreative1@gmail.com.



Hiking Schedule (October 2016)

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



SATURDAY, OCT. 1 8:30 AM

Huddart County Park, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Page Mill Park & Ride.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 5 8:30 AM

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

SATURDAY, OCT. 8 8:30 AM

Alum Rock Park, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at VTA Park and Ride on Capitol at Alum Rock. Take Alum Rock exit off of Highway 680, turn right on Capitol, go three locks to VTA station. Turn right into large parking area shared with Monte Vista apt. complex. Drive to the back.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 12 8:30 AM

Saratoga Gap/Long Ridge Loop, 5 miles, moderate. Meet at Saratoga parking lot. Turn right into first driveway past the Union 76 station and drive to back.

SATURDAY, OCT. 15 8:30 AM

Palo Alto Baylands, 5 miles, moderate. Meet at trailhead at the end of San Antonio Road. Plenty of street parking.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 19 8:30 AM

Almaden Quicksilver, Mockingbird Hill entrance, 6 miles, moderate. Meet at Almaden Plaza Shopping Center across from Bed, Bath and Beyond.

SATURDAY, OCT. 22 8:30 AM

Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve. Two hikes: one long, around 7-8 miles, moderate to strenuous, and one moderate, about 4 miles. We will meet to carpool from the parking lot at the Berryessa Community Center at 3050 Berryessa Road.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 26 8:30 AM

Sanborn Sunnyvale Mt. trailhead to Castle Rock. Shuttle hike, 5 miles, moderate. Meet at parking lot in Saratoga. Turn right into first driveway past the Union 76 station and drive to back.

SATURDAY, OCT. 29 8:30 AM

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



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, October 19

Mailing: Wednesday, October 26

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

October 2, Sunday, 12:45 pm, Band of Writers, Youth Room

October 2, Sunday, HUManati Forum, 10-11am, Hattie Porter Hall

October 3, Monday, Deadline to sign up for Circle Suppers

October 6, Thursday, 1-3 pm, Women's Alliance Meeting, Fireside Room

October 7, Friday, 8:00 pm, Dances of Universal Peace, Sanctuary

October 13 and 27, Thursdays, 7-9 pm, Book Study, by Video/Teleconference

October 13, Thursday, 11:30 am-1 pm, The Ways of Compassion, Chung Tai Zen Center in Sunnyvale

October 15 & 16, Saturday & Sunday, Circle Suppers, contact Barbara at CircleSuppers@aol.com; sign-up deadline Monday, October 3

October 17, Monday, 7:30-9 pm, HUMananti Monday Meeting, Library

November 13, Sunday, 11 am and following the service, Celebrating 150 Years of Making Love Visible, Sanctuary and HPH

December 11, Sunday, 1-3 pm, Defying the Nazis: the Sharps' War; a Film by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky, Sanctuary

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.