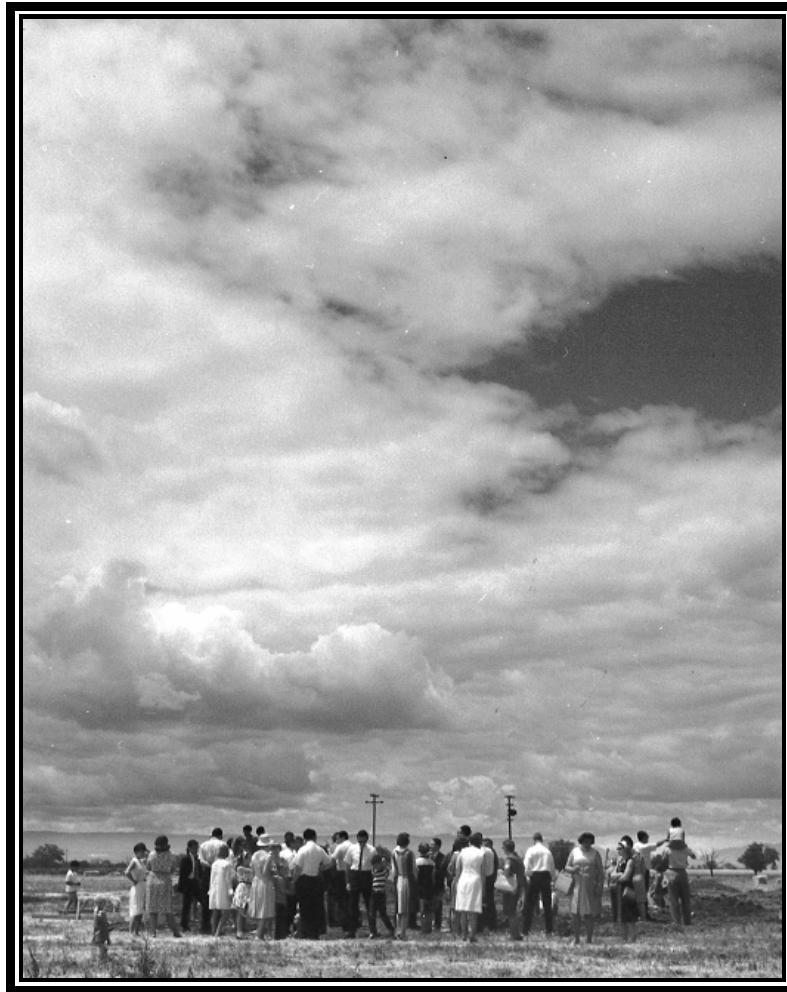


Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis (UUCD) Theme Journal – September: Unity



Unitarian Church of Davis groundbreaking 1967 - photo by Barry Wilson

In his book, *One Taste*, Ken Wilber, tells us that in the course of time a thousand forms will begin and end, a million worlds will come and go, and billions of us will experience joy, grief and eventually die. In the end, he assures us, everything we experience is unified by a commonality he refers to as "taste."

Unity could be becoming non-descript, or an intense feeling of belonging.

This month we'll look at the attraction and the discomfort of being drawn into an experience of unity. Do you feel it when we come together at our September 7 Water Communion, and hear about each other's journeys?

Do you savor it when the boundaries of your self-awareness melt into the music around you? We hope to experience that kind of unity on September 14 with musician Laurence Cole.

Does it happen for you when plugged into your iDevice? It's possible. September 21 you'll discover the opposite of an iLife.

Perhaps those moments of unity come to you when the circle of your world view is made larger. The Rev. Kathleen McTigue will bring her understanding of social justice and spirituality to us on September 27 and 28.

Our September worship will explore all of these issues of unity. For more opportunities, look for programs from the Adult Religious Exploration program in this issue of our *Theme Journal*. – Rev. Beth Banks

❖ www.uudavis.org → Events/Publications → 2014-15 September, Unity ❖

Worship

Regular Schedule

9:30 & 11:15am

UUCD: September, Unity

Hymn of the Month

**Hand in hand, stone by stone
Help me build our sacred home*

This is the year we have claimed to build and renew our vision. We have a dream team, we have expert help, and most important of all, we have our voices. Our voices express our deepest longings, with words, tone, laughter and groans, and with singing!

*People gonna see us speaking out
People gonna see us holding strong
Everybody gonna sing out loud
Come on, sing along!*

We will sing together in the choir. We will sing together in the congregation. The songs we share will make our voices strong, feeding them on unity and musical energy. This taste of unity will help us as we speak our truths to each other all year long, in search of a place we want to go together.

*Come on down this path with me
To the place where the road ends
Beyond, beyond, beyond*

*song lyrics from "Hand in Hand" by Melissa Montforti

– Laura Sandage, Sparks Choir Director



Singing on the Side of Love: A Weekend with Laurence Cole*,

Sept. 12-14. Suggested donation for entire weekend: \$40-\$80. Register:

661-3584 stephklose@mac.com Details:
lsandage@comcast.net. www.laurencecole.com

- Friday Night Workshop 7-9:30pm, UUCD, \$10-20 suggested donation.
- Saturday Davis Farmers' Market 11am; St. John's Retirement Village, Woodland 2pm; Pacific Star Gardens Organic Farm 3:30pm.
- Saturday Night Cafe and Song 6pm, UUCD; \$20 suggested donation includes food, beverage.
- Sunday Worship 9:30 & 11:15am, UUCD / • Sunday Songwriting Workshop 1-3pm, UUCD, \$10- 20 suggested donation.

Listen Download or listen online to edited versions of Sunday services at www.uudavispodcast.org

Sept. 7, 9:30 & 11:15am, Water Communion, Rev. Beth Bank; Kate Raymond, Lifespan Learning Director; Sarah Caine, Campus Minister. **11:15am "First"**

Sunday style worship: Children & Youth in leadership roles for first 30 min. Water Communion welcomes the shift in our lives to autumn by bringing water from the place we have found sustenance in the summer months. Perhaps it was a far away place, or your own home. Every year we use this Sunday as a moment to pause and ask ourselves, "How have I changed?"

Water Feature – At the end of our service we'll bless the new water feature inspired by our Green Sanctuary Committee. Look outside the windows of the sanctuary to see our gift to the thirsty animals on our grounds.

Sept. 14, 9:30 & 11:15am, There Is a Unity that Makes Us One, Rev. Beth Banks. Guest musician, Laurence Cole*. When have you felt the boundaries of your individual self melt away? Was it while walking on a beach and hearing the ocean crashing on the shore? Holding the hand of a child? Have you felt it in the rush of a crowd or sitting in silence in your own backyard? "There is a unity that makes us one . . ." is a line from a benediction written by Rev. David Bumbaugh: "This church is dedicated to the proposition / that behind all our differences, / beneath all our diversity, / there is a unity that makes us one, / and binds us forever together / in spite of time and death / and the space between the stars."

Sept. 21, 9:30 & 11:15am, What Happens to Me when there's an Us? Rev. Beth Banks. **New Member Ceremony. Guardians of the Grounds Recognition.** Relationships are complicated. One challenge is maintaining the balance between being true to ourselves *and* to others. In any relationship the question is, "Whose are we?" We'll consider this for our closest relationships and for community. **Special Collection:** Davis Community Meals Make checks out to UUCD, memo "DCM."

Sept. 28, 9:30 & 11:15am, An Irresistible Sense of Mission, Rev. Kathleen McTigue. How might we bring our justice commitments into deeper conversation with our spiritual lives? See "Participate" for more about Rev. McTigue and her worship and workshop at UUCD.

Participate



WORKSHOP: DRINKING FROM THE DEEP WATERS:

Sat., Sept. 27, 1-4:30pm (hearty snack*), UUCD Social Hall

Many of the most powerful movements for social justice have been those inspired and sustained by religious faith and practice. As a movement, Unitarian Universalism is known as an activist faith, and our members are involved in social justice work on a wide range of issues. Yet when we take action in the public sphere our religious faith is often far in the background, or even invisible. How might we bring our own justice commitments into deeper conversation with our spiritual lives – and what difference can it make? Rev. McTigue's presentation will be followed by an opportunity for conversation and small group exploration of the questions raised, as well as some frameworks for how to incorporate new ideas into the existing social justice work of our congregations.

*We may charge a small fee to cover the cost of refreshments

UU College of Social Justice: a joint project of the UUA and UUSC based in Cambridge, MA. Their mission is to inspire and sustain faith-based justice work on issues of local, national and global importance. This mission is served through a variety of short-term experiential learning journeys for adults of all ages, intensive justice programs for high school youth, and global summer internships for college-age young adults. All programs are grounded in faith-based study and reflection. <http://uucsj.org>

Rev. Kathleen McTigue is Director of the UU College of Social Justice (since 2012). She served as a parish minister for 25 years, first in North Carolina and then New Haven, CT. She currently resides in Boston, MA.

Sun., Sept. 28: Please also join us at 9:30 and 11:15am for worship with Rev. McTigue: *An Irresistible Sense of Mission*

Photo: Rev. McTigue being arrested at the White House during a protest of current immigration policy. Photo used by kind permission of David Vita. Full article: <http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/296915.shtml>

Guardians of the Grounds – It has been nearly 60 years since the first tree was planted on our church grounds. The responsibility to care for our trees is passed to each generation. Our grounds offer a history of those who have gone before us, a spiritual connection with nature, and a sacred place to just be. If you feel a kinship with our grounds and wish to nurture and care for this special place, become a Guardian of Our Grounds. Guardians may select an area that speaks to them (open and often traveled or a secluded, quiet nook). Visit our table Sunday to find out more about this special program that unites us with our past, present and future.



Awakening lead by Gerry Hair, a spiritual director and teacher for 30+ years. Gerry's approach to spiritual practice is based on a mix of traditions: Christian mysticism, Buddhism, Sufism, and Taoism. Meetings: 7pm, 1st & 3rd Thurs, Library.

On the Path meetings explore spirituality from a UU perspective: transcending the ego and becoming one with all that is. Each meeting focuses on one spiritual teacher. Meetings: 7pm, fourth Tuesdays, Library.

Read: *Infinity in Your Hand*, by William Houff. Skinner House 1994. *The Perennial Philosophy*, by Aldous Huxley. Harper & Row, 1944. *One Taste*, by Ken Wilber. Shambhala, 1999. *The End of Your World*, Adyashanti. Sounds True, 2008.

Watch *Throw Down Your Heart* Documentary by Sascha Paladino. American banjo player, Bela Fleck, explores the roots of the banjo in Africa. Different cultures and traditions unite to create a satisfying whole.

Reflect The Committee on Ministry (Lucas Frerichs, Sarah Keith, Stefan Harvey, Steve Reynolds, Karen Urbano) invites UUs to make the theme part of their spiritual practice.

"The Church of Tomorrow will not be of uniform doctrine or of identical organization. There will be unity of spirit, but not uniformity of creed or rite or polity. There will be variety, but not intolerance. There will be cooperation for holiness, but not conformity of theological opinion. There will be identity of ethical enthusiasm but diversity of administrations."

- Florence Kollock Crooker, Universalist minister

When you think about UUism and this congregation, what do you consider "essential" and "non-essential"?