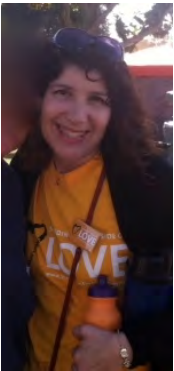


Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Kern County

A Message From Our Minister



One of my favorite quotes is from Voltaire. He said, "Faith consists in believing when it is beyond the power of reason to believe." Sometimes I have felt that he is right. There have been times in my life when all I could do is have faith -- faith that things would work out, even though I was not feeling too optimistic. Have faith even though it appeared to be beyond reason that I should believe so strongly. Have faith even when it was easier to give in to sorrow instead.

Perhaps, you have experienced the same. Doesn't it feel sometimes like your faith is being tested? This is natural for many of us because life is not that easy. But what does this mean for a Unitarian Universalist? Tested -- how and by whom, and for what? Maybe we will need to commence with looking at definitions of faith and what that means for others before we can figure out just what that 5-letter word means for us.

And faith is a tiny word for such a big concept. But it is a loaded word for some of us, too. We may think that it is directly connected to a deity or a specific religion. But what if, as we explore this concept this month, we find that this word is actually tangible? What if we learn to claim it for ourselves -- as Unitarian Universalists?

As I write this article, I am finding that the word faith is on my lips and in my head. I just sent my son on a school science trip to Catalina Island for the first time. This sending my son to a camp requires a leap of faith. I must have faith that my son will be returned to me the same or hopefully a little bit better, as a result.

Leap of faith. Isn't that what we have whenever we start a new project, job or business? Isn't that what we experience when we start a new relationship, sever ties with another or give birth to a child? We have faith that everything will be alright. No, better than alright. We believe that transformation will occur somehow.

Faith and transformation. There is something to explore here. Perhaps, we will find transformation within our focusing on this concept. Are you ready to have some faith this November?

Namaste and faith,

Summer

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE



A Guest at Your Table will be the topic of the "Time for All Ages" and Adult Religious Education on Sunday, November 17th. All of the children and youth are encouraged to attend and take part in our interactive "Time for All Ages" introduction to Guest At Your Table, which is the major fundraising effort for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). UUSC supports projects that promote civil liberties, advance economic and environmental justice, and provide humanitarian aid in times of crisis. Each family will be invited to bring home a Guest Box to place on their dining table. With each meal, money is placed in the box that would be spent to feed a guest. In early January, the monies from the boxes will be collected and forwarded to the UUSC so that they can continue their work around the globe. More information and Guest boxes will be provided at the service on November 17th.



REVISITING FAITH

"Faith without works is dead". Okay! Right there I've said it all and it comes straight out of the Bible, one of its most fundamental truths.

Faith is linked with your fondest dreams as well, your deepest wishes for your progeny, for the future of the planet or our American democracy which is now in one of its Silliest Seasons, but here again comes "works". We must talk the talk and walk the walk. We must write the letter, go to the demonstration, write the check, roll up and sleeves and DO SOMETHING. This was how all of the great achievements of our species came about, through people who dreamed their dreams, strengthened their faith in what could be achieved and got to work.

Irene Heath



“HARVESTING FOR OUR FUTURE” HARVEST DINNER and ADOPT A TABLE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 5:30 PM

Members and Friends of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bakersfield are invited to join together for an evening of food and fellowship at the Annual Harvest Dinner. The Harvest Dinner is a long standing tradition at our fellowship that you don't want to miss.

The main dish will be catered; however, there will be “potluck” opportunities to share your favorite salad, side dish, beverage, or dessert. Sign up sheets will be posted on the Fellowship Bulletin Board. If you bring food, please bring enough to serve at least 8 to 10 folks. Alternatively, contact Pat Berthold at 589-1231 or pberthold@earthlink.net to let her know what you would like to bring. Even if you don't plan to bring food Pat would like to know that you are coming so enough food is ordered. Please sign-up or contact Pat if you plan to attend.

Adopt a Table is a newer tradition; adopted 8 years ago or so. Dinner guests are encouraged to showcase their creativity and their passions and to adopt a table to decorate. (Just remember, young children will be present!) Since we started doing this we have had seasonal tables celebrating Halloween, Thanksgiving, and the Harvest. Others have taken the opportunity to share their collections with us or just let their imaginations go wild. If you would like to decorate one of the dinner tables sign-up on the bulletin board or contact Pat Berthold.

And finally – we need your help to set up the tables and chairs before the dinner and to stay and clean up afterward – sign-up on the bulletin board or contact Pat Berthold.



November 10

Speaker: Summer Albayati-Krikeche: "Keepers of the Faith"

This Sunday, our minister will explore with us the concept of faith. We will look at traditions and religions to guide us on this journey toward discovering our own faith. Various theologians will be explored, as well as scientists. Who are the keepers of the faith? Whose are we, exactly?



November 17

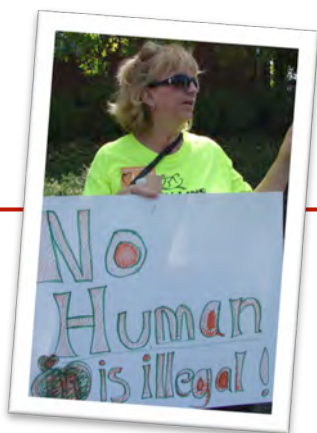
Speaker: Reverend Deb DeBoer:

Rev. Deb DeBoer is Assisting Minister at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Bakersfield.

November 24

Summer Albayati-Krikeche: "Articulating Our Faith"

This Sunday, our minister will help us to be able to articulate our own faith. We will focus on contemporary Unitarian Universalist theologians to learn what they believe about this concept. We will, also, reflect on the meaning of our own lives to help us to articulate our own faith. Got faith?



September 13 and 14, 2013

Board Retreat/Business Meeting and Visioning

Members Present: President, Bill Stevenson, Vice President, Duncan Low, Treasurer, Red LeCain, Secretary, Elaine LeCain, Directors Jane Cherry and Gale Taylor
 ½ time Minister, Summer Albayeti-Krikeche
 Absent: Director, Chet Boren

Friday evening's get together was to promote board unity and getting to know and trust each other. We had a shared meal at the home of Red and Elaine LeCain, shared our hopes and dreams for the congregation and were led in a team building exercise by President Bill Stevenson.

Saturday's work focused on developing the vision and dreams we had shared on Friday evening and beginning to strategize how to accomplish our vision.

Vision/Goal: Increase the depth of leadership within the congregation, involve new members as appropriate and needed

Tactic: Where are we now with regard to functioning committees and board liason

Worship: led by Larry Taylor, includes Pat Berthold, Brandi Groven and Irene Heath. Summer will work with the committee to provide training for worship leaders

Religious Education: led by Andy Kendall with Mendy McMasters, Julie Means on the committee.

Teachers/facilitators include Elaine LeCain and Sabrina James working with 4 and 5 year olds, Kelly Blickre working with 7 and 8 year olds, Anna Laven, Cynthia Lane and Jane Cherry working with Adult RE. Jane and Elaine will be the board liasons with this committee.

Care Committee: led by Pam Taylor, this committee includes Wilma Goodloe, Marina Oja, Gale Taylor and

Carol Snyder. Gale will be the board liason with this committee and Summer will work with the team to develop strategies and training.

Building and Grounds: led by Richard Malicdem and others as needed.

Nominating: Rob Berthold, Richard Malicdem and Laura Stevenson

Committee on Ministry: Summer will get this coordinated

Social Justice: Gale moved and Red seconded Elaine LeCain to serve as chair with potential committee members Isolde Frank, Cydney Henderson, Pat Berthold, and Anna Laven. Cydney Henderson had requested permission to show the film, *Bitter 70*, as a social justice outreach. Elaine will work with her. We need to look at the agreement/contract she has and get more details. Approval pending the above all agreements are met.

Tactic: Empower the committees to use the money budgeted and available to better serve the congregation