

Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis (UUCD)

June: Belonging

One early Sunday morning, when I was about seventeen years old, I stood talking with an advisor as we waited for the next event in that weekend's youth conference. She stood beaming around at the milling teenagers and said to me "isn't this amazing? Everyone is just so different!". I said something non-committal and wandered away. But her remark made me feel cranky. It stuck with me. I thought "HAH. I don't come to these things because we're all different, I come because everyone is LIKE ME". I had a moment of adolescent disdain for the woman's inability to see the similarities between all of us. So many of us in that room shared ideals and passions and creative visions, after all. We connected over the experiences of being counter cultural or artistic or excited about our studies, over the books we'd read and the things we believed and feared and hoped for. We even dressed alike much of the time- with unusual or brightly colored hairstyles, t-shirts from UU events, comfortable skirts or pants, and converse sneakers. I still have a pair of the sneakers I wore to those Cons. I was surprised, and sad, that the advisor didn't see how clearly we all belonged together. We might have looked different in some ways, but all I saw when I looked around that room were Unitarian Universalist youth who loved each other fiercely. In the conservative atmosphere of the South where I grew up, and in the maelstrom of adolescence, we needed that love.



When I think about what it means to belong, about welcome and acceptance and understanding, that memory is where my heart goes. For me belonging is a room full of people who share my faith and who are striving to live that faith in the world, a room full of people encouraging each other to be their best selves listening with respect and attention to the deep concerns of each other's lives.

I am so grateful to have belonged to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis this year.

Many thanks and blessings, *Caitlin S. Cotter*, Intern & Campus Minister, 2013-14

❖ www.uudavis.org → Events/Publications → June, Belonging ❖

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Worship Services

Summer Schedule: Only At 10am

June 1, 10am only, *Bridging Now!* Rev. Beth Banks, Kate Raymond and Tom Jankowski. Unitarian Universalist congregations recognize High School graduates with the bridging ritual. Our service will echo the UNIQUE High School group's theme from their Feb. service: judgment, not as a challenge, but to continue the conversation.

Youth continuing in high school help launch our graduates; young adults welcome them into a new phase of life. Want inspiration? Come be a part of creating it.

Leonie Pickett, Youth Director, is unable to attend, but will share her message with everyone via technology.

June 3, Sacred Circles, Vespers: Caitlin Cotter & Laura Sandage; Sanctuary, 7pm song, 8pm worship. Free will donation. campusministry@uodavis.org

June 8, 10am only, *Flower Communion*, Rev. Beth Banks & Caitlin Cotter; Lee Ann D'Amato, Worship Associate. More than anything, Flower Communion reminds us about the characteristics of belonging. Music extravaganza with the Juuliebells, many Hymn of the Month selections, and the Vocal Art Ensemble.

11:15am Dora's Garden Rededication: Dora Hunt worked tirelessly on our grounds. The garden dedicated in her memory has been relocated.

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<http://pixabay.com/en/heart-love-valentine-romance-314191/>

June 15, 10am only, *Who Belongs in the Kitchen?* Caitlin Cotter, Intern and Campus Minister for 2013-14 gives her final sermon: in celebration of all who live into the role of Dad. Join us to send her off with thanks and well-wishes.

Goodbye Party: June 15, 11:15am. The Internship Committee warmly invites everyone to join us to celebrate Caitlin Cotter and her time with us. We'll gather in the social hall for sandwiches and cake. Checks toward a monetary gift for Caitlin can be made to UUCD with "Caitlin" in the memo line (contributions can be placed in the Sunday collection, dropped at the office, or given to Intern Committee chair Katie Tenerelli by 6/14/14). *Caitlin's last day at UUCD is June 30. She and her partner Leah will move to Minneapolis where Leah will undertake graduate studies and Caitlin will finish her ministerial preparation by completing a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education.*



June 22, 10am only, *What Can You Offer to Replace My Lost Faith?* Milt Hildebrand; Carlena Wike, Worship Associate. Milt's sermon takes the congregation back to when he was teaching embryology to pre-med, pre-veterinarian, and animal science majors at UCD. The lab sessions were conducted by graduate students, but Milt attended the labs to get to know the students. One student told Milt that his class had destroyed her religious beliefs. She asked, "What can you offer to replace my lost faith?" The sermon is Milt's extensive philosophical and scientific response.

June 17, Sacred Circles: Song & Dance: Joan Rawles-Davis & Laura Sandage; 7-9pm, Sanctuary. Free will donation. campusministry@uodavis.org

29 June, 10am only, *The Way of the Chalice*, Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck. Is Unitarian Universalism really a religion? What is at the center of our movement if we have no creed? What does this have to do with belonging, and why does it matter? Come hear the good news about our life-saving, earth-healing religion. *Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck is a former ecologist who worked in sustainable agriculture research and education before becoming a minister. She is called to help bring about the spiritual transformation our culture needs in order to live sustainably--and lovingly--on our beautiful, blue-green planet. She and her husband Steve Temple are longtime members of UUCD.*

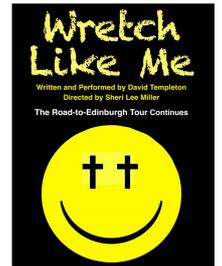
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Attend

The Journey to Wellness TIE group! This new small group ministry group begins Wed, June 4, 7-9pm, Senghas Room. TIE groups form intimate connections in our church through structured listening and sharing; build the community so many of us are looking for. All genders and health issues are welcomed. Register with Kate at re@uudavis.org

Fuuntastic Frolic! (formerly UU Carnival) Sunday, June 8, 11:30am-1pm, Hedges Grove. Celebrate the church year's end with a splash. Connect with old friends, picnic on the lawn, make new friends, and have FUUN! Play, eat, bounce, slide, and ride on a Whymcycle with quintessential bike creator Peter Wagner. Pizza lunch: \$5 per person. Questions/ volunteer: Jiji Hubert

Wretch Like Me, June 20, 7:30pm, Sanctuary. In his critically acclaimed, award-winning one man show, journalist/playwright David Templeton (North Bay Bohemian) takes his audiences on a sweetly hilarious, engagingly eccentric theatrical journey through his real-life days as a teen fundamentalist puppeteer in a merry band of blissed-out believers in 70s Southern California. This show is all about belonging. \$12 at the door.



Watch

Belle (Film, PG) Varsity Theater. A fictional account of the life of Dido Elizabeth Belle, daughter of a British admiral and an enslaved African woman in the West Indies*. Her mother dies and she is brought to England to be raised by her father's aristocratic family. Her story is placed against to backdrop of the English abolitionist movement.

*http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dido_Elizabeth_Belle



Listen

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- Re-listen and think about the message in a new way.
- Deepen your engagement and sense of belonging.

Photo: by Rev. Beth Banks, 2014