



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

CHURCH OF STOCKTON, IL

FROM YOUR MINISTER



Ministry is more than just a job. It is a life choice and many of us make it, not just those who wear stoles and preach from the pulpit. Each and every one of the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church is a minister, in one way or another- be it in helping someone in need, donating of time to church functions or other areas of social concern, or simply being there for a family member who is making the final transition.

Some of us are lucky to have ministry as both a life choice and a job; I am one of the lucky ones. As hard as it is to believe, this is my last newsletter column as minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton. These last six years my growing family and I have spent with you all are some of the most joyous of my life and I am very sad to be saying goodbye.

Over six years we have welcomed new children into our family (including my own), and said farewell to so many others. We have also helped create new families, providing weddings for members and friends and consecrating partnership within and outside our sanctuary. Being with you all in times of both celebration and grief is a gift you've given me- that is both glorious and humbling- and I shall never forget our ministry together.

But part of having ministry as a job is to know when both the congregation and the minister are ready for a change. With the generational shift that is happening in Stockton, and the shifts I and my family are experiencing with our ever-evolving three-year-old son Miles, this is indeed the right time for change. After a long and emotionally difficult search process, I am blessed to have been called by Bradford Community Church UU in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Likewise, the UU Church of Stockton is fortunate to have found an able and dedicated half-time minister in the Rev. Armida Alexander.

I have been working closely with the staff of the Unitarian Universalist Church, Rockford to transfer a large portion of our administrative functions to their office. This will ensure that our membership tracking, newsletters, website, Facebook page and print materials will continue uninterrupted. It should also clear up time for Rev. Alexander to focus on worship, leadership and pastoral care rather than office work when she arrives in September.

I am also just now realizing how little time left I have with everyone to say goodbye and, more importantly, to say "thank you." When I came to you I was fresh out of seminary, finishing up a chaplaincy training, excited-yet-untested in the role of parish minister. You trusted me, embraced some of my ideas ["Who ever heard of a television in church?"], took the time to learn, and in turn, the time to teach.

I am just now beginning to process some of what I've learned from everyone in Stockton, though it may be years before I'm able to articulate any of it. I know I've learned a great deal of kindness- having been shown so much. I know I've learned a lot of patience- as things can sometimes move at the agonizingly slow "speed of church." And I know I've learned a lifetime of Universalism- that powerful dedication to Love so manifest in the hearts and deeds of this little church on the prairie.

These learnings, and many more, I hope to carry forward in my future ministry so as to continue to develop both as a religious professional and as a human being.

As my time with you winds down, please remember that ministers come and go: it is the people who make the church. Over 112 years of ordained leadership, this congregation has had no fewer than 28 ministers for an average length of four years each and there have even been times in UU Stockton's history when the church has been entirely lay-led. The fact this church still stands as a beacon of religious freedom and of love is a testament not to its clergy but to you, its people.

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.

Everyone who makes it to church on a snowy morning even when they don't feel like it at first. Everyone who tells a friend about the congregation and the good work you do in the world. Everyone who gives a little more than is comfortable so that you might continue to worship together and celebrate life's journey. Everyone who serves on a committee or teaches our young people or helps present at services or volunteers to coordinate a potluck or fundraiser.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you all for your love for me and for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton. The world is a better place for your efforts.

Finally, please remember that you make the church- continue to make it beautiful.

In Faith, Love and Gratitude

Rev. Erik

Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton, IL

NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD

We are having a farewell, good buy service with a pot luck following in the Patterson room on June 19th

This will be Erik's last service in the pulpit. Lets give the Carlsons a warm send off. Laurie, Ted, Doug and Laura picked up the trash on our portion of highway 78 in May. Leslie, Mark, and Ted painted the ceiling in the Patterson room. The birthday party at the Stockton Nursing home for May was provided by Nancy, Sally, and Ted. Randy Downing is again working diligently at the community garden this year which will probably be his last. Please contact him if you can provide assistance. The food is donated to the Nursing Home. Reminders were sent out from John Fischer on everyone's pledges, either by e-mail or regular mail. Please keep up your financial responsibility. Summer can be busy and it's easy to forget or lose track. A new and faster internet service has been installed in the Church from Sand Prairie Wireless. This will let us live stream and video chat for communication purposes and Sunday services.



Garage Sale to Benefit our Church

When? Saturday, June 11, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where? Doug & Linda Weeder's garage
20 Thunder Rock Trail, Galena (Galena Territory)

We still need: Volunteers, more quality items.

Items will be transported from the church to the Weeder residence on Wed. June 8th.

(requesting NO ELECTRONICS OR ADULT CLOTHING)

Questions? Call Linda Weeder 815-777-0875

Alice Ericksen 815-858-3880 or Nancy Schuldt 815-281-0034

NEWS FROM THE FACC



Many thanks to everyone who continues to support the Freeport Area Church Cooperative with donations of personal items and toilet paper. Though our donations have been increasingly generous the FACC always runs out of these all-important items quickly as there is great need in our community. Please continue to give generously and know how much our contributions are appreciated!

UU FUNDRAISING!



Saturday, June 11th: Garage Sale at Linda & Doug Weeder's garage; part of the Galena Territory Garage Sale - Details later; please save your "good stuff" for this sale!

Saturday, September 17th: Service Partner Concert @ Council Hill
All profits are designated to go to Service Partners.

Saturday, October 22nd: Great Beginnings & Chocolate Finales tentative date.

Silent Auction items will be needed for the Service Partner Concert and Great Beginnings and Chocolate Finales; F.Y.I. if you are willing to donate!

We will not have a plant sale this year; maybe next year. Book, art and music sale will be held in 2017. Thank you! The Fundraising Committee

REV. ARMIDA ALEXANDER EDUCATION AND WORK HISTORY

We are excited to introduce Rev. Alexander to the congregation the weekend of April 23rd- 24th (please see article on the first page of this newsletter). She comes to us with an extensive work history, including serving our Stockton congregation in 2003-04. Rev. Alexander is originally from Rockford, received her BS from Rockford College before receiving a masters degree from the University of Chicago and her Master of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School.

The following is a list of her ministry positions starting with her ordination:

- 1981-1987 Minister, Boise UU Fellowship, Boise, ID
- 1987-1988 Minister, First Universalist Church, Minneapolis, MN
- 1993-1993 Interim Minister, United UU Congregation, Waukesha, WI
- 1993-1995 Interim Minister, UU Church of Saint Petersburg, FL
- 1995-1998 Minister, Rogue Valley UU Fellowship, Ashland, OR
- 2002-2003 Membership/Growth Chair, The UU Church, Rockford, IL
- 2003-2004 Interim Minister, UU Church of Stockton, IL
- 2005-2006 Interim Minister, Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough, ON - Canada
- 2009-2010 Consulting Minister, UU Church of the Lakes, Elkhorn, WI
- 2010-2014 Minister, All Souls Church UU, Sioux Falls, SD



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATE

Congratulations to Maya Rockwell on her joint graduations, simultaneously from Freeport High School and Highland Community College! Maya is the daughter of Taylor Rockwell and Martha Wolfe. We're proud of you!

CONGRATULATIONS SHARON AND MARK

Sharen (Pierce) and husband Mark Mellicker have published the first in what they hope will be a series of children's field guides to nature. The book is titled Walking With Bigfoot, a Field Guide to Trees. You can learn more about their project at their website: Natureloverbooks.com. (Sharen is the daughter of Leland (Bud) and the late Hazel Pierce, long time church members, and Sharen and her siblings were all UU kids when young.) Congratulations to you both!

CALENDAR – JUNE 2016

Sunday June 5th 10:30a.m. – Service

Sunday June 12th 10:30a.m. - Service

Monday June 13th 6:00p.m. - Board Meeting

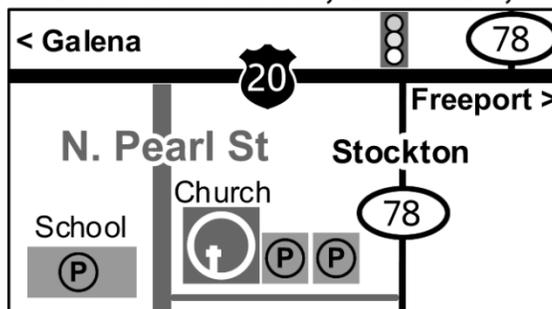
Sunday, June 19th 10:30a.m. – Service (Rev. Erik Last Service)

Sunday, June 26th 10:30a.m. – Service

Monday June 27th 5:00p.m. – July News Letter 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



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219 N PEARL ST, STOCKTON, IL 61085