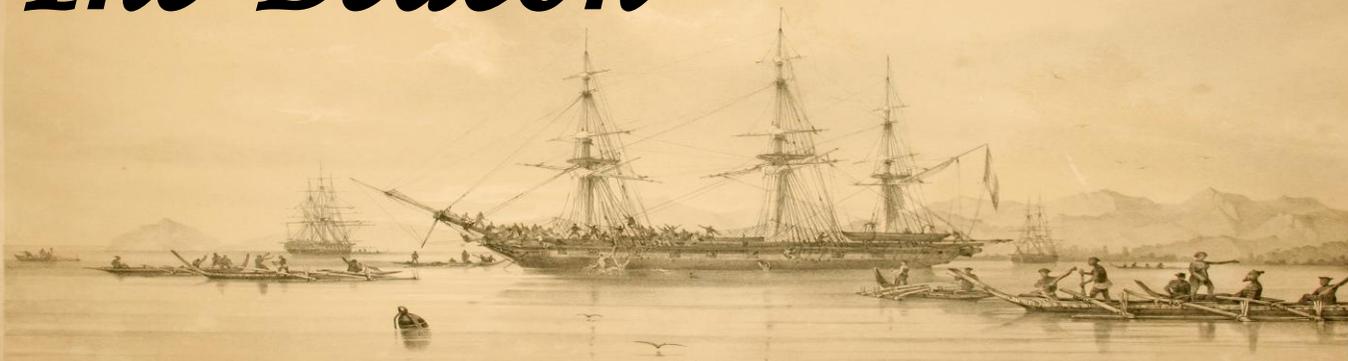


The Beacon



South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

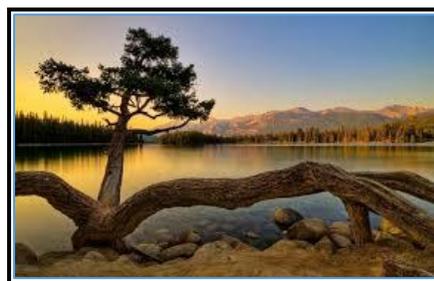
Volume 35, Issue 4

April, 2015

April Theme: *Discovering Land!*

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April 5: "Easter and the Promise of Flowers"

Easter is a time for renewal and rebirth. Let us begin again with flowers offered to one another with acceptance and celebration of how we are different.

Rev. Patty Willis

April 12: "Envisioning Our Future: Voices in Leadership"

Most of the work of leadership at South Valley is behind the scenes. During this service, you will have a chance to hear about the vision and day to day work of leaders in many aspects of our congregational life. Come and be inspired by their dreams.

Rev. Patty Willis

April 19: "Leaving the Garden"

Let's look at the creation myth with new eyes. Do we need to leave a safe world in order to embark on our hero's journey? Can shame transform into the energy we need for a great adventure?

Rev. Patty Willis

April 26: "What Three have Discovered at South Valley"

Three diverse congregants share what they discovered or learned by involving themselves at South Valley. This promises to bring insight into what South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society did and does for them. Perhaps you will gain a better vision what South Valley can do for you.

Lay-led

From the Board of Trustees

Community, Communication, and Participation

LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

****For urgent issues please call the main office or the Caring Circle (listed further below)**

DEVELOPMENTAL MINISTER

Rev. Patty Willis Cell #: 801-633-0709
Email: minister@svuus.org

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Tuesday: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
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CARING CIRCLE

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SVUUS Web Site

www.svuus.org

SVUUS-NEWS Email List

South Valley maintains a news listserv to facilitate announcements and other communications for the congregation.

If you wish to sign up to receive messages, send a request to Lyn Worthen, listserv administrator, at lynw@xmission.com.

To send a message to the list, simply address it to svuus-news@mailman.xmission.com

It is hard to believe it is April. Time goes by so fast and I know I let things slip by that I shouldn't. One thing that I try to never let slip by is participating in this outstanding Community and letting my voice be heard through my actions. My attachment grows with my involvement through participation, speaking, listening, and getting to know more of the wonderful people that make up this diverse Congregation. It has made me a better person, a more compassionate person, a more educated person, and a religious/spiritual person.

One of the reasons this is such a good Community is communication. We have a Minister that respectfully listens and sets an example for one to emulate. Hopefully, we have all participated in a Spyglass group so we can all be heard by others in the Congregation that are trying to help chart our course into the future. It is also important to participate in the Spyglass groups so we have a direction that reflects our real concerns and desires. If you could not or did not participate in a Spyglass group your voice is still important. We still need/want your input.

Since we had the Spyglass groups to communicate recently, we won't have a Community Chat this month. If you have a concern or feel you need to be heard about anything, please feel free to contact a Board Member, Reverend Patty, or the appropriate committee/committee member. In all our interactions please be respectful.

One of our principles is that of Democratic process and that entails participation. Democracy is not just an occasional vote. It is listening to the conversation, being part of the conversation, becoming educated, actively participating in the organization, and then the occasional vote. We need active participants for this wonderful community to thrive and be driving force in our larger community.

In Community and with love,

Mac

SVUUS Board of Trustees

News from the Social Action Council

March-April Worship Service Offering Split Recipient: Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment

South Valley is pleased to select Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment (UPHE) to receive half of our worship service offerings during March and April. UPHE is dedicated to protecting the health and well-being of the citizens of Utah by promoting science-based health education and interventions that result in progressive, measurable improvements to the environment. Along with being strong advocates for clean air along the Wasatch Front, UPHE encourages the development of renewable sources of energy, such as wind, as an essential step toward avoiding the unhealthy consequences of our excessive reliance on coal and petroleum. They believe that there are several solutions that if enacted, could dramatically improve the air quality in Utah, and thereby significantly improve the health of our citizens. For a list of current initiatives that UPHE is working on, please visit their website at <http://uphe.org/>



Internet Services Donated by XMission

From Our Minister

April Monthly Theme: Discovering New Land

Minister's Newsletter for April: "Wherever I Go, There I Am"

As most of you know, I love to travel. And, every time I take a trip, get off an airplane or boat or out of a car in a new place, within around 24 hours, I am struck by the reality that "wherever I go, there I am." Unconsciously for those wonderful weeks of anticipation, I am not only anticipating being in that new place, I am imagining that somehow I will be different. Sometimes I have packed clothes that I never would have worn in my usual life. They, of course, sat in the bottom of my suitcase gathering wrinkles and providing evidence that "there I was" as they made my suitcase heavier. Still, if I compare who I was thirty-five years ago with who I am now, I have transformed in many ways.

I love labyrinths as a metaphor for pilgrimage. Pilgrimage, or travel to a holy destination, conjures a long road trip on foot or bicycle or in a car or airplane. The holy destination is far away from our starting point. When we embark on our walk around a labyrinth, the walk becomes a pilgrimage when we are present to our movement. We feel the wind or snow or sleet in our faces and the sun on our backs or whatever weather is happening. Simply being present opens up the possibility of becoming more alive, more human, and more loving. Having nothing to do but slowly walk around a labyrinth forces open that window of awareness. And, when we arrive at the end, we find ourselves at the beginning. At that point, we are different and we are much the same.

During the Spyglass groups, and at other times, have you found yourself thinking that our community would be great if only *others* would change? Our Unitarian Universalist communities are known for being different not just from the wider community but from each other. In Salt Lake City, for instance, we have two Unitarian Universalist congregations that are quite different from one another. If you come from another part of the country then you may be wishing that South Valley Unitarian Universalism were more like what you left. I believe that this points to one of the challenges at the heart of Unitarian Universalism: how can we be different and still get along, still love each other? At the heart of this is accepting our differences. If you want change, the only real change you have control over is your own. One of the most heartening things that I heard a couple of years ago was from a member of our community who said to me, "You love us just as we are. You aren't saying, 'I will love you, if you change.'" I was glad to hear that because that is what I hope to do even though it is not always what I am able to do. As I keep trying to do this, I ask you to do the same. When I wanted more generosity, I raised my pledge because that was all I could really do. If you want a more welcoming environment, be more welcoming yourself. Whatever it is you think others need to change, make those changes in yourself. When you do, you will begin to notice the world around you changing. As you are changing yourself, remember to give yourself the same grace you hope from others: love for yourself just as you are.

As we begin April, we are metaphorically arriving at a new land and yet, as at the end of a labyrinth walk, it looks (except for our magnificent new carpet) much like the one we left. We have begun a process, an imperfect process of beginning again with some new insights and dreams. I'm glad that you are much the same for you are beautiful just as you are. Your kindness and passion to make this Valley a more hospitable place have taken us far. What have you seen through that spyglass? What shifts do you want for others that you might make in yourself? That is how we can continue that process of transformation that will make living in the same old place, working on the same old relationships, feel like discovering a new land.

In love and community,

Rev. Patty



From the Worship Closet

Anytime we set out for an unknown destination, there is a mixture of excitement and fear, especially when the journey promises to be permanent. Excitement, because we are going somewhere new, where the possibilities lie open and endless, if only we have the courage to grasp them. Excitement, because in the unknown there has always been the promise of a new day, a new beginning. But there is also – and in my opinion, inevitably – fear. Fear, because no matter how well we have prepared, how many maps we might have studied, we do not have our own, intimate knowledge of where we will soon plant our feet. What if we don't like the weather? What if the geography is hard, unwelcoming? How much work will it require to make it hospitable for our families and our personal growth? What if we don't like the *people*? We may not have liked the home we are leaving; perhaps it was even imperative for our happiness and growth that we set sail, but at least it was *known*. Familiar. We knew its in and outs and its highs and lows. There was comfort, even in its discomfort. It is often that familiarity, that comfort, that keeps us from ever setting out on the journey in the first place, that keeps us static and unchanging, has us eventually wilting away in stasis.

As we at South Valley approach our new destination, how do we make sure the fear does not overwhelm the excitement? How do we make sure we succeed in this new land we are making? How do we make sure our destination is built on love and not fear? I believe we have already done much to ensure our success. We are meeting together to prepare our map, to make sure we have both the practical tools to build our new home, as well as the spiritual ones. We have members who are willing to man the oars, members who are willing to navigate the rough waters, and members who are picking up the metaphorical hammers and nails to construct our new homes. And we have members who wait, ready and willing to join in the preparation, if only we reach out and ask them. We still have work to do, and our journey is not over, but I am confident that by working together we can all make it, with no one left behind.

I look forward to reaching our new destination with all of you, and discovering all the future has to offer!

In light and love,

Shannon Black

News from the South Valley Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS)

Come and enjoy the last Pancake breakfast of the church year on April 12th after the service. We hope we can gather a lot of the community together for a great breakfast. As always, it is just \$7 per person or \$15 per family.

CUUPS will also be organizing the Egg-ceptional potluck on April 26th after the service. Remember to bring a dish to share with the community. In order to facilitate variety, please use the following as a guide (if your last name begins with):

A-D Salad, Fruit or Veggie
E-M Main Dish
N-Z Dessert

Please remember to bring your own place setting or you may use the dishes in the kitchen (you will need to put them in the dishwasher when finished).

Facilities Team News

The first year of our solar array is a great success!

Our solar panels have been working flawlessly since their installation a year ago. The electricity generated has completely offset our electric power consumption in both the main building and the annex. Furthermore, the “demand” charges that result when our power use surges upward suddenly have been greatly reduced for a bit more than a year, presumably because people have been aware of the problem.

I will prepare a short report including power data and dollars saved for the annual meeting in May, but if you feel like seeing the wonderful power output graphs, look at the “Energy Stats” part of our website.

Tucker Gurney



Earth Day's 45 Year Anniversary is April 22nd

It is an old Native American tradition that when you take something from the Earth you must put something back. Earth Day 2015 is an opportunity to not only give back to our planet, but to pay it forward as well.

Spring has always been my favorite time of year because I get to be a midwife (of sorts) to the birth of new life bursting forth from our earth. It is a glorious relief when I go around inspecting my yard and gardens to see that all of my “babies” have survived winter and not only returned, but (sometimes) have had their own babies as well!

I am also privileged to see the birth of new life taking place here at South Valley when I come into work. I am grateful for all of the volunteers that are taking care of the grounds through the Adopt-A-Space program.

I think maybe a lot of us have traditions or rituals that we perform without the labeling, as we naturally get busy planting fruits, vegetables, flowers and trees, just because it is time for them to grow and it completes the cycle of giving and receiving.

Happy Earth Day,

Cindy L. Martin
Church Administrator



Religious Education, Growth and Learning

APRIL SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

April 5, 2015:

All-Ages Service for Easter/Flower Communion

April 12, 2015:

High School: Coffee Shop Sunday at Beans & Brews

Junior High: "Life as Mystery"

Seekers & Trailblazers (2nd-5th): "Courage & Perseverance"

Pathfinders (K-1st): "Mohammed"

Preschool: "Wondering About the Stars"

April 19, 2015:

High School: Youth-led, Topic TBD

Junior High: "What to Believe"

Seekers & Trailblazers (2nd-5th): "Working Together"

Pathfinders (K-1st): "Memories of Home"

Preschool: "The Wonder of Weather"

April 26, 2015:

High School: Youth-led, Topic TBD

Junior High: "What to Believe"

Sacred Travels (K-5th): Children's Chapel with Liz

Preschool: "Rainbows"

The next MONDAY MENUS Session starts in September!

The next 12-week session of Monday Menus will begin in September! Thank you for your support, attendance, and sharing of your talents this year. Please email any suggestions or volunteer to help make this great program happen to DRE@svuus.org.

However, we will still be holding the Yoga class on Monday evenings at SVUUS with Peter Ries, and groups are still welcome to continue meeting on Mondays. (But, please be advised that there will be no soup or child care arranged.)

Opportunities and Announcements

Meditation Group

Come and experience how a practice of meditation can benefit your life and the life of our community. Do you have a meditation practice or have always wanted to begin one? If this sounds like you, gather with us from 9 to 10 a.m. before our service, in the Senior High Room. We will begin with a short check in, have a reading from a Buddhist source and then move into a time of silent meditation. This will be done in two cycles with a few minutes for stretching in between. If you need childcare in order to attend, please email Rev. Patty at minister@svuus.org.

New Discussion Forum

This is a new place for community discussions: <http://forums.svuus.org>. Right now, it is by invitation only so if people would like to join they can request an invite from me at russell.martin@svuus.org.

This was something that was suggested at the Listening Circle about the svuus-news listserv policy changes.

Opportunities and Announcements Continued

“**Songs of the Earth**”, a cantata by Patty Willis and Mary Lou Prince, performed by the combined choirs of South Valley and First Unitarian Church for an Earth Day Celebration. Wednesday April 22, 7:30 PM at First Unitarian Church, 569 S. 1300 E.

WUULF 2015 is Calling You!

And you do not want to miss this incomparable experience. Starting June 22, UU's and like-minded families will gather in the picturesque Ghost Ranch, near Abiquiu, New Mexico to create a community called WUULF. You will want to join us for a week of programming in outdoor, spiritual and intellectual activities and lots of just plain fun.

This year's theme is “Enchantments, Secrets and Sacred Places.” We will have three theme speakers – Author Lesley Poling-Kempes, speaking on Writing with a Sense of Place; author/historian Nancy Bartlit, speaking on How Wildlife, Sacred to the Dine, Shaped a Navajo Code, Shortening WWII; and lecturer/instructor David Gutierrez, speaking on the Sacred Places of northern New Mexico. During these programs the kids will be hiking, climbing, and creating their own fun together under the supervision of our excellent, volunteer RE staff.

During the week there will be a wide variety of planned activities- some new like Memoir Writing and TED talks; others by request; such as ‘all-ages-welcome’ square dancing, game night, rafting and To Tell the Truth.

Western Unitarian Universalist Life Festival 2015 is now open for registration. Camp fills up fast so don't delay.

Please go to wuulf.org to see the full 2015 catalog of activities and register now.

Contact: Jane Everham at jeverham@frij.com, 970-222-9709



Church Yard Sale in June--Save the Date and Save your Stuff!

This is a "heads up" that the annual church yard sale is planned for Saturday, June 13th. We wanted to give you some advance notice in case this warm weather has got some of you starting your spring cleaning early. Plan on saving your reusable items to donate to SVUUS. There will be more details in the coming months. If you have any questions please contact Torrey Longeteig at tlongeteig@gmail.com or [801-558-5923](tel:801-558-5923).



Grocery Card Program



The Finance Council has decided to change grocery card sales from every Sunday to once per month, the second Sunday of each month to coincide with the CUUPS Pancake Breakfast. The next opportunity to purchase grocery cards will be on March 8th. However, if anyone needs cards on another Sunday; we'd be happy to oblige. You can ask a Council member (Joe Gates, Phil Quigley, Derek Larson, David Norton, Lee Cowley, or KC Tabor) and we can arrange for an individual sale.

Save the Date

April 12	CUUPS Pancake Breakfast
April 22	Songs of the Earth Concert
April 26	CUUPS Egg-ceptional potluck

Upcoming Events

May 17	Congregational Meeting
June 13	Church Yard Sale
June 22	WUULF 2015
Sept. 4-7	Labor Day Campout



South Valley Caring Circle

The members of the Caring Circle provide practical support and/or pastoral care. Please contact the chair of the committee if you need or know of someone who needs our support. To ask for help you may also use the Caring Book by the name tags. The Caring Book is also for joys and concerns; we hope you will share moments from your lives.

CARING CIRCLE

Contact Information

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Sandy Dreis	801-256-0825
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