What a fabulous, powerful morning we had on Easter Sunday. It was also Earth Day, and so we focused on rebirth and renewal and our gratitude for the spirit of our earthly home and celebration of the beauty we encounter and create together.

May is here—and that means our annual All-Music Sunday, May 19, is here as well. And, this year, we continue our focus and celebration on the Life of the Earth. Our singing and ringing and playing will hopefully inspire and bring joy and depth to our hearts and community life.

As usual, all of our musical ensembles will gather: The Chalice Choir, The JUJU Tones, The Women’s Chorus, Voices in Unity (our Youth Choir), our Children’s Choir, and UBellation and Las Campanas (our Handbell Ensembles). Each ensemble will share its own music and we’ll all gather together to sing in one massed choir.

Of course, you’ll get to be part of things. Bring your singing voice—low or high, practiced or novice, confident or shy, raged or soaring—bring your glorious voice and join in singing with your community.

Speaking of gratitude and spirit, I hope you’ll also join me in sharing gratitude with our singers and ringers for the time and heart and talent they put into our worship services and other musical offerings. They put in lots of time in rehearsal and home study to help make our worship more meaningful, inspiring, and transformative. I’m always grateful when I hear the impact our music has on you—I hope that you’ll take a few moments and thank a singer or a ringer!

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In peace and love,

Rev. Ian

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First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego
4190 Front Street (GPS use 298 W Arbor Drive)
San Diego, CA 92103-2098

Phone: 619-296-9978
E-mail: mail@firstuusandiego.org

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ONLINE E-mail & Web Addresses
First Words Editor & Submissions, Nancy Fisk:
afkb@juno.com
To be added to the E-mail List:
firstwords@firstuusandiego.org
Scheduling of Church Property Requests:
scheduling@firstuusandiego.org
Order of Service submissions—@firstuusandiego.org
The Window submissions (Church bulletin):
window@firstuusandiego.org
Care Network: carenetwork@firstuusandiego.org
First Church Web Site:
Main Website: http://www.firstuusandiego.org
South Bay Campus:
http://www.firstuusandiego.org/our-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: www.firstuusandiego.org
On Facebook: First UU of San Diego

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First Words
Our Monthly Publication
May 2019; Vol 13 No. 5

Music Sunday and Beyond

By Rev. Ian W. Riddell, Minister of Music and Worship Arts

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Generous Spirit by Rev. Kathleen Owens Pg 2
Teaching Children to be Generous by Tony Bianca Pg 3
Dining For Dollars 2019 by Robie Evans Pg 4-6
Youth Programming and OWL by Kaths Larick Pg 6
American Sign Language Meeting by Elaine Twa mism Pg 7
Generous Spirit

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May Sermon Messages

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By Elaine Twamley

Have you always wanted to learn more about American Sign Language? Do you love watching our sign language interpreter, Paul Lambert, on Sundays, while trying to figure out what some of the signs mean? Here’s your opportunity to learn this important language, vital to the deaf community and fascinating to everyone else.

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“Where else,” Laurie asks, “can we find a community so focused on the values we hold dear? Where else can we communicate with others on a similar spiritual path? Our mission is so timely in this era of technological disconnectedness. I want everyone to know we exist and we care.”

Laurie has a suggestion for how we might reach even more people with our effort to heal the world—provide more sign language interpreters for more meetings and events. This is yet another way that First UU can become a more inclusive community.

She and other members have translated the sermon and other services into ASL—a really helpful step. And in May, the ASL group will be meeting in the Bemis Room so that more people can attend.

Come if you can—bring a friend who can learn with you. We will teach you some ASL, have conversations in ASL, and just enjoy ourselves together.

It’s a wonderful thing to be part of a community that wants to learn and grow in another language. We are all the richer for these connections.
As the Youth Programs Coordinator, I’ve always told people I have the best job at First UU. Since becoming the coordinator of the Pelletiri OWL’s Nest program, I now tell people I have the best two jobs at First UU! Here’s an update on those programs:

**Changes in Youth Programming**

This past September, I met with the youth group and advisors to discuss the changing needs of the youth in the program. Some voiced the opinion they’d like to participate in both the worship services and youth group. After the completion of a survey drawn up by the youth, with input from me and their parents and advisors, the new structure was launched in October of 2018. Youth now have many choices when participating in our religious community.

On first & third Sundays, at 9:30 am, youth are encouraged to attend the worship service or participate as a volunteer greeter, usher, kitchen helper, or other volunteer positions. On the second & fourth Sundays, youth are invited to attend the Wizards of Wonder program and explore the connection between magic, mystery, and spirituality.

Every Sunday, between services, from 10:45 am until 11:30 am, youth grades 6-12 are invited to gather in room 114b to check-in and enjoy some games, discussion, and snacks. On first & third Sundays (and the rare fifth Sunday), at 11:30 am, youth in grades 9-12 are invited to meet in room 114b for YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) group. On the second & fourth Sundays, youth are encouraged to attend the worship service or to participate in special community service projects when scheduled.

Another form of community involvement on the local and district level is participation in youth conventions or “cons.” First UU has partnered with Summit Unitarian Fellowship to help youth attend these gatherings by providing transportation and scholarships when needed. The two youth groups have plans to attend General Assembly in June in Spokane. With six to eight youth and four adult advisors we will share a house and ride in Spokane. Fund-raising efforts, including donations, the Soup and Salad Luncheon this past February, and the “Amazing Variety Show” last March, have so far produced about two-thirds of the funds needed to complete the trip. Be sure to watch the youth ministry page in The Window for news about other upcoming fundraisers.

Social action is still a big part of the youth program. One of our youth just returned from attending the UU-UNO Spring Conference in New York. The theme for the seminar was “Equity in Action: Gender in an Intersecting World.” It focused on how to engage locally and globally to support gender equity and act to address the global trends of misogyny, transphobia, homophobia, and other oppressions.

The youth program has also partnered with Team Enough San Diego and San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention to start a new Team Enough chapter in central San Diego county at First UU’s Hillcrest campus. The next meeting of Team Enough is 10 am on Saturday, May 18 at the Hillcrest campus.

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Graduation day for six youth and their parents in the OWL program was celebrated on April 14. The program is gaining in popularity locally. The Mission Hills United Church of Christ will send youth to our next program offerings in the fall and winter of the 2019-2020.

For people interested in becoming an *Our Whole Lives* facilitator, there are trainings coming up in the summer months, three of which I’ll be co-leading in Berkeley, Pasadena, and San Diego. The training in Pasadena is the first foray for the OWL program to an Episcopal church, and they’re planning to offer all three trainings: Elementary (grades K-1 & 4-6), Secondary (grades 7-9 & 10-12) and Adult/Young Adult.

I’m so grateful for your continued support for both programs. I hope to see you and talk with you sometime as I continue along this journey!

Cheers & Bright Blessings,

Käthe
Swimming with the Stars . . .
Vacation in Costa Rica, Alaska, British Columbia or Utah . . .
Playdate with the Lead Minister . . .
Staff Showtunes Singalong and Scrumptious Spaghetti,
Salad, and Sundae Supper . . .
Arts & Crafts Picnic in Pioneer Park . . .
Give poetry, wine, Karaoke, hiking, birding, desert
geology a try . . .
Meditation, campfire, backyard BBQs and more . . .
Join others in cooking classes or savory gourmet meals
from around the world . . .

Dining for Dollar$ 2019—Registration is Open Now and Bidding

By Robie Evans, Member, Dining for Dollar$ Team

These are just a sample of the Dining for Dollar$ (D4$) events being hosted this upcoming year! Fourteen years ago, we started this amazing fundraising extravaganza at First Church. Over the past couple of years, we’ve raised as much as $55,000 annually towards our church’s general operating budget. But, that’s not the best part. The social and community-building aspects of the events hosted by First UU Members and Friends far outweigh the fact it’s much more than a major fundraiser. It gives us a chance to:

- work with others to dream up, organize, and co-host events;
- meet new people;
- deepen existing relationships while attending events with friends;
- do things we’ve never done before; and
- find ways to ensure everyone is able to participate on some level, regardless of family or financial issues.

This year, there are 112 offerings—including classes, outdoor activities, family events, tours, and hikes in and around San Diego and the county, plus lunches, teas, and dinners. You won’t want to miss bidding on a fun time with the great people in our church community.

Bidding starts the evening of our D4$ Auction Kickoff Gala on Saturday, May 18th, and continues through Sunday, May 26th. This year, we’re using online bidding which is available 24/7 and we’ll have trained volunteers to help you register and bid in Bard Hall both at the Gala and on our Hillcrest campus after each worship service on Sundays, May 19th and May 26th.

The Gala Kickoff in Bard Hall, Hillcrest campus on May 18th will be a very fun event. We’ll unveil the online bidding system and open up the bidding to all who attend. We’ll also have refreshments, drinks, entertainment, and a silent auction for some very nice items. Please plan to attend!

How does it all work? If you are a past bidder, you are already registered in the new online bidding system. If you are a new D4$ bidder, you will need to register. Here are the instructions for both:

* If you’ve participated in the past, you should receive an email invitation at the beginning of May at the email address we have on file from last year (check your spam or junk email and move it to your inbox). Click the link in the email to complete your registration and set your password. If you didn’t receive an email invitation check with the D4$ patio table between Sunday services and make sure we have the correct email address on your account.
* You can also register online -www.auctria.com/auction/FUUD4D2019 or stop by the D4$ patio table between Sunday services for assistance.
* If none of these options work, please call Robie at the church office or send her an email.

I’m registered, now what?

- Once you’re registered you can purchase your tickets for the upcoming Auction Kickoff Gala ($10), being held on May 18th from 5-7 pm in Bard Hall, and you can preview the Catalog online to get ideas of what you want to bid on!
- If you need assistance with your bidding, you can preview the catalog online and complete proxy bidding sheets which will be available at the D4$ patio table after each service on May 5th and May 12th. We’ll enter your bids for you on the night of the Gala.
- You don’t have to be present at the Gala to bid (but we recommend it). You can start bidding online at 6:00 pm May 18th and bidding will run 24/7 until midnight, May 26th.

You’ll be notified via email, if you’re outbid, or if you win one or more items. For best chances of winning your items, use the ‘Buy It Now’ feature.

- Once bidding is completed you can pay for your items online, or arrange manual payments with Robie Evans.
- Because the system doesn’t allow multi-termed pricing, family discounts will be applied on the back end. Those who bid on Family Prices events, please do not pay invoices online until you get an adjusted invoice.

Bid early and bid often. Just be sure you and your family don’t miss out on the fun!
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May’s Transformational Theme is “Generous Spirit”

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South Bay Service—
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