

The Messenger

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Chico
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NOVEMBER 2019

SUNDAY PROGRAM SUMMARY

November 3

“Day of Remembrance”

Rev. Bryan preaching

November 10

“Mission and Vision”

Rev. Bryan preaching

November 17

“Mission and Vision”

Rev. Dr. Jay Atkinson preaching

November 24

“Welcoming Congregation”

Rev. Bryan preaching



October has been a busy and different month. Many of you have noticed my absence on most Sundays. This was unfortunate, and was made worse by an emergency trip I needed to make to be with my mom and dad. At the time that I arranged the trip, Mom was in the hospital and delusional. It was not clear how long she had to live. But she has rallied, and will soon be moving into an elder care facility near their home, where Dad continues to live. In addition to seeing Mom, I helped Dad with decision making about the care facility and hospice for Mom. Difficult Conversations.

On another weekend in October, I preached at the Santa Rosa congregation where I did my internship. Rev. Chris Bell and I had arranged an old-fashioned pulpit exchange many months ago.. Our two congregations are also connected because of our common histories with wildfire. Many in that congregation lost homes in the Tubbs Fire two years ago. We helped them, and last year they stepped up in large ways to help us. I hope that you heard Chris when he was

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UUFC

Office Hours
Tuesdays & Thursdays
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Jane Quan-Bell
(530) 343-1693



Minister Musings Con't *Rev. Bryan*

here—he is a gifted preacher.

Finally, this past weekend, I attended the semi-annual gathering of UU ministers from Northern California. We worshipped, renewed connections and conducted business. These gatherings are important for the health of a ministry, mine included. One of the best indicators of a successful ministry is one where the minister values and relies on colleagues. This is why attendance at such gatherings is explicitly a part of my Letter of Agreement with our congregation. Our time together was made anxious by the large smoke plume we could see to the north from the Kincade Fire, a power outage, and the massive evacuations from Santa Rosa and other towns to the north of us. Those near and far being impacted by our most recent fires were much on our minds.

I look forward to a more reasonable and present November with you.

Congregational Meeting Report

In a meeting of the Fellowship on October 6th, the members reviewed a proposed 2019-2020 budget of \$198,292 that would result in a deficit of \$5,717. Considering a budget that projected a deficit was a challenge for the congregation, but with optimism and courage, the budget was approved. The congregation expressed faith that the deficit would be overcome by current members.

Dave Keller, the Board's Vice President, presided over the meeting and the budget was presented by Lucy Sperlin, the congregation's Treasurer. Dennis Daniel offered the members present at the meeting an opportunity to step forward and increase their pledges for the current year or make one-time contributions to the general fund.

At the meeting and immediately subsequent, more than \$2,200 was raised. More is needed to close the gap and opportunities still exist for others to participate. Forms for this purpose can be found at the Information table in the lobby of the sanctuary. Forms and checks can be returned to Lucy Sperlin, Bob Crowe, Dave Keller or T.W. Theodore.



Board Musings

By Dave Keller

It seems that everyone is on edge this particular November. Currently the Kincadee fire is burning through Sonoma county. Our friends down the street from us purchased a generator. Today is my mom's birthday but she could not talk long on her cell phone because she and my dad were trying to save the charge because the power has been shut off in their East Bay home. Likewise with my sister's family and aunt and uncle in Oakland. Fortunately, our power stayed on this time, but what can we do to prepare for another power shut-off like we experienced two weeks ago?

In the midst of these anxious times, it has brought me joy heading up the thank-you note writing for all of the donors to our Camp Fire Relief Fund. I just wrote two more thank-you's this month bringing our total number of donors to 143 individuals and other UU churches that knew we were hurting and reached out to help. I even wrote two thank-you notes to the UU Fellowship of Northern Nevada in Reno because at first I mistakenly thought their donation was for the Camp Fire Relief Fund, when in fact it was for our general fund. Their congregation took up a collection for us because they knew our church would be impacted financially. The gift of giving and receiving is what guest minister Rev. Eileen Brownell spoke of on October 27th in her sermon on "How Shall We Live?" She said that receiving is more difficult than giving. I agree. It feels odd to accept charity from another UU fellowship, but the truth is that it really did help. We accept the gifts with a spirit of gratitude.

Now that we are on the road to recovery, we can ask ourselves: how will we respond when others are impacted by disaster and are in need? Will we pay it forward?

Sunday Mornings 9:30 -10:15: Discussion and Sharing Group

Welcome everyone! The Sunday morning Discussion and Sharing group continues to meet in the Youth Hall from 9:30 -10:45 each Sunday before the worship service. All are invited. Brian Kraemer will facilitate self-exploration topics. He will present a topic each week from which the group is free to launch into what really matters to each individual in the moment. The main request is that each person speak from the heart. Contact Brian Anthony Kraemer (530) 321-3964 (cell)

UU Chico Annual Thanksgiving Potluck

Thursday November 28, 2019
Gather for setup about 2:00 PM
We will Dine at about 3:00 PM



Your Hosts David Strohmeyer and Suzan Scott

Most of us remember the Norman Rockwell painting shown above as we remember family thanksgivings in our own lives. But, for many, enjoying this holiday with their own family is not possible. Thus, a Fellowship Tradition, the UUFC Thanksgiving Potluck welcomes Members, Friends and their guests to join us for the traditional festivities and a convivial time.

Participants are asked to sign up in advance so we can plan food etc. Signup sheets will be available after Worship services on November 10, 17 and 24, or contact Suzan Scott or David Strohmeyer at 530-413-5699.

Your hosts will provide a roasted turkey and gravy, and a vegetarian main dish option. What to bring:

- Your side dish, salad or desert.
- A place setting for each person in your party, including wine glasses if desired.

This means no one has to deal with a huge stack of dishes. We do not have Television at the UU, so there will be no football games. Can I bring a guest? Of course you can. The whole idea of our gathering is to insure that no one need celebrate this holiday alone.



Music Ministry Notes from Mary Collins

Do YOU have ideas about our UUFC Music Program?

Would you like to offer:

- ** Special Music at one of our services? Instrumental or vocal?
- ** Share a CD or Video Recording of your favorite music?
- ** Other ideas how you would like to involve yourself in our Music Program?

NEW at UUFC Singalongs, JOIN US! prior to Sunday Services, 10:20 am.

Favorite hymns from both hymnals?

Popular oldies: Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, Joan Baez, Carole King, etc.?

Recorded contemporary music ?

Contact: **Mary Collins or Dave Keller, with YOUR favorite Singalong music!**

ENSEMBLES: this Fall we are forming vocal/instrumental ensembles

We have FUN while we sing together to weave music into our Sunday Services

We have NEW anthems for men's & women's voices AND women's ensembles!

No auditions required! Vocal coaching is offered as needed.

Your willingness to work with other singers and the Director is a plus!

If you want to join an ensemble of singers/ musicians please contact Mary!

.MUSIC SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

November 3rd Nick Arteaga, Pianist/ Mary Collins Song leader,
Special music: *I Dreamed of Rain*, performed by Margaret Aumann, Megan Johnson, Bryan Plude, Heather Thams

November 10th **Guitar Trio:** Pam Sachs, Margaret Aumann, Ruthie Wallace

November 17th Nick Arteaga, Pianist; Mary Collins, Song Leader

November 24 Heather Thams, Pianist, **Choir Ensemble:**
Dave Keller, Megan Johnson, Mary Collins

Contact me at mecdesigns927@yahoo.com or call me at 530-570-8826.

In joyful song,
Mary Collins, Music Director



**WOW! Wild/Wonderful/ Wise Older Women,
aged 50 and older**

NOVEMBER 20th, 2019, 1:30 to 3:00

‘MOVIE MADNESS’

**Fun Activities around your Favorite Movies
Led by Bonnie Bennett
Fellowship Hall**

****Gather at 1:00 pm to setup for the meeting**
Bring savories or sweets if you desire to share.
Hot water and tea bags supplied.**

We take turns leading the monthly meetings. If you have a topic or adventure/road trip you want to suggest/lead for WOW this coming year, put your thinking caps on! We started in September sharing stories, photos, etc. of our Summer adventures.

Projected topics for 2019-20

Dec 18: Winter Holiday Celebration
“Yankee Swap” and Holiday Singalong
Jan 15: Politics (Where might that lead us?)
Feb 21: Sex (Where shall we travel on this topic?)
Mar 21: Religious Experiences: Childhood to Present?
April and May: What are your ideas?

For more information, contact Mary at 530-570-8826, or mecdesigns927@yahoo.com

November Worship Services

10:30 am-11:30 am

Sunday Service, November 3 at 10:30 AM

“Day of Remembrance” The anniversary of the Camp Fire is near. We remember what and who we have lost. In conjunction with All Souls Day, we will also remember those dear to us. Please bring pictures or mementos. Worship Leader-Rev. Bryan Plude; Worship Associate – T.W. Theodore; Piano-Heather Thams; Choir Ensemble.

Sunday Service, November 10 at 10:30 AM

“Mission and Vision” Our mission is to serve our community. In the aftermath of the Camp Fire, our vision is less clear. We explore mission and vision in the first of a series of sermons. Worship Leader-Rev. Bryan Plude; Worship Associate – Megan Johnson; Guitar Ensemble.

Sunday Service, November 17 at 10:30 AM

“Mission and Vision” Guest Worship Leader-Rev. Dr. Jay Atkinson; Worship Associate – Angela Risdon; Piano-Nick Arteaga; Song Leader-Mary Collins.

Biography: Before retiring, Rev. Dr. Jay Atkinson served UU congregations for 32 years. He is currently a research scholar at Starr King School for Ministry. His scholarship focuses primarily on the Unitarian Polish Brethren in the early modern period, 1560-1635.

Sunday Service, November 24 at 10:30 AM

“Welcoming Congregation” Several years ago our Fellowship went through the process of becoming a Welcoming Congregation. What does this mean and how do we renew our commitment? Worship Leader-Rev. Bryan Plude; Worship Associate – Dave Keller; Piano-Heather Thams; Choir Ensemble.

UUFC

Schedule of Events

November

- 7 (Thurs) Men's Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. Jack's Coffee Shop
- 9 (Sat) Prepare and serve meals at Torres Shelter, 4:15-6:30 pm
- 14 (Thurs) Men's Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. Jack's Coffee Shop
- 21 (Thurs) Men's Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. Jack's Coffee Shop
- 24 (Tues) Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- 27 (Wed) Wayward Minds Book Group, 7:00 pm. Contact Larry Jendro at ljendro@msn.com
- 28 (Thurs) - Men's Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. Jack's Coffee Shop

November Famous UU

Emily Greene Balch (January 8, 1867 – January 9, 1961) was an American economist, sociologist and pacifist. Balch combined an academic career at Wellesley College with a long-standing interest in social issues such as poverty, child labor, and immigration, as well as settlement work to uplift poor immigrants and reduce juvenile delinquency. She moved into the peace movement at the start of World War I in 1914, and began collaborating with Jane Addams of Chicago. She became a central leader of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) based in Switzerland, for which she won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946.



November UU Humor

UU bumper stickers:



- “Honk If You’re Not Sure”
- “The Answer Is To Question”

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