

The Messenger

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Chico

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2018 - 2019 UU Board: T.W. Theodore, Tom Lewis, Bob Crowe, Courtney Singer, Danetta Cox-Cordova, Dave Keller, and Merrily Stover

Admin. Asst. Jane Quan-Bell **Newsletter Editor:** Bryan Plude

DECEMBER 2019

SUNDAY PROGRAM SUMMARY

December 1

**“Building the World From Love -
What’s my Role?”** |

Reb Lisa Rappaport preaching

December 8

“And the Greatest of These”

Rev. Bryan preaching

December 15

“Sacred, Saving Work”

Rev. Bryan preaching

December 22

“A Yuletide Christmas”

Rev. Bryan preaching

December 24

First Christian Church, 295 E. Washington

December 29

“Celebrating the Year”

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Events

UUFC

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



Minister Musings

Rev. Bryan

The Holidays are upon us. These days can be a source of joy or dread. The unbridled enthusiasm and expectations of young children are contagious. But endless do lists and short days can lead to anxiety or depression. We can be of two minds regarding time with extended family; it can be a blessing or a something we endure.

Here are some strategies for coping.

- Practice gratitude. At some point every day, write down, or tell someone one or several things for which you are grateful.
- If you have a spiritual practice, be it painting, writing, meditation, making music, or something else, keep practicing.
- Listen to live music. We are blessed to live in a city where there are lots of options.
- Simplify. If there are expectations that you can let go of, especially if they are self-imposed, let go.
- Give. Help cook a meal with UUFC at the Torres Shelter. Visit someone from the church



Minister Musings Con't

Rev. Bryan

or a neighbor whom you haven't seen in a while.

- Go to Campfirewish.com and make a gift to a local child or youth who lost everything.
- Come caroling with us after church on the 22nd.

May your Holidays be safe and blessed with Joy and Renewal.

Pastor Bryan

Chat With Pastor Bryan

I am initiating a drop-in time to chat with me, no appointments needed or taken. Next week, because of Thanksgiving, I will be at Bidwell Perk from 1:30-2:30pm on Tuesday. Thereafter, I will be there on Thursdays from 1:30-2:30pm. I continue to be available for meetings by appointment Tuesday through Thursday afternoons.

UUFC Online Donation Update

The '**Donate**' button on the UUFC website: <https://uuchico.org> has been upgraded. It is now possible to make an annual giving Pledge Payment, a Special Campaign Payment, or a simple Contribution to the work of the Fellowship.

Smartphone users can contribute in these three ways by downloading the **Give+** app from the Apple *App Store* or from the Android *Google Play Store*. They would type in the Fellowship's zip code, **95926**, and choose UUFC from a list of churches.



Board Musings

By
Dave Keller

Happy Holidays everyone! It's traditionally the time to reflect on what we have to be thankful for, and to connect with friends and family. Of course everyone's idea of family is different, and for me I am thankful not only for my personal family but for my UU family as well. In church today (November 24th), we learned about one way our church supported our UU family—when we became a Welcoming Congregation. By doing this, we covenant to promote the rights and dignity of the LGBTQ+ community. But as Rev. Bryan pointed out, a certificate on the wall is nice, but we need more action.

Now we have a chance to live our values by renewing our Welcoming Congregation status. The UUA has four steps for renewal. First, we should include at least two Welcoming Worship Services every year that uplift “the themes of LGBTQ+ / TGQNB* welcome and inclusion”. Second, we should have at least six Welcoming Days of Observance throughout the church year in which we offer a meditation, prayer, reading, Story for All Ages, or song that supports the ‘Plus’ community. Third, we should participate in a Welcoming Congregation Module, “which could be a webinar or seminar... that informs, educates, and raises awareness about the issues and needs” of the Plus community. Fourth, we should provide material support for a Welcoming Project with a LGBTQ+ advocacy group. In addition, I'm suggesting that we work towards becoming more visible in the LGBTQ+ community here in Chico.

Happy Holidays, to everyone!

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)



Music Ministry Notes from Mary Collins

YOUR IDEAS FOR 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.

NEW!! *BEATLES* Songbook, loaned to us by Heather Thams!!

What are your favorite hymns from both hymnals? Recorded contemporary music ?
Popular oldies? Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, Joan Baez, Carole King, etc.?

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

ENSEMBLES: looking for YOU to join **vocal and/or 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.
If you want to join an ensemble of singers/ musicians please contact Mary!

.MUSIC SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER, 2019

December 1 Pianist, Heather Thams, Song Leader, Mary Collins
Special music: Guest Speaker, Reb Lisa Rapaport, Spiritual Leader
of Congregational Beth Israel

December 8 Guitar Ensemble: Pam Sachs, Margaret Aumann

December 15 Pianist, Nick Arteaga; Song Leader, Mary Collins

December 22 10:30 SERVICE NOT YET PLANNED

AFTER SERVICE Carol singing to our housebound UU members
Everyone welcome! Please contact Dave at 892-8830.

December 24 Interfaith Christmas Eve Service: First Christian Church Interfaith Choir:
First Baptist, First Christian and UUFC singers offer one anthem.
DO YOU WANT to join us to perform that evening? Please contact Mary
ASAP! We'll have two rehearsals OR just come with friends and family to
celebrate with us!

In joyful song,
Mary Collins, Music Director, mecdesigns927@yahoo.com, 530-570-8826.



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

**DECEMBER 18, 2019 1:30 to 3:00
Winter Holiday Celebration!**

**Come and celebrate with us!
Yankee Swap and Holiday Sing-a-long!
Led by Suzan Scott
Contact Suzan for more info
on Yankee Swap:
RainbowSuzan@gmail.com**

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 2020

Jan 15: Movie Madness! Fun Activities! YOUR favorite movies!
Feb 21: Sex (Where shall we travel on this topic)?
Mar 21: Religious Experiences: Childhood to Present?
April and May: What are your ideas?

FFI: Contact Mary at 530-570-8826, or mecdesigns927@yahoo.com

Evening Women's Group December 9 at 6:00 PM

Please join us for an evening of fun, food and conversation in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack or dish to share. If you are new to UUFC, please come. This is a great way to get acquainted with other women. For questions, contact Linda at converselinda@comcast.net or 530-592-3870.

December Worship Services

10:30 am-11:30 am

Sunday Service, December 1 at 10:30 AM

“Building the World From Love” *What's my Role?* In Judaism we are commanded "not to despair." Yet, if we look around, there is much to despair about, locally and globally. What's the appropriate reaction? If we are not to turn away in hopelessness--or perhaps worse, indifference--what is our call? Three Hebrew words from Psalms give us the road map: *Olam Chesed Yibaneh*, in English: Building the World from Love and Kindness. We'll unpack these ancient words together and find our place in them. Guest Speaker-Reb Lisa Rappaport; Worship Associate-Susan Bachlor; Pianist/Song Leader-Heather Thams; Guest Soloist-Victoria Mannah.

Bio: Reb Lisa Rappaport is the Spiritual Leader of Congregation Beth Israel, a Synagogue and Community Center for Jewish engagement in the North State. She holds a BA. in Psychology, an M.A. in Transpersonal Psychology, and is a Rabbinical student in the Aleph Ordination Program. Reb Lisa has over twenty five years of experience as an educator in both Jewish and secular settings. She is also a writer and liturgist. Her book, *Divrei Nichum: Comforting Words During Times of Loss*, helps mourners navigate the terrain of death and dying.

Sunday Service, December 8 at 10:30 AM

“And the Greatest of These” In our Unitarian Universalist 2nd principle, we speak of justice, equity and compassion. We will explore how these are interrelated, and why justice and equity break down without compassion. Worship Leader-Reverend Bryan Plude; Worship Associate-Merrily Stover; Guitar Ensemble.

Sunday Service, December 15 at 10:30 AM

“Sacred, Saving Work” We are born with “a disposition toward compassion.” Most of us must cultivate and deepen this tendency to fully develop compassion. We will draw on the work of author Karen Armstrong. Worship Leader-Rev. Bryan Plude; Worship Associate-Gary Collier; Pianist-Nick Arteaga; Song Leader-Mary Collins.

Sunday Service, December 22 at 10:30 AM

“A Yuletide Christmas” On this winter solstice, we celebrate with carols and ritual some traditions that predated Christmas. Intergenerational Service. Worship Leader-Rev. Bryan Plude; Worship Associate-T.W. Theodore; Pianist-Brian Kraemer; Carol Leader-Dave Keller. Community Caroling follows the service.

Christmas Eve Service, December 24 at

Worship Leaders-Rev. Bryan Plude, Rev. Jesse Kearns (First Christian Church), Rev. Gail Hill (First Baptist Church). Mary Collins will direct a combined choir. First Christian Church, 295 E. Washington Ave.

Sunday Service, December 29 at 10:30 AM

“Celebrating the Year” Worship Associates-Courtney Singer, Angela Risdon, Susan Bachlor.

UUFC

Schedule of Events

December

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

Torres Shelter, December 14

Members from our fellowship prepare and serve a delicious dinner at the Torres Shelter every second Saturday of the month. If you would like to help us in this very rewarding community service please call Pam Sachs at 530-717-5477. Preparation of meal starts at 4:15 and serving starts at 6:00.

Monthly Work Party

The November Work Party was successful and very helpful. We have decided to make it a monthly event. December 14 at 9:30 AM is the next work party. Please come and help and get to know newcomers better and share a lunch. Just show up!

Unitarian Universalist Honored by Freedom from Religion Foundation

The Freedom from Religion Foundation (ffrf.org) held its annual National Convention in Madison, WI this past October. Incorporated in 1978, FFRF is an organization with chapters in every state, among them the Greater Sacramento Chapter. Their mission is to promote the constitutional principle of separation of church and state and to educate the public on matters related to non-theism.

Among those honored with recognition by FFRF at this year's convention was Nancy Northrup, president and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights. Under her leadership, the Center's litigation and activism have transformed how reproductive rights are understood by courts, governments around the world, and human rights bodies. Ms. Northrup has taught human rights and constitutional law as an adjunct professor at NYU and Columbia University Law Schools.

In accepting FFRF's 2019 Forward Award, Ms. Northrup stated that she was born and raised in the Unitarian Universalist Faith and she said, "When you are in a minority religion, you are acutely aware of the critical importance of the separation of church and state, and Unitarian Universalists are definitely a minority religion."

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