

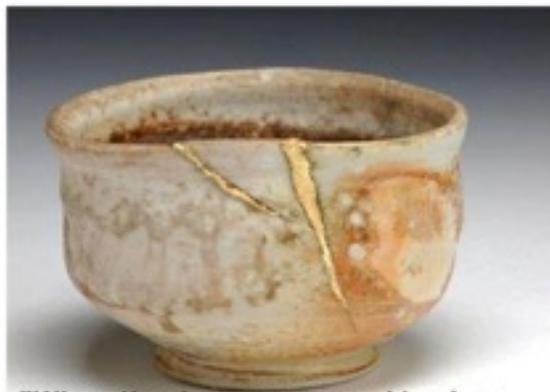


MINISTER'S REMARKS

"To pay attention, this is our endless and proper work." -Mary Oliver

We live in a disposable time, a time when the things we buy have a built-in expiration date. They are made to fail or fall apart or otherwise become useless, so that we must buy the items again. This lamentable state of affairs came about because the companies that make items for our use only make a profit at the time of purchase. Therefore, the more times we purchase, the more profit is made, despite the obvious fact that there is no place to which to throw any so-called disposable thing away. From a religious point of view, there is much to criticize about the practice of use-throw-away-buy-again. It is wasteful of the Earth's limited resources; it is wasteful of our time and energy in earning the money to buy and buy again; it encourages within us an attitude of disrespect, which is diametrically opposed to a religious attitude to the world. Religious faith teaches us to respect ourselves, others and the world (including the little things of this world.) It teaches us to "see God in all things," since the Cosmos is either a creation of a divine force or that force itself. A theology of radical incarnation would say that the divine has taken up habitation within everything. During this time of Lent, with its meditation on giving up something, living with less, and learning to love, may we strive to give up completely our use of disposables, limit our use of things, and cherish the few things we use daily to sustain or uplift our lives and the lives of our beloveds. During the time of Easter, may we enter prayerfully into the spirit of Spring and re-birth as we take to heart the story of Easter – the rising again and again of the divine, the holy, the mostloved. What, after all, is the meaning of the Law that demands, "You shall have no other gods before me?" Mayhap it points to the necessity of discerning where and when the holy confronts us in this wondrous world and treating it as it deserves – as a sacred and cherished energy appearing in many forms, worthy of respect. That sort of respectful attitude might just carry within it the promise of Easter – life abundant. So, beloveds, re-use, repair, recycle; waste not/want not, and all those time-worn adages that counsel us to pay attention.

Blessings, Armida



"When the Japanese mend broken objects, they aggrandize the damage by filling the cracks with gold. They believe that when something's suffered damage and has a history it becomes more beautiful."

Billie Mobayed

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

April Services Will Be Something Special

Your Worship Committee has planned some exciting services for April. One service helps us welcome spring. Another honors our Earth. And yet another joins us with traditions of the Jewish faith. While another help us better understand the importance of our liberal faith. Here's the line-up:

April 2 Randy Downing will share One Man's Journey Toward God.

April 9 This Sunday's topic will be the Jewish Passover followed by a Seder meal.

April 16 "Rooted and Rising" or, "Things Are Looking Up!" Rev. A.

April 23 We will celebrate Earth Day together.

April 30 "View from a Leaning Steeple" Rev. A.

The Worship Committee works hard to plan for rewarding services. We hope you'll agree by joining us each Sunday to share these services with your fellow UUs.

CHURCH NEWS



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 DIRECTORY UPDATES

If you have any changes in your contact information (address, email, phone, etc.), please let us know right away! You can contact anyone on the Board or Rev. Armida and they will pass the information on to Sheila Haman who will get it posted in the newsletter. Sheila's email is sheila.haman626@gmail.com or you can call or text her at 563-552-8596.

Please make note of the following contact information updates:

Lee Anderson's new address: 555 N. Pearl, Apt. B2, Stockton, IL 61085

Jean Logemann's new phone: 608-325-1416

Dana and Randy Vincent's new email: dvincent8629@gmail.com
and new phone: 815-985-9387

Mark Haman's new email: mark.haman49@gmail.com

Sheila Haman's new email: sheila.haman626@gmail.com

THE CARE CARD TABLE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

What is a Care Card? We want to remember our shut-ins with greetings from our church family. All are invited to participate and to do so often. It is simple for you but important to our shut-ins. Mail, lots of it, keeps them in contact with the world outside their residence. We expect it brings a smile to their face as they remember events and friends in their Stockton UU life.

Stop at the table during coffee hour. Pick a note card and a name of a shut-in. Address and stamp the envelope (stamps provided). Check off the address card.

Write a greeting at church or at home.

Mail the Card!

Do it once, do it often. We cannot do enough to remember our friends.

Thank you! - Joan Harmet

Book, Art, Music & More Sale

to be held on Sept. 2 @ our church.

So, if you are cleaning and sorting this spring, please

hold onto books, music, art and other fine items for this sale.

Details to follow. Thanks!

Far-Dreaming? You are invited!

Your board, in conjunction with the ad hoc “Long Range Planning Committee,” will be hosting a series of cottage meetings to seek your input.

We want your ideas and suggestions to reinvigorate our church, and to make short and long-term plans for the very important work of this church-- not just to survive, but to thrive!

Everyone will be asked to participate in a session, either in Freeport, Galena or Stockton, and sign-up sheets will be available at the church.

We will also make personal calls to encourage you to participate, and will try to accommodate a variety of schedules.

Please make a commitment to be part of this process! Perhaps never in our lifetimes has there been a greater need for institutions that stand for reason, justice and compassion.

Spring Plant Sale

On Saturday, May 13, we will once again hold our popular Spring Plant Sale. What makes this sale so popular is the quality of the plants at reasonable prices. However, we are only able to hold this popular sale because of the support of all of us. Here’s what you can do to help.

- As soon as you can get out into your garden, can you divide any of your **perennials** and re-pot them for the sale? Hostas and lilies are particularly popular. But all plants are welcome.
- Do you have any **house plants** that you can divide or share? Think about re-potting them as well.
- What about taking **cuttings** and rooting some of your favorite plants?
- Do you have any **bulbs**? These are also very popular.
- We could also use any **pots** you no longer need.
- If you don’t have any of the above, donations of bags of **top soil** are also needed.
- And finally we need **volunteers** to help with the sale. The first opportunity for you to volunteer will be on **April 29. From 9:00AM to 3:00PM**

Lift the Lid!!

Jeanie has thousands of mason jar lids ready for someone to pick up and use for some creative or culinary endeavor. Take as many as you want/need, for which, please make a donation to the church.

Thanks, Jeanie!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

ATTENTION: THE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE WILL ALWAYS BE THE 20TH OF THE MONTH AT 5 P.M. PLEASE GET YOUR NOTICES AND ARTICLES TO TED (TKDAVENPORT@HOTMAIL.COM) OR MARK AND SHEILA (HAMAN@ATT.NET).

CHURCH CANCELLATION PROTOCOL

With winter just around the corner, it’s time we advise everyone on the policy for cancelling church. It’s the co-moderator’s responsibility to call off any church function in the event of bad weather or any unforeseen situation where we can’t have a scheduled service of any type. For future reference, this 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. The safety of our members and friends is paramount, so use good judgement when the roads become unsafe for travel. Feel free to contact the co-moderators with advise or questions. Mark Haman (815)777-0493 and Ted Davenport (815)238-8781

Soul Matters

The Soul Matters discussion group will meet on Sunday, April 9th at 9:15. The group meets downstairs in the R.E. area at church. We've had some thoughtful and engaging conversations about ourselves, the U.U. church and the world at large. And we've always shared a laugh or two! Everyone is welcome to join in the discussion group. It's helpful to read the material about Soul Matters (located at the end of the newsletter) before you come, but it isn't necessary. We use this material as a starting point for discussion, but tend to wander away at times. Come join the fun!

CALENDAR – APRIL 2017

Sunday, April 2, 10:30 a.m. *One Man's Journey
Toward God*, with Randy Downing

Friday, April 7, 1:00 p.m. Franny Thomas' Memorial
Service.

Sunday, April 9, 10:30 a.m. *Passover!* with Seder
celebration. Early Church: *Soul Matters* at 9:15 a.m.

April 16 "Things Are Looking Up!" Rev. A.

April 23 Earth Day.

April 30 "View from a Leaning Steeple" Rev. A.

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. ARMIDA ALEXANDER, MINISTER

UUCHURCHOFSOCKTON.ORG



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
219 N PEARL ST, STOCKTON, IL 61085