

# Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis (UUCD)

## Theme Journal – March, Journey



Soul Matters Image

*‘Connection experienced within our congregation’* emerged as an important theme at the Board’s World Café discussions in late autumn and at the recent Visiting Steward meetings. Building connections that deepen into friendships requires asking questions that go beyond accomplishing things together. Depth of relationship is also about sharing our stories. To know each other is to know each other’s journeys. No matter how well we think we know someone, there’s always a twist or turn of their life that we’ve never heard about.

This month, as a way of deepening your connection with friends, family, and new acquaintances at UUCD, share one part of your spiritual journey that you don’t often talk about. This conversation will require time together walking or sharing a cup of tea or coffee. Explain why this one part of your spiritual journey is important to you and how it continues to shape your life today. Focus on one short time in your life or a sudden spiritual revelation. Did you discover the Divine in nature or in the connection among friends? Did language become your touchstone? Did political action become sacred due to a quote by Tich Nhat Hahn? As you think, you might stumble on insights that surprise you.

If you’re interested in asking a deepening question during coffee hour, invite someone to answer, “Before you came to UUCD, what was one important step in your religious journey?” Focus on the good that travels with us from our personal histories and over time; we’ll forge a room full of positive connections. *(idea adapted from Soul Matters)*

– Rev. Beth Banks, Senior Minister

❖ [www.uudavis.org](http://www.uudavis.org) → Events/Publications → 2018-19, March, Journey ❖

Adult Religious Exploration: **The Fun (and a little zany) Journey to Unleash the Beloved**, led by Anne Hoffmann  
Sat, March 2, 12:45-3pm; UU Library. Join the 2019 Worship Associates for this workshop. Learn to tell stories well; feel comfortable in front of a crowd; fully show up when they make a speech; adopt techniques for crafting any oral presentation. Learn through theatre games, improv exercises, and speechifying. The time together will include laughter: a known pedagogical device for creating genius Worship Associates and for unleashing the beloved in all of us! *For those who are curious about Worship Associates or who simply want to have fun and gain skill.*  
4 spaces remain!! You MUST sign-up to participate: [re@uudavis.org](mailto:re@uudavis.org)

*Anne is a member of the Actor’s Equity, a bearer of an MDiv from Union Theological Seminary., a teacher of mindfulness meditation, and certified in Conflict Resolution by UC Davis. Anne preached, taught, and worked with UUCD when she lived in Davis. Anne is the Interim Minister at The First Congregational Church (UCC) Santa Rosa.*

# Sunday Worship, 9:30 & 11:15am

**Hymn of the Month:** *We Will Walk Together*

---

**March Offering: Myanmar Children's Foundation** [www.myanmarchildrensfoundation.org](http://www.myanmarchildrensfoundation.org) receives 1/2 Sunday offering. Provide education, healthcare, build school infrastructure for rural area in Myanmar; provide asthma medications for a free clinic; infusers and infrastructure for children's hospital in Yangon. *Check UUCD; memo: Offering.*

---

**March 3, 9:30 & 11:15am, *Blurring the Borders***; Alex Haider-Winnett; Lily Roberts, Worship Associate. In 1493, after Christopher Columbus returned to Europe, the Vatican issued a decree promoting the colonization of non-Christian territories, *The Doctrine of Discovery*. It created nearly 600 years of international law, theology, and exploitation. Learn how indigenous people and UUs are resisting this doctrine and how decolonization helps shape the work of this church.

---

**March 10, 9:30 & 11:15am, *On the Journey to Excellence***; Rev. Beth Banks; Anne Hillman, Worship Associate. When in your life have you gained competence or excellence? Whether it is playing piano, becoming an effective water polo goalie, gardening (Religious Exploration meets at FARM Davis this Sunday!), writing poetry, or navigating relationships across culture and race, where we put our time is where we gain skill.

**March 10, All Religious Exploration Groups for Children & Youth meet at FARM Davis**, <http://farmdavis.org/>. Caretakers are asked to drop off their children at the FARM and are encouraged to stay! This is part of our social service learning this year; in April, FARM Davis will receive half of the monthly offering. Fresh fruits and vegetables are harvested for those in need, including at Davis Community Meals. Nursery care will still be available in the Bridgehouse for families with young children, but our teachers and program leaders will be waiting for everyone else starting at 11 a.m. We'll have an opening Circle, learn a little about what happens at the farm, and get our hands dirty... Literally! Please wear work clothes. Around 12:30, we'll enjoy pizza fresh from the outdoor pizza oven and plan to leave by 1 p.m. Find us at the FARM, 25450 County Road 95.

Our church has done several work days at the farm and will return on Saturday April 6th from 10 a.m. to noon for all who are interested. Our children and youth will return again on Sunday June 9th to harvest what they plant on March 10th.

---

**March 17, 9:30 & 11:15am, *Diet of Torda—1568***; Rev. Lehel Molna, *Balázs Scholar*; Rev. McLean; Autumn Labbé-Renault, Worship Associate. Music: Adrienne Taylor and Andrei Baumann. The Edict of Torda proclamation in Transylvania was the first of its kind: the right of individuals to believe and worship according to their own understanding; for clergy to preach and teach the Gospel as they too, understood it. This is a cornerstone of our modern understanding of religious practice and belief. Rev. Molnár serves as Archivist at the Unitarian Headquarters in Kolozsvár, Transylvania (Romania). He is charged with the restoration, conservation, organization, development and administration of the 450-year-old Unitarian Archives. After finishing his Seminary training in 1995, he was appointed to this position and to Assistant Minister, First Church in Kolozsvár, where he served for nearly two years. In November 1999, he was ordained a Unitarian minister. This year, he is taking advanced courses at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, as the *Balázs Scholar*.

---

**March 24, 9:30 & 11:15am, *Labyrinth***; Rev. Beth Banks; Meghan Kelly, Worship Associate. In the UUCD pine grove is a labyrinth, created for those who desire healing and a sense of peace. Images of labyrinths come to us from ancient Egypt and Greece and from prehistoric petroglyphs in California. There are many interpretations of what it means to follow these circuitous pathways. Christians, pagans, humanists, and those who are neither spiritual nor religious, stand at the center and wait in stillness. Why do labyrinths appeal? What are some messages for Unitarian Universalists? You're invited to visit the pine grove, near the Bridgehouse, following the 9:30 & 11:15 worship services, and walk our labyrinth.

---

**March 31, 9:30 & 11:15am, *Jesus and Bartimaeus***; Alex Haider-Winnett; Lily Roberts, Worship Associate. Jesus welcomes the stranger and heals bigotry. What can contemporary UUs learn from this ancient story?

---

**Listen**

Download or stream edited Sunday services at [www.uudavispodcast.org](http://www.uudavispodcast.org)

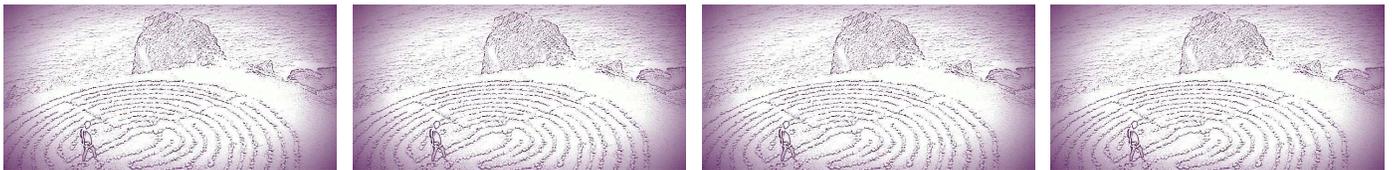
**I used to get lost on purpose.** Back in the day, before I was married, had a kid, a full-time job—before I had GPS in my pocket—I would go somewhere new just to see what I could find. I would hop on a different bus route and ride it to the end of the line. Then I would get out and start walking. I wasn't looking for anything in particular. I would just explore a new part of town. I would poke my head into new coffee shops, record stores, anything that piqued my interest. I would look at houses, read plaques, and sit under trees in new parks. I would just see how far I could get before I got cold, tired, or hungry. Then I would head back to the bus line and home.

One time, I was in New York City while my wife was at a conference. My only map was a list of the national parks in Manhattan. I spent an entire day visiting every historical site I could find on the list. I walked the ten miles from The Bowery to Grant's Tomb and Riverside Church. My only goal was to see how far I could go and how many sites I could visit before dusk. No set route, just forward. I loved seeing how the city changed from neighborhood to neighborhood; the shops and bodegas, the smells and sounds, the people. That was my destination.

Even here in sleepy, small-town Davis, I sometimes take a new route home to see what I can find. I walk along the arboretum path and—when I am good and lost—try to find a way back without using my phone. Recently, I decided to walk from church to pick my son up from daycare and laughed when I found the Village Homes and all the streets named after places in *Lord of the Rings*. One day, we walked from the Co-op to the main branch of the post office and stopped to see the community garden. We wound up spending an hour talking to our neighbors about their plants. Once, shortly after we arrived, I took the bus to Woodland just to walk around Main Street and found delightful shops.

I don't have much time or energy these days to just ride to end of the bus line. Still, I appreciate the times when I give myself permission to slow down and look at things differently: knowing that the journey is as important as the destination; participating in the mystery of travel, rather than going on autopilot to the next place.

— Alex Haider-Winnett, Intern & Campus Minister



**When explaining Unitarian Universalism,** I often say that—although we might all believe in a different destination—we believe what's most important is to come together to share the journey. We do have a shared journey of building community, exploring who we are and how we are in the world, and making meaning in our lives. When we come together on a journey, we each bring different skills. Some people are great planners and pack ahead; some people are great with maps and can lead the way; some people notice new opportunities along the way; some people are happy to help carry supplies or use a special skill as we go. Often, we take on multiple roles at different points in our lives: the journey of building the Beloved Community continues. What are you most looking forward to for your part of the journey? Is there a new skill to learn? Is there a part of yourself you'd like to share? How can your continuation on this journey be even more meaningful? When we don't share the destination, there is more than one path for how we do this. As you consider your next part of the journey, let's talk about these questions and more!

— Rev. Morgan McLean, Assistant Minister for Congregational Life

Movies and Books about Journey: *Becoming* by Michelle Obama

*Wild* One woman's 1,100-mile solo hike undertaken to recover from tragedy.  
[https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2305051/?ref\\_=fn\\_al\\_tt\\_1](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2305051/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1)

*The Way* A father heads overseas to recover the body of his estranged son who died while traveling the "El Camino de Santiago" and decides to take the pilgrimage himself. [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1441912/?ref\\_=nv\\_sr\\_3](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1441912/?ref_=nv_sr_3)

*The Warmth of Other Suns: America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson <http://isabelwilkerson.com/>