



Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis (UUCD) Theme Journal – September–Welcome

Welcome & Ingathering Water Communion

Sunday, September 10, we'll begin our church year with a Water Ingathering Communion. Everyone is invited to bring a small sample of water from places we have visited this summer. Sometimes we haven't remembered to collect water from specific locations, so we arrive at the service with water that represents our experiences. That's okay. The most important thing is that we come together to be a part of the Welcome.


Some travel to far-away places during the summer and others remain at home. Any place can be the location of fun, inspiration and change. This year, we're asked to consider, "How does the experience represented by your water give you energy to do what matters?" The story in the service this year is *White Water* by Michael Bandy and Eric Stein.

In previous years, we've been invited to add our water to the communal bowl from the four directions, but this year the invitation will be different. We'll be asked to consider the experiences themselves. Does your water represent experiences: 1. In Nature; 2. At Home; 3. With Family & Friends; 4. Making the community better.

AND - Look at September 17 & September 24 - Bring a Friend Sundays. Morgan and I are creating services that will be especially appropriate for those who are new to Unitarian Universalism. Yes, there's plenty for the seasoned UU too.

We look forward to welcoming you every Sunday! Sept 10, 17 & 24, see you at 9:30am & 11:15am for identical services.

– Rev. Beth Banks, Senior Minister




As I begin my second year with this congregation, I am grateful for the welcome I received here. The people in this community care deeply for each other and make being together a priority. Looking ahead to this church year, there are already many opportunities to open our arms of welcome to each other—and to new people!

Welcome isn't only something one receives. It is something one offers, and something a community creates together. Rev. Beth talked about the changes to worship, where we will welcome the children and youth at the beginning of each service. This is an exciting opportunity to be together! The Caring Council will roll out the welcome mat at three All-Church potlucks this year: games and activities for all ages (the first one is in-costume on Friday, Oct. 27!) You will be welcomed to explore your own Unitarian Universalism and its place in world through many adult classes. You will be welcomed into Small Group Ministry to reflect, share, and listen in a covenanted group of ten people.

For the last few months we have been sharing our welcome with FARM Davis by helping them harvest and maintain their gardens of food which is, in turn, shared with Davis Community Meals and other places in need. We will continue this through the fall on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

We welcome you!

– Rev. Morgan McLean, Assistant Minister for Congregational Life

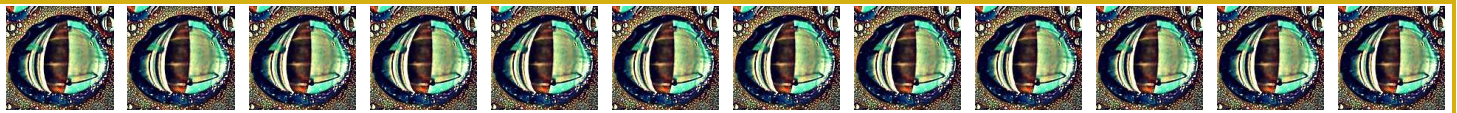


On Sunday evening, I was thinking about UUCD, reflecting on the internship and campus ministry training from last Saturday, the Path to Belonging class Sunday afternoon, and everyone I met Sunday following the service. A quote from Maya Angelou came to mind. She said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." I have been greeted with smiles, words of encouragement, and support. I am excited to be with you all, to get the opportunity to know you better, and I know that I will learn a great deal. I will remember how welcome you all have made me feel in my first few days in Davis.

Before moving to Davis, I spent three years at Boston University School of Theology completing my Master of Divinity degree. At BU, I helped to start the school's UU student group, BeUU, and worked as the youth ministry coordinator at an area congregation. I look forward to broadening my experience of ministry through the campus ministry program, while also learning about worship planning, pastoral care in a congregation, and social justice projects. I am joined on this journey by my spouse, Matthew Lindstrom, and our two cats, Simon and Watson.

As I reflect on our theme for the month, I feel grateful to be so welcomed at UUCD.

– Danielle Lindstrom, Intern & Campus Minister



Share-the-Plate Sunday Collections One way the people of this congregation share their welcome is by giving financial gifts in support of our work. The congregation as a whole also commits to generous gifts to community organizations. It has been the tradition to take a "Special Collection" on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month to share our gifts with partner organizations in the community. On those Sundays, we have given 100 percent of the gifts received to that organization.

Beginning in September, we will shift the way we do this! Each month, an organization nominated by you and chosen by the Board of Trustees, will receive HALF of the weekly offering each Sunday in that month. The other half of the offering supports the programs of this church. The children and youth will choose the recipient for our April offering to continue their Social Service Sunday tradition.

Your generosity in our offering basket each Sunday helps support the ongoing life of the church with programs like Social Action, Religious Exploration, and Pastoral Care, as well as our ministers and staff. By sharing half our offering plate each month, we are sharing our gifts in a meaningful way in the wider community.

If you put cash in the offering basket, half will go to the church and half will go to that month's organization. If you wish to receive a giving statement for cash gifts, please use an envelope from one of our ushers. If you write a check, please use the memo line to direct your gift. Memo to "offering" means your gift will be shared half with the church and half with the organization of the month. Memo to "pledge" or anything else will go completely to that designated area. The church office will split all offering gifts with the church and the organization; please do not designate 100 percent of your offering to that month's organization. If you are moved to learn or give more to a particular organization, please follow-up with them directly for ways to give.

We will continue to have occasional one-Sunday collection for an immediate need, as we have in the past for disaster relief or an opportunity like supporting the Islamic Center after vandalism. — Rev. Morgan R. McLean

Share the Plate, September 2017 Davis Art Center, www.davisartscenter.org Davis Arts Center is a gathering place for dynamic engagement with the arts. Through multidisciplinary classes and programs for the regional community, the Arts Center inspires creative expression in people of all ages and fosters an environment for the arts to flourish.

In September, Davis Arts Center receives half of non-pledge contributions to the Sunday collection. To ensure that your donation goes where you intend, please CLEARLY mark your memo line on EVERY check.

Examples, Make check out to UUCD, Memo: Offering (will be split between UUCD and the non-profit of the month);

Memo: Pledge (100% will go to your pledge); Memo: OWL fees (100% will go to RE's OWL program).



September Sunday Worship

Hymn of the Month, "The Strength of Love," by Marcy Baruch, was performed at General Assembly: <http://tinyurl.com/SeptHymn>. Our version will sound a little different, but the verses are the same.

Sept. 3, 10am ONLY, *Labor Day! Who is it for?* John Ashby; Dani Lindstrom, Worship Associate. Not the Day, the Labor. Who is the Labor for? We all benefit from our own individual labor. We all benefit from the labor of others; but how much do I benefit from yours, and do you benefit from mine? Aye there's the rub! We will search high and low examining the spoils of Labor including consulting Jesus' Personnel Manual, salary determination sub-section M 20:1-16.

September 10, RETURN TO TWO SERVICES, 9:30 & 11:15am, *Ingathering Water Communion*; Worship Leaders: Rev. Beth Banks, Rev. Morgan McLean, Dani Lindstrom. Bring a small sample of water that represents your summer experiences for this multigenerational worship service. Does it represent an experience in nature, at home, with family and friends, or making the community a better place? Because our water comes from many experiences, you'll be asked to consider, "How does the experience represented by your water give you energy to do what matters?"

September 17, 9:30 & 11:15am, *The Theist/Atheist Church*; Rev. Beth Banks. Bring a Friend Sunday. We often hear the questions, "Can an atheist belong to this church?" and "I believe in God, can I belong to this church?" The answer to both questions is, "Yes." It's one of the unique ideals of this spiritual & religious community. This Sunday we'll boldly and unapologetically experience our diversity.

♦ **12:30pm**, the Sanctuary Discernment Team holds a second all-church discussion. Guest: PICO representative, Ms. Gabby Trejo, Associate Director, Sacramento Area Congregations Together (ACT).

September 24, 9:30 & 11:15am, *A Religion of Welcome*, Rev. Morgan McLean. Building on last week's sermon from Rev. Beth Banks exploring the rich theological diversity of our church community and the covenant we enter into together, this week's service will explore what it means to be part of a religion that welcomes such diversity not just in Davis, but across the country and around the world. Bring a friend this Sunday!

Soul Matters Spiritual Practice: Sept 10 & 17, Invite & Welcome a Friend to Church: We UU's have a complicated relationship with sharing our faith and inviting others to receive what's been given to us. Take time to figure out why you want to invite someone to church. This exercise is about you figuring out your reason. Once, you have better clarity, go do it.

Download or stream edited Sunday services at www.uudavispodcast.org