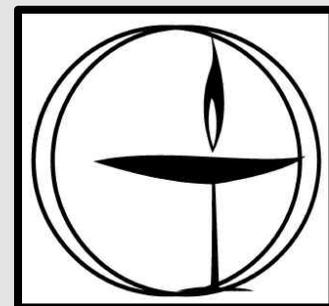


The Chalice Flame

First Unitarian Society of Pueblo

"We are a growing liberal religious community, open and inclusive of all."



Issue IX, September 2013

Service Themes Sundays @ 10:30 AM

September 1st: "Liberation Theology"
Speakers: Ibsen & Midge Birgers
Lay Leader: Midge Birgers

September 8th: "Emerson's Divinity School Address"
Speaker: Rev. Roger Butts
Lay Leader: Janice Nelson

September 15th: "You Might Be A Humanist, Too"
Speaker: John Petersen
Lay Leader: Ibsen Birgers

September 22nd: "Intuition and Sensation"
Speaker: Steve Acker
Lay Leader: Kathryn Acker

September 29th: "Why Can't We Just Get Along?"
Speakers: Dorie Silverman & Liz Moulder
Lay Leader: Midge Birgers

What is Unitarian Universalism?

Unitarian Universalism is a religion that embraces theological diversity. There are seven principles that Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



*"I would rather sit on a pumpkin, and have it all to myself, than be crowded on a velvet cushion."
– Henry David Thoreau*

Sunday Service Themes: Expanded Titles and Descriptions

September 1st: Ibsen and Midge Birgers will talk about Liberation Theology. The three richest men in America own more combined wealth than the sixty poorest countries in the world. Liberation Theology came about in reaction to the disparity in wealth that prevents the poorest from getting a foothold in life.

September 8th: Rev. Roger Butts, Emerson's Divinity School Address: Happy 175th birthday. Ralph Waldo Emerson still speaks to Unitarian Universalists after all this time. This year marks the 175th anniversary of a landmark in American theology, Emerson's lecture to the graduating class at Harvard Divinity School in 1838. It seemed outrageous to a number of his contemporaries. But, in terms of its major themes, it seems like a blueprint for contemporary Unitarian Universalist thought. We'll explore what is going on in the Divinity School Address, its major themes, and what it still says to us today as Unitarian Universalists.

September 15th: John Petersen will explore Humanism with us. Whether or not you are aware of it or not, you just might be a Humanist. What is the local Humanist group doing and what are purpose and objectives of the American Humanist Association?

September 22nd: Steve Acker will talk about intuition and sensation. Are we limited to our five senses of touch, taste, smell, hearing, and sight for experiencing and knowing? Is intuition a valuable tool we can all develop and use or is it just a realm of mystics and the gifted few? And just how reliable are our own five senses? Join us for what is sure to be a lively and controversial topic.

September 29th: Dorie Silverman and Liz Moulder will talk about discrimination. Even in the most open and democratic societies a lot of prejudice and discrimination still exists between groups.

Bits from the Board of Trustees

The next FUS Board meeting will be held on Sept.10 at 6:15. All are welcome to attend.

- The board is preparing a congregational survey to help us plan and evaluate our Sunday morning programs. Please take the time to fill this out, we need all members and friends input.
- We are planning to have a congregational workshop this fall. This will be an opportunity for our members and friends to get to know each other, and share ideas, wants and needs. The date will be announced soon.

- For anyone who would like to help keep our programs running smoothly, but don't have time for a big commitment, here are some opportunities:
 - We need more greeters for Sunday mornings. All you need to do is arrive a little early, greet and meet those coming to the service. You would pass out order of service, help them with the guest book, and give info of our UU as needed. Contact Kathryn Acker if you are interested
- We would like to expand our roster of Sunday morning worship leaders. This involves coordinating between our speakers, music offered, preparing a chalice reading and a reading if indicated. And working with our administrator with information for the Sunday order of service. We have a resource book available for the leaders. Contact Midge Birger if interested.
- We will be having an orientation and brief training for worship leaders and greeters later this fall. You can also sign up on the bulletin board to the right of the kitchen opening
- Don't forget the all building and ground cleanup scheduled for September 14th from 9AM-12PM. Tools and cleaning materials will be provided, all that is needed is for volunteers to show up and take on a cleaning task. We need people to clean windows, vacuum carpeting, dust-off surfaces, clean out the rain gutters, and generally clean up the interior and exterior of the church.
- Kathryn Acker will be coordinating this important support for our members. Please let her know about anyone who has needs, illness, or significant life changes.
- We are editing and revising our membership book. Watch for information on our dining area so that you can correct your information to be put into the book

Celebrations & Thanks!

- ❖ Congratulations to our newest parents, Marc and Sarah! Sarah delivered their baby girl Rachel on August 28th; we are so thankful that mom & baby are happy and healthy!
- ❖ We have recently added two new members: John Petersen and Jan Gormac. Both have already pitched and become involved with our activities! Welcome!
- ❖ Sarah Hartman who has been cleaning the building weekly, you are doing a wonderful job!
- ❖ John Peterson and Don Bruestle who have fixed a plumbing problem, cleaned up our parking lot and grounds and even removed three large tree stumps!
- ❖ Jan Butorac, who has helped us prepare our questionnaire and revised our trifold handout for our membership packets.
- ❖ Shawn Collins who coordinated our booth, at the Pueblo Pride celebration at Mineral Palace Park, and the other volunteers who braved the heat to sit at that booth: Gary, Tirza, Tansy, Dorie, Midge, Jim, Mindy, and Doug. Many thanks!

The Congregational Survey

by Jan Butorac



Get ready to fill out a congregational survey this month regarding your assessment of and suggestions about our Sunday services. The Program Committee has compiled a rather detailed survey that asks you to rate and comment on certain aspects of our Sunday programs, including:

- Elements of our Sunday services
- Congregational participation
- Topics of interest and types of services
- Music
- Service time and space

There will also be plenty of opportunity for open-ended comments on each aspect of the service format and content.

This survey is very important in our planning services for the coming church year. We will place copies on the tables each Sunday for several Sundays, and will mail the survey to folks who we know don't attend regularly. We want to draw in as much input as possible to make ensure our services meet your needs. We know there are great ideas and valuable feedback coming our way.

So please take the time to complete the survey, providing honest and open information to the Program Committee.

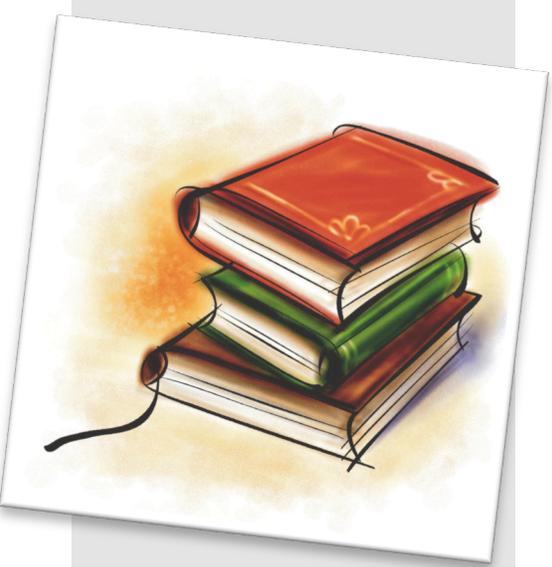
Thanks so much!

Your Program Committee

Board Liaison: Shawn Collins

Members: Steve Acker, Midge Birgers, Jan Butorac, Morgan Dysinger

Social Activities



Happy Bookers: Join us for lunch on September 4th at 11:30AM. We are going to Mr Tandoori's Urban Bar and Grill at 310 S Victoria by popular request [delicious Indian buffet!] We will discuss our current book on September 18th at 12:30PM. The book is "The Orphan Master's Son" by Adam Johnson. Check out the internet for a synopsis.

Fellowship Breakfast: On September 13th, we are going back to The DoDrop Inn at 1201 S Santa Fe Ave at 9AM. In August we found that the food was savory and the conversation was excellent!

Movie and Potluck (Please note the change from our regular night!): Potluck is at 5PM, followed by the movie 6:30PM on Saturday September 14th. The movie this month is "Captain Abu Raed". This is the first Jordanian Film in forty years. Written and directed by Amen Matalga.



Ice Cream Sunday: On September 28th after the service we will celebrate September birthdays with organic ice cream. Our friend Liz Moulder from Mexico will be sharing about her life and the UU church she attends there in Chapella.

Midge and Janice continue to represent our Society at the Faith Leaders in Action Group; currently, they have been contacting our legislators about our common interests in immigration, gun safety issues, health reform and education.

On September 28th, we will be hosting the Alliance for Separation of Church and State who will be presenting a fundraising concert as part of nationwide campaign. Further information will be announced.

Monthly Documentary Film: On Sept 22 following the service we will present our monthly Documentary film. This month we will be showing the Documentary film "Chasing Ice". The film is 1 hour & 10 minutes.



Adult Education and Discussion Groups: We are looking at our fall offerings. If you have any ideas for topics or would like to participate or lead a group, please contact Ibsen Birgers or Steve Acker. Sign up sheets will be offered. Socrates Discussion group will continue before the Sunday Service weed, the Philosophy group will resume in Sept. Contact Steve Acker if you are interested. We are looking ahead for a Religious Education short course such as UU History.



About the First Unitarian Society

The First Unitarian Society is affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association. The religious organization is non-creedal and encourages free inquiry and exploration of ideas; members are not required to share the same beliefs. Members have come from a variety of backgrounds including lifelong UUs, Humanists, Christians, Jews, Muslims, Wiccans, Buddhists, agnostics, atheists, and others. The First Unitarian Society welcomes gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons. For more information, see www.first-unitarian-society.org and www.uua.org. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, please contact pueblounitarian@earthlink.net or leave a message at 719.561.0880. Our facility is handicap accessible.

First Unitarian Society

110 S. La Crosse Avenue
Pueblo, CO
81001-4429