February Service Theme: Surrender / Letting Go

FEBRUARY 3
YOUR CHILDREN ARE NOT YOUR CHILDREN
New Member Ceremony at 11:00

The theme for February is Surrender and Letting Go. We’ll begin our explorations by considering the many ways we must practice surrendering to, and letting go of, the next generations.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Judy Withee, Rev. Dara Olandt
Music by: Mary Chapot & some musical UUs, Roger Corman
Share the Basket: Project Censored/The Media Freedom Foundation

FEBRUARY 10
A YEAR OF SURRENDER

The word “surrender” can bring up images of defeat or downfall, but is there also something life-affirming in surrender? Today’s guest preacher faced a frightening health crisis in 2017 in which surrender played a major role in her survival. Join us today for reflections on the intersection of mortality, grace, and surrender.

Rev. Bonnie Dlott is a native of the Bay Area who served the Napa congregation for eleven years, retiring in 2017. Before being called to the ministry, she earned a doctorate in Biological Chemistry. She identifies as a nature mystic, finding the sacred in the natural world and in acts of kindness.

Service Leaders: Rev. Bonnie Dlott, Sharon McCarty
Music by: Sadie Sonntag & the Choir, Roger Corman
Share the Basket: Forest Unlimited

FEBRUARY 17
LOVE, SURRENDER & LETTING GO

It’s not easy to know how to love ourselves, or others, and how to make fulfilling connections. Does “letting go” mean giving up? How can we transform some of the attachments and ways of being that constrict our relationships to self and others, and grow more deeply connected relationships?

Service Leaders: Rev. Dara Olandt, Aphrodite Bellochio, Rev. Chris Bell
Music by: Robin Rogers & some musical UUs, Roger Corman
Share the Basket: 3 Seconds in October: The Andy Lopez Documentary

FEBRUARY 24
DO WE HAVE TO FORGET IF WE FORGIVE?

An exploration of forgiveness as a form of surrender and letting go, and the challenges in doing so. What if that which we are trying to forgive is something that we cannot forget, or which is still impacting our lives? The science of forgiveness as well as the teachings of enlightened teachers will offer some insights.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Izzy Fischer
Music by: Sadie Sonntag & the Choir, Roger Corman
Share the Basket: Breakfast For Our Neighbors

TUESDAY SCRIPTURES STUDY

8:30–9:30am & 5:30–6:30pm January 22 – February 12: The Tao Te Ching

Led By Rev Chris Bell. See page 9 for more information.
Surrender/Letting Go

In the early days of Unitarianism and Universalism in America, when our liberal Christian ancestors were breaking away from their orthodox brethren, they were frequently accused of various heresies. Heretic, meaning “one who chooses,” is a label we’ve proudly worn ever since.

We were called Arians, after the 4th Century bishop whose arguments against the Trinitarian conception of Jesus failed to persuade Emperor Constantine at the Council of Nicaea. We were called Arminians, after Jacobus Arminius, the Dutch visionary of the late 1500s who lead the “Remonstrants,” who resisted the Calvinist idea of predestination.

And we were called Pelagians, after the British monk Pelagius (354-420) who, in the words of the almighty oracle Wikipedia, “taught that the human will, as created with its abilities by God, was sufficient to live a sinless life, although he believed that God's grace assisted every good work. Pelagianism has come to be identified with the view that human beings can earn salvation by their own efforts.” Pelagianism is an affirmation of free will, and our capacity to accurately choose good or evil on our own.

It is worth noting that Pelagius came to renounce a number of the doctrines with which he is associated, but apparently much too late to change his reputation, which continues to this day. Consider this quote from a 2018 encyclical Placuit Deo by Pope Francis: "A new form of Pelagianism is spreading in our days, one in which the individual, understood to be radically autonomous, presumes to save oneself, without recognizing that, at the deepest level of being, he or she derives from God and from others."

Whether we can “save” ourselves, our autonomy as individuals, and the reliability of our private wills remain live questions for contemporary UUs. Arianism and Arminianism barely concern us, but we are generally still Pelagians, and proud of it. Informed by the practicality and optimism of humanism, we assert that people do have the will and the power to bring about our psycho-spiritual growth, both as individuals and as a society. We just need to work really hard as long as it takes, we say, and somehow we’ll make everything all right.

But how do we inspire such actions, when we also affirm each person’s right to come to their own understanding of what the sacred is, and then to pursue that understanding, or not, as they see fit. Far beyond merely asserting that a person can influence his or her spiritual awakening/salvation, we proclaim that it’s everyone’s private business whether they even bother to try.

I wouldn’t be the first to note the problems inherent in this atomistic and individualistic view of religion, since, in fact, the Universe births us, sustains us, and kills us, without ever bothering to ask what our opinion or wishes about that are. We should remember that we are derived from It, not the other way around.

This month’s services, on the theme of surrender and letting go, may offer some challenges to the Pelagian view. In these hard times, when the future of our very democracy seems at stake, when the forces of nationalism and racism are again rearing their heads, even considering the notion of surrender can seem like a bad idea. Isn’t it the opposite of “resist” and “persist?” Am I suggesting that we should just give up, or letting people bully us or run over us?

Not at all. Surrender doesn’t mean never trying to make things better. But it might mean letting go of our attachment to outcomes. If we’re going to love our way out of our problems, and act as though all people really are of one soul and one family, then we may have to surrender our beloved opinions about how things “ought” to be. I do think it’s worth considering how much our own wills, pride, certainties, and hyper-individualism may be reifying rather than alleviating the world’s problems. And maybe we can let go of our identity as perennial rebels and heretics. Maybe we could consider what we have in common with everyone else, rather than how we differ from them.

I’m not talking about surrendering to the climate deniers or the Russians. I am talking about surrendering to the power of Love, the force of Nature, the will of God, the flow of the Tao, the mojo of the Great Big Thing.

In this spiritual context, you might need to surrender your false notions of separateness or personal survival. You might need to surrender your resistance to change. You might finally need to surrender your apathy. You might need to surrender your unwillingness to take chances. In surrendering in these ways, we allow that power to command us, and the irony is that then we are actually considerably more effective in healing the wounds of the world.

“What greater profit than to give our life for another?” asked Jesus. Those who have found the meaning of their existence in serving and loving that which is larger than them know exactly what this means. When you yield to the Great Big Thing, you ARE the Great Big Thing. That’s a pretty liberating, empowering and satisfying experience.

Like everything, surrender and letting go is a high wire act. Fortunately, we have a balancing pole, given by the Universe and cultivated by our wills, with love on one side and wisdom on the other. Thus I seek the serenity to accept the things we cannot change AND I seek the courage to change the things I can, praying for the wisdom to know the difference, and striving to love everyone and everything at all times.

I’d like to think Pelagius, Arius, Arminius and Pope Francis could all agree with that approach.

Be well, friends, until we meet again.

Reverend Chris Bell
What is Prophetic?

"Justice is what love looks like in public." — Dr. Cornel West

Several months ago I was invited to participate in an 18-month continuing education program for UU ministers committed to prophetic ministry. What is prophetic ministry, you might well ask?

Well! Good question!

Sometimes, prophetic is used as shorthand for “social justice.”

I think that description is spot-on.

"Prophetic" can mean to focus on gaps between the world as it is and the world as it ought to be, and consider what helps, heals, and orients us as humans in society to reach for a better future. In today’s world, prophetic refers to the notion of looking deeply at the present moment and training the eye and heart on a vision of the future with liberation from all intersecting oppression at its core.

Prophetic ministry, I think, is a work in progress… a way of being in the world with others with particular attention to what needs healing and change in order to support liberation and equity. It’s a word that is about an orientation to life in this beautiful and complex world.

At it’s deeper root and through the lens of UU values, I am not sure any ministry, at least UU ministry, really can be ministry without attention to social and ecological liberation! However, sometimes it is possible for ministry to focus more on inner experience, and to not necessarily engage with the wider societal and structural realities at play. I’m writing this message right around MLK Day, as we prepare to enter February, a great month to focus on the transforming power of love.

When Dr. Cornel West says, “justice is what love looks like in public.”, this reminds me that inner and outward transformation are part of the same project. Inner and outer work are integrally related. This is what most religious and spiritual teachers of love and liberation have taught down through the generations.

I wonder what you think of the idea: “justice is what love looks like in public.”

In the program on prophetic ministry, I am being challenged to look more deeply at theories of change (how society and ourselves within it can be changed) and spiritual practices that help ourselves, congregations, and communities connect and sustain ourselves spiritually for the work that leads to inner and outer transformation.

So, this MLK Day, I’m preparing to head to Tucson, Arizona to gather with other UU ministers for the next prophetic ministry retreat! I’ll be there Jan. 24-28, and look forward to bringing back more inspiration for the ministry we share together here at UUCSR.

While in Arizona, I’ll be joining with a few other ministers to support the work of No More Deaths, a humanitarian organization based in southern Arizona that grew out of a coalition of community and faith groups, whose mission is to end death and suffering in the Mexico-US borderlands. Now No More Deaths is now a ministry of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson. And, unfortunately, just days ago, some of their humanitarian volunteers found out they will face jail for leaving water in the desert for migrants, placing into the spotlight criminalization of humanitarian aid.

I believe prophetic ministry is deeply multi-layered. It is about bringing wisdom and courage into the world in need of repair, and working with others to make waves of differences that will help present and future generations be possible. Prophetic ministry is about racial and economic and immigrant and LGBTQ justice. It is about sustaining communities that know how to show up and act in solidarity to make a better world. All this requires resources of inner sustainability and replenishment. When I think of this word, “prophetic”, I hear a deep spiritual thirst and call to be part of the tides of change that can help “justice roll like waters”...

The “prophets” of old looked critically at what was occurring in their era, and called people to live more deeply their values and return to a focus on uplifting the fabric of society. So, at its core, I think prophetic ministry is about how we all can live prophetic lives — each one of us participating in tending the fabric of society — and using all of the best human qualities to help make that fabric stronger, as an act of devotion and service to the holy mystery of life. Prophetic has to do with training our hearts and hands on doing work that heals the wounds of history so that the future can be brighter.

Thus, a prayer for this late January and early February 2019 is this:

May showing up for justice and making it public Become more and more of what our collective UU love looks like where ever we are; this day and everyday.

— Rev. Dara Olandt
Assistant Minister
**President’s Column**

In the last year and a half we have hired a new person for every major staff position at UUCSR except for our minister and our Sexton! WOW!

I thank the extraordinary work done by Linda Stabler, Sharon Smith and Stacy Drucker-Andress of our Human Resources Consulting Group. It’s been a wild ride, but they have come through brilliantly again and again!

Why do I bring this up? I every case, the new person is the PERFECT person for the job! With all the skills and vision in their area being brought to bear, we are positively bursting with possibility. Possibility to celebrate life, empower people, care for one another, and help build a better world.

Those aren’t just good-sounding phrases for me. They’re REAL. We are finding so many ways to celebrate the beauty, wonder and challenges of life. We are finding ways to empower people to be all that they can be (I know, I know...it’s become a trite phrase. But it’s also true about us!) One of our deep strengths is our capacity to care for one another, and we are doing that in spades! And we are out there actively helping to build a better world. For me, that means a world that lives from our Principles. Close your eyes right now and just imagine a whole world operating from our Principles. Mind-boggling, isn’t it? (Ok, now you can open your eyes!)

Each of these amazing people being in the right position at the right time also means that we are bursting with the possibility for growth. Growth in the right way. Growth in the UUCSR way!

I see two things at the source of our health and vibrancy: First, we are DEEPLY related. We function through our relationships (and we function very well). Second, we are deeply grounded in a vision of a better future for all. That vision keeps us positive. And when life knocks us back (as it often tends to do), we fall back into a web of relationship, compassion, understanding and love that sustains us until we can stand up again. We do stand on the side of love, in so many various ways, large and small.

I want more people to have what we have. Now, I have absolutely no interest in throwing any of what makes us so unique, special and powerful out. I want to expand the pond, and have that expansion not dilute it, but make it stronger. Every person is a gift, with unique talents, points of view and experiences. And that diversity is our wealth.

I don’t have all the answers for how to make this happen; nobody does. But I think it’s a goal worth striving for, and a conversation for us all to start. How could more members and pledging friends enrich and strengthen us? How better could we live our Mission with more people and resources? How does this allow us to make a bigger impact in our community? How can we care more for each other? How can we empower more? How can we celebrate life more? WHAT BECOMES POSSIBLE?

I’d love to hear your thoughts about this – good, bad, beautiful, ugly! We’re on a journey together. I often think of us being together in a boat, wending our way down the River of Life. I can’t think of anyone I’d rather be in that boat with! Come paddle the boat with me,

-Natalie Brundred, President, Board of Trustees

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**What Your Board Is Up To**
- January 2019

We reviewed several items to be discussed at the January Congregational Meeting including: an update on finances, the nominations for board members, the Endowment Committee, and General Assembly delegates. We were very impressed with the quality of people nominated!

We were updated on the status of hiring an Administrative Manager. A superb recruiting effort led by Linda Stabler and Sharon Smith resulted in 55 applications for the position. We interviewed seven to identify the candidate best matching our congregation’s needs. Our wonderful interim manager, Damilia Loupy, will help train the new person.

We spent some time looking at the state of this year’s budget and discussed several ideas of ways to complete the year successfully. While over 30% of our members have increased their pledges, the board and Stewardship Team are continuing to reach out to the Congregation to encourage members to increase their pledges as they are able and willing.

We unanimously approved Deb Carter-Hope to serve on the Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM). The board lauded the exceptional service of Lucia Milburn, who will be leaving the committee after four years.

As it has been five years now, Rev. Chris and the board discussed when and how long would be best for him to be on sabbatical. He feels that four months would be optimal, and will probably take it February through May of next year. The board discussed the steps that need to be taken for us to be fully prepared for him to be gone.

Your board welcomes your observations and suggestions, which can be communicated in many ways. You can talk to a board member during our Sunday Social Hour (look for the distinctive sign we carry), email us, leave a note in our mailbox in the workroom, or come to a board meeting. Next meeting: Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 6:30 in the Board Room.

-Natalie
February in Religious Education:

**Chalice Children (Preschool)**

In February, preschoolers will continue to learn to wonder about nature, including a look at snow and at rainbows. They will also learn to celebrate love for Valentine’s Day, including discussing how we can show love and affection for each other.

**Love Surrounds Us (K-1st Grade)**

Kindergarten and first graders will learn about peace in February, learning a Buddhist story about sharing in communities and making their own Peace Bowls out of clay. They will also hear the story Grandfather Gandhi and think about how making peaceful choices impacts our world. They will start the month with the chance to celebrate love with the Chalice Children class.

**Love Will Guide Us (2nd-3rd Grades)**

Second and third graders will learn about love for all creatures in February, starting with a Hindu story about Ganesha that teaches the belief ahimsa, or no-harm. They will have a visit from some animals as they further explore how animals are part of our community. Finally, they will revisit a lesson from January about identifying feelings and sharing how they feel with others.

**Crossing Paths (MUUGs)**

Our 6th-8th graders will explore Islam in February, culminating in a visit to our neighbors at the Islamic Society of Santa Rosa for their social gathering and prayer on February 22. They will learn the 5 Pillars of Islam and similarities and differences between Islam and Unitarian Universalism. Most of all, we hope to counter negative messages about Islam, exploring instead the tremendous creative contributions of Islam to western civilization and our connections in common.

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**Spotlight on Bibleodeon:**

4th and 5th Grade Religious Education

You may have noticed some strange things afoot in Religious Education these past few months.

First, there was crime scene tape in the courtyard one Sunday last October. Then, a few weeks ago, Pat Bailey (right) walked around in costume, carrying a closet rod in place of a staff. These are all parts of the incredibly interactive and dramatic curriculum for 4th and 5th graders called *Bibleodeon*, created by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock. The crime scene tape was part of solving the mystery of Cain and Abel, and Pat Bailey was actually dressed up to visit the classroom as Moses.

The goal of *Bibleodeon* is to provide an experiential program that introduces the Hebrew and Christian Bibles to young Unitarian Universalists. Both the Hebrew and Christian Bibles have greatly impacted the world and western cultures, as well as helping shape today’s Unitarian Universalism. Also, the stories are fascinating, informative and fun. Each session features a “Mystery of the Day” that frames the story in a modern-world context. For example, the story of David and Goliath focused on the Mystery of the Day, “What can we do about bullies?” Often, the stories are presented by the participants as they pretend to be news reporters, complete with a working microphone. After learning the story, 4th and 5th graders are led through a discussion that views the story through a Unitarian Universalist lens. Finally, they wrap up with a creative experience like making clay animals from Noah’s Ark or illustrating events from the book of Genesis.

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**February 17 at 10:30 am – Mystery Pal Identities REVEALED!**

UUCSR’s latest intergenerational offering, Mystery Pals, is off to a great start with 28 partnerships. Mystery Pals have been writing one letter each week, beginning in January, as they get to know each other through the written word. We have participants from 5-95 years old, but the delight is the same for everyone when they receive a letter from their pal.

On February 17, Mystery Pal identities will be revealed in the Social Hall directly following the 9:15 am service. Mystery Pals will then have the opportunity to find a place to sit in the congregation with a snack and interview each other face-to-face for the first time.
Share the Offering

UUCSR shares Sunday offerings with local non-profits that serve greater So. Co., incl. our Saturday Breakfast.

**FEBRUARY HOT TOPIC**

**FOREST UNLIMITED**

**Sunday, February 10, 2019**

Board Room, after the 11 AM service

Executive Director Rick Coates of Forest Unlimited discusses this long standing Sonoma County environmental organization’s work whose mission is to protect, enhance, and restore forests and watersheds of Sonoma County. Forest Unlimited educates the public about logging plan review, forestry law, and regulation, most recently by a series of talks at the Sonoma County libraries.

FU addresses illegal and unsound logging, works toward improving logging rules, and provides information regarding current forestry law, has a Mentor Program, and sponsors forest restoration projects, gathering volunteer crews to plant 1600 redwood seedlings yearly, totaling over 32,000 trees planted in 23 years of continued restoration efforts. Please come to find out more!

The A4SJ Film Project presents our Care in Community Film Series:

**DISABILITY RIGHTS**

**A COLLECTION OF TED TALKS/YOU-TUBE VIDEOS**

**Sunday, February 24, 2019**

After 11:00 am Service in Board Room

Our fifth film program in this year's series is devoted to disability rights. We have combined several Ted Talks and You Tube videos which, taken together, offer a sweeping history of the efforts to advance the human rights of disabled people.

Ted Talk, 2017: OUR FIGHT FOR DISABILITY RIGHTS AND WHY WE'RE NOT DONE YET— JUDITH HEUMANN. This Ted Talk features Judith Heumann, an internationally known leader in the disability community and a lifelong civil rights advocate for disadvantaged people.

You Tube: DISABILITY RIGHTS ACTIVIST MOVEMENT DOCUMENTARY

We will view a segment of this video that sets the stage for later fights for disability rights.

You Tube, 2015: THE POWER OF 504. This award-winning documentary video captures the drama and emotions of the historic civil rights demonstration of people with disabilities in 1977, resulting in the 504 Regulations, the 1st Federal Civil Rights Law protecting people with disabilities.

Ted Talk, 2016: WHY IT IS TIME TO MAKE INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT INCLUSIVE— CHARLOTTE McCLAIN-NHLAPO. Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo, a well-respected human rights lawyer in disability and child rights, is the Global Disability Advisor for the World Bank Group supporting operational teams across the institution to ensure that Bank policies, programs and projects take people with disabilities into consideration.

This program is an engaging, moving testament to the power of people to effectively wage campaigns on their own behalf with positive results for all of us, a reminder that the forces of the status quo must continually be challenged when human rights are at stake.

Discussion, as always, follows viewing of the film. Please bring whatever you wish to eat. We will offer a snack, not lunch.

Elaine, Cassandra, Mary Louise, Carol D., Dorris, Jeanie
The Lay Chaplains Are Here For You

Whether you have a sorrow weighing down your heart, a friend or family member going through hard times, or you just need a friendly ear to listen to your concerns, a lay chaplain is available to listen.

Each Sunday between services and after the late service, a Lay Chaplain is scheduled.

Look for the person with the long white silk scarf, or look for their names in the Order of Service.

Women Together: “Tell Us the Story”
Sunday, February 24

After 11 am services in Youth Room

On Sunday, February 24th, all UU women and their friends are invited to a gathering for shared stories about an object that has special meaning to you. This can be a photo, a souvenir of a journey, something you made, anything that is important to you! We will meet in the Youth Room after the 11 am service. This has been really fun and interesting when we've done it before so I hope many of you can be there!  

Linda Harlow/Women Together

ONE LOVE FESTIVAL

Wednesday, February 13
10:30 am—2:30 pm
SRJC Santa Rosa Campus
Lawrence Bertolini Student Center Quad
Look for UU table!

The purpose of the festival is to unite the SRJC community, celebrate diversity, provide resources and support, and promote student engagement. Activities will include intercultural arts, entertainment, and global cuisine, as well as representation from a wide range of programs and student services at the resource fair.

Check out the UUCSR outreach table at the One Love Diversity Festival on Wednesday, Feb. 13 at Santa Rosa JC! Table hosted by the emerging 20s/30s & Campus Connections group from our congregation!

“Santa Rosa JC will hold the annual One Love Diversity Festival on Wednesday, Feb. 13, 10:30 am to 2:30 pm on the Lawrence Bertolini Student Center Quad on the Santa Rosa Campus. The event is free and open to the public.

Map: https://maps.santarosa.edu/bertolini-student-center.

This event is organized in collaboration with the Student Government Assembly (SGA), the Inter-Club Council, Student Success Coaches, and the office of Student Life, Equity & Engagement (SLEE).”

Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans

2019 Drum Circle Dates 3rd Fridays 6:30—8:30 pm

CUUPs regular 3rd Friday Drum Circle has a NEW TIME! We will begin at 6:30 and end at 8:30pm. As always, you do NOT need to own a drum to come and participate, we have extra drums for you to use. We normally meet in room 545, and occasionally in the Board Room. Join us and see what the noise is all about.

Contact Stacy Sincheff for more information.

Feb 15 in Room 545
Mar 15 in the Board Room
Apr 19 in Room 545
May 17 in the Board Room
June 21 in Room 545
July 19 in the Board Room
Aug 16 in Room 545
Sept 20 in Room 545
Oct 18 in Room 545
Nov 15 in Room 545
Dec 20 in Room 545
**Want to Form a New Men’s Group?**

Connect with other men in the congregation. Men’s groups are about building personal support, intellectual stimulation, creative growth, spiritual deepening, and social outreach to the men of the church and community.

As sons, fathers, husbands, brothers, partners and friends living in the modern world, men experience countless joys and challenges. At Men’s groups we share our joys and challenges in lively, thoughtful yet confidential conversations.

See me for information at the ‘men’s group’ table between first and second services. Feb 3, 10th and 17th. contact me Bruce Hope.

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**Committee on Shared Ministry**

**True story:** Once upon a time a member of this congregation was invited to join COSM, replacing another member on the committee who was being “termed out,” as it were. The newly invited member enthusiastically agreed to join, after which he or she (let’s keep it mysterious) asked, “so, what does COSM do?”

**Ahem…** not a faithful reader of this column, eh?

**Okay, if you’ve gotten this far, how about taking part in a short quiz?**

The Committee on Shared Ministry:

A. schedules appearances of Rev. Chris with other congregations, i.e., “shares” him.
B. writes Rev. Chris’ sermons twice a month.
C. assists the minister in resolving disputes within the congregation and conducts his annual performance review.

Let’s say you correctly chose C. Obviously, then, you’re over-qualified to join COSM.

**Just kidding.** Actually knowing what we do couldn’t hurt before saying yes to an invitation. Still, a few years ago the humble scribbler of these notes could easily have been the invitee described above. (Maybe I was. Embrace the mystery.)

**So, C is more or less the correct answer.** If you’re having a problem within the congregation and don’t want to bother Chris with it (or you’re even having a problem with Chris) talk to one of us.

*We are Bob Anderson (Chair), Susan Bartholome, Alan Bell, Deb Carter-Hope, Frances Corman and Kitty Wells.*

Oh, and by the way, if you want to know the identity of the mystery member, ask Deb. She might tell you.

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**Caring Connections Committee**

connects members in need with members who are able to lend helping hands.

Our committee is looking for an Outreach Coordinator. This person will call our volunteers to arrange visits for those in the congregation who need some conversation and cheer. If you are comfortable making phone calls and would like a chance to help our fellow members in need, please stop at the Caring Connections Committee table on Sunday morning.

Also, please remember that we loan items such as wheelchairs, walkers, portable toilets and shower chairs.
Maintenance Team
WORK DAY
Saturday, February 2
9:00 AM - Noon
Please come help keep our building and grounds looking good and functioning well! Skilled and unskilled help are both welcome and appreciated!

OLD AGE IS NOT FOR SISSIES
February 12 and 26, 10:30 a.m. in UUCSR Green Room
A Group For Women Congregants 80 and over. Are you one of us? We are meeting in the Green Room at 10:30 a.m. every second and fourth Monday morning. Coffee service starts at 10:00 a.m. Need a ride? Please call well ahead of meeting date. Questions? Call: Phyllis Clement, Dorris Lee, or Shirley White.

FAITH AND FITNESS
Sonoma Valley Regional Park
Saturday, February 16
9:30 am – until about 2 pm
Listed one of the top winter hikes in Sonoma County. We’ll start at the main entrance on Highway 12 at 10:00, with carpool from Santa Rosa 9:15. Main trail paved and mostly flat, with early wildflowers and running stream. Dogs welcome. Questions & sign up to Gretchen P.

SILENT DRAWING MEDITATION GROUP
Fridays 2-4 pm
Starting Friday, Feb. 1st, will meet in the Board room from 2 to 4 every Friday afternoon. Bring your own supplies and ideas, a still life set up will be provided. A donation of $5 for non members and $2 for members is requested. For more info contact Judy Hutchinson.

EVENING BOOK GROUP
Thursday, FEBRUARY 14
2nd Thursdays, 7-9 pm
The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, FEBRUARY 14, from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing. The February selection is The Heart by Maylis de Kerangal. Visitors and newcomers are welcome. In March we read Salt House by Hala Alyan.

UUCSR WRITING GROUP
Mondays, Feb. 4 & 18, 1:30-3:30 pm
The UUCSR Writing Group invites interested writers and new writers to join us on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 1:30-3:30PM. All levels of experience welcome. Contact Marge Wright with questions or just attend.

OUR ANNUAL AUCTION PARTY!
MARCH 2, 2019
MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FOR THIS EXCITING ANNUAL EVENT
Just one month to the grand event! The biggest party of the year: NUESTRA FIESTA 2019.
The big event begins with the Happy Hour and bidding at 4:30. However, early bidding starts on February 3...so check the table in the social hall. Camaraderie, fajitas, prizes, and dancing makes the evening too special to resist.

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Mondays, Feb. 4 & 18, 1:30-3:30 pm
The UUCSR Writing Group invites interested writers and new writers to join us on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 1:30-3:30PM. All levels of experience welcome. Contact Marge Wright with questions or just attend.
Adult Religious Education

Adult RE, guided by UU Principles, rooted in UU sources, and our Congregation’s mission and vision, strengthens community and facilitates spiritual growth by offering classes, activities, and programs. Committee members: Nadine Carroll, Carol Dailey, Helga Lemke, Phil Harriman, Sarita Hazen, John Speck, Clare Whitfield and Rev. Chris.

WING SPIRITS
A FREE DREAM WORKSHOP IN HONOR OF THE REV. DR. JEREMY TAYLOR
Saturday, February 9
9:30am-4:30pm
Rev. Meg Whitaker-Greene will lead a day-long workshop on dream interpretation in honor of Rev. Dr. Jeremy Taylor. Dr. Taylor, who died in 2018, was an internationally known Dream Worker who co-founded the Marin Institute of Projective Dream Work. Meg is a UU Minister and Psychotherapist who has facilitated dream work for years and worked as Jeremy’s assistant when he was Associate Faculty at Starr King. The workshop is open to both those acquainted with Jeremy Taylor’s work and those new to it. Rev. Whitaker-Greene will explain guidelines and methodology for analyzing dreams at the beginning of the workshop, followed by work on individual dreams. Workshop participants are urged to bring a dream, although sharing a dream is not required. There may not be time to discuss everyone’s dream but there is much to be learned from hearing others’ dreams.

Bring a bag lunch; there will be only a half hour break for lunch. The workshop is limited to 15. Please sign up at the RE table.

TRAVELING THROUGH THE AMERICAN SOUTH
WITH MIKE & TOM BOND
Sunday, February 17
12:30pm, room tba
Hear (and see) about Mike and Tom’s mission to learn more about the American Civil Rights movement as they traveled through the South visiting civil rights sites and monuments. Finger food (not a full lunch) will be provided.

Please sign up at RE table.

SUPPORTING AGING SENIORS
Wednesdays, March 6—20
6:30-8:30pm
This program addresses a time when someone you love may no longer be able to live independently safely. The focus will be on concerns for caring for loved ones, resources for supportive aging, developing a plan in consultation with your loved ones and strategies for critical conversations.

Cost: $15 for all 3 sessions Class limited to 30 participants Please sign up at the Adult RE Table

THE THEOLOGY OF REV. CHRIS
Once monthly, Saturday or Wednesday
Saturday sessions will be 10:00am – 12:00pm
Wednesday sessions will be 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Feb. 9 (Sat) The Problem of Evil
Mar 9 (Sat) Human Nature
April 13 (Sat) Sacred & Profane
May 11 (Sat) Life, Death and Afterlife
June 12 (Wed) Nature of God, Pt. 2

SCRIPTURES STUDY
with Rev. Chris Bell
TUESDAYS 8:30 – 9:30am and 5:30 – 6:30pm
Jan 22 – Feb 12 (4 sessions) Tao Te Ching
Feb 26 - Mar 12 (3 sessions) The Wisdom Books: Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes
Mar 26 – Apr 9 (3 sessions) Teachings of Jesus pt. 1: Parables, stories
Apr 23 – May 7 (3 sessions) Teachings of Jesus pt. 2: Ethics, prayer

(re) NAMING 545
We’re naming Room 545! Get YOUR nomination in! As per the Naming Policy we approved last year, the Board is officially soliciting nominations for names, accompanied by your rationale supporting your nomination. It can be either a functional or a descriptive name.

Please submit your nominations to Gretchen Vap at UUCSR, in her mailbox cubby in the Work Room. Nominations must be submitted by April 1. Then the board will whittle all the nominations down and we will all vote at our June Congregational Meeting. And we’ll have a name for our room!
As of mid-year, net income from both Operations and Glaser Center combined is approximately $25,800 year-to-date. Net Income for the month of December shows a surplus of $30,000 from both Operations and Glaser Center. This gain is the result of typical increases in pledges before the end of the calendar year. We are also showing expenses running year-to-date well below our budget. Although this is good news, finances for the latter half of the year generally run higher and revenue tends to dip down.

Following a review of our current budget mid-year, our expenses remain in check, which is a positive, but our income has fallen below expectations. Stewardship has done a commendable job with our Pledge Initiative with the results of one-third of the Congregation increasing their pledges for this Fiscal Year. Unfortunately in the first five months of the year, we have lost more than half of our Pledge Initiative increases to members either having passed away or moved away. The fires from last year are also contributing to a number of members leaving the area. It appears the Congregation is going through one of those contractions normal to an aging population. The Board and Finance Committee are watching our finances closely.

Also of note, we are only a few months away from beginning the process of creating a budget for next year. Committee chairs are asked to begin looking at their budgets in the next few months.

Fiscally yours, Michael Randolph, Treasurer

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**Musical Notes**

“All God’s creatures got a place in the choir. Some sing low, and some sing higher. Some sing out loud on a telephone wire. Some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they’ve got.”

One thing we got at UUCSR is a lot of good music, and January was no exception.

Our theme was Grace. On the 6th we sang "Amazing Grace" to the accompaniment of bagpipes! Plus there was a quartet benediction sung by angels: John Ray, Alan Bell, Susan Panntaja, and Cathy Read. The 13th saw Sadie Sonntag and the Choir perform "From the Crush of Wealth and Power". On the 20th Susan Panntaja and Eric Skagerberg sang "Homeward Bound". Finally, on the 27th, the Choir was back with a beautiful short piece by Doug Bowes titled simply "Grace", and a longer one titled "I Believe".

In February we’ll explore Surrendering and Letting Go. Mary Chapot and Robin Rogers will coordinate the music for the 1st and 3rd Sundays, respectively, and the Choir will sing on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Music selection for February is underway as of this writing.

If any of this marvelous musical ministry inspires you, tell us what you like, what you can do: sing, play an instrument, or just clap your hands (on the 2nd and 4th beat of course!) Talk to a Music Coordinator (musicians@uusantarosa.org), or Choir Director Sadie (choir@uusantarosa.org) to find how to lend your musical talent to the mix.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jones

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**SHARE-THE-BASKET**

Following are the December Recipients.

We split our Weekly Offering. Our social action committee, Advocates for Social Justice selects a program, with congregational input, to receive a special donation from our Congregation. Thanks for Your Generosity!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YWCA Safe House</td>
<td>$860.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Parent Institute</td>
<td>$853.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UU Fellowship Chico (100%)</td>
<td>$5,957.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Breakfast</td>
<td>$532.49</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Love is the doctrine of this church, The quest of truth is its sacrament, Service is its prayer. To dwell together in peace, To seek knowledge in freedom, To serve human need, To the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with the Divine. Thus do we covenant with each other and with God.

Arr. by L. Griswold Williams