



ur Church Circular

February 2017

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February Theme:

Kinship and Friendship

Tema de febrero:

Parentesco y Amistad



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH of San José



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Dena Dickinson, Sandra Iwamoto and friends traveled to Washington, D.C. to take part in the Women's March on Saturday, January 21.



In Our Own Voices: Kinship and Friendship

By Julia Rodriguez

“In Our Own Voices” shares congregants’ free-flowing responses to the theme of the month.

We draw these responses from on-line surveys and use them in creating worship, small-group ministry content, and other opportunities for spiritual growth.

Kinship and friendship go hand in hand. What makes a strong friendship? What are the ties that bind us? First Unitarian Church of San José provides a family for many of our congregants.

Chosen Family

For me, kinship and friendship are practically synonymous, as my "chosen family" of friends and of this community is truly my "kinship group." But I want always to be feeling my way into a deeper kinship that transcends all boundaries, for my theology tells me that this is fundamentally true: we are all related--humans and other-than-human existence. If we look at family systems theory and strive to create the best "family" we can across all these kinship ties, how will we behave every single day? With kindness and compassion, patience and curiosity, and a fierce commitment to making this Earth a better home for all.

It's heartening to feel we can create kinship--chosen families---with people not related to us through blood.

Marvelous idea. I don't know what kinship actually means, though I've always liked the

word! I guess in a modern context it might mean making family out of non-blood relatives? Which we all do. It would be wonderful to have an assignment in which we show caring for others at church, a small gesture to treat them as kin.

Great. Chosen friends vs biological family. How to come to peace and sanity with our given family. What to forgive? When to turn to non-kin? What is pictured on your Christmas card?

Creating Friendship

What does it mean to be a friend? What makes a friend? Friendships come and go. How can we see things from other people's points of view? How can we step outside of our comfort zones? How can we best support one another? How can we best honor one another? Being close to others; embracing different paths. Relying on one another. Kindness; reciprocity. Do unto others as you would them do unto you ("everything else is commentary"). Reaching out to help one another.

How can we build kinship and friendship in fast and difficult world?

Good topic, interesting to explore, very relevant to having and maintaining a happy life.

Nothing comes to mind with this topic suggestion, except warmth and gratitude for my own kin and friends.

What Weakens Friendship

Envy and competitiveness can destroy a friendship.

It's easy to be friends when it's easy. What about when it's not?

Is kinship blood-related or just CHOICE related? Why aren't friendships forever? Some seem to survive the test of time and others...not. What changes cause people who were close to become not close?

Church Fostered Family

I would like more of this one. As an elder living alone, the only social network I have is my church.

Create two mini-events each year that bring together long-term and new-ish members of the congregation, children included. It could be an after-church "coffee shop date", for example. Create two mini-events that bring together "birds of a feather": readers, artists, musicians, athletes, travelers, parents of very small children, adults caring for their parents, parents caring for adult children, etc. It could be an after-church "coffee shop date" with signs on tables indicating the affinity group. In a sermon, address the importance of "kinship" that is not dependent on blood-ties: the family one creates from people nearest and dearest, who share our loves of life, no matter their actual relationship.

I have friends at First Unitarian Church of San José, but could we be paired up with someone? Have a church "buddy"? We could learn about each other, and lean on each other for support. If they aren't making a reflection, in our Small Groups, etc., how do I know what is going on in their life, their challenges, gifts. How are we similar or different?

I am a huge fan of radical love and radical inclusiveness. As I have friends and kin across the spectrum of human condition, I think we as Unitarian Universalists could grow into a more radical love that doesn't "other" those who have radical differing views from our own. How do we manifest this radical love to keep the relationships engaged so that mutual learning can occur? Is there ever a point where this radical love can't win?

Save the Date: GA 2017

June 21-25, New Orleans, LA

Planning has begun for General Assembly 2017 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, in New Orleans

Steeped in a history of influences from Europe, the Caribbean, and Africa, it is one of America's most culturally and historically-rich destinations. It is a city known for its music, food, architecture, and festivals. Contact Board President **Rob Strong** or **Rev. Geoff Rimositis** to apply to be a delegate.



Kinship on The Streets of the Tenderloin

By the Reverend Geoff Rimositis



*What holds me separate?
What keeps me separated?
As I walk the streets,
What still connects me?*

*Faithful Fools Street Ministry,
San Francisco Tenderloin District

The most challenging and spiritually deepening Coming of Age Retreat for youth in 8th-10th grades is the Social Justice Retreat with Jiwon Chung and the Faithful Fools Street Ministry in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco.

Jiwon Chung is the past president of the national organization for Theatre of the Oppressed, and artistic director of Kairos Theater Ensemble and adjunct professor at the Starr King School for the Ministry at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, where he teaches Theater and Social Justice. The focus of his work is in the application of theater as a tool for social and political change, using Theatre of the Oppressed to challenge, resist and transform systemic oppression and structural violence, and to redress large scale historical atrocity and injustice.

On Friday, January 13 Jiwon led youth and adult leaders through Theater of the Oppressed Games and Exercises and finished the evening with a discussion of the causes and effects of homelessness; talking with us about who are the unsheltered.

Jiwon helped us to look at the root causes, the systemic issues, that perpetuate poverty and homelessness. Then on Saturday, January 14, **Alex Darr**, and the Faithful Fools Street Ministry volunteer shadowers (our own **Rick Merritt** came to volunteer) oriented and debriefed with us an experience of walking the streets of the Tenderloin, eating at Glide Memorial or Saint Anthony's, and being open to whatever the Tenderloin had to teach us that day.

We were invited to recite the Fool's Mantra as we walked the streets: What holds me separate? What keeps me separated? As I walk the streets, what still connects me? I shadowed two youth that day and they decided to eat lunch at St. Anthony's. While I was waiting in line, I broke through my separation and reached out to the man next to me. He taught me that 888 is Jesus' number and that he himself was an angel. Who was I to say he wasn't? It was an interesting encounter and I let myself go and experienced his world and truth. The human connection I made with him stayed with me for the rest of the retreat. I felt a kinship, a human bond, that transcends labels and diagnoses. I did not judge but remained open to what angel Doug could teach me. I was uplifted by the meeting of our spirits.

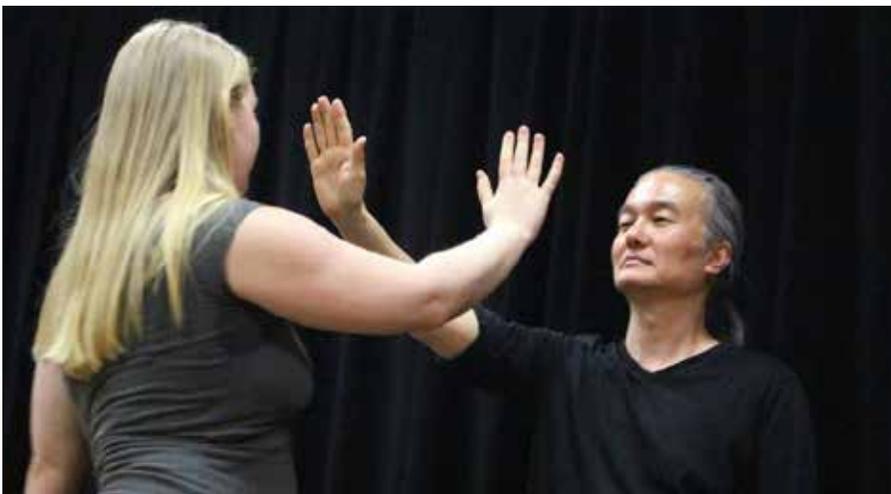
Angel Doug reminded me that we are all part of the great circle of life that sustains and fills us with wonder and il-

luminates us with the beauty of our Mother Earth. Here is a traditional Lakota Sioux prayer, Aho Mitakuye Oyasin (All my relations) to affirm what connects us.

Thanks to **Felipe Alexander** on Facebook <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yCW0lqeaMk>

I honor you in this circle of life with me today. I am grateful for this opportunity to acknowledge you in this prayer....

- To the Creator, for the ultimate gift of life, I thank you.
- To the mineral nation that has built and maintained my bones and all foundations of life experience, I thank you.
- To the plant nation that sustains my organs and body and gives me healing herbs for sickness, I thank you.
- To the animal nation that feeds me from your own flesh and offers your loyal companionship in this walk of life, I thank you.
- To the human nation that shares my path as a soul upon the sacred wheel of Earthly life, I thank you.
- To the Spirit nation that guides me invisibly through the ups and downs of life and for carrying the torch of light through the Ages, I thank you.
- To the Four Winds of Change and Growth, I thank you.
- You are all my relations, my relatives, without whom I would not live. We are in the circle of life together, co-existing, co-dependent, co-creating our destiny. One not more important than the other. One nation evolving from the other and yet each dependent upon the one above and the one below. All of us a part of the Great Mystery.
- Thank you for this Life.



Parentesco en las Calles del Tenderloin

por el Rev. Geoff Rimositis



*¿Qué me mantiene aparte?
¿Qué es lo que me mantiene separado?
Cuando camino las calles,
¿Qué es lo que todavía me conecta?*

***Ministerio Callejero de los Fieles Bufones,
Distrito Tenderloin de San Francisco**

El más desafiante y profundo retiro espiritual de la mayoría de edad para los jóvenes de 8-10 grados es el Retiro de Justicia Social con Jiwon Chung y el Ministerio Callejero de los Fieles Bufones en el Distrito de Tenderloin de San Francisco.

Jiwon Chung es el pasado presidente de la organización nacional del Teatro del Oprimido y director artístico del Teatro Ensemble Kairos y profesor adjunto en la Escuela Starr King para el Ministerio en la Unión Teológica de Graduados en Berkeley, donde enseña teatro y Justicia Social. El foco de su trabajo está en el uso del teatro como herramienta para el cambio social y político, usando el Teatro del Oprimido para desafiar, resistir y transformar la opresión sistémica y la violencia estructural, y para reparar injusticias y atrocidades históricas a gran escala.

El viernes, 13 de enero Jiwon dirigió a jóvenes y adultos líderes a través del Juegos y Ejercicios del Teatro de los Oprimidos y terminó la noche con una discusión sobre las causas y efectos de la falta de vivienda; hablado con nosotros

sobre quiénes son los desabrigados. Jiwon nos ayudó a mirar las raíces de las causas, las cuestiones sistémicas que perpetúan la pobreza y la falta de vivienda. Luego el sábado, 14 de enero, **Alex Darr** y los voluntarios encubiertos del Ministerio Callejero de los Fieles Bufones (**Rick Merritt** estuvo de voluntario) nos orientaron y celebraron con nosotros una experiencia de caminar por las calles del Tenderloin, comer en Glide Memorial o en Saint Anthony's y estar abiertos a todo lo que tenía el Tenderloin para enseñarnos ese día.

Fuimos invitados a recitar el Mantra del bufón mientras caminábamos las calles: ¿Qué me mantiene aparte? ¿Qué es lo que me mantiene separado? Cuando camino las calles, ¿Qué es lo que todavía me conecta? Espié a dos jóvenes ese día y ellos decidieron almorzar en St. Anthony's. Mientras estuve esperando en la línea yo quebré mi separación y busque al hombre a mi lado. Él me enseñó que el 888 es número de Jesús y que él mismo era un ángel. ¿Quién era yo para decir que él no lo era? Fue un encuentro interesante y me deje ir y experimente su mundo y su verdad. La conexión humana que hice con él se quedó conmigo para el resto del retiro. Sentí un parentesco, un vínculo humano, que trasciende las etiquetas y diagnósticos. No juzgue, pero seguía estando abierto a lo que el ángel Doug podría enseñarme. Yo estaba animado en la reunión de nuestros espíritus.

Ángel Doug me recordó que todos somos parte del gran círculo de la vida que nos sustenta y nos llena de asombro y nos ilumina con la belleza de nuestra Madre Tierra. Esta es una oración tradicional Lakota Sioux, Aho Mitakuye Oyasin (todas mis relaciones) para afirmar lo que nos conecta.

Gracias a **Felipe Alexander** en Facebook <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yCWOlqeaMk>

Yo te honro en este círculo de vida conmigo hoy. Yo estoy agradecido por

esta oportunidad de conocerte en esta oración. . . .

- Al creador, para el mejor regalo de la vida, gracias.
- A la nación mineral que ha construido y mantenido mis huesos y todos los fundamentos de la experiencia de la vida, gracias.
- A la nación de la planta que sostiene mis órganos y cuerpo y me da hierbas curativas para la enfermedad, gracias.
- A la nación animal que me alimenta de su propia carne y ofrece su compañía fiel en este caminar de la vida, gracias.
- A la nación humana que comparte mi camino como un alma en la rueda sagrada de la vida terrenal, gracias.
- A la nación del espíritu que me guía invisiblemente a través de los altibajos de la vida y para llevar la antorcha de la luz a través de las edades, gracias.
- A los cuatro vientos de cambio y crecimiento, gracias.
- Tú eres todas mis relaciones, mis parientes, sin los cuales no sería vivir. Nosotros estamos en el círculo de la vida juntos, convivimos, co-existimos, co-creamos nuestro destino. Uno no más importante que el otro. Una nación evolucionando de los otros y sin embargo cada uno dependiente del que está arriba y del que está abajo. Todos nosotros una parte del Gran Misterio.
- Gracias por esta Vida.



Children and Youth Classes



Youth Classes for February

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5

1st -4th grades — A Story from the San People (Creation Myths)

5th-8th grades — A World of Sharing

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

Coming of Age Mentor/Youth Gathering after service (12:45-2:00 pm)

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12

1st -4th grades — A Shinto Story from Japan (The Moon and the Hare)

5th-8th grades — To Do Justice and Love Mercy

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

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19

1st -4th grades — A Story from the Yoruba Tradition (The Golden Chain)

5th-8th grades — Each of Us Can Be a Force for Good

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

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26

1st -4th grades — A Story from the Hebrews of Palestine (The Garden of Eden)

5th-8th grades — What Does it Mean to Forgive?

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

Upcoming Adult RE Events

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12 9:30 AM

Roots and Wings UU Parenting 0-10 Years Group

Classrooms 4-6, Childcare Provided

Session: *HOW TO TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT RACE*, World Trust Educational Services, Dia Penning, Dr. Allison Briscoe-Smith, Aimee Reeder, Edited by Ryan Mehar

“We live in a complex world. We are all trying the best we can to support the growth, health, and understanding of our kids. Today, as we get information at warp speed and events are televised from all parts of the globe, we are exposed to things that we might not have had an understanding of 20, 30, 40 or 50 years ago. As a parent that is interested in develop-

By the Reverend Geoff Rimositis

ing an honest and robust dialogue with your child about race and equity, there are a few things that you will want to keep in mind. It's not too soon! By 6 months old, your child can distinguish between skin color and hair texture. As toddlers, children develop preferences and start to associate 'good' with people that look like them. As preschoolers, they are all about sorting and are finding many ways to practice exclusion. By supporting their questions and guiding them in positive directions when they ask questions that seem jarring, we are setting them up for being inclusive and healthy adults.”

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 9:30 AM

Tweens & Teens Parent Group (10 -18 years)

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. Meetings facilitated by **Rev. Geoff Rimositis**



Bill Baldwin at the San Jose offshoot of the Women's March on Saturday, January 21.

Announcing Adult OWL...

By Rodney Lemery, Interim Minister

We are sexual beings and often have not fully integrated this aspect of our mental and physical being into our lives.

When we haven't, wounding around this important area of our existence is experienced. However, when we realize and honor our sexuality, a richer more complete actuality is achieved. **Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education** and **Sexuality and Our Faith** curricula are the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist bold antidotes to our ever conflicted culture about sexuality. The inability to integrate this aspect of self into our lives results in mixed messages and misinformation.

The curricula support and nurture four sexuality values:

- Self-Worth
- Sexual Health
- Responsibility
- Justice and Inclusivity

Schedule:

Date	Time	Chp	Topic	Location
2/9/2017	7-9 pm	1	Sexuality and Values	Fireside Room
2/16/2017	7-9 pm	2	Sexuality and Communication	Fireside Room
2/23/2017	7-9 pm	3	Sexuality and Spirituality	Fireside Room
3/9/2017	7-9 pm	4-5	Discovering the Sexual Self and Other	Fireside Room
3/16/2017	7-9 pm	6-7	Sexual Attraction and Early Relationships	Fireside Room
3/23/2017	7-9 pm	8	Sexuality and Committed Relationships	Fireside Room
3/30/2017	7-9 pm	9	Guest Panel on Sexual Diversity	Conf. Room
4/20/2017	7-9 pm	10-11	Sexuality and Family	Fireside Room
3/30/17	7-9 pm	12	Sexual Health	Fireside Room

Our Unitarian Universalist faith compels us to create safe settings where people can come to understand and respond to the challenges facing them as sexual beings. As faith communities, we promote justice for all people, and we affirm the dignity of every individual.

Join our facilitators **Kristin Rivers** and Intern Minister **Rodney Lemery** as they assist us this February, Thursday evenings,

in our exploration of sexuality and sexual health. The class will provide us an opportunity to step back, reflect, and evaluate these messages so that we can increase our ability to act on and communicate our faith-based sexual values.

For additional information or to register for this free adult education class, please contact Intern Minister Rodney Lemery at rlemery@meadville.edu.

MUUGs Program—Middle School Youth

MUUGs stands for "Middle School Unitarian Universalist Gatherings," and it is a district-wide program created to help congregations meet the needs of their middle school youth.

MUUGs programming is designed for Unitarian Universalist middle-school youth and most consistent with the

needs of 7th and 8th graders. Also welcome are youth in 6th grade, and those in 9th grade who have not bridged to YRUU from MUUGs. Our district planning group for the MUUGs' Program, the MUUGs' Ministry, determined the following dates for future retreats:

- March 17-19
- July 3rd-8th Middleschool Camp at

Mendocino Headlands State Park, Mendocino, CA

Marlene Abel, the MUUGS Registrar, will let us know more when she knows the location of the January and March retreats.

Save the dates for these retreats. Questions? Contact **Rev. Geoff Rimositis**, GRIMOSITIS@gmail.com.

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/FUCSJ and our website sanjoseuu.org — find out about upcoming services on the homepage, and all other events under "What's Happening."



Democratic Governance

Our Moral Positions and Statements in Support

by Robert Strong, President of FUCSJ Board

On January 29th, we will have a "special Congregational Meeting" to consider a Moral Position concerning Racial and Ethnic Equity. As I write this, it is Inauguration Day, and President Donald Trump has delivered his inaugural address, which seemed to me to be more of a continuation of his divisive campaign speeches, rather than a positive unifying and inclusive inaugural address.

Our congregational meeting is yet two weekends away, so I cannot yet say whether the Moral Position under consideration will have passed by the time you read this, but I hope in some form it will. Being able to join publicly in solidarity with people marginalized or threatened by policies or actions due to their racial or ethnic heritage, will be invaluable. Simply being able to join publicly in solidarity will be an important tool in Making Love Visible in our work towards achieving human equity.

In the past, the bylaws required every public statement to be individually approved directly by the congregation in a congregational meeting. That in itself made producing a timely public statement rather difficult. With the new bylaws (2013), a mechanism was put in place to allow public statements on current events to be more easily made.

The mechanism has two parts, a Moral Position, and then Statements in Support of that Moral Position. A Moral Position is a foundational document. In my personal opinion, generally it identifies an aspect of our Church's Mission that the congregation considers important enough to be explicitly stated. When a current event or action within our community, nation, world seems an egregious violation of a Moral

Position of the Church, a "public Statement in Support" of that Moral Position about that current event can be drafted and considered by the Board for adoption.

We saw, with the Board's rapid adoption of the "Statement In Support of the Rights of Nature: Standing Rock", that this mechanism allowed us to quickly respond to support an issue of national importance. The Congregation already had passed a foundational "Moral Position: On the Rights of Nature". That Moral Position, adopted by the Congregation, enabled the Board to consider whether the Board should adopt "Statement of the Rights of Nature: Standing Rock". Without that foundational "Moral Position: On the Rights of Nature", the Board could not make a public statement on the issue at all. Getting the Board to consider, discuss, and achieve consensus was much more responsive than achieving the same through educating the entire congregation and the calling and conducting a congregational meeting.

Our Church's Mission is sometimes summarized as "Make Love Visible in All

that We Say and Do". We are currently working toward adoption by the Congregation of a Moral Position: Racial and Ethnic Equity. If and when that Moral Position is adopted, the Board will be authorized to approve on behalf of the Church public statement about current events or policies that (by a vote of the Board) violate our Moral Position on Racial and Ethnic Equity.

We do not yet have written Moral Positions on some of the aspects of what we as a Congregation believe our mission means. If you would like to work on cooperatively creating such, please contact the Social Justice Committee for guidance and direction.

Today, after several months of feeling despair, I am basking in the glow of the joy and positive energy of the Women's March. Hope is on the rise. Commitments, goals and actions are being considered. Seeing so many people participating joyfully in the messy processes of democracy has brought me renewed faith that "Love, Not Hate, Makes America Great".

Congregational Meeting for Election of Officers - March 26th

by Robert Strong, President of FUCSJ Board

Our annual Congregational Meeting for the election of officers is scheduled for Sunday, March 26th. Please save the date! A slate of candidates is yet to be announced.

As we've witnessed these past few months, showing up to participate in elections is at the heart of the democratic process. Although our congregational elections are not likely to be covered by CNN (I hope!), they are a major part of what binds us together, allowing us to organize and work towards the future that we want to be.



Small Group Serves Homeless at Grace Baptist Church

by Liz Owen



Life in Santa Clara County

Come, Spring

by Genie Bernardini

The fountain water is at half-mast in the November chill
No toddlers tottering through columns of water
Shooting skyward like a whale's spout.
No laughing children squealing with delight
As they sit on the surging jets, squashing them into submission
Or brothers seizing control by rationing the water's flow with pouncing feet.
And on the benches nearby, no mothers watching wistfully
As their children spin through these waterfalls with joyous abandon

Only 2 young men, one brown, one black, trying to look blasé
About a world that seems to be falling apart around them
Cell phones protecting them from each others' ennui.
The pink cherry blossoms across the street are coaxing the sun
To join them in their spring display
While the garish orange and purple Tech
Vies to lure techies to worlds most unnatural.
The towering presence of the mighty Fairmont
Looks down on the deserted fountain below
As the bronze-skinned ice cream man, head and spirits low
Pushes his cart across the dormant grass to greener pastures

But come spring, dancing waterfalls will soon call the children in all of us
To savor the joy of running free toward new beginnings
Winter is only a time to rest before
The birth of life-affirming Hope

Our Church Circular welcomes contributions of poetry, (very) short fiction, editorials and letters to the editor. Please keep contributions under 300 words. All contributions will be edited, and publication is not guaranteed.



Monday Morning Small Group Ministry volunteered to prepare and serve dinner to 45 homeless men and women at downtown's Grace Baptist Church on January 17th. Grace Baptist is one of the winter shelters run by the Winter Faith Initiative.

Liz Owen, Alice Lynch, Mary Martin, Rebecca Mason, Julia Rodriguez and Joyce Miller prepared the dinner together at the Church kitchen which made preparation for 45 a sociable event.

Meals and shelter are being provided by Grace Baptist through the end of March. Please consider providing a meal with your Small Group or other groups. Moria Merriweather, Liz Owen or Barbara Grover can give you the information you need.

Sunday Services / Servicios Domingo

THEME: Kinship and Friendship
TEMA: Parentesco y Amistad

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 11 AM



Exploring Kinship and Interconnectedness

Join us for an earth-religionist's view of how all things are interconnected and have an indwelling spirit with which we can connect if we try. We humans are all one family, and beyond our human kinship we are connected to every part of the Earth fam-

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

ily. Everything that we can see or touch is made up of the same elements. How can we use our connections to find new teammates to help us in our work in the world? Come to explore, meditate and sing with the kinship of all things.

Worship Leader: the Rev. Rowan Fairgrove, Elder Priestess; **Worship Associate:** Moria Merriweather

Biography: Rev. Rowan Fairgrove is a mystic, a scholar, an artist and an Elder Priestess. She holds initiations in the Ozark Celtic, Gardnerian and NROOGD traditions of Wicca. She practices the Inis Glas tradition of Celtic Reconstructionism, is a Daughter of the Flame and an ordained Priestess of Brighid through the Fellowship of Isis. She is a Senior Medium of the American Magic Umbanda House. Rowan is currently Interfaith Representative for the Northern California Local Council of Covenant of the Goddess and sits on the Board of Directors of the Silicon Valley Interreligious Council. Also, she is part of the PACT clergy council.



DOMINGO, 5 DE FEBRERO 11AM

Explorando el Parentesco y la Interconexión

Únase a nosotros para la visión de un religioso de cómo todas las cosas están interconectadas y tienen un espíritu residente con la que podemos conectarnos si lo intentamos. Nosotros los seres humanos somos todos una familia, y más allá de nuestro parentesco humano estamos conectados a cada parte de la familia de la Tierra. Todo lo que podemos ver o tocar está conformada por los mismos elementos. ¿Cómo podemos usar nuestras conexiones para encontrar nuevos compañeros para ayudarnos en nuestro trabajo en el mundo? Venga a explorar, meditar y cantar con el parentesco de todas las cosas.

Dirige: Rev. Rowan Fairgrove, Elder Priestess; **Asociada de Celebración:** Moria Merriweather

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12 11 AM



The Golden Rule

Biography: Virginia Groce-Roberts was born in Chicago, Illinois, and raised in Stockton, California. She is a graduate of San Jose State University, receiving a BS degree in Business Administration and Teaching Credential majoring in Black Studies. In addition, Virginia received the MA degree in Sacred Music from The Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse School of Religion of Atlanta, Georgia.



Worship Leader: Minister Virginia Groce-Roberts; **Worship Associates:** Ines Zapiola and Julia Rodríguez

DOMINGO, 12 DE FEBRERO 11 AM

La regla de oro

Biografía: Virginia Groce-Roberts nació en Chicago, Illinois y creció en Stockton, California. Ella es una graduada de la Universidad Estatal de San José, recibiendo una licenciatura en administración de empresas y credencial de enseñanza con especialidad en estudios de los negros. Además, Virginia recibió el grado de Maestría en música sacra del Centro Teológico Interdenominacional, Escuela de Religión Morehouse de Atlanta, Georgia.

Dirige: Minister Virginia Groce-Roberts; **Asociadas de Celebración:** Ines Zapiola y Julia Rodríguez

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 11 AM



Sacred Companions

We are invited to reflect upon and celebrate Friendship as a spiritual practice. Friends nurture our souls, are sources of inspiration, and teach us the beauty of unconditional love. "Friendship is the most underrated relationship in our lives. It remains the one relationship not bound by law, blood, or money but an unspoken agreement of love." Anya Yanagihara

Worship Leader: Dr. Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa; **Worship Associate:** Alice Lynch



Biography: Dr. Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa holds a Law Degree from the City University of New York School of Law, a Masters in Divinity degree from Harvard

Divinity School, and a Doctoral degree in Theology from Harvard University. She was ordained to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry by First Parish Cambridge Unitarian Universalist Church in 2013. She served First Parish in Brookline, Massachusetts, as Assistant Minister from 2012 until August 2016. In April of 2016 she joyously accepted the call to serve Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church in Hayward as their settled Parish Minister.

DOMINGO, 19 DE FEBRERO 11 AM

Sagrada Compañía

Estamos invitados a reflexionar y celebrar la amistad como una práctica espiritual. Los amigos nutren a nuestras almas, son fuentes de inspiración y nos enseñan

la belleza del amor incondicional. "La amistad es la relación más subestimada en nuestras vidas. Siendo la una relación que no esté obligada por ley, sangre o dinero sino que es un acuerdo tácito de amor". Anya Yanagihara

Dirige: Dr. Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa; **Asociada de Celebración:** Alice Lynch

Biografía: La Dr. Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa es Licenciada en derecho de la Escuela de Derecho de la Universidad de Nueva York, tiene una Maestría en Divinidad de Harvard Divinity School y un doctorado en teología por la Universidad de Harvard. Ella fue ordenada para el Ministerio Unitario Universalista por la Primera Parroquia UU de Cambridge en 2013. Ella sirvió en la Primera Parroquia en Brookline, Massachusetts, como Ministro Asistente del 2012 hasta agosto de 2016. En abril de 2016 alegremente aceptó el llamado a servir en la Iglesia Unitaria Universalista Starr King en Hayward como su Ministra Parroquial.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 11 AM



Living Out Our Values: Love, Compassion & Generosity

"I've sometimes joked and said God doesn't know very much math, because when you give to others, it should be that you are subtracting from yourself. But in this incredible kind of way—I've certainly found that to be the case so many times—you gave and it then seems like in fact you are making space for more to be given to you." -Desmond Tutu

Our Beloved Community, The First Unitarian Church of San José equips us to unleash the full measure of our Love, Compassion and Generosity. These times call us to live out loud our values so that they

can be a force of constructive engagement with the world. Let us come together to empower each other to live lives for the greatest good.

Worship Leader: the Rev. Geoff Rimositis; Ministerial Intern Rodney Lemery; **Worship Associate:** Dana Lema

DOMINGO, 26 DE FEBRERO 11 AM

Viviendo Nuestros Valores: Amor, Compasión y Generosidad

"Yo a veces he bromeado y dije que Dios no saben mucho de matemáticas, porque cuando ustedes dan a los demás, debe ser que están restando de ustedes mismos. Pero en este increíble clase de camino— Yo he ciertamente encontrado que para ser el caso tantas veces, ustedes dan y luego parece que en realidad ustedes están haciendo espacio para estar dando más de ustedes." -Desmond Tutu

Nuestra querida comunidad, la Primera Iglesia Unitaria de San José nos prepara a dar rienda suelta a la medida de nuestro Amor, Compasión y Generosidad. Estos tiempos nos llaman a vivir en voz alta nuestros valores para que sean una fuerza de compromiso constructivo con el mundo. Unámonos para potenciarnos mutuamente para vivir una vida para el mayor bien.

Dirigen: Rev. Geoff Rimositis, Ministro Interino Rodney Lemery; **Asociada de Celebración:** Dana Lema

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.

Scenes from a Sabbatical

In conjunction with writing her book, Rev. Nancy's sabbatical is taking her on a "journey toward wholeness."

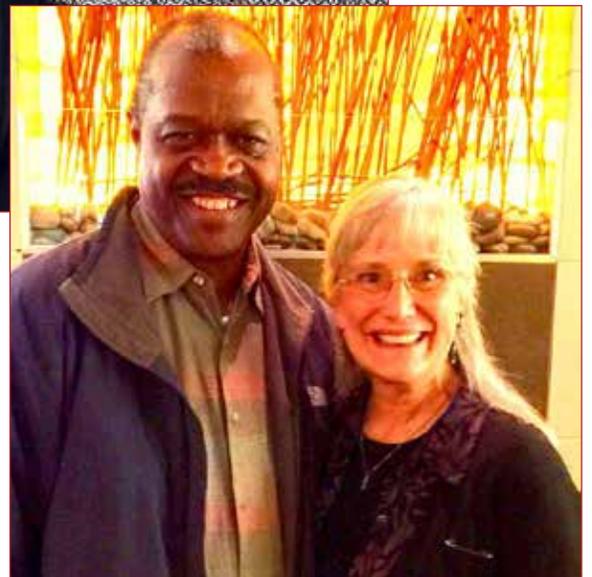
From exploring garage-door murals in San Francisco's Mission District to visiting the homes where she grew up in San Antonio and Dallas and then stopping by her parents' grave, she keeps discovering people, places, sounds, and images that offer a deeper grounding for these challenging times.



Below are two of her friends from elementary school--plus Rev. Nancy toasting all of us here at FUCSJ while visiting with our intern **Rodney Lemery** at Meadville Lombard's January Convocation.

She asks:

If you could go anywhere, where would you go to reconnect with your roots and to deepen and broaden your base of spiritual support for the days ahead?



Let's share this conversation with Rev. Nancy when she returns on March 15!

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAYS

8-9 PM



Guitars Aloud!

Fireside Room

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

Alegria Singers Choir Practice

Sanctuary

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2 1-3 PM

Women's Alliance

Ramsden Fireside Room

We will kick off our discussion of Chapters 1-5 of Ursula K. LeGuin's 1969 classic science fiction novel *The Left Hand of Darkness*, which explores a society in which people's sexual characteristics change from female to male and back again over the course of a lifetime. We'll also be setting some time aside at each session to discuss how we are responding to our ever-shifting political landscape. All are welcome. Please contact **Nancy Coleman** at nbcoleman@gmail.com or 408.256.1622 for further information.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3 8 PM

Dances of Universal Peace

Sanctuary

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



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 10-11 PM

Sunday 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. For more information, contact **Mike Pelizzari**, email nextgalaxy@aol.com.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 12:45 PM

Band of Writers

Youth Room

We have recently published the newest Band of Writers published collection. Copies are available for sale during social hour. 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, FEBRUARY 12 2:30-5 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, FEBRUARY 13 & 27 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.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13 7-9 PM

Social Justice Council Meeting

Conference Room

Please join the Social Justice Council to talk about the Unitarian Universalist Association's Congregational Study Action Issue and Move To Amend, the Statement of Conscience to be voted on at the next General Assembly, and Special Collections. What would you like to discuss? 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.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6 DEADLINE
SAT/SUN, FEBRUARY 18 & 19 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. 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. Contact **Barbara Derbyshire** at CircleSuppes@AOL.com.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 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>.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 12:45-1:45 PM

Commissioned Community Ministers Program Roundtable

Conference Room

The Commissioned Community Ministers (CCM) program has been in development for many years. It is a program for lay people and non-fellowshipped clergy doing community ministry beyond the walls of the church to become affiliated with and recognized by their congregation and to enable the congregation to stay apprised of the work being done in their name and Unitarian Universalism. This roundtable will be led by **Rev. Joy-Ellen Lipsky**, who with **Bob Miess**, has worked on the procedures of CCM. Come with your questions or to just hear about this new program that congregations are starting in the U.S.

For more information, contact Rev. Joy-Ellen Lipsky, CCP, PMP, at jelipsky@successwithjoy.com or phone 408-513-4418.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20 7:30-9 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. For more information, contact **Mike Pelizzari**, email nextgalaxy@aol.com

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23 7-9 PM

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

by the Jesus Seminar and Robert Funk via Zoom Conference.

Our Christian Origins Book Study for February is scheduled for Thursday, February 23. We will focus on Luke 1-11 (271-335) [65 pages]. As we start into this Gospel, we will seek to understand how the

Hygiene and Food Donations Welcomed Every First Sunday

Starting on Sunday, February 5, and on the first Sunday of each month, the Homeless Concerns Group will host a table during social hour to receive donations of socks, hygiene items and food for the homeless.

The group will assemble Hygiene Kits to distribute. Suggested items: toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, soap, hand sanitizers, and combs. Socks are always appreciated.

Food items will be delivered to First Presbyterian on 4th Street for their bag lunch program. They need our help because the food often runs out before the last homeless person can be served! Suggested items: flip top cans of tuna or Vienna sausages, granola bars, small bags of chips.

scholars make their decisions, see how they differ in their opinions, develop our own perspectives on what Jesus is likely to have said, and consider how Jesus' message may or may not relate to our time and our lives. We'll also continue comparing what we see in one Gospel vs. another, and consider what those differences tell us about the authors and their intent.

Questions? Contact **Bob Miess** at Bob@BobMiess.com or 925-392-5901.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11 1:00-3:30 PM

Partner Church 2017 Tea

Hattie Porter Hall

Please mark your calendars to attend the **Jean von Kaenel Tea**, held this year on Saturday, February 11, 1 to 3:30 pm. It is a church favorite and a time to break out your fancy 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. The donations from the Event will help to help us bring villagers from our Partner Church in Transylvania to San Jose in 2017.



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

Hiking Schedule (February 2017)

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**



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1 8:30AM

Santa Teresa County Park, 5 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed Bath & Beyond at Almaden Plaza.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4 8:30AM

Butano State Park, 6 miles, moderate. Plan on stopping for pie at Duarte's and getting home around 4:30 PM. Meet at Page Mill/280 Park & Ride.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 8:30AM

Almaden Quicksilver, Hacienda entrance, 5 miles, moderate. Meet at Bed, Bath & Beyond at Almaden Plaza.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11 8:30AM

Shuttle hike from Sunnyvale Mt. trail head in Sanborn to Indian Rock, 5 miles, moderate. There can be a longer and more strenuous version if folks want to do the Summit Rock loop. Meet at parking lot in Saratoga. Turn right into first driveway just past the Union 76 station at corner of DeAnza and Big Basin Way.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 8:30AM

Saratoga Gap/Long Ridge Loop, 5 miles, moderate. Meet at Saratoga parking lot. Turn right into first driveway just past the Union 76 station at corner of DeAnza and Big Basin Way.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18 8:30AM

Palo Alto/Mountain View Baylands, 5 miles, flat. Meet at trail head at the end of San Antonio Road. There is plenty of on-street parking.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 8:30AM

Castle Rock State Park, 6 miles, moderate to strenuous. Meet at parking lot in Saratoga. Turn right into first driveway just past the Union 76 station at corner of DeAnza and Big Basin Way.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 8:30AM

Arastradero Park, 5 miles, moderate. Meet at trail head parking lot.



CIRCLING AROUND

by **Torchy Hunter**

The question was **T**How do you expect to change or what are you going to do in response to the new regime in the White House?

We're Unitarians, right? We believe in the fundamental dignity of every human being, right? Most of us are making at least one exception.

Jay Porter says he's more depressed so he'll finally commit to finishing his book by July. **Liz Owen** is going to maintain hope. **Alec MacLean** is going to take action; **Diane Saichek** is going to make daily calls to gov't offices to keep them from removing Obama's accomplishments.

Karen Conrotto is going to go proactive with PACT. **Nancy Coleman** is going to buy a big bag of chickens--t and spread it around. **Madeline Morrow** will march and demonstrate, but **Diana Wirt** will wait and see. **Bill Harris** (new) will kick some a--. **Rick Merritt's** new NPR is KDFC. **Ervin Barrios** will write organic expressionist work to combat apathy. **Carol Green** said "what he said." **Marnie Singer** is going to pray and wait for 2 years. **Dan Zulevic** will work on talking to others as "and" and not "but".

And your faithful correspondent will be hitting the bricks as an antidote to being sick to her stomach.. And I've bought a t-shirt: *2020 Our Hope. Look up, everybody.*

Giveaway Box

Have something you'd like to give away and wonder if another member could use it? Tell **Genie Bernardini** geniebee@hotmail.com about it for her new column in the *Circular*.



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, February 15

Mailing: Wednesday, February 23

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

February 2, Thursday, 1:00-3:00 pm, Women's Alliance, Ramsden Fireside Room

February 3, Friday, 8:00 pm, Dances of Universal Peace, Sanctuary

February 5, Sunday, 10:00-11:00 am, Sunday Forum, Hattie Porter Hall

February 5, Sunday, 12:45 pm, Band of Writers, Youth Room

February 11, Saturday, 1:00-3:30 pm, Jean von Kaenel Tea, Hattie Porter Hall, donation: \$20 Adults, \$10 Children; info: MM Feldman, mm@feldmo.com, 408 393-7979

February 12, Sunday, 2:15-5:30 pm, English Country Dance, Hattie Porter Hall

February 13, Monday, 7-9 pm, Social Justice Council, Conference Room

February 18 & 19, Saturday & Sunday, Circle Suppers. . Contact Barbara Derbyshire at CircleSuppers@AOL.com

February 12, Sunday, 2:15-5:30 pm, South Bay Contra Dance, Hattie Porter Hall

February 19, Sunday, 12:45-1:45 pm, Commissioned Community Ministers Program Rountable, Conference Room

February 20, Monday, 7:30-9:00 pm, HUManati Monday Meeting, Library

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! Rev. Nancy is on sabbatical from October 15 – March 14, 2017; therefore, she is not available for calls. To reach 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! La Rev. Nancy está en su año sabático del 15 de octubre, 2016 al 14 de marzo de 2017; por lo tanto, ella no estará disponible en este tiempo. Para contactar al Rev. Geoff: (408) 292-3858, ext. 225 Mon.-Thurs.; 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.