



First
Unitarian Universalist
Church of San Diego

FirstWords

Our Monthly Publication

September, 2016; Vol. 10, No. 7

NEW BEGINNINGS

BY ALIX KLINGENBERG, INTERN MINISTER



Alix Klingenberg, *Intern Minister*

I'm so excited to introduce myself as the Ministerial Intern for both the Hillcrest and South Bay campuses this coming year! It's good to be here and I look forward to getting to know you over the next ten months.

In early August, I journeyed to San Diego from Chicago with my husband, John, our almost 2 year-old son, Quillen, and our 2 black cats. I grew up in central Illinois and was lucky to be raised as a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington Normal. After graduating with a degree in visual art from Oberlin College, I spent twelve years as an artist and photographer before discovering my passion for ministry and faith formation. With a background in art and music, I try to bring a creative spirit to all that I do, and I'm thrilled to get the chance to work with the incredible programs and people of this vibrant congregation.

A year ago I served as a student minister for The Peoples Church of Chicago, a small and highly diverse congregation that identifies as both Unitarian Universalist and United Church of Christ. While I was there, I helped initiate "The Coffee Hour," a community of artists, musicians, and spiritual seekers that met each week after the regular Sunday service. In addition to learning parish ministry skills such as worship coordination, preaching, pastoral

care, and administration, I also began to navigate the complicated and rewarding challenges of working in an interfaith congregation. I hope to continue to develop and grow these skills, as well as many more, throughout this year with you.

I come to you now in my final year of seminary at Meadville Lombard Theological School, where my focus has been small group ministry, alternative worship styles, and religious education. I'm committed to the values of empathy, compassion, engagement, and honesty and will strive to put these at the center of my ministry this year. My spiritual practice is seeing the divine in the everyday experiences of life--my morning cup of coffee, the moment right before someone laughs, the feeling I get when I hear a song from my childhood, the sound of rain at night, or an unexpected moment of connection with a stranger. And, though there is always more work than can be done in such a short time, I hope our time together will be blessed with many such moments of awe and grace.

With Gratitude,
Alix Klingenberg

Also in this issue:

Rev. Kathleen Owens: September at First Church [Pg 2](#)
September's Sermon Messages [Pg 2](#)
Dr. Melissa James: Fall Forward [Pg 3](#)
Planned Giving [Pg 4](#)
International Convocation of UU Women [Pg 5](#)
UU Christian Fellowship Revival 2016 [Pg 6](#)
Tania Márquez [Pg 6](#)
Mosaic Makers Conference [Pg 7](#)



SEPTEMBER BRINGS NEW ENERGY TO FIRST CHURCH

BY REV. KATHLEEN OWENS, LEAD MINISTER

I love this month because even though we're a year-round church, September brings a different kind of energy to our congregation and living our mission. With deep gratitude to the Spirit Level Foundation, we're fortunate to again have two interns serving our congregation.

Alix Klingenberg is our full-time intern serving both campuses and Tania Márquez returns for her final year of part-time internship at our Hillcrest campus. Their ministry among us promises to bring experiences that will offer insight for spiritual growth, experiences in worship that will stir the mind and heart, and justice work that will call us to act on our values as we help heal our part of the world. It's a wonderful opportunity to be a teaching congregation that aids in ministerial formation. I know you'll welcome them.

I'm also excited about the transition of Brenda Garcia to the South Bay and Social Justice Coordinator position. She served us very well as our Administrative Assistant and her skills, talent, knowledge and leadership will help both ministries grow and flourish. And we welcome Lori LeSage to our staff team as our Administrative Assistant. Please make sure you introduce yourself to this talented and gracious new staff member.

This year sees us hosting two conferences in October (see articles within this publication), various pulpit guests throughout the year to deepen our connection with our larger UU movement, and we'll have classes that offer opportunities to create community and nurture spiritual growth. As I mentioned at the annual meeting in June, this year I want to focus on strengthening our infrastructure in membership, generosity, and leadership development to ensure people are warmly welcomed and can easily find their way into this large congregation. This will ensure our financial base is strong and growing for the work we're called to do and that we have identified next steps in growing leaders with skills that will serve them well in this community and beyond.

This year will include two important elections: The November election that includes –multiple initiatives concerning our city and state and, at the June 2017 General Assembly (GA) in New Orleans, the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA's) Presidential election. Watch our newsletter, *The Window*, for details about forums and small group gatherings to discuss ballot initiatives and to learn about the candidates for UUA President. This is going to be a full, growing and thriving year! I hope you'll join in and find the community, inspiration, and joy you want in your life.

Faithfully yours,

September Sermon Messages

Celebration Times:

Hillcrest Campus: Sunday, 9:30 am and 11:30 am
(ASL Interpretation)

South Bay Campus: Sunday, 9:30 am
(Intergenerational, Bi-lingual [Spanish, English])

September's Transformational Theme is Respect

September 4, 2016

Hillcrest Services—

"We Are All Creators" multi-generational
Alix Klingenberg, *Intern Minister*

South Bay Service—

"Labor Day: Work and Justice "
Rev. Ian W. Riddell,
Minister of Music and Worship Arts

September 11, 2016

Hillcrest Services—Children's RE Leader
Appreciation

"Safer Living – 15 Years Post 9/11"
Rev. Kathleen Owens, *Lead Minister*
Rev. Ian W. Riddell, *Minister of Music
and Worship Arts*

South Bay Service—

"A Nation of Dreams, A Nation of Fears"
Alix Klingenberg, *Intern Minister*

September 18, 2016

Hillcrest Services—

"The Dreams of Our Ancestors"
Tania Márquez, *Intern Minister*

South Bay Service—

"The Sultan's Perfect Tree: A Multi-Generational Story Service "
Rev. Ian W. Riddell,
Minister of Music and Worship Arts

September 25, 2016

Hillcrest Services—

"Respect for the Beloved: Rumi, Rilke, and Nye "
Rev. Kathleen Owens, *Lead Minister*

South Bay Service—

"Unbuilding a New Way"
Alix Klingenberg, *Intern Minister*



FALL FORWARD!

BY DR. MELISSA JAMES, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

When I first started at First Church, my responsibilities included Children's Religious Education and Family Ministry in a 30-hour per week position. A year into my time with you, we added the Trans Children and Youth Initiative to my work—making my position full-time. This has been a delightful and challenging (in a good way) position allowing me to get to know the community, plan and dream with our families, and work with you all to begin to build new ways of being a multigenerational community together.

This fall, in response to the needs of our community and the staff changes, My title has been changed to Director of Family and Lifespan Ministry. More than a simple title change, this also includes a shift in responsibility. I'll now be overseeing our youth, young adult, and campus ministry programs. This means supervising and working with our excellent Youth and Pelleteri's OWLs nest coordinator, Käthe Larick, and our new Young Adult and Campus Ministry Coordinator, Tania Marquez. I'll share some of the oversight and responsibility for Adult Religious Education with Ian. We also welcome our new Program Assistant, Tony Bianca, who'll serve as a support for all of our Family Ministry and Lifespan programs.

All of that sounds a lot like merely shuffling an organizational chart around. I see it as more than that, however. With this shift in responsibilities, I'm excited to serve the community by helping us dream and act together ever more fully as we take seriously people of all ages. Family Ministry and learning across the lifespan and across generations is vital to who we are and who we're becoming as a community. As a multi-generational community dedicated to learning and growing

together, I see us as having great opportunities to hold on to traditions and models that continue to work for us, while letting go of ones that no longer help us to serve our needs, fulfill our mission, or act on our values. At the same time, we're free to try new ways of being together and learning across generations.

For instance, one exciting model we'll try out this fall is a multigenerational religious education experience called "Exploring Religious Traditions."



Held during the time when we have traditionally held 11:30 a.m. Children's Religious Education, this experience invites families with children to learn together and welcomes people of all ages who'd like a multigenerational learning setting to explore major world religious and spiritual traditions. After the affirmation in worship, all participants will go to one of our classrooms where we'll begin together with a chalice

lighting, stories, and brief introduction to the tradition for that week. Participants will then get to choose one of two ways to continue to engage with the tradition. Those seeking conversation-based learning will go with Rev. Jim Grant, Affiliate Minister. Those seeking hands-on learning will remain in the classroom and explore learning stations where they'll engage all of their senses as they learn about key aspects of the tradition such as rituals, symbols, stories, and holidays. This class begins on September 18th and runs through October 30th. Please join us!

Important dates to remember :

September 11th: In-gathering for all children's and youth programs

September 18th: Fall Children's Religious Education (at 9:30) and Youth Groups begin; Exploring Religious Traditions (multigenerational class at 11:30)

PLANNED GIVING

BY THE GENEROSITY MINISTRY TEAM

SO WHAT'S PLANNED GIVING?

Planned giving is a present decision to make a future gift. It's different from your annual church membership commitment, which is made from your discretionary income and which is intended to support the annual operating expenses of our church. Planned giving is traditionally thought of as money given to the church as a one-time donation or giving a percentage of your estate to the church through your will. But there are other ways to do this, as we'll discuss below.

WHY DO WE NEED IT?

Planned giving is your legacy to continue the principles of your faith. It's an important way to insure that the passions and causes which you currently embrace, for community building, multi-cultural society, and racial justice, can continue for our children and grandchildren. Our world is changing. We don't know exactly what critical causes need to be supported in the future. We can only guess. Most often, folks can designate specific charities in our wills—and hope, in the future, they will continue to mirror our values. We have personal knowledge and experience of our congregation's mission and goals and, through our strategic plan, how we'll achieve them. First Church can also be designated in our wills as part of our personal legacies. Our church and our values allow for our planned giving to evolve in the future. This gives us flexibility to apply our principles for generations to come—at our church, in our community, with our UU values and principles at the core of future decisions.

WHO SHOULD DO IT?

Planned giving isn't just for the old, the well-to-do, and folks whose children and heirs are provided for. It's for any adult—of any age, of any economic status, with or without children. Many people think:

- "Estate planning" is something we'll get to when we know how much money we have and how much money we need for the rest of our lives.
- When our kids are out of college, we'll get to it.
- When I'm approaching retirement, I'll think about it.
- When I have "x" amount of dollars in my retirement plan, I'll talk to someone.

- I can't think about it because I want to make sure I have enough money for the rest of my life and who knows about the stock market?
- I'm afraid that making a planned gift decision now at 35 will be something I regret later on.

These are things that commonly prevent us from considering planned giving. Yet planned giving decisions are not irrevocable. You can make a plan today and change it easily without great cost, if circumstances change. You can make a plan that provides for modest and flexible giving. And, doing it now, when there's time to think about what you'd like your life's legacy to be, can bring peace of mind. A plan now becomes a baseline for your on-going review as you continue on life's journey—as you learn and earn, as your children grow and their needs change, and as new knowledge, needs, and possibilities emerge.

HOW DO WE DO IT?

Of course, there are traditional ways to do this through such things as charitable annuities, specific designation in wills and trusts. But there are other ways to do it as well. How about life insurance? You could designate the church as a recipient of a small percentage of your life insurance. You could update the percentage as needed. You could do the same thing with IRAs and mutual funds.

Think about it! Talk to us! And, if you've already made a plan, let us know about it, by contacting any member of the [Planned Giving committee](http://www.firstusandiego.org/planned-giving) at (<http://www.firstusandiego.org/planned-giving>)!



INTERNATIONAL CONVOCATION OF UUWOMEN

BY BETSY STEVENS

At the beautiful, inspirational setting of Asilomar we envision women from around the world gathering at the third UU Women's Convocation (IWC) to continue the momentum from our first and second Convocations.

The theme of this Convocation is Weaving Global Partnerships...Forging a Just Future Together. The Convocation will offer community and connection, information and inspiration, as well as motivation and momentum that lead to action and change. We're expecting approximately 500 UU women, mostly from the U.S. and Canada, but also from Western and Central Europe, Bolivia, Romania, India, and the Philippines, meeting under the auspices of IWC.

IWC— an organization founded by Unitarian Universalist Women (IUU)—was formerly known as the UU Women's Federation. The first Convocation, in Houston in 2009, was attended by five women from our church. It was an inspiring occasion when women from 4 continents met to promote the causes we hold in common: education, reproductive health, mental health, equal opportunity, economic development, and other issues enhancing women's spiritual, economic and social growth.

A second Convocation was held in Transylvania in 2014, but no one from First UU was able to attend. Now a third ICW will be held at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, California, February 16-17, 2017!

Registration

Registration is \$350, discounted \$50 for women ministers and young adult women. Convocation registration includes access to all presentations and refreshment breaks but does not include lodging, meals, or ticketed events. IWC encourages attendees to lodge at the [Asilomar Conference Grounds](#).

Accommodation and Meals

Asilomar, "the refuge by the sea," near Monterey, occupies 105 acres of secluded forest and dune in the California State Park System. The accommodations at Asilomar are charming and comfortable. Rooms have wifi internet access but do not have televisions or telephones. Guest room rates at Asilomar include all meals (dinner on Thursday through lunch on Sunday).

Lodging and dining are reserved and paid directly to the Asilomar Conference Center. Room and full board (double occupancy) is \$575.88 per person.

Offsite Participants

All conference participants who opt to stay offsite and not reserve a guest room at Asilomar will pay a \$300 offsite fee. This fee must be paid through online Convocation registration. The fee covers a daily usage fee assessed by the facility as well as breakfast tickets for Friday, Saturday and Sunday; dinner tickets for Thursday, Friday, Saturday; and lunch tickets for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

As you can see, this event is a bit pricey but several of us First Church UUWomen are thinking of going. If you think you might like to go, you can get more information from the [Convocation web site](#): www.intlwomensconvo.org.



MY SECOND YEAR AS A FIRST CHURCH INTERN

BY TANIA MÁRQUEZ

Last month I began my second year as your part-time Intern Minister. I spent most of my first year “behind the scenes”, attending meetings and visiting many of the existing groups at First Church. I also had the wonderful opportunity to see how our church functions and to learn about some of the social justice issues that many of you feel most passionate about.

These are some of the highlights of my first year as your intern minister. I had the opportunity to lead a Vespers service for Earth Day. I served as a chaplain for a Border trip. I spent most of my hours observing many of the groups that regularly meet here. I attended many meetings, including monthly Board meetings, and I worked regularly with our youth groups and RE classes. I facilitated our UCSD young adult group a couple of times and helped create a few youth group sessions. Towards the end of the Church year, I co-led a workshop on microaggressions with last year’s full-time intern minister, Megan Dowdell, and a workshop on UU Ethics with Kathleen. Overall, I learned a lot about how our church functions on a daily and seasonal basis.

Because of the time I’ve spent with you, there’s definitely some familiarity to the work that I’ll be doing this year. But I have to admit, there’s also a lot of newness to this part of my ministerial process. Have you ever gone to a place you’re familiar with, but because you arrived through a different spot, it

seems different? A small change and suddenly all looks new again. Like when you decide to take a different route to work or home and you notice things you hadn’t seen before. That’s exactly how this



Tania Márquez, *Intern Minister*

new church year feels to

me. It’s both familiar and different. For example, there are the people I know, the names I remember, the physical space I recognize, but there are also many new faces, new names, new stories, new ways of being and learning together. And, the yet to be revealed moments and experiences we’ll share together.

It’s my hope that this coming year we’ll get to know each other better. I’m looking forward to the conversations we’ll engage in through our Wisdom Circles and other workshops, the social justice actions we’ll work on together, to the one-on-one conversations that will allow me to get to know you better, and to the worship experiences we’ll share. I’m excited about this short journey we’re taking together. One more year already does not feel enough to do all the things I want to do and to learn all I can learn from you.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP REVIVAL 2016:

THE HEALING SPIRIT IN A WOUNDED WORLD

BY REV. IAN W. RIDDELL, MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS

We’re delighted to be hosting the Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship Revival 2016: “The Healing Spirit in a Wounded World” Friday, October 14, through Saturday, October 15. When people describe their experience of Christian identity and practice within Unitarian Universalism in the last twenty years, they’ve often told a story about a revival. And, it often sounds like the story of homecoming, of having found “my people.”

This fall, you’re invited to “come home” to attend a revival, to connect with your people. The Healing Spirit in a Wounded World is a time for you to gather with others, to go deep, to feel held. You can find out more information — and register — here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/revival-2016-the-healing-spirit-in-a-wounded-world-tickets-24574588255>. You can also speak to our UU Christian Study Group leader, Curran Jeffery, or Rev. Ian Riddell. If you think you might like to volunteer, please speak with Curran.

MOSAIC MAKERS CONFERENCE: LEADING VITAL MULTICULTURAL CONGREGATIONS

BY JANICE MARIE JOHNSON, MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES AND LEADERSHIP DIRECTOR

First Church is proud to host the Mosaic Makers Conference October 28-30, 2016. This conference is a chance for congregations who are intentionally growing to be more multicultural to come together and learn from one another. Previous conferences were held in Washington, D.C.; Tulsa, Oklahoma; and now San Diego.

Mosaic Makers is a dynamic gathering and learning community for teams from congregations deeply engaged in the work of building intentional multicultural community. These congregations, as initially identified by UUA national and regional staff, gather together in spiritual community for two and a half days of community building, multicultural worship, and experiential learning.

This conference is a part of the Mosaic Leadership Institute that grew out of the 2011 Multicultural Growth Consultation which brought together congregational leaders from eight UU congregations deeply committed and invested in multicultural ministry to share and learn and journey together.

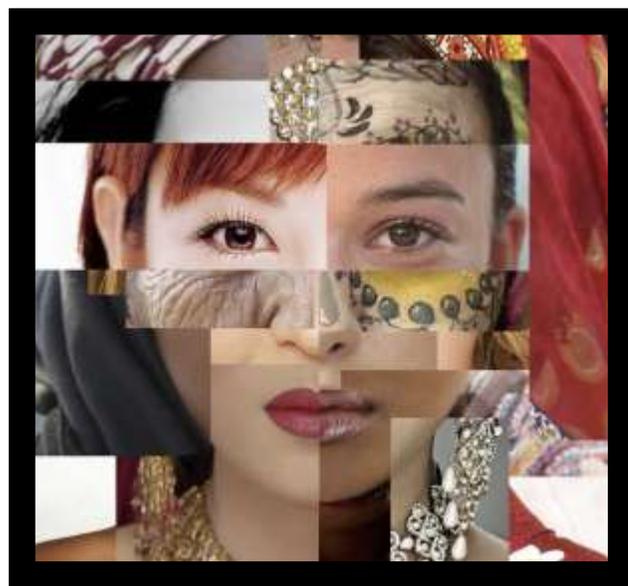
As we know, multicultural ministries is not about “browning the pews;” it’s about ministering in the context of a larger multicultural community – class, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation/identity, gender and gender expression, and ability and the intersections of these (social) identities.

With this in mind, Mosaic Makers events focus on four areas of ministry:

- ◆ Culturally inclusive hospitality, intergenerational community, and clear paths of belonging and deep engagement
- ◆ Leadership: diverse, shared, cross-cultural, intergenerational, continuous learning, and inclusive
- ◆ Justice Ministry: relational, spiritually grounded, contextual, embracing of larger community, praxis-reflection-praxis centered

Additionally, multicultural ministry is not a solo act. It is a shared commitment that requires staff and lay people ministry/team leadership.

From Kathleen: First Church was chosen as the next conference site for a variety of reasons, including our South Bay bi-lingual and multicultural campus and for the way we engage with our partners around social justice. Registration information will be coming later this month. And we’ll need volunteers to help make the conference run smoothly. Please watch The Window for more details.



Staff

Rev. Kathleen Owens, Lead Minister
Rev. Ian W. Riddell, Minister of Music and Worship Arts
Tania Márquez, Intern Minister
Alix Klingenberg, Intern Minister
Rev. Jim Grant, Affiliate Minister
Robie Evans, Director of Operations
Dr. Melissa James, Director of Children and Family Ministry
Daniel Ratelle, Hillcrest Choir Director
Lynn Mendoza-Khan, Choir Director
Lorelei Isidro, South Bay Music Coordinator
Andrea Newall, JUUL Tones Ensemble Director
Roy Attridge, Handbell Ensembles Director
Justin Murphy-Mancini, Organist and Pianist
Pam Bates, Development Manager and Events Scheduler
Brenda Garcia, Social Justice and South Bay Events Coordinator
Lori LeSage, Administrative Assistant
Jenner Daelyn, Membership Coordinator
Käthe Larick, Youth Programs Coordinator
Connie Hayes, Bookkeeping Controller
Tony Bianca, Program Assistant
Ray Evans, Maintenance
Mark Epler, Event Coordinator
Rev. Dr. Carolyn and Rev. Dr. Tom Owen-Towle, Ministers Emeriti

Board of Trustees

Michanne Hoctor-Thompson, President
Claudia Lizett Lopez, Past President
Matt Mazzeo, Vice President
Sue Marberry, Treasurer
Marcia Biller, Secretary
Les GrantSmith, Rhiannon Smith, Kathleen Garcia-Horlor, Patrick Nichols, John Keasler, Richard Costantino, and Chuck Northrup ; Members



4190 Front Street (GPS use 298 West Arbor Drive)
 San Diego, CA 92103-2098

Phone: 619-298-9978
Fax: 619-298-9997
E-mail: mail@firstuusandiego.org

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
 FirstWords, 4190 Front Street, San Diego, CA, 92103.

ONLINE E-mail & Web Addresses

FirstWords Editor & Submissions, Nancy Fisk: nfisk1@juno.com
 To be added to the E-mail List: firstwords@firstuusandiego.org
 Scheduling of Church Property Requests: schedule@firstuusandiego.org
 Order of Service submissions: oos@firstuusandiego.org
The Windows submissions (Church bulletin): [window@firstuusandiego.org](mailto>window@firstuusandiego.org)
 Care Network: carenetwork@firstuusandiego.org
 First Church Web Sites:
 Main Website: <http://www.firstuusandiego.org>
 South Bay Campus: <http://www.firstuusandiego.org/uus-of-the-south-bay>

To view sermon video casts, click on these YouTube or Vimeo buttons:



Giving: <http://www.firstuusandiego.org/giving-overview>. Click on these Amazon Affiliate or iGive buttons for your online shopping and First Church receives a portion of the sales. Secure and private.



Our website:



On facebook:

