



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

JANUARY 24TH
9:00 AND 11:00 AM

**“The Road to Hell:
Puritans, Pioneers,
Passengers, & Pilgrims”**
-Rev. Matthew Cockrum

JANUARY 31ST
9:00 AND 11:00 AM

“Love Mercy”
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

FEBRUARY 7, 2014
9:00 AND 11:00 AM

**“The Year of Our
Founding”**
-Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Congregational Briefs

Adult Religious Education

In keeping with our purpose statement, *“Adult Religious education supports and provides programming that furthers the spiritual and intellectual journeys of our multigenerational UU community,”* we are pleased to announce courses for winter/spring 2016. Class descriptions and sign-up sheets are available at the Welcome Table and online at slcuu.org. Registration can be done online or by filling out the form on the sheet.

Family Fun Night

Calling all families! We've all purchased their cookies at countless bake sales, planted their tulip bulbs, and simply handed over a check to the Jr High group for their trip to Boston. How many of us, have any idea about what they DO on this trip? For one night only, on February 1st at 6 p.m., Family Fun Night is inviting all families to join us for dinner and a virtual tour of Boston with the Revs Tom and Matthew. Look for an email to RSVP. No email? Check out our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/groups/slcuufamilynight](https://www.facebook.com/groups/slcuufamilynight) or email us at slcuufamilynight@gmail.com

Arts and Crafts Fair 2016

The Annual First Unitarian Church Fine Arts and Crafts Festival will be held on March 19th from 5 to 10 pm. Artists: Please register using the online form (<http://www.slcuu.org/news/latest-news/item/223-annual-arts-fair-march19th>). This is a fun family event with food and entertainment provided. Artists can show their art for fun at no charge. All sales are handled by the church. Church retains 25%, artist receive a check from the church for 75%. All arts and crafts welcomed. Display space is limited, so sign up early. If you have any questions please contact Bill Reed at artfair@slcuu.org

Dinner and Dialogue For February

Please sign up to host or attend a dinner and dialogue in February. The theme will be “Spiritual Journeys,” and we will share stories of our experiences learning from another culture of from another religion or perhaps even a family member. As always, the host will set the date, decide the menu and number of guests they can accommodate. Guests contribute by bringing a dish to share. Sign up at the Welcome table. Questions? Contact Darlene Thayne at 801-455-6553 or suppers@slcuu.org.

Congregational Briefs continued on page 2

First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

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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

February 8, 2016

Submission Deadline

February 1, 2015 (Monday)
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after February 9th 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 (continued from pg. 1)

Open Minds Book Group

The Open Minds Book Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Haven Room at the church. The book for January 26 is "Angle of Repose" by Wallace Stegner. The book for February 23 is "Room" by Emma Donoghue. All are welcome.

UU Lunch Bunch A family-friendly group for anyone and everyone who would like to get together for lunch and chat with like-minded people. For dates and locations, contact Sonia Carnell at (801) 262-1151 or lunchbunch@slcuu.org.

Environmental Ministry News

New Recycling on Sundays

-submitted by Judy Lord, Environmental Ministry

Oral care product packaging can now be recycled! No more feeling guilty about all those toothpaste tubes and floss containers! TerraCycle has partnered with Colgate to form the Oral Care Brigade. They will recycle toothbrushes, as well as packaging from ANY brand of tooth care products: toothpaste tubes and caps, toothpaste tube outer packaging, floss containers. Just bring them to the marked container under the Environmental Ministry table on Sunday mornings. *The bonus is that each item is worth 2¢ to the church when mailed in.* That doesn't sound like much, but just think of all those little caps and containers our congregation must produce! Make sure they're completely empty first, then bring 'em on.

And that's not all, Folks! You may also bring the bags from those ready-to-eat cereals that come in plastic bags, as well as the inserts from paperboard cereal boxes. We will have a container under the table for those, too.

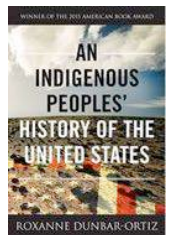
Jim French is spearheading this new recycling effort. If you have questions, or if you'd like to help Jim, call Judy Lord at 801-486-6694.

Book Discussion

-submitted by Joan M. Gregory, Environmental Ministry

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States (by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz) Friday, February 12, 2016, 6:30-8:30PM, Room 208

Environmental Ministry, the Anti-Racism Committee, the Social Justice Council, and the Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change group, an offshoot of all 3 groups, invites you to join us in



Environmental Ministry continued on page 4

Reverendly Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Unitarian Universalist history runs along the hazardous fault line of tolerance and prophecy. Unitarians boast their own 16th century King in Transylvania who produced the Edict of Tolerance, a blueprint for how to get along with your neighbors of differing faiths. And yet the call to speak truth to power tugs at our conscience when we witness great wrongs committed in the name of religion or any philosophy that (ironically) spews intolerance.

As a Unitarian minister called to serve in the city, which also serves as headquarters of the LDS church, I often revisit the tension between greater tolerance and protest in the name of social justice. Lately my tolerance has been tested by the LDS policy prohibiting the children of same-sex parents from participating in Mormon rites until they turn 18 and renounce their parents. As though this wasn't hurtful enough, Elder Russell Nelson in a speech last week to the millennial population, justified the LDS policy as doctrine that spells out "the plan of salvation" which happens to hinge on heterosexual lifestyles. Should anyone doubt this, he reminded his young audience that President Monson, the current LDS prophet, discerned "the mind of the Lord and the will of the Lord."

Given my circumstance of discerning a God of love and justice, and also claiming my tradition of protesting inequality and bias, I resolved never to judge another's theology... as long as the theology is not used as a ruse to rationalize injustice. Anyone purporting to know "the will of the Lord," treads on dangerous ground with such hubris. When human actions are expressly framed as God's will, that theological viewpoint becomes immediately suspect. How does that differ from a schizophrenic following the voices of God?

My opposition to the Mormon policy was addressed peacefully last December 20th at a worship service for Queer Mormons, held in St. Paul's Episcopal Church. It was my privilege to

be among three interfaith clergy speaking out against the policy with the primary focus on healing the families who sustained great pain as a result. Compounding the situation, the Anglican Communion met last week in Canterbury and voted to impose sanctions on the Episcopal Church for its decision to allow clergy to perform same-sex marriages. The Episcopalians are the American branch of the Communion, who apparently are not about to pretend to know the will of God. After all my years of serious theological training, I never found a shred of evidence that God was "hung-up" about human sexuality. (Too many other things in the cosmos to worry about).



My faith in the eventual impotence of religious condemnation lies precisely in the millennial population Elder Nelson addressed. He warned Mormon young adults about adversaries (like us) who place "harrowing dangers in the path of the righteous." Therefore, he concluded, it is safest if they heed the words of Mormon leaders. I don't believe Elder Nelson knows this particular demographic very well, even those who consider themselves LDS. All the collected data over the past few years indicate their penchant to follow the dictates of love and justice. The millennial generation of all faiths demonstrates far greater tolerance than their elders. We can all stand to learn from them
TRG

In the Life

Several weeks ago I had the privilege of serving as a "Celebrity Guest Judge" for The Bee - a "lovingly competitive storytelling" event in Salt Lake City (<http://thebeeslc.strikingly.com/#what-is-the-bee>). For those of you who are NPR listeners, think "The Moth Radio Hour." For those unfamiliar, it's a ticketed event at which names are drawn from a hat for ten folks to be given five minutes each to tell a story pertinent to the month's theme. The theme for the month I was there was "Revelations!" They seemed to think having a religious professional might lend a certain weight or gravitas. Really, the judging component was more "to keep things interesting," as the winner's primary award is bragging rights.

It was fun...and stressful.

I found myself listening differently when I knew I was judging.

I found myself listening differently when I knew I was listening for a theme.

I found myself listening...more closely...

It harkens to a time in my life when I was in training as a chaplain and was taught to ask myself, when considering the stories folks were sharing with me,

Rev. Matthew Cockrum

Why is this person telling me, this story, now?

The stories we tell about ourselves are powerful.

The stories we choose not to tell about ourselves are powerful.

In the coming weeks you'll be hearing a lot about the stories of First Unitarian Church. You'll also be invited to share your stories, about your intellectual and spiritual journey. What stories will you choose to tell? What will be the themes?

And whose stories will you listen to? What themes will you listen for?

I encourage you to stretch yourself in the coming days and weeks:

speak

listen

Here's to The Work, Friends!

Peace, Faith & Passion,

Matthew



Environmental Ministry News (continued from pg. 2)

reading and discussing: *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. Our discussion will take place on Friday, February 12, 2016, 6:30-8:30PM, Room 208, Religious Education Building.

"Today in the United States, there are more than five hundred federally recognized Indigenous nations comprising nearly three million people, descendants of the fifteen million Native people who once inhabited this land. The centuries-long genocidal program of the US settler-colonial regimen has largely been omitted from history. Historian and activist Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz offers a history of the United States told from the perspective of Indigenous peoples and reveals how Native

Americans, for centuries, actively resisted expansion of the US empire. She adroitly challenges the founding myth of the United States and shows how policy against the Indigenous peoples was colonialist and designed to seize the territories of the original inhabitants, displacing or eliminating them. Spanning more than 400 years, this classic bottom-up peoples' history radically reframes US history and explodes the silences that have haunted our national narrative." – Beacon Press, <http://www.beacon.org/An-Indigenous-Peoples-History-of-the-United-States-P1164.aspx>

Let us know if you would like to participate by signing up at the Environmental Ministry table on Sundays and/or by contacting us at: green@slcuu.org or arc@slcuu.org.

Religious Education News



Religious Education: A Culture of Generosity

Choosing your child's religious education (RE) program is an important decision. At First Church of Salt Lake City, we offer age-appropriate classes that run during the 11am worship service. Our aim is to offer classes that encourage reflection, creativity, critical thinking and, of course, fun.

We believe that you will find a place here where you and your family can worship, learn, relax, reflect and grow. First Church has become, for so many of our members, a kind of *home away from home*. We hope it will become that for you if you are new to our community at large.

A typical Sunday for our children reflects our efforts to...

- present core stories of our faith
- help children acquire understanding through curiosity, reflection and art
- create a spiritual community of children
- support multiple learning styles and challenges

- create a strong Universalist Unitarian ("UU") identity

All teachers and care providers work in teams of two or more to ensure that no adult is alone with a child. In keeping with our UU principles we strive to teach respect and compassion for all people. We expect that all our children, youth and teachers will treat one another with respect and kindness. We ask that members of our community communicate clearly with each other regarding our mutual behavior expectations. We thank parents who are responsible for attending to their children when they are not in classroom programs.

Our RE programs are supported by the pledges and contributions of our members and friends. From time to time, special events, programs and field trips may necessitate additional financial support. Nonetheless, we will never deny participation in any of our church programs due to a member's financial situation.

As always, we look forward to meeting our new and returning families. Welcome!

Julie Miller,
Director of Religious Education

Join us for "Soul Food and Jazz" February 20th 6 p.m.

We'll be having BBQ chicken (plus a vegan option), salad, cornbread, and rice & beans plus dessert. Wine and Beer will be available.

A local jazz band will be playing to entertain you! Tickets are \$25 and will be sold after service the next few weeks!

This is a fundraiser for the Boston Heritage Trip for our Coming of Age class in June. Thank for your support!



Social Justice Council News

Social Justice Council Endorses Campaign to Save Lives

-submitted by Ron Molen and Sue Geary

During the November meeting of the Social Justice Council, Ron Molen presented information on a new effort to gain some reasonable control of guns. Ron and Norma Molen, long-time members of our congregation, have been working on the issue of gun violence for 22 years. They helped found an organization called Utahns Against Gun Violence. As the 2016 Utah Legislative Session approaches, the Molens have launched the Campaign to Save Lives. With the view that access to guns is a public health issue, this campaign seeks two remedies: A Universal Background Check Law and Gun Lockup Law.

The Campaign website, www.campaigntsl.com, includes a short film produced by First Church member Don Walton. This film clarifies what needs to be done. A second film is in the planning stage that will feature 10 or 12 individuals that have lost a child, family member, or close friend to gun violence. As Ron Molen said, "We represent the majority, and we have every right to demand life-saving laws. The most important function of government is to protect its citizens. There is no reason Utah shouldn't join other states that have already passed these life-saving measures."

For more information on how you may join this Social Justice effort, contact Ron or Norma Molen at (801) 582-7479.

Divestment Petition

-submitted by Beverly Taylor

The Social Justice committee is participating with the Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East by circulating a petition titled

"Divestment from Corporations Complicit in the Violation of Palestinian Rights." This business resolution calls upon the Unitarian Universalist Association to act in accord with its principles and avoid owning any securities of five major corporations that are directly and critically involved in the maintenance of the occupation and its associated abuses of Palestinian human rights. The five corporations are Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprises, and G4S. A copy of the resolution can be found online at www.uujme.org.

UUJME is gathering signatures from members of Unitarian Universalist congregations all over the US and Canada in support of placing this resolution on the agenda for the 2016 UU General Assembly. We want many more than the 250 required. Many signatures from many congregations demonstrate support.

All signers must be UUs and members from the same, single congregation. Signers do not need to be supporters of divestment from the five corporations. They just need to support open discussion of the issue at the General Assembly.

The petitions are due back to the General Assembly very soon, so we need to interact quickly on the proposal. Other religious denominations have acted in accord with their conscience to end their complicity in the abuses of Palestinian human rights under occupation. The Presbyterian Church USA is divesting in Caterpillar, Hewlett Packard and Motorola Solution, and the United Church of Christ is divesting in these plus G4S. The Friends Fiduciary Corporation, eleven conferences of the Methodist Church, the World Council of Churches, the Church of England, the Church of Ireland, and the Australian Council of Churches are divesting or support divestment from corporations complicit in human rights abuses of Israel's occupation. We believe it is now time for the Unitarian Universalists to join with other religious and secular organizations in an international movement to end the abuses.

January/February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1)	25	26 Open Minds Book Group 7 pm (pg. 2)	27 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	28	29	30
31 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1)	February 1 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	2	3 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	4	5	6
7 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am (pg. 1)	8 Board of Trustees Meeting 5:30 pm Rm. 201	9 Women's Sacred Circle 5:30 pm	10 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	11	12 ARC & EM book discussion 6:30 pm (pg. 2)	13
14 Sunday Service 9 & 11:00 am RE at 11:00 am	15 President's Day - church offices closed	16 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	17 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	18 First Church Info Session 6:30 pm	19	20 Soul Food & Jazz event 6 pm (pg. 5)

Thank You First Church

January 8, 2016

Dear Pastor Tom and Brothers and Sisters of the Unitarian Church,

On behalf of San Esteban Episcopal Church, your companion congregation on the west side of the valley, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your generosity during the holiday season of 2015. Your act of love touched, in so many ways, the families of San Esteban.

I am looking forward to having a deeper connection with all of you and hopefully this year our congregations can get together to show our appreciation and share our traditions.

Again, thank you so much and may God bless each of you,
The Rev. Canon Pablo Ramos, D.D.

Adult Religious Education Classes

Winter/Spring 2016

Register online at <http://www.slccuu.org/programs/religious-education/item/226-adult-religious-education-registration-winter-spring-2016> or by filling out a registration form at the welcoming table.

Adult Religious Education, Winter/Spring 2016, Spiritual Journeys Adult Religious Education supports and provides programming that furthers the spiritual and intellectual journeys of our multigenerational UU community.

Especially for Newcomers: UU Orientation

New to First Church? Been around awhile but considering becoming a member? Now there are monthly chances for you to meet others, ask questions, learn more Unitarian Universalist and First Church history. On the first Sunday of each month, Rev. Matthew Cockrum will be on-hand in the Parlor after each service for a brief conversation and informal info session. On the third Thursdays of each month Revs. Tom Goldsmith and Matthew Cockrum will lead inquiry sessions at church that include snacks and childcare. Please contact Rev. Matthew Cockrum at clminister@slccuu.org or 801.582.8687 ext. 205 to reserve a space for Thursdays and to request child care if needed. No reservation needed for Sundays.

Dates & Times and Locations: First Sundays (Feb. 7, Mar. 6, Apr. 3, May 1) after each service, in the Parlor; 3rd Thursdays (January 21, February 18, March 17, April 21, May 19) Room: TBA

February Dinner and Dialogue with a Theme: Spiritual Journeys

The February Dinner and Dialogue conversation will be in accord with the Adult Religious Education winter/spring theme, "Spiritual Journeys." Participants will be asked to share either a journey from which they learned about another culture or an experience closer to home in which they benefitted from meeting someone from another country.

As always, we are looking for hosts who will set the February date, decide the menu and the number guests they can accommodate. The only

difference is that we will focus our dialogues on our spiritual journeys. Contact Darlene Thayne at 801-455-6553 or suppers@slccuu.org

The History of Unitarianism Universalism

Taught by Alan Coombs

A brief overview of the long and colorful history of the two branches of our denomination prior to their merger to form the Unitarian Universalist Association of North America in 1961 will be offered with time for questions and discussion. Also available will be a chronology of important dates in UU history, a list of distinguished UUs, and a list of suggested readings.

Date & Time: Sunday, March 6, 2016, 12:30-1:30

Location: Chapel

The History of First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City

Taught by Alan Coombs

In celebration of our 125th birthday, we will trace the development of this congregation from the early 1890s to the present with special attention given to the contributions of a series of outstanding ministers and lay leaders plus the role of this church in establishing a number of Salt Lake City's most cherished institutions.

Date & Time: Sunday, March 20, 2016, 12:30-1:30

Location: Chapel

Continued on next page

Adult Religious Education Classes (continued)

Winter/Spring 2016

UU Common Read Book Discussion

Facilitated by Hugh Gillilan and Andrea Globokar

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption, by Bryan Stevenson, is the 2015-16 Unitarian Universalist Association "Common Read." This book looks closely at the life stories and circumstances of people who have been sentenced to die at the hands of the state or given a life sentence in prison.

As a group we will explore values and ideas that are vital to us as a people of faith: justice, mercy, compassion, redemption, restoration and hope.

Limited to 14 participants

Date & Time: Thursday, March 24, 2016, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: Eliot Hall

Book availability: Salt Lake City Library System, Salt Lake County Library System, Amazon, King's English, Barnes and Noble or your favorite book store.

Save the Date - Sunday, April 10, 7-9 p.m. Staged reading of "The Exonerated" by members of People Productions.

Looking at Mindfulness Through Art

Facilitated by Shirley Ray and Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Plan on a quiet evening with a good book, projected art work and mindful conversation

provoked by curiosity. Christophe' Andre's book presents the Buddhist foundations of mindfulness through his choice of various and compelling works of art. Enjoy reading *Looking at Mindfulness: Twenty- Five Ways to Live in the Moment Through Art* by Christophe' Andre, before the class so that your experiences may enhance our mindful exploration of art and mindful awareness.

Dates & Times: 4 consecutive Tuesdays, March 22, 29 April 5, 12 at 7:00 pm

Location: Eliot Hall

Owning Your Religious Past: The Haunting Church

Facilitated by Rev. Matthew Cockrum

Many of us are "come-inners," having entered Unitarian Universalism from some other religious tradition/s, beliefs or upbringing. Owning Your Religious Past is a 5-session workshop with exercises designed to aid participants in sifting through former religious teachings, identities, beliefs and values. Culminating in an intimate group worship service, this series aims to aid learners in facing, integrating and making peace with their earlier religious communities and traditions.

Dates & Times: 5 consecutive Tuesdays, April 26, May 3, 10, 17, & 24, 6:45 pm to 8:45 pm

Location: Eliot Hall

Adult Religious Education Winter/Spring 2016 Registration

Please return completed for to the Welcome Table. If you have questions, please contact Matthew Cockrum at 801-582-8687 ext. 205 or clminister@slcuu.org

Name _____ Phone(s) _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Class Title _____

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
569 South 1300 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

Non-profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Salt Lake City, Utah
Permit No. 812

Return Service
Requested

Save the Date!

125th Anniversary
Celebration Sunday
February 28, 2016

Marriott Center for Dance
on the University of Utah Campus

Historical Slideshow at 10:10 a.m.
Service at 10:30 a.m.

Special guest speaker:
Rosemary Bray McNatt