



FROM YOUR MINISTER



Thanks to the hard work of many of our members and friends, we were able to end 2014 with a bang: celebrating our 115th anniversary in style; recognizing the myriad of holidays this time of year and honoring our long-time members in our annual membership recognition service.

We were all moved and inspired by Gini Courter's message to us during our anniversary worship, and if you were unable to attend, please do take the time to listen to what she had to say to us- the audio is available on our website <http://UUChurchOfStockton.org>.

Rev. Erik David Carlson

Rev. Carlson is available for pastoral services. If you or someone you know is in need, please contact Rev. Carlson at uureverend@gmail.com or by leaving a message at the church: 815.947.3812.

All requests for pastoral care will be kept confidential.

Please write Rev. Erik to receive electronic newsletters.

The New Year is here and we are very excited about the direction our congregation is heading. But it will continue to take all of us working together in order to build upon our recent success. That is why I am recommending that any and all members who are interested in church leadership attend a one-day worship workshop on Saturday, January 31st at our fellow UU congregation in McHenry, Illinois. Led by renowned UU minister and worship leader Rev. Erika Hewitt, registration is only \$20 per person and promises to be an inspiring and informative experience. Please see the flyer insert and registration form later in this newsletter- and I hope to see many of you there!

We are also beginning a new fiscal year for the church, which means your pledges are more important than ever- as is your attendance at our annual meeting on January 18th where we will be electing new members to the Board of Trustees and approving this year's budget.

Many thanks for a wonderful 2014 and blessings for an even better New Year – hope to see you in church! - Rev. Erik

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

2015 is going to be a wonderful year for the Religious Education program. This year we are going to expand our horizons, try new things, and hopefully make new friends and lasting connections within our community. Our children are growing and the program is growing with them to cover topics such as interfaith connections, holidays from around the world, and how to incorporate being Unitarian Universalist into their lives and choices.



If we have not seen your family yet, this is a great time to start participating in the RE program. We have some wonderful lessons coming up. To see the January schedule please check below.

-Mandy Nachampassack-Maloney, Religious Education Coordinator mandy@uuchurchofstockton.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE – JANUARY 2015

JANUARY 4TH- THEY WORSHIPPED THE SUN

In this lesson the children will take a look at prehistoric and more modern belief systems that focused on the sun as life giver and as an agricultural god. We will explore the importance of the sun in the solar system and how it affects our daily lives in many unseen ways.

JANUARY 11TH- WHY WE NEED TO REDUCE, REUSE, AND RECYCLE

The children will learn about the importance of sustainable living and cutting back on products which may end up in landfills.

JANUARY 18TH- HINDUISM PART I

The students will be exploring the Hindu celebration of Diwali, the carnival of light and learn about the oldest practiced religion, Hinduism.

JANUARY 25TH- HINDUISM PART II

The students will finish up their lesson on Hinduism, spending the day focusing on the modern practices of the polytheistic religion.

NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD

Our church has just completed an eventful and successful year culminating in our 115th anniversary celebration. 2015 promises to be just as exciting as we continue our traditional events and fundraisers. We also plan on sponsoring another Council Hill Station concert to raise funds for our Service Partners and as an outreach to the larger community.

We start our 116th year with a Chalice Lighter Grant to fund our R.E. Coordinator position into 2017, an Endowment Fund of nearly \$50,000, and an updated membership directory. We will also begin the year with a (mostly) new Board of Trustees. As I write this our proposed slate of officers for your approval at the Annual Meeting are as follows: Ted Davenport - Co-Moderator; Lesley Hawley - Treasurer; John Fischer - Financial Secretary; and Sheila Haman - Secretary. We are still looking for a Steward for a three year term. Any volunteers? Upon approval, they will join me and Stewards Bill Schuldt and Joan Rawce Metzger.

We hope 2015 brings a growing R.E. program, more visitors and new members, and an active, happy and healthy church family. As always, if you have a thought or suggestion, talk to me or anyone on your Board of Trustees.

Mark Haman, Co-Moderator

2014 Board Roster
Moderators Doug Dufford (2015) Mark Haman (2016)
Secretary Kandee Haertel (2015)
Financial Secretary Rose Foreman (2015)
Treasurer Laurie Wurster (2015)
Stewards Taylor Rockwell (2015) Bill Schuldt (2016) Joan Rawce Metzger (2017)
Email: board@UUChurchOfStockton.org

FREEPORT AREA CHURCH COOPERATIVE NEWS

A huge thanks to our church community for the support you have given to FACC this year! Sally Fischer, Betty Rausch, and I filled 177 bags of candy for the FACC food baskets. Nanette Mosher took care of the delivery early in December. The Moshers and the Goodspeeds will be watching over our winter deliveries of personal items so please keep the toothbrushes, etc. coming.

- Joan and Dick Harmet, FACC Representatives



SERVICE IS OUR MISSION – FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROJECT



Thanks to everyone who contributed cash and gifts to the Family Christmas Project, and especially to Angie Heidenreich and Ted Davenport for coordinating the contributions, gift buying and wrapping.

Thanks to the generosity of our members we were able to provide Christmas gifts to two large families in need in the Stockton area.

Thank you for your generosity!

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 18TH – 12:00PM

Church service, Religious Education and Child Care begins at 10:30 AM

Potluck lunch for all following in the Patterson Room – please bring a dish to pass and place settings for your family.

Annual Meeting at 12:00 PM:

- ✚ Approval of the 2015 church budget
- ✚ Committee Reports
- ✚ What we have been doing together in 2014
- ✚ Election of new Trustees to the Board

Please join us and be a part of the UU Church's New Year!

NEW DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

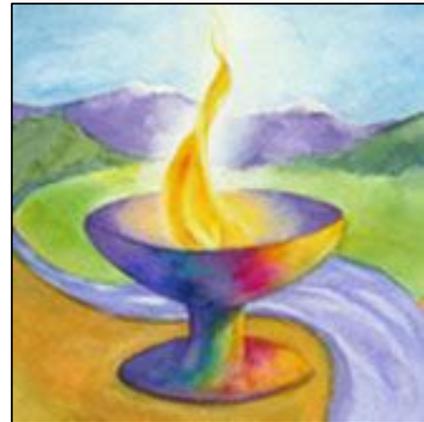
Your Membership Team and Rev. Erik have been hard at work updating the UU Stockton directory! Copies of the new directory are now available at church. If you would like to receive a copy by email or post, please write Rev. Erik at uureverend@gmail.com with your information.



**Beyond the Expected:
A Worship Arts Conference
January 31, 2015
9:30am to 3:30pm
McHenry, IL**

For Professional and Lay Worship Leaders, Worship
Teams, Musicians, and Music Directors

Sponsored by UU Congregations in the Western Crescent
Registration Forms Due January 19, 2015



To worship is to stand in awe under a heaven of stars, before a flower, a leaf in sunlight or a grain of sand. To worship is to work with dedication and with skill; it is to pause from work and listen to a strain of music. Worship is loneliness seeking communion; it is a thirsty land crying out for rain. Worship is the mystery within us reaching out to the mystery beyond. It is an inarticulate silence yearning to speak; it is the window of the moment open to the sky of the eternal. -

- Reverend Jacob Trapp, Unitarian Universalist

Worship is all that and more. It is song and silence, thought and feeling, prose and prayer and hours of preparation, practice, selecting, rehearsal, writing, researching, organizing, learning, deepening, and sharing. Worship becomes the great mystery that we enter each week as faith communities.

Join us as we learn to create more meaningful worship for congregations of all sizes!

What: A worship workshop beginning with Keynote Speaker Rev. Erika Hewitt and followed by break-out sessions on storytelling, music, pulpit presence, writing and technology for worship. We'll also have lunch and make time for getting to know other UUs.

Who: Professional and lay worship leaders, worship teams, musicians, and music directors. High school youth participating in these capacities are very welcome!

Where: Tree of Life UU Congregation, 5603 Bull Valley Road, McHenry, IL 60050

Cost: \$20.00 for folks not from a sponsoring congregation. Members from sponsoring congregations are encouraged to donate. Not sure if you're a sponsoring congregation? Ask your minister.

More about our Keynote Speaker, Rev. Erika Hewitt:

Rev. Hewitt has Master's degrees in Latin American History and Anthropology. She graduated from Starr King School for the Ministry in 2002 and began the process of pastoring to congregations in the regular UU way, but something wasn't right and so she leapt. She took a chance, moved from California to Maine and serves a congregation half-time while trusting Spirit to guide her in her other ministerial callings: coaching UU worship teams, writing, teaching yoga and meditation, and crafting rites of passage for others. Rev. Hewitt has written *Story, Song and Spirit: Fun and Creative Worship Services for All Ages* and *The Shared Pulpit: A Sermon Seminar for Lay People*.

Please fill out and return. Due date is January 19, 2015.

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Congregation _____

Which breakout session would you like to participate in? Please number them in order of preference with "1" being your first choice, "2" your second choice, etc.

_____ Technology: A conversation, with some practical suggestions and hopefully inspiring examples, about how to effectively use visual projection to add to the experience of worship. Everything from the "theology of the visual" to copyright law will be covered.

_____ Pulpit Presence: We'll consider Sunday morning preparation, staging, diction, body language and the unexpected.

_____ Writing: UUs are very fond of the written word and it's usually a mainstay of our services. We'll discuss how to craft homilies and other words needed to create the right tone in worship.

_____ Storytelling: It's more than reading and turning the pages of a book. We'll talk about the art of storytelling and how it lends itself to our message.

_____ Music: How is it used to move and sustain us? Bring a favorite from a service to share. Bring music that has been used in creative and non-traditional ways.

Lunch is included! Do you have special needs? Please check or explain all that apply. We'll do our best to accommodate you.

_____ Vegetarian _____ Vegan _____ Gluten sensitive

Allergies/Other: _____

Registration forms and money (\$20.00) are due no later than January 19, 2015.

Please make checks payable to: Tree of Life UU Congregation

Complete on-line or mail registration forms and money to: Rev. Lise Adams Sherry
UU Church of Elgin
PO Box 1032
Elgin, IL 60121

115TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Many thanks to everyone who helped put together an incredibly memorable weekend celebration of our 115th anniversary last month- please be sure to visit our Facebook page and website for photo galleries and to listen to guest speaker Gini Courter's powerful message to our congregation.

We still have several copies of the *Legacy of Love & Laughter* recipe and memory book – pick one up at church or write uureverend@gmail.com to find out how you can get a copy.

Special thanks go to the 115th Anniversary Task Force of Linda Weeder, Mel Parker Heidenreich, Mark Haman, Kandee Haertel, Brett Blair, Carol Hannig,

Dick Harmet and Rev. Erik, our hospitality coordinators Joan Rawce Metzger and Leslie Hawley, Terry Lee for his incredible gift of an anniversary stained-glass centerpiece (pictured left with Gini Courter), our guest musician Ron Hill, additional member interviewers Sheila Haman, Nancy Schuldt, Laurie Wurster and Martha Wolf (who also danced for us during the 115th Anniversary service, and everyone who prepared food from the recipe book and helped set up, break down and clean up after the potluck supper!



Please note the following recipe correction for Chocolate Pecan Pie, p. 48: Add 1 cup dark Karo syrup to ingredients.

WE GOT THE CHALICE LIGHTER GRANT! – BUT WHAT NOW?

Thanks in no small part to Randy Downing, Rev. Erik and the Board of Trustees, our second religious education funding grant proposal to the Chalice Lighters of MidAmerica UUA was accepted! This means that we have made an excellent case for why we should be investing the money of other Unitarian Universalists in our church- and it also means we have an obligation to make the very most of it we can. Our commitment to religious education programming means that we will run a balanced budget for 2015 only if we meet our pledge goal.

Keep those pledges coming- our Pledge Drive Team has set a goal of a 5% increase over last-year's pledges- please speak to a representative of our Pledge Drive Team or Rev. Erik if you have questions or to set up an economic exemption to pledging. All pledge consultations are kept confidential.

Pledge payment tip:

You can pay your pledge using a credit card through our secure website!

Visit UUChurchOfStockton.org and click the "Giving" tab.

You can contribute a one-time donation or set up regular recurring payments from your credit card or bank account.

MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGE

Longtime member Nina Sheetz has moved for the winter: her address through spring will be

3117 Kunkle Blvd, Oakley Courts #119

Freeport, IL 61032.

MEMBERS IN NEED OF RIDES AND CARPOOLS



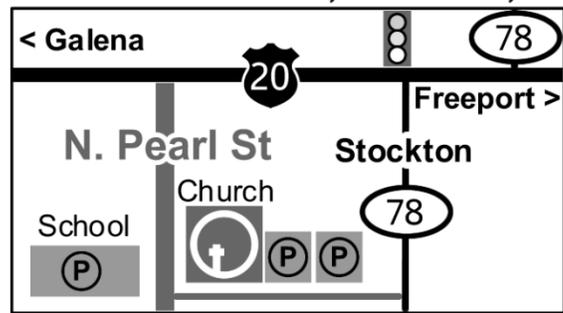
There are currently several members and friends of the church in need of rides to church and during the week (to doctors' appointments, run errands, etc.). If you might be available to help provide a ride for someone in need, or if you could use a ride to church yourself, please contact Rev. Erik at 815.947.3812 or uureverend@gmail.com.

CALENDAR – JANUARY 2015

- Sunday, Jan 4th 10:30am** Service: New Year's Resolutions
Religious Ed: They Worshipped the Sun
- Sunday, Jan 11th 10:30am** Service: Universalism in a Global Reality
Religious Ed: Why Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Monday, Jan 12th 6:00pm** UU Stockton Board Meeting
- Sunday, Jan 18th 10:30am** Service: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Religious Ed: Hinduism Part I
- Sunday, Jan 18th 12pm** UU Stockton Annual Meeting & Potluck
- Sunday, Jan 25th 10:30am** Service
Religious Ed: Hinduism Part II
- Saturday, Jan 31st 9:30am – 3:30pm** UU Worship Arts Conference
Tree of Life UU Congregation, McHenry, IL

CHURCH INFORMATION

219 N Pearl Street, Stockton, IL



Wheel chair parking and elevator access is available from the rear parking lot.

SUNDAY SERVICES & RELIGIOUS ED AT 10:30 AM

CHILD CARE EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:30 AM

REV. ERIK DAVID CARLSON, MINISTER

OFFICE HOURS: 11AM – 3PM MON, WED, FRI 815.947.3812

UUCHURCHOFFSTOCKTON.ORG

FACEBOOK.COM/UUCHURCHOFFSTOCKTON

UUREVEREND@GMAIL.COM



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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