



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

**AUGUST 30, 2015
ONE SERVICE @10 AM**

The Return of
Rev. Tom & David Owens!
“Shift”

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2015
ONE SERVICE @10 AM**

**“Capitalism’s Moral
Struggle”**

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2015
INGATHERING
SUNDAY!**

9:00 AND 11:00 AM
(RE at 11:00 am only)

**“This is Who We
Are”**

-Rev. Tom Goldsmith &
Chancel Choir

Register for Small Group Ministry

-Submitted by John Rasmuson

Registration is now open for the 2015-16 season of Small Group Ministry (SGM) on the church website.

As the undergirding of our congregation, SGM contributes to the “Within” and “Among” ENDS. Last year, this popular program attracted 150 participants.

Among the topics discussed in the monthly meetings were: “Materialism and Happiness” and “Moral Foundations of Belief.” This year, discussion topics will be grounded in one of Tom’s recent sermons.

All SGM participants—past, present and future—are asked to complete the registration form on the church’s website before Sept. 20. In so doing, people will register their preference for meeting times. Where a cluster of registrants develops, a facilitator will be assigned. Facilitators will contact members of their groups in late September. The groups will meet for the first time in October.

Those without internet access will be assisted during coffee hour in Eliot Hall on Aug. 30 and Sept. 6 and 13. The intent is to make registration as accommodating as possible.

Questions should be e-mailed to Sandi Greene (sadecline@gmail.com) or Bill Ashworth (billashw@gmail.com).



Seeking Climate Justice

-Submitted by Joan M. Gregory, Co-Coordinator, Environmental Ministry, and member, Anti-Racism Committee

On Friday evening, August 21, 2015, 32 people representing 22 Salt Lake area Environmental and Social Justice Organizations gathered in Eliot Hall for an exploration of climate justice sponsored by Environmental Ministry and the Anti-Racism Committee of the Social Justice Council of First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City.

This gathering and potluck brought together leaders/coordinators of Salt

Environmental Ministry continued on page 6

First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

Rev. Tom Goldsmith
Minister, minister@slcuu.org

Rev. Matthew Cockrum
Congregational Life Minister,
clminister@slcuu.org

Julie Miller
Director of Religious Education,
dre@slcuu.org

David Owens
Director of Music, music@slcuu.org

Hal Gonzales
Church Administrator,
admin@slcuu.org

Board of Trustees

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The Torch is published approximately 23 times per year, every other week during the regular church year & once per month during the summer.

Next Publication Date

September 14, 2015

Submission Deadline

September 8, 2015 (Tuesday)
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after September 15th to ensure timeliness.

Editor

Jennifer Killpack-Knutsen
torch@slcuu.org

To subscribe/unsubscribe,
notify Jennifer at 801-582-8687
ext. 202 or torch@slcuu.org

Congregational Briefs

Committee/Event Planning Rally

Join your board of trustees for our 2015-16 church year Planning Rally & pot luck supper. We will gather September 12 in Eliot Hall at 5:30 pm. We will celebrate the new church year, coordinate planning efforts for the Activities Fair (Sept 20), conduct a little church business, and, of course, have some fun together. DRE Julie Miller and Consulting Minister of Congregational Life, Rev. Matthew Cockrum, will be on hand to say Hello and share in the excitement.

If you, as committee chair/event organizer, are unable to attend, please recruit someone from your group who can so each and every committee and event is represented. Each individual thread is equally important as we weave the tapestry of our community! Bring your own drink and a pot luck dish to share. Please RSVP to board@slcuu.org or (801) 589-1919

Fall Highway Cleanup

Please set aside a couple of hours on Saturday morning, October 3, to keep Utah beautiful by joining our group of volunteers to remove litter along a 4-mile stretch of State Road 65 extending from Mountain Dell towards East Canyon. Remember, you get to keep any treasures you find (\$,\$\$\$,\$\$\$-\$?). Meet at THE church at 9:00 AM to carpool, or at 9:30 AM at the Parleys Canyon UDOT maintenance facility adjacent to the Mountain Dell golf course. The state requires that participants be eleven years of age or older.....BUT, there is no upper limit. Bring gloves and a positive attitude. We should be finished by 11:30 AM. For any questions, or to sign up, please contact Frank Steffey at 801-277-2509. Anybody interested in taking over the leadership of this beneficial activity should also contact Frank Steffey.

Congregant's painting featured in UU World Magazine

Our own Bill Reed's painting, Climate Change Triptych, is featured in the latest issue of UU World Magazine on pages 18 & 19. You can also see it online at <http://www.uuworld.org/articles/climate-change-triptych>.

Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

As the curtain comes down on another spectacular Summer Forum, (deep gratitude to Harold Straughn), and schools and universities resume classes, occasional cool evenings hint at autumn waiting in the wings, and with a little imagination we hear summer faintly playing taps, we encounter the signature clues that the Great Transition has indeed grabbed us by the throat unawares. The summer has waned, and it feels like we're returning to our "real" lives, which will run at a faster pace, more intensely, a shade more earnest, driven, determined, focused, and let's just say it – obsessed. We're caught up once again in the usual machinery, and our casual, laid-back nature of summer departs from our soul as easily as a bird taking flight.

Thank goodness we can return to our worship community with full force and vigor, having had our ecclesiastical rest. (A distinct Unitarian Universalist advantage). We'll find our bearings yet in our old haunt on 13th East. Worship and religious education, a renewed commitment to social justice programs, old friends at coffee hour, new friends to be minted, special celebrations and Small Group Ministry, all converge in what is otherwise known as Homecoming. On September 13th we officially launch a new church year where we reconvene from the four corners of the world to engage the heart and mind in the business of being progressive people. The beginning of this church year will welcome two new additions to the staff to help make our community more friendly, efficient, and fun. With a joyful heart we welcome Rev. Matthew Cockrum as our Minister for Religious Life, and Julie Miller as our DRE. You will know both Matthew and Julie quickly. They are off to a fast start already.

I have a fun challenge for everyone as we return to our regular worship services. In many cases, we have not connected with each other for the entire summer, so

discussion will be lively. But the challenge is twofold: I dare you NOT to mention Donald Trump in any conversations. Think you can refrain? There is much good news to be shared. Why mar it with reminders that demagoguery is alive and well in this country, and besides, the Trump card will fade, will it not????????



And secondly, rather than converse on all the things you did this summer, try talking about all the things you didn't get to this summer. My ambitious "things-to-do" list in June runs long. I've learned, however, that if I don't get projects done by July 4th they probably won't happen. I mean concerts not attended, books not read, garages not cleaned, gardens not cultivated, hikes not taken, and the great American novel still not written. Rather than despair, we can feel relieved to learn from one another how the poor execution of summer plans strings a common theme among us hopeful human being.

I look forward to all of us being reunited again. Absence actually does make the heart grow fonder. My heart beats with excitement. TRG

Introducing Minister of Congregational Life

-Submitted by Rev. Matthew Cockrum

"What we call a beginning is often the end and to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from. We shall not cease from exploration and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."

-T. S. Eliot

I am honored to join the staff here at First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City as your consulting Minister for Congregational Life. Upon the invitation from the Rev. Tom Goldsmith and the affirmation of John Rasmuson, Philip Moos and Kelly Goff, I have agreed to spend the next two to three years with you. I will be providing ministerial leadership and support for the youth and adult educational ministries, small group ministry and working with you to strengthen and clarify avenues for engagement in membership and congregational life.

I realize that my arrival here is on the heels of endings and transitions: Mary's departure as your Director of Religious Education, Julie's arrival as a new DRE, Nancy's increase in hours and a change in curriculum design to name just a few. Change is in the air. My beginning here is also a surreal milestone for me: I was a pulpit guest at First Church in 2003 when I was interviewing for a ministerial job at the UU Church in Ogden, what became my first ministry out of seminary. It's a delight to be back here in Utah - an unexpected turn brought about by my husband, Chad's, enrollment in a PhD program in Education at the University of Utah.

I look forward to the coming years of ministry with you. In those years I anticipate much powerful work to leverage the strengths of this congregation and its work for social justice and critical insight and conversation. My hope is that together we can continue to make First Church be its best self and help those connected with it do the same.

In order to do this, though, I will need your help. I need to know this place...its people...its past

and present. I've read the history book penned for this congregation's centennial. But I know more stories and expertise live on in you. I need you to tell me more about who you are, what this place and these people have meant to you. How did you come to be here? How have you managed to stay...or not?

What are your dreams and longings for this place? What is the heart and soul of First Church for you?

I will also need your help in the maintenance and deepening of the adult and youth learning ministries as well as welcoming newcomers to this great, good place. Having started work on August 15, I am still just at the beginning of conversations with other staff and leaders about structures to support and grow these programs. I am curious about how to engage youth and adults in more intentional and sustainable leadership. I am also curious about creating ministries and programs that are clearly and consistently tied to mission, vision, values and covenant. With that in mind, I want you to tell me what kinds of courses, programs and events you'd like to see here. What would you be willing to help lead? What resources in the community would you like to see represented at First Church?

Clearly this is a place of prophetic power in the Salt Lake community. We've got a lot of powerful work to do in the two to three years I'll be here with you.

Please be in touch with me via e-mail (clminister@slcuu.org) or phone (801.582.8687 x205) at church. I'll generally be in the offices on weekdays other than Wednesdays and of course on Sundays.

Here's to the work, Friends. It is good to be in it together.

Peace, Faith & Passion,
Rev. Matthew Cockrum



Religious Education News

We are excited to get the church year off to a great start in Religious Education! Just a few highlights of what's coming up:

Infant/Toddlers: Our wonderful teacher, Triniti will be back with us this year, nurturing our youngest members. We are looking for some new faces in this room this year, so if you or someone you know is interested, please contact Nancy (reassist@slcuu.org) or Julie (dre@slcuu.org).

PreK-K: Our 4 year olds and Kindergarteners are moving upstairs! They will meet in Room 205 this year. We still need to round out this teaching team as well, so please let us know if you are interested in spending some time with our curious little ones! Contact Nancy (reassist@slcuu.org) or Julie (dre@slcuu.org).

1st-6th Grade: We will begin the year on September 13th in our classrooms with some terrific teachers, then in November and December have an arts rotation. We will also be offering 5th and 6th grade OWL in January and February. This is an exciting time with lots of changes and new ideas. We look forward to starting up!

Jr High: Beginning September 13th, we will be offering our 7th and 8th Graders our Coming of Age program this church year. This program encourages the youth to examine their ideas about faith and present this to the community at the end of the year. The program culminates in an optional Boston Heritage Trip, where the youth learn more about the Unitarian Universalist community and visit local UU historical sites. Parents are actively involved in helping the youth fundraise for this trip. A parent meeting will be held shortly after classes begin. If you have a youth registered in the age group, we will notify you of the time and date soon.

High School: Our high school youth will be focusing on their Unitarian Universalist Identity, as well as getting to know our community better. They will be attending

some services this year, participating in arts events, and planning their annual service trip. We are still looking for teachers for this class. If you'd like to have some great conversations and get to know this terrific group of future leaders in our community, please contact Nancy Moos (reassist@slcuu.org), or Mathew Cockrum (clminister@slcuu.org) for more information.

Please register your children and youth for our Religious Education Program!

This helps us with our planning for how many adults we need in the classroom, and so we know who we have in our care each Sunday! You can register online at this address:

<http://slcuu.org/programs/religious-education/item/93-religious-education-registration-for-children-and-youth>



As we get ready to celebrate our Church's 125th Anniversary, it's fun to look back on our past. This photo of some RE children at our church was taken some time in the late 1970s or early 1980s.

A Silver Bullet for Climate Change?

-Submitted by Carole Straughn, Environmental Ministry

What if a single law could change the market game that is sending the climate into global collapse? What if American's could muster the political will to pass that law?

California wildfires have been sending smoke haze to the Wasatch Front. Climate scientists predict that global warming will increase the chances of extreme weather of all kinds, including the drought that spurs wildfires.--Photo from Twain Hart Fire Department

First Unitarian **Steve Glaser** and former congressional candidate **Bill Barron** will



explain the answer being proposed by Citizens Climate Lobby in op eds, letters to the editor and meetings with members of Congress. Join Steve and Bill in **Eliot Hall Friday, September 18 at 7 PM** to learn how a Carbon Tax and Dividend returned to all households could level the playing field for renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions by 50% while keeping the economy stable. Then help decide whether First Church should get behind this proposal. Sponsored by Environmental Ministry.

Seeking Climate Justice (continued from pg. 1)

Lake area environmental and social justice groups/organizations with the goal of fostering communication focused on climate justice among all our groups. **Climate Justice is working at the intersections of environmental degradation and the racial, social, and economic inequities it perpetuates.** *It is the least privileged and most vulnerable people who are the first to feel the effects of the climate crisis, and who suffer the most damage.* [<http://www.peacefuluprising.org/what-is-climate-justice/>]. By gathering together and engaging in dialogue we began to open up a space for communication and collaboration and to foster/catalyze new pathways of working and organizing for climate justice in the Salt Lake area.

The atmosphere was one of co-creation of knowledge. We didn't make speeches about our work, but through conversation, dialogue and questioning we had opportunities to meet each other, to share with each other our experiences in doing environmental and social justice work, and to explore ways to begin to work together for climate justice.

The maps were posted on the board on the east side of Eliot Hall and were the results of our "connect the dots" discussion where we mapped what we are working on and what we are working against. Stop by the Environmental Ministry table on an upcoming Sunday to take a closer look.

We also reflected on the questions: What if all the things that are harder to share are necessary tools for the just, healthy, and livable future that we hope to build? What if being willing to be honest about the most gritty, sharp, and tender things will make the biggest difference? And we shared and discussed a reading by Deidre Smith, *Strategic Partnership Coordinator, 350.org, Why the Climate Movement Must Stand with Ferguson*, <http://350.org/how-racial-justice-is-integral-to-confronting-climate-crisis/>. Our evening ended with filling a globe with our aspirations for our climate justice work. We are now in the process of evaluating our experience and making plans for next steps

September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 30 Rev. Tom Goldsmith and David Owens are back for services! Sunday Service One Service only at 10:00 am (pg. 1)	31	Sept. 1	2 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	3	4	5
6 Sunday Service One Service only at 10:00 am (pg. 1)	7 Labor Day Church office closed	8 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	9 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	10	11	12 Celebration of Life for Justin Kreek 11 am Committee planning rally 5:30 (pg. 2)
13 Ingathering Sunday! Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 pm (pg. 1) RE classes begin at 11:00 am (pg. 5)	14 Board of Trustees Meeting 5:30 pm Rm. 201	15	16 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	17 Environmental Ministry event 7 pm (pg. 6)	18	19
20 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 pm (pg. 1) RE at 11:00 am Activities Fair following both services	21 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	22	23 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	24	25	26

Sunday Sermon Titles are now found on page 1

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