

The Torch



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AUGUST 15, 2011

First Unitarian Church nurtures and challenges the spiritual and intellectual journey for all generations and actively engages in building a progressive and just world.



Rally supporting Tim DeChristopher during his sentencing hearing - July 26, 2011. Photos by David Newkirk.

Find out how you can support Tim on page 2.



THE TORCH

First Unitarian Church of
Salt Lake City

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To subscribe/unsubscribe, notify Jennifer at 801-582-8687 ext. 5 or torch@slcuu.org

ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY

Supporting Tim DeChristopher in the Davis County Jail

Submitted by Joan Gregory
Coordinator, Environmental Ministry

We don't know how long Tim will be at the Davis County Correctional Facility ... for as little as another day or as much as a month or more. While he is there, here are some ways we can support him.

Writing to Tim:

Here is Tim's address:

Tim DeChristopher (201106916)
c/o Davis County Correctional Facility
PO Box 130
Farmington, UT 84025

The number after his name is his booking number – it MUST be in the address.

The rules for writing are on this web site: http://www.co.davis.ut.us/sheriff/divisions/jail/jail_faq.cfm

Here are a few of those rules, but be sure to read all of them. Letters that don't meet these criteria are rejected. The only good part of that story is that rejected letters ARE returned – this we know from experience.

- All mail must be sent through the United States Postal Service. **Mail that is dropped off at the jail will be denied.**
- You must include a complete return address with your full name.
- You must use regular paper, ink or pencil. Letters or cards sent to inmates must not contain any substance, such as glitter, glue, whiteout, paint, lipstick, metallic ink, stain, odor (e.g., perfume) or sticky substances such as stickers, post it notes, tape or stamps.

No watermarks, grease or oil marks. No staples, paper clips, postage stamps, envelopes or blank paper. **Any** of the above will cause the letter to be returned to sender.

- You must not send packages.
- Check the web site for more rules!

Phone Calls – Tim can make a few phone calls (though we can't call him). So, if you get a phone call from 866-562-4929 or any 866-562-xxxx number, drop whatever you're doing and answer. Currently, it's very expensive (around \$35 for 20 minutes of time – it's a collect call). Tim cannot leave messages.

Visits – There is information on visiting Tim on the same web site: http://www.co.davis.ut.us/sheriff/divisions/jail/jail_faq.cfm. Dylan Schneider is coordinating visits (and other matters) for Tim – he can only have two 30 minute visits per week. Dylan can be reached at dylan@peacefuluprisng.org or call her at (801) 635- 9848. Right now, Dylan has visits scheduled about 2 weeks out! Please do not plan a visit to Tim without scheduling with Dylan.

Books – Tim is currently reading: *The Power of Now* – just in case you want to read the same book he is reading. But clearly, he is going to have more reading time than most of us and will always be ahead of us!

- Here's a little more about *The Power of Now*: *Eckhart Tolle's message is simple: living in the now is the truest path to happiness and enlightenment. And while this message may not seem stunningly original or fresh, Tolle's clear writing, supportive voice, and enthusiasm make this an excellent manual for anyone who's ever wondered what exactly "living in the now" means. Foremost, Tolle is a world-class teacher, able to explain complicated concepts in concrete language. More importantly, within a chapter of reading this book, readers are already*

Continued on page 3

Tim DeChristopher (continued from page 1)

holding the world in a different container--more conscious of how thoughts and emotions get in the way of their ability to live in genuine peace and happiness. A PDF of *The Power of Now* is on the web: <http://www.holybooks.com/wp-content/uploads/The-Power-Of-Now-EckhartTolle.pdf>

- BTW: While it is possible to send books and magazines, there are rules about that too:
- Books must be sent directly from a bookstore or publisher and must be new. Used books will be returned. Tim may receive a total of five (5) per week. Lots of people are sending books. BUT we do not know if he will be able to take them with him when he is moved. **Recommendation:** WAIT until he has moved to a more permanent location.
- Magazines, newspapers or other periodicals may only come as a subscription from the publisher via the United States Postal Service. A maximum of two subscriptions is allowed. Only one newspaper is allowed, and it must be sent from the publisher. **Recommendation:** WAIT until he has moved to a more permanent location.

Depositing Money to Tim's Davis County Jail

Account: We do not know if funds deposited into Tim's Davis County Jail Account will transfer with him when he is moved to another location. Therefore, although there are ways to add funds to Tim's Davis County Jail Account, the best way to support Tim financially while he is at the Davis County Jail is by donating to Tim's Legal Defense Fund which is being

used towards supporting both Tim's legal defense and his well-being (i.e., to cover incidental expenses while he is at the Davis County Jail – like purchasing blank paper, envelopes, and stamps for letter writing and condiments for “spicing” up the food). Tim's Davis County Jail Account will be replenished as needed from Tim's Legal Defense Fund.

Transfer: All the jail specific information will change when Tim is transferred. We are told that he could be transferred any time – in a day, in a week, in a month. We really don't know.

Tim DeChristopher Legal Defense Fund: Financial support is always appreciated. Funds donated to the Tim DeChristopher Legal Defense Fund are NOT tax deductible. They go towards supporting Tim's legal defense and well-being. Donations may be sent via the web, by going to: <http://www.bidder70.org/> and choosing the red DONATE button or by making out a check to: Tim DeChristopher Legal Defense Fund and sending it to: Tim DeChristopher Legal Defense Fund, c/o Pat Shea, 252 S. 1300 E., Suite A, Salt Lake City, Utah 84102.

Peaceful Uprising: If you would like to support Peaceful Uprising, the organization that Tim co-founded following his action, you may make your tax deductible donation on the web at: <http://www.peacefuluprising.org/donate> or by making out a check payable to: Peaceful Uprising, and sending it to: Peaceful Uprising, PO Box 521011 Salt Lake City, UT 84152-1011. Peaceful Uprising is a project of the International Humanities Center, a 501(c)(3) charitable trust.

ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY

Triple R: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Submitted by Joan Gregory
Coordinator, Environmental Ministry

Saturday, August 27, 2011

10 am – 2 pm

Eliot Hall, First Unitarian Church

Purpose: Share what we have with each other, our neighboring community, families being resettled in Salt Lake City by the International Rescue Committee and with others in need.

How this works:

- bring what you don't need (working items only like clothing, jewelry, books, music, videos, school supplies, kitchen & household items, linens, working

electronics, toys & games – **no large furniture please**) & put them on a table

- take what you need from what others have brought;
- **no money is exchanged;**
- bring only what you don't need, take only what you do need;
- what is not taken will be donated to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) & others in need;
- the church does not have space to store donations before the swap, if you are not able to bring items on the day of the swap, consider asking a member, a friend, or a neighbor to drop items off during the swap hours;
- ALL are welcome.

Intern's Corner

Jamila Tharp

Shalom, Namaste, Asalaam Aleykum, Peace

And for the holy season that is upon us, Ramadan Mubarak!

I love the beautiful ways we have to greet one another as people, showing our care for one another. It is in this spirit that I greet you.

My name is Jamila Tharp. Beginning the end of August till the end of May, I am your intern minister. Currently, I am a 3rd year Master of Divinity student at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA. My wife, Michelle, and I moved to Salt Lake City with our three small children from Eureka, CA. We have picked a good place to call home. As we continue to settle in, it is nice to know that experiencing these majestic mountains can give me the same sense of inner peace and calm as the magical redwood trees have living in northern California. Our 20-year-old cat and our one-year-old Goldendoodle dog, Jazz, have settled right in to city life and are quite happy. It helps that the cat decided to give up his outside country predator wiles and become an indoor city lounging cat. Since arriving, I've had the pleasure to find a few of the many beautiful hiking spots within a short drive in the Salt Lake City area to go explore with our boundless energetic Jazz.

Fortunate am I to be in community with you, to have this opportunity for the First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City as my teaching congregation and to be mentored by Rev. Tom Goldsmith. I am also grateful to the ministerial internship committee for their investment of time and energy in meeting with me monthly over this next year, offering guidance and feedback to my ministerial development. I truly am grateful to all of you for this opportunity. I trust we will have many opportunities to get to know one another over the next few months.

Rev. Tom Goldsmith has asked me to contribute to this newsletter on a monthly basis. This month besides introducing myself briefly, I feel moved to share a bit of what I have been reflecting upon lately. If you feel so inclined, feel free to reflect upon this question too. I would love to hear your responses.

How does Unitarian Universalism inform my faith? Our religion, not fixed or static, is a living faith tradition. Unitarian Universalism is evolving just as we

are evolving as human beings and as communities. We are truly a peoples' living faith tradition committed to educating to counter oppression and to building a just and sustainable society. It is important to recognize that none of us as individuals, nor the larger UU movement, is perfect. Knowing we are not perfect, we are more willing to accept this lack of perfection in others—a practice called humility. What we do not have to tolerate, however, is resistance to justice.

You may be familiar with the words of Martin Luther King Jr. that "the arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice." But you may not know that these words originally came from 19th century Unitarian minister Theodore Parker, who wrote: "I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one... And from what I see I am sure it bends toward justice."

We sometimes in our UU movement have fallen short, but we keep on trying to change our selves and to change the world for the better. It is this internal struggle, that the Muslims call the true Jihad or struggle that is worth fighting for, that gives me hope, guides me, grounds me, inspires me, calls me to serve and emboldens my faith in community and humanity.

During these past 50 years of combining Unitarianism and Universalism, we have been a people of faith who gather not by religious creed or religious dogma, but who gather from a shared covenant of mutual Love and respect, and a commitment to act in the world guided by our Unitarian Universalist seven principles. We are a peoples' living faith tradition and our laity's participation is key to the success of our congregational polity.

I want to end by sharing something that Moderator Gini Courter said during this year's General Assembly in Charlotte, NC, that captures for me why and how it is that Unitarian Universalism informs my faith so profoundly. Our richest theology in Unitarian Universalism is our lived expression of our theology in our polity.

"In our bylaws, the authority for Unitarian Universalism comes from the people," Ms. Courter said in her report, *The Vision for Unitarian Universalism Comes Up And From The People*

Continued on page 5

Intern's Corner (continued from page 4)

(www.uua.org/ga) "Our governance in Unitarian Universalism is one of congregational polity," she went on to say. "You know, you use the big governance words and sometimes people sort of want to switch off, but stay with me, because this is so important. There are three big types of ways religions are organized. In one way called Episcopalian polity, the only people who can make decisions and all the authority comes only through the clergy, and it's top down, through popes and cardinals and bishops and local ministers, and all the authority is vested in the clergy.

That is not our way.

In the second type of polity, all the authority is invested in the presbytery, in the ruling council of clergy and elders. They make all the decisions. And in both of those systems, other folks that are higher-up can overturn an important decision that your local congregation makes.

But in our polity, congregational polity, there is no higherup. There is deeper down.

So if your congregation decides that it wants to build a bigger building, you don't have to get the bishop's approval to do it. This precious, precious weird thing we've been doing here where we act democratically is part of what sets us apart from most of the religious movements in the world."

Jesus said, "By their fruits you shall recognize them." James Luther Adams said, "By their groups you shall know them." A transforming liberal faith redirects our energies from individualistic spiritualities and the privatization of religion to public ministries, emphatically including "the ministry of the laity," to the end of confronting injustice. Our larger Unitarian Universalist living faith tradition's story and this congregation's story both illuminate the inherent life giving power of the "the ministry of the laity". For this, I am deeply grateful. And, for this, I am deeply faithful.

Yours in Faith,

Jamila Tharp

Small Group Registration

Please drop off registration at the church office or mail it in. For those unfamiliar with the program, it offers discussions once a month on religion, morality, and human stories. It is not a political discussion group, book group, or therapy group. It's Small Group Ministry in which we have an opportunity to connect with one another more meaningfully.

Which night or day do you prefer (Please check two):

Nights: Monday _____ Tuesday _____ Wednesday _____ Thursday _____ Fri _____

Days: Monday _____ Tuesday _____ Wednesday _____ Thursday _____ Fri _____ Sat _____

Name _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Check if you wish to be considered as a possible facilitator _____



Congregational Briefs

Calling All Ushers & Welcome Table Hosts!

4 ushers + 2 welcome table hosts per service = 12 people per Sunday for 42 weeks (10 weeks off for summer forum) = 504 volunteers needed.

If each of our 362 members would serve one or two Sundays a year we would have this effort covered. What is even better is to volunteer one Sunday a month as a team with someone you like!

Greeting our members, friends, and visitors is a joyful activity. The Welcome Team is the 1st point of contact for visitors and sets the tone for the Sunday morning experience. These are important positions and an easy way to give back to your community. You are coming to church anyway, get involved with a committee that is Sunday-centric. That means no evening committee meetings!!

No need to worry about how it is done. There are step-by-step written procedures and on-the-job training will be offered each Sunday beginning August 21. Contact Christine Ashworth to sign up NOW! email: cash@xmission.com, cell: (801)589-1919

Equality Utah Allies Dinner

In our show of support for our GLBTQ members and friends as well as the community at large, Andrea Globokar will be hosting the First Unitarian Church Tables again this year. Last year we filled 3 tables! Let's do that or better again. Please put the event on your calendar for the evening [6-9pm], Saturday, August 20 at the Salt Palace. Keynote speaker is Gavin Newsom, former mayor of San Francisco and current California Lt. Governor. Please register now by going to www.equalityutah.org and clicking on the Allies Dinner link. Tickets are \$100 per person. Be sure to list Andrea Globokar as your table captain. I look forward to sharing this memorable event with you. Any questions, contact Andrea at anglobe@comcast.net or 801-518-7461.

Open Minds Book Club

The next meeting is Thursday, August 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. We will discuss the book *The Lake Shore Limited* by Sue Miller. The book for September 15 is *Cleopatra: A Life* by Stacy Schiff. All are welcome.

Crossroads Community Co-op

First Unitarian Church is an official host site for the Community Food Co-Op of Utah, helping people get access to affordable, nutritious food. August orders can be picked up on August 20th between 9 and 10 a.m. here at the church. For more information, please contact Nancy Lindsley at crossroads@slcuu.org or 801-583-8566.

Mountain Desert District Conference Oct. 7-9

The Mountain Desert District annual meeting will be held in Colorado Springs October 7th -9th. Early Bird registration ends August 20th, regular registration is due by September 15th. Please see <http://mdduaa.org> for more information.

 Find us on
Facebook

"Like" us on Facebook! It's a great way to keep up with what's happening at First Unitarian Church.



August / September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 Summer Forum 10 am (see below)	15	16 Welcome Committee Meeting 7 pm room 201	17	18 Open Minds Book Club 7 pm (pg. 6)	19	20 Allies Dinner (pg. 6)
21 Summer Forum 10 am (see below)	22 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	23	24	25	26	27 Triple R Event (pg. 3) 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
28 Sunday Service 10 am only (see below)	29	30	31	September 1	2 Co-op orders due	3
4 Sunday Service 10 am only	5 Labor Day Church offices closed	6 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	7	8	9	10

Summer Forum

Don't miss our last two Summer Forum Topics! Summer Forum happens each Sunday during the summer at 10 a.m. Childcare is provided.

August 14th

Rabbi Ilana Schwartzman
Conservative and Reformed - In One Congregation

August 21st

Candidates for City Council
A Conversation with the Homeless

Sunday Services

Sunday, August 28, 2011 (One 10 a.m. service only)
"Reflections on a Sticky Summer"
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

We will be going to our regular two service Sundays beginning Sunday, September 11th. Please join us at 9 or 11 a.m.



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