



### FROM YOUR MINISTER



We have entered a very exciting and change-filled time in the life of our congregation; our search for a new minister is in full swing as are my efforts to find a new congregation to serve. This means that your Transition Team has been working hard publishing the church’s search packet, interviewing potential candidates on the phone, and working out the details of our administrative transition.

I have been in conversation with a number of UU congregations and will be visiting three potential sites over the next two months. I am not able to share details about where I will be pre-candidating, but feel incredibly fortunate to have the support of the Stockton church and its talented team of lay worship leaders, who will help continue Sunday morning services in my absence. I strongly encourage everyone to attend as many of these lay-led worship services as possible, as they promise to be excellent and offer a glimpse into what our future services will be like.

February’s Soul Matters theme is “Desire” and we will be holding our monthly Family Service on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm- pizza dinner and snacks included with a family worship and activity afterwards. Tell your friends- all are welcome and it is a wonderful time.

We will also be honoring romantic desire in our annual “Valentine’s Love Songs” service on February 14<sup>th</sup>, “Spiritual Desire & Satisfaction” on February 21<sup>st</sup>, and – be sure to wear your favorite athletics attire for our special Super Bowl Sunday service on spirituality and sports.

Many blessings for a wonderful month and hope to see you in church! - Rev. Erik

**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](mailto: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.

### NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

For those of you who were unable to attend, here are some highlights of the Annual Meeting on January 17. Our net operating income for 2015 was \$743.25 in the black. The pledge drive goal for 2016 was \$68,500. Actual pledges for 2016 came in at \$63,811 with a few pledge cards still out. The Endowment Fund stands at \$46,767.50 with \$700 to be deposited soon. The Memorial Fund balance is \$6,675.98.

The 2016 Budget proposed income is \$78,045. The total projected income is \$78,287, giving us an overage of \$242. We need to keep in mind that our expenses for 2016 are only an educated guess, due to the upcoming changes midyear.

We heard a summary reports from all of the committees. Dick and Joan Harmet were thanked for their service to FACC. The Fundraising committee reported raising \$711 over the goal of \$4100. The Membership committee reported that we have four new members all of whom have been very active.

A few changes were made in the church by-laws. Members present approved reducing the number of Stewards from four to two and Steward terms are now two years long instead of three.

The following Board of Trustees officers were elected: Bill Schuldt will continue on as a Steward and Mark Haman will continue as Co-Moderator. In new business, Ted Davenport felt strongly that we should continue to provide the two birthday parties per year at the Stockton Nursing Home as we have done in the past. We are in need of help for this activity, so if you are willing to help, please contact Ted.

Joan Rawce Metzger was thanked for her six years of service as a Steward on the Board of Trustees.

2016 Board Roster
<b>Moderators</b>
Ted Davenport (2017)
Mark Haman (2018)
<b>Secretary</b>
Sheila Haman (2017)
<b>Financial Secretary</b>
John Fischer (2017)
<b>Treasurer</b>
Leslie Hawley (2017)
<b>Stewards</b>
Laura Dufford (2018)
Bill Schuldt (2018)
<b>Email:</b>
<a href="mailto:board@UUChurchOfStockton.org">board@UUChurchOfStockton.org</a>

## NEW DELEGATES ELECTED TO FACC



At our annual Congregational Meeting in January, we elected new delegates to represent our church at the Freeport Area Church Cooperative. Taylor Rockwell will attend the delegate meetings in Freeport and report news items to the congregation.

Nanette Mosher is handling the monthly donations of personal items and the delivery schedule. Nanette will be asking our members to sign up for the deliveries in 2016. Please reply with your willingness and month as soon as possible!

Joan and Dick Harmet report that they very much enjoyed their association with FACC and their relationship with Executive Director, Dean Wright. The enthusiasm with which the church has entered into this social service commitment has been wonderful to see in action. Thank you!

## 2015-16 PLEDGE WRAP-UP

If you didn't receive a letter or e-mail with your final 2015 pledge amount please contact John Fischer for a copy of your statement. There are just a handful of 2016 pledges that haven't been returned, this will be the final reminder for you to let the board know what your intentions are. Please contact John ([jfcpa69@gmail.com](mailto:jfcpa69@gmail.com), 815.947.3239) or Ted Davenport ([tkdavenport@hotmail.com](mailto:tkdavenport@hotmail.com), 815.862.6044) if you would like to pledge this year.

Thank you! - Your Pledge Drive Committee

## IN MEMORIAM – MARION PARKER



Sunday School Superintendent Marion Parker, back row center, posing with Sunday School teachers and students ca. 1951.

Marion Parker, age 98 of Stockton, IL, died January 27, 2016 at the Elizabeth Nursing Home. She was born on April 23, 1917 to Fred and Eda (Hartsough) Scace, and married Rex Parker in 1940.

She was a member of the Stockton Woman's Club, the Illinois Retired Teachers Association, and the the Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton, where she served as a Sunday School Superintendent, sang in the choir and helped cook and serve hundreds of chickens during our famous Chicken Dinner fundraisers. The funeral service will be held Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am at the Hermann Funeral Home in Stockton with visitation beginning at 9:30am. Interment will take place at the

Morseville Cemetery in Stockton with a luncheon at the Unitarian Universalist Church to follow.

## CALLING ALL UU STOCKTON WOMEN!



How about a women's retreat in May? Think about a relaxing, fun Friday evening through Saturday afternoon time away from the hectic life. Let me know of your interest.

If enough women are interested we will form a planning committee. - Linda Weeder, [dlweeder@gmail.com](mailto:dlweeder@gmail.com)

## FEAST OF HYPATIA OF ALEXANDRIA MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup> – 6PM



Come celebrate one of the most influential Hellenic women of the West! Hypatia of Alexandria was famous for Her teachings in Platonic philosophy, Greek thought and religion. However, She existed during the time when the emerging Christian religion was doing whatever it could to take over.

In 415 CE, She was attacked by a mob and brutally murdered. The Temple Of The Greek Gods, which recognizes Her as a Greek Heroine, holds this annual feast in Her honor each year in the spring, to honor Her memory, to remember Her priceless wisdom for humanity, and to never forget the dangers of radicalism.

# Spirit Journey February 2016

## *What Does It Mean To Be A People of Desire?*



*Fall in love with  
the agony of love  
not the ecstasy  
then the beloved  
will fall in love with you*

**-- Rumi**

Rumi says “fall in love with the agony of love.” He knows many of us avoid pursuing our deepest hungers because of fear. No one’s deepest longings ever come true. Better to play it safe and keep those deep hungers at a distance. But in this case, playing it safe also means going numb. And we were not created to go numb.

So friends get out there this month and get your heart broken. It won’t feel good, but you will know you are on the right path. And remember Rumi’s promise: somewhere in that agony you will feel yourself loved by and deeply connected to life.

### **Experiences - choose at least one**

**A:** It’s a fundamental question about desire: What gets you up in the morning? One can go through their whole life not knowing the answer to that. Something is wrong when “the alarm clock” is the primary thing that pushes us into the day. **Your assignment:** For one week, take 10 minutes at the beginning of your day or at bedtime the night before to identify one thing you want out of the coming day. One thing that **you** want. Keep it simple. Maybe it is nothing more than to feel the sun on your face for five minutes. Maybe it is to connect and cook tonight’s meal with your daughter. Just make it **yours**. Come to your group ready to share how claiming your desire and your days changed your excitement about waking up.

**B:** Lent, which begins on Feb. 10, is one of the many spiritual traditions that invite us into the spiritual practice of renunciation and self-denial. While it is often assumed that renunciation practice is all about self-control, the core aim is self-knowledge. The goal is to create just enough distance from your desires to understand what is behind and beneath them. What deeper hunger is driving your obsession with food? What deeper struggle is underneath your need to keep everything in the house clean and perfect? Don’t get caught up in resisting the desire. Instead figure out what it is trying to tell you. Here’s a good short guide to help get you in the frame of mind: <http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/practices/practices/view/21722/renunciation-practice>

# Session plan

## Chalice Lighting

When it's over, I want to say: All my life  
I was a bride married to amazement.  
I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms  
— **Mary Oliver**

## General Check-In

Question: re-introduce yourself (name, and “who is your best friend?”) and then answer:  
*What's something you remembering desiring when you were a child?*

**Homework** - Each person share their homework. After sharing, discussion.

**Reflection Words** - Read each sentence, followed by quiet for at least 1 minute.  
Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life. — **Proverbs 13:12**  
It is exactly through desire that we discover what animates and moves us. — **David Whyte**

**Conversation** - a question that “grabs” you, and answer. After sharing, discussion.

1. When was the last time you let yourself fall freely and fully into desire?
2. Do you spend more time fulfilling your own desire or other people's desires?
3. Are you muting the voice of desire because you're afraid of what it is asking of you?
4. Is it possible that God, The Universe, \_\_\_\_\_, speaks to us in and through our desires? Is it possible that prayer doesn't mean talking but listening to desire?
5. How is your relationship with the desire to consume? Is it consuming you more than you'd like?
6. What would it mean to show your love that you enjoyed them, not just that you loved them?

**Check-Out** - What's your take-away about “desire”? Your gratitude for this time?

## Closing Words:

A hermit was meditating by a river when a young man interrupted him. "Master, I wish to become your disciple," said the man. "Why?" replied the hermit. The young man thought for a moment. "Because I want to find God." The master jumped up, grabbed him by the scruff of his neck, dragged him into the river, and plunged his head under water. After holding him there for a minute, with him kicking and struggling to free himself, the master finally pulled him up out of the river. The young man coughed up water and gasped to get his breath. When he eventually quieted down, the master spoke. "Tell me, what did you want most of all when you were under water."  
"Air!" answered the man.  
"Very well," said the master. "Go home and come back to me when you want God as much as you just wanted air."

## SOUL MATTERS TESTIMONIAL – GALENA GROUP

The Galena Soul Matters Group has met five times since September. It is comprised of the Hamans, Harmets, Weeders, Alice Ericksen, and Kande Haertel. We've met for breakfast at Stella's and Otto's Place, lunch at E-Town, and had a soup supper at Weeder's.

We've had thoughtful discussions on the monthly topics and gotten to know each other better. It has been an enriching (and filling) experience.

- Mark Haman

## UUs LIKE CSA's

Decode that headline and it means that our church community members appreciate and look for fresh and local produce. CSA means Community Supported Agriculture –a system whereby farms grow and sell fresh and local produce for its members. Put it all together for a win-win situation in the growing season. And this is organic too!

You buy a membership for a prescribed amount of vegetables delivered to a site near you from June through November. (Shorter seasons are available as well.) The local farm gets its money upfront to cover their costs in the spring – seed and all that goes with farming for you.

Two Onion Farm in Belmont, WI delivers to Galena and other WI sites. Find out how it works and buy a membership by checking the web site: [www.twoonionfarm.com](http://www.twoonionfarm.com). Wishful Acres Farm is between Freeport and Lena. More information and membership signup at: [www.wishfulacresfarm.com](http://www.wishfulacresfarm.com).

## CHURCH CANCELLATION PROTOCOL

Church services and other Church related events have to be canceled from time to time because of weather emergencies or other unforeseen situations. It's the Co-Moderators responsibility to call off any Church function where we can't have a scheduled service of any type.

For future reference, the following procedure will be in place and these television stations will be contacted:

From the Quad Cities 8-WQAD 6-KWQC 4-WHBF. From Rockford 23-WIFR 17-WTVO 13-WREX.

We will also will send out an e-mail for the people on the announcement list. The safety of our members and friends is paramount so use good judgment when the roads become unsafe for travel.

Feel free to contact the Co-Moderators also with advice or questions.

Mark Haman (815.777.0493) Ted Davenport (815.238.8781).

## EVENTS AT NEIGHBOR UU CHURCHES



**UU Winter Market**  
Saturday February 13, 2016 from 9-3  
at the Unitarian Universalist of DeKalb  
158 North Fourth Street

**Live Music**  
**Artisan Gift Market**

**Local Honey and Produce**  
**French and German Baked Goods**  
**Farm Fresh Eggs and Wisconsin Cheese**  
**Hot Soup and Bread, Coffee, Tea, and Baked Goods**  
**Grass Fed and Hormone Free Beef, Poultry, and Pork**

The best rare, used, and collectible book sale in DeKalb County  
For more information call Dan at 815-793-0590 \$1 Admission

### Comedy All-Stars: Second City – 3/4/16 at UU Rockford

On March 4<sup>th</sup> at 8pm, Chicago's legendary comedy theater comes to The Unitarian Universalist Church, 4848 Turner Street Rockford, IL 61107 with "The Second City: Improv All-Stars," an irresistible hour of improvised comedy. The masters of the form will astound you with their talent, skill and wit - all without the aid of scripts or sets.

Fresh, fast and always spectacularly funny, The Second City is celebrating 55 years of producing cutting-edge satirical revues and has launched the careers of legends like Tina Fey, Stephen Colbert, Steve Carell, Gilda Radner, Bill Murray and more.

General Admission Tickets for The Second City are \$50 with cash/check, \$52 online/credit card – 18+ show  
For more information, please call us!

The Unitarian Universalist Church (815) 398-6322  
<http://uurockford.org/the-second-city-in-rockford-il.html>

## 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](mailto:uureverend@gmail.com).

## CALENDAR – FEBRUARY 2016

**Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> – 11:00am - Marion Parker Funeral Service**

Hermann Funeral Home, 249 Park St, Stockton, IL 61085

Visitation 9:30am – 11:00am

**Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> – 12:30pm Marion Parker Memorial Luncheon**

UU Church of Stockton

**Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> 10:30am** – Service: “Spirituality of Sport”

Be sure to wear your favorite team/player gear to service!

**Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm** – UU Stockton Board Meeting

**Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm** – Family Dinner & Service: “Desire”

**Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> 10:30am** – Service: “Spirituality of Sport”

Religious Education

**Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> 10:30am** – Service: “Spiritual Fulfillment”

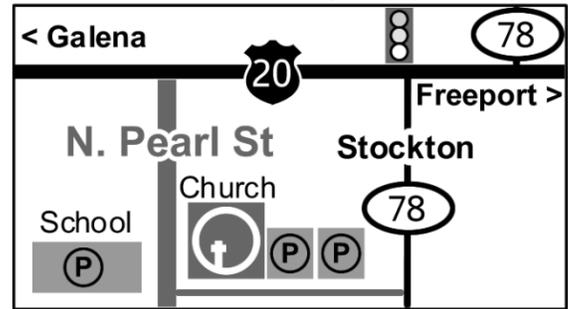
**Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> 10:30am** – Service: “Wisdom of Cornel West”

Religious Education

**Monday, February 29<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm** – March newsletter deadline

## CHURCH INFORMATION

**219 N Pearl Street, Stockton, IL**



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

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:30 AM**

**CHILD CARE EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:30 AM**

**REV. ERIK DAVID CARLSON, MINISTER**

**UUCHURCHOFSTOCKTON.ORG**

**FACEBOOK.COM/UUCHURCHOFSTOCKTON**

**UUREVEREND@GMAIL.COM**



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

**219 N PEARL ST, STOCKTON, IL 61085**