



Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore

Volume 16, Number 1

January 2011

Sunday Services, High School & Middle School Youth Group, & Children's Religious Education at 10:30am

What's Happening at UUCiL?

- Mondays in January*
- Young Adult Group*
- January 2:
First Sunday Book Group
- January 3:
Sunday Services Committee
- January 5:
Shawl Ministry
- January 8:
Choir Rehearsal
Meditation Workshop
- January 9:
Program Council
Minds on Fire
Chalice Circle Sign-Up
- January 12:
Men's Group
- January 13:
Caring & Concerns Committee
Board Meeting
Finance Committee Meeting
- January 15:
Worship Associate Class
- January 16:
Potluck (P-R)
The Five Wishes Class
- January 19:
Choir Rehearsal
- January 21:
Stargazers
- January 22:
Meditation Workshop
UULM Anniversary Gala
- January 23:
The Five Wishes Class
- January 25:
Shawl Ministry
- January 26:
Men's Group
- January 29:
Service Auction
- January 30:
Social Justice Coordinating Team
RE Community Meeting

January 2 ***I Love You, You Love Me, Now Just Be Quiet***

Rev. Lucas Hergert, preaching
Pat Mielke – Accompanist

How do we engage conflict in our personal lives? How do we handle it in our churches? Rev. Lucas will preach on the ways conflict can open doors that were previously closed.

January 9 ***The Hope of Small Group Ministry***

Rev. Lucas Hergert, preaching
UUCiL Choir
Wendy Fisher – Accompanist

UUCiL will be starting Chalice Circles, also known as Small Group Ministry. These are groups of members and friends who meet to talk about the ultimate and intimate concerns of their lives. Rev. Lucas will preach on the hope that these small groups provide.

January 16 ***Dreams, Hope, and the American Political Tradition***

Rev. Lucas Hergert, preaching
UUCiL Choir
Wendy Fisher – Accompanist

What are the currents in political thought that have influenced our current president? On this Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, Rev. Lucas will preach on the major influences of Obama's thinking that may lead us toward a more just and compassionate world.

January 23 ***The Religion of Things***

Rev. Lucas Hergert, preaching
Pat Mielke – Accompanist

Scholars of religion often study something they call "material culture." This is the collection of things that people infuse with meaning, and in turn gives people's lives meaning. Rev. Lucas will discuss the role of things in our lives.

January 30 ***Youth Service***

UUCiL Youth, preaching
Clarinet Solo: Joe Bonfiglio
Pat Mielke – Accompanist

Come hear our youth preach about growing up Unitarian Universalist, engaging in social causes they care about, and preparing for the transition into adulthood. You won't want to miss this important service!

UUCiL Staff

Minister: Reverend Lucas Hergert
(Office Hrs: W-F 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. & by appt.)

Director of Religious Education: Renness Tomley
(Office Hrs: Thursday 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. & by appt.)

Administrator: Jennifer Neff
Choir Director: Dee Wood
Newsletter: Desty Shoemaker

The UUCiL Newsletter is published 12 times each year. The editor, Desty Shoemaker, welcomes submissions from all sources. Please submit your input to Desty at shoemaker4@llnl.gov. All input must be received by the 3rd Sunday of the month to ensure inclusion in the next month's edition.

WATCH REV. LUCAS' SERMONS ONLINE:
www.uucil.net

Minister's Column:

Got Programs?

In another article in this Newsletter, our Strategic Planning Committee talks a bit about the move from a Pastoral Size church to a Program Size church. We are on the cusp of these two different sizes. And as the Committee mentions, one of the key parts of growing past a Pastoral Size church is the development of programs.

Other churches that are not much bigger than our own have many programs. These range from social groups for all ages, to spirituality circles, to classes. It makes me wonder: what classes or offerings would be the most engaging for our church community at this time?

One of the programs I am most excited about is our upcoming Chalice Circle program. Chalice Circles are small groups of members and friends that meet twice a month to talk about questions of life, spirituality, and meaning. We will be kicking off our program on Sunday, January 9th, so please plan to attend and learn more.

The other program I will be teaching this spring is on John Buehrens and Rebecca Parker's *A House for Hope*. This book is on Unitarian Universalist theology, and promises to engage us deeply on our spiritual journeys. More on that will follow.

What other offerings might UUCiL have? What would you like to see and participate in? I invite your feedback as we move forward with our strategic planning.

Yours,

Lucas



Chalice Circle Sign-Up

Sunday, January 9th

This will be the kick-off for our Chalice Circle program. This exciting effort will allow small groups of members and friends to meet and discuss important questions of life, spirituality, and meaning. Please come on January 9th to learn more about the program and sign up!



The Five Wishes Class

On January 16th and 23rd, following the service, Rev. Lucas will lead a class on the Five Wishes. This allows members and friends to consider end of life questions and to create a legal document expressing their wishes. Attending is a compassionate thing to do for you and your loved ones. Sign up at the back of the Sanctuary or by emailing the office.

Worship Associate Class

On January 15th, 2-4 PM, our Worship Associate team will meet to discuss our Sunday Morning Worship. Rev. Lucas will lead reflections on how to craft meaningful worship. Are you interested in possibly being a worship associate? Join our class to see! All are welcome.

It is while you are patiently toiling at the little tasks of life that the meaning and shape of the great whole of life dawn on you.

Phillips Brooks

Ron's Notes – January 2011

Happy New Year! I hope that 2011 is a year of peace and happiness and growth for you and for UUCiL as well. We begin this new year in quite satisfactory shape fiscally and programmatically and I look forward to the continued good health of our congregation. With your ongoing support and enthusiasm, of course!

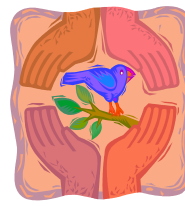
Our next big opportunity is the Stewardship Campaign for the 2012 fiscal year. In the face of continued economic malaise we are called upon, as a congregation, to significantly increase our pledges for next year, to accommodate some mandated expenses:

- At our congregational meeting in September, we approved an increase of about \$3000 per year in debt servicing so that our member bonds will be retired in seven years.
- The need for hired bookkeeping service and a building sexton was highlighted last month. These paid positions will be in the 2011-12 budget.
- The UUA, our national organization, has informed us that member dues will increase by \$2 per person, a mandated budget increase of at least \$300. District dues will also rise.
- Our current budget for social justice and community outreach is, in my opinion, embarrassingly small. I believe we can and should be doing much more.

Of course, you will be hearing much more about these fiscal matters as the Campaign progresses.

We have good momentum heading into 2011. Every one of our committees is working hard and leading us in the right direction. I am very grateful to all of our many volunteers for their time and talent. Our outstanding staff continues to provide excellent programming and run the office smoothly. We are truly blessed.

In peace and fellowship –
Ron



UUCiL: Working Toward Social Justice January Update

Thank you to everyone who contributed to social justice activities in November and December. The UUCiL church community contributed generously to **Tri-Valley Haven** by providing grocery gift cards for their Pantry and gift cards and gifts for its Holiday Warehouse. At least three people contributed their time by baking gingerbread cookies and helping at the Holiday Warehouse.

Many of you helped at **Open Heart Kitchen** on November 30. See pictures of the happy workers on the Social Justice bulletin board (and in this newsletter), and note their wonderful new aprons.

You contributed five large bags of warm winter clothes that were delivered to **Jackson Avenue Elementary School** and appreciated by the recipients. As our relationship with Jackson develops, three people have now volunteered to read with students and one will serve as accompanist for their choir this spring.

The previously announced **Summit on Immigration as a Moral Issue** that was scheduled for January has been cancelled. However, to begin our study of immigration issues, the Social Justice Coordinating Team and the UUCiL Book Group will be sponsoring a community read opportunity. The UUA has provided a study guide for the book, *The Death of Josseline*, by Margaret Regan, and we will be discussing it in March. Watch the Sunday announcements and signup in January to be part of a group order for the book. Then, see the February newsletter for more details about the discussion time and place.

If you have ideas for social justice projects or want to find a way to get more involved in our social justice ministry, contact Lois Dueltgen at lois@dueltgen.net.

Religious Education News



Happy 2011!

Special news:

Look for the Unitarian Universalist Youth Service Camp brochure that will be available in early January. This program is open to all UU Youth ages 13 through 17 years. This is a combined effort of the 1st Unitarian Universalist Church in Stockton, the Unitarian Universalist Society in Sacramento and the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore. This is a week long, overnight summer program for all our UU youth, who will be providing services in justice to our communities in Stockton, Sacramento and Livermore. The youth will get a chance to meet other UU youth, find out more about our communities' needs and make a difference in the lives of others. More information about this program will be available in early January.

On January 19th we will have our Children's Worship Service at 10:45am and the theme will be Gratitude and Giving in the New Year.

Our Religious Education Community Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 30th, following the service at noon. This will be a time for everyone to come and hear a summary of the year past, where we've been and where we are going. Your concerns, ideas and questions will all be heard! A lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Rennie Tomley, dre.uucil@gmail.com, so that we will know how many people to plan for.

Thank you to all the generous people who answered the call for helpers last month. Marion Stearns will be the pianist and musical director for the Children's Worship Service and Amy Masker has volunteered to do our Powerpoint presentations and help maintain the Religious Education storage closet! Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

We are still looking for someone to help person the book mobile after the Sunday service.

Please let Rennie Tomley, Director of Religious Education, know if you are interested and available to help. You can reach her at 510-599-1361.

Only one person in a million becomes
enlightened without a teacher's help.
Bodhidharma



Sign Up for the Tao of Decluttering

When's the last time you reflected in a meaningful way about the clutter in your life? The Tao of Decluttering is a small-group class designed to foster contemplation and discussion about the "stuff" that surrounds us and how we respond to it, filtering our conversation through ideas promoted in The Tao Te Ching. There is a cap of seven participants, so sign up today to reserve a spot (or be added to a waiting list.)

Wendy Fisher will lead this class on March 3, 10, 17, and 24 from 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Bring a notebook and a pen! Reserve your seat by e-mailing Wendy at wendywisemanfisher@gmail.com.



Box Tops for Education

Have you ever seen the little pink and white rectangle on products that say "Box Tops for Education" and wondered what to do with them? They are a great way to help out schools. For each Box Top mailed in by the school they receive ten cents. We will begin collecting the box tops in January and will give them to Jackson Avenue School. It is an easy way to help. Look for a collection container in the back of the sanctuary.

Thanks for your help!



POTLUCK

EVERYONE IS INVITED to come to the Monthly POTLUCK. It will be January 16, 2011. Helpers are people with last names P-R. The February POTLUCK is February 20th and helpers are people with last names S-Z. HELPERS are people who help get the food and everything needed on the serving tables and/or stay after to help clean up.

SOS – TABLE HELPERS NEEDED. This entails helping to put up: (1) 3 Serving Tables first and (2) Tables and Chairs for eating. When the weather is too cold or rainy and we must eat inside, the Chairs in the Sanctuary need to be moved.

POTLUCK or AFTER CHURCH COFFEE questions or to help please contact:

Beth Dowling 925-249-1581

bethdowling@comcast.net

Or Laura Pedersen 925-426-9789

ljpedersen@comcast.net

DON'T THROW THEM AWAY!

The Village High School in Pleasanton wants your Christmas cards (not photos) to make gift cards. A box on the counter in the meeting room will be available on Dec. 26 through January 9. Chilli and Marion will see that the cards are delivered.



NEW! UU Recycle Bins

You may have noticed the new recycling bins in the kitchen and at coffee time. In an effort to use them correctly, maximize our recycling efforts and minimize our impact on the planet, let's go back to school for a moment and take a refresher course on recycling.



UUCiL Recycling 101



Lesson 1: Introduction

As part of the 7th UU Principal and a General Assembly Resolution, UUs have committed to protecting the biosphere by supporting and participating in community conservation and recycling programs. The UU Ministry for Earth promotes a Green Sanctuary Program, of which recycling is a part.

Most of what we use weekly in the church may be recycled, and as a congregation, we are falling short of our potential by still putting more in our garbage bins than in our recycling bins.

Lesson 2: Recyclables

Blue Bin: Clean Paper, Plastics, Glass and Cans: All clean paper, Orders of Service, cardboard, cans, plastics #1-7 (unlabeled plastics are to go in the garbage). Rinse off any food from recyclable plastics, glass and cans before placing in the bin. Food soiled paper may not go in this bin. Some styrofoam is plastic #6, and if clean, may go in this bin. This bin is not lined with a plastic bag.

Green Bin: Organics: Anything made from organic matter, which can decompose. The most obvious are food scraps (dairy, meat, and grains, too!), but also includes food-soiled paper plates, paper cups (no styrofoam), napkins (no kleenex tissues, please!), tea bags & wrappers, sugar packets, wooden stirrers, wax paper, pizza boxes, and more. Absolutely no plastic or metal! This bin must be lined with a certified compostable bag liner, which is made from plant oils.

Red or Gray Bin: Garbage: Plastic wrap, creamer containers, kleenex tissues, and most anything else not mentioned above!

Lesson 3: Further notes

Starting sometime in January: We already have compostable forks, knives & spoons in stock and ready to go as soon as we finish off the last of our plastic supply. Which means folks – yes – they will go in the green organics bin!

Please continue to support the playground fund and continue to recycle CRV plastic bottles and aluminum cans in the playground fund bin!

Please note, we are expanding the number of bins to include the Starr King, Founders', and Tot Green buildings, too!

Not only do we promote recycling in our church; as responsible UUs, we need to practice in our homes, too!

Exams

Study up! - There will be a test in mid-January!



Strategic Planning Committee Report

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) was appointed by the Board to provide an in-depth look at issues affecting the congregation over the next few years. The members of the committee are Brian Mayall, Jean Moran, Jes Pedersen, Joyce Taylor and Sunil Wijeyesekera. Rev. Lucas Hergert and Ron Dueltgen are ex officio members. We meet monthly and have brainstormed and prioritized a list of issues that we will work on as a committee. Two of these issues are the transition to a Program-Sized Church and the Mission Statement.

UUCiL – Moving from a Ministerial to a Program-Sized Church?

When a new church begins to grow, it does so until it reaches a plateau – a point at which it must also make a structural change to grow further. Churches with fewer than 50 members resemble an organism more than an organization; they revolve around a central group relationship and have a familial bond. As they continue to expand, at some point they can no longer keep track of all the relationships, and to keep up with their growth they must bring in a minister. This shifts the congregation's focus from the group relationship to the minister.

As attendance increases to about 150-200 members, the church again plateaus and must change to continue to accommodate such growth. When the church reaches the point where the minister can no longer carry around the church workings and all the relationships in his head, it becomes necessary to change the focus as well as the structure. This size transition requires that the church become more group-centered once again, instead of being centered around the minister. The structural changes required are from that of a simple organism to a full organization with very defined programs.

A Program-size church is generally known for the quality and variety of its programs. Separate programs for children, youth, couples, seniors and other age and interest groups, provide entry points for a wide range of people. The larger membership and the rich variety of programming will cohere well if the leaders construct a clear identity for the church and express it consciously in a mission statement, a vision and/or a strategic plan. As our larger congregation re-defines its purpose and intentions, these should stimulate our imagination about a church life that leads to rich networks of friendship, growth and ministry. UU Churches in the area that function as Program-size churches include Mount Diablo, San Jose and Davis.

Based on our current membership, UUCiL is on the cusp of the transition from a Ministerial to a Program-sized church. These size transitions in a church's growth are critical because they present the congregation with an opportunity to realign the inner life of the congregation with the external realities brimming with potential for ministry. The SPC is taking an in-depth look at this transition and what we need to do to prepare for it. We plan to visit UU Churches in the area that operate as Program Churches to understand how they operate. We will perform a self-assessment of our current status and what gaps need to be filled to get to this next stage. As a result of this work, we expect to provide a report to the Board and the Congregation.

SPC Report cont'd.

Mission statement – request for input

An ideal Mission Statement should state succinctly the values and focus of our church. Its purpose is to provide direction to Lucas, the congregation's committees and the Board on where to prioritize their work. Our current Mission Statement was developed in 2000 with a lot of congregational input. However, the SPC believes that it is too wordy, and, since many new members have joined the church, needs updating. As a result, the SPC decided to seek congregational input.

Our committee started with two words that we believe should be part of the Mission Statement. The phrase we picked is "Growing together...". The idea of "growth" represents not just numerical growth but also personal growth, spiritual growth, and growth in community outreach. The survey done by the Ministerial Search Committee determined that 94 % of our members want the church to grow. The word "together" denotes community –our purpose is to bring people together in order to accomplish something greater than what we can do as individuals. The next question is "Growing together" for what purpose? A few examples follow:

Growing together in love, faith, justice and joy.

Growing together in our personal quest for truth and reason.

Growing together as we welcome all who share our values irrespective of gender, race or sexual orientation.

Two of these statements can also be combined, e.g. Growing together in love, justice, and joy as we share our values with all people.

Our challenge to members and friends of the congregation is as follows: Give us statements starting with the words "Growing together" that express your idea of the values and focus of this church. The committee will review these statements, looking for common themes that we can use to draft an initial version of the Mission statement. We will then create "listening circles" to get oral feedback from members of the congregation. Our draft will be presented to the Board at the March board meeting with a final version to go to the congregation at the Annual Meeting in May.

The first step in this process is up to you. Please respond to us with your statements expressing the values and purpose of this congregation. Statements can be sent by email to the church administrator at uucil@sbcglobal.net. Please use the words "Mission Statement" in the header. They can also be mailed to the church (Attn: Strategic Planning Committee.)

SOLD!

Our fundraiser, the service auction, will be January 29, 2011. Please be thinking of what service or item you can offer. "We" would like to raffle gift baskets and have a small silent auction in addition to our service auction. If you would like to put together a raffle basket or if you have an item or idea for the silent auction, please talk to Joan Dickinson. Items for the silent auction could be hand-crafted jewelry, quilts, knitted items, pottery, small new or slightly used appliances, computer hardware, or whatever you can offer. Let's all think of an item or service to offer to make this another successful fundraiser. Forms are at the back of the sanctuary or can be obtained from uucil@sbcglobal.net.



Open Heart Kitchen - November 2010



THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

YAG (Young Adult Group) Mondays 8:00 p.m.

This is a weekly gathering of folks age 18-35. Hang out with us as we continue to alternate Popcorn Theology nights with mellower game & conversation nights. We take turns hosting YAG at our homes, so contact Wendy Fisher at wendyjanemason@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list to learn specific location details.

1st Sunday Book Group January 2nd at noon

First Sunday Book Group will meet at noon in the High School Room on January 2nd. We will be discussing Michael Krasny's book, *Spiritual Envy: An Agnostic's Quest*. If you have read this book and would like to share your point of view, or if you would like to hear about this book, please join us.



There is also a plan to read *The Death of Josseline* by Margaret Regan and meet jointly with Social Justice and maybe another group in April. A U/U study topic is immigration, and this book deals with that topic. There will probably be an opportunity to order the book as a group. Bring a bag lunch or a snack. We usually adjourn at 1:30 PM.

Minds on Fire January 9th at noon

Minds on Fire meets on the second Sunday of each month after church in the Tot Green room to discuss a variety of topics. This month we will meet on January 9. Please join us after the service, and bring a bag lunch if you wish. We welcome newcomers, and no advance preparation is required. We hope you will join us. Our topic for January is: Resolutions.

Men's Group January 12&26 at 7:30 p.m.

The Men's Group meets twice a month for fellowship and discussion in the Church Office, on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. If you would like to join us, please contact Craig Fish: craigbfish@comcast.net.

Shawl Ministry January 5 at 7:00 p.m. January 25 at 2:30 p.m.

Do you knit? Crochet? Do you want to learn? Come join us! In this group, we work on projects for those in need of an extra dose of kindness. You can work on a shawl, chemo caps or on a project you have already started. We meet in the Tot Green building. Call Kim Rowe at 606-9531 if you have questions.

Meditation Workshop- January 8 & 22 at 10:00 a.m.

Linda Bissum is leading the meditation workshop. She has been meditating for the last thirty years, and will be sharing various meditation methods as well as her experiences and what she has learned from her mistakes.



UU Legislative Ministry 10th Anniversary Gala

January 22, 2010 - 6pm to 9pm

Costa Mesa Country Club
1701 Golf Course Dr
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Musical guests: The Haberdashery Ensemble!

Join other UULM supporters for dinner, music, and dancing as we celebrate 10 years of UULM! Bring your checkbooks and generous nature.

Tickets are \$50 each, \$25 for ages 18-35.

Purchase your tickets today at

https://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/6754/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=38962

In essentials, unity; in differences, liberty;
in all things, charity.

Phillipp Melancthon

January						
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
26 10:30 a.m. <i>Endings and Beginnings</i> Sunday Services Committee	27 8:00 pm YAG*	28	29 7:30 p.m. Men's Group	30	31	1 Happy New Year!
2 10:30 a.m. <i>I Love You, You Love Me, Now Just Be Quiet!</i> Reverend Lucas Hergert 12:00 p.m. 1 st Sunday Book Group	3 8:00 pm YAG* 6:45 p.m. Sunday Services Committee	4	5 7:00 p.m. – Shawl Ministry	6	7	8 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:00 a.m. Meditation Workshop
9 10:30 a.m. <i>The Hope of Small Group Ministry</i> Reverend Lucas Hergert 12:00 p.m. Program Council 12:00 p.m. Minds on Fire 12:00 p.m. Chalice Circle Sign-Up	10 8:00 pm YAG*	11	12 7:30 p.m. Men's Group	13 12:00 p.m. Caring & Concerns Committee 6:45 p.m. Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting	14	15 2:00 p.m. Worship Associate Class
16 10:30 a.m. <i>Dreams, Hope, and the American Political Tradition</i> Reverend Lucas Hergert 12:00 p.m. Potluck (P-R) 12:00 p.m. The Five Wishes Class	17 8:00 pm YAG*	18	19 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	20	21 7:00 p.m. Stargazers	22 10:00 a.m. Meditation Workshop 6:00 p.m. UULM Anniversary Gala
23 10:30 a.m. <i>The Religion of Things</i> Reverend Lucas Hergert 12:00 p.m. The Five Wishes Class	24 8:00 pm YAG*	25 2:30 pm Shawl Ministry	26 7:30 p.m. Men's Group	27	28	29 6:00 p.m. Service Auction
30 10:30 a.m. Youth Service 12:00 p.m. Social Justice Coordinating Committee 12:00 p.m. RE Community Meeting	31 8:00 pm YAG*	1	2	3	4	5

*Not held at UUCiL. Please check with organizer for location.

UUCIL SERVICE AUCTION



SATURDAY, JANUARY 29TH
DINNER: 6:00 P.M.
AUCTION: 7:00 P.M.



Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore
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Livermore, CA 94551-9793
925.447.8747 www.uucil.net

The Unitarian Universalist Church
in Livermore is a caring, diverse
community of open-minded people.
We provide a supportive non-creedal
environment for spiritual and
intellectual growth.

We encourage living respectfully and
fostering the religious aspect of life
through serving the larger community.

*We are a
Welcoming Congregation*

*The Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore is located at 1893 North Vasco Road in Livermore, California.
Founded as a Fellowship in 1957, we are proud to have been a voice for liberal religion in the TriValley for the over 50 years.
To learn more about our congregation please join us for Sunday Service at 10:30 am and visit our website at: www.uucil.net*