

MARCH 2012

BROKENNESS



Mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Clarita Valley

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Clarita Valley enhances the lives of members through spiritual development and active service in the community. We offer a diverse, non-dogmatic spiritual home to all who share our values as defined by the Unitarian Universalist Association. We provide a liberal religious voice, a social justice presence in the Santa Clarita Valley, and a stimulating and supportive environment to help our members on their own spiritual journeys during all stages of their lives.



These are the traits activist Mohatmas Gandhi considered to be a sign of "spiritual brokenness":

Wealth without Work, Pleasure without Conscience, Science without Humanity, Knowledge without Character, Politics without Principle, Commerce without Morality, Worship without Sacrifice.

Unitarian Universalism is a religious tradition promoting a strong sense of empowered "optimism"! It lifts up humanity's strengths, encouraging and empowering us (in the spirit of Mohatmas Ghandi) to "be the change we wish to see in the world". Unitarian Universalists are quite adept at recognizing and responding to the "brokenness" of the world. Working to heal our institutions of social, economic and political "brokenness", of inequities and injustices, is widely recognized and celebrated as more motivating and productive than emphasizing personal shortcomings (aka "sins").

It's an interesting fact that lots of people are inspired to become Unitarian Universalist for this very reason. However, there's something to be said for honest appraisal of those areas in which we ourselves may feel "broken", vulnerable, uncertain or in need of healing. Sometimes those places are actually the answer to why we might find it difficult to engage meaningfully in the healing of the world at large. It can be a vicious cycle. According to Christian tradition *pride* is what prevents us from recognizing or acknowledging the places of our individual and collective "brokenness", of our vulnerabilities and short-

comings. (More importantly, it can prevent us from reaching out for help, or with help.) The ancient Greeks called this *hubris*. In 590 AD Pope Gregory highlighted it in his list of seven deadly sins because it seems to lead to so many other issues that can inhibit our experience of wholeness. Whether or not pride is a *sin* in the usual sense (with repercussions beyond this life), when it prevents us from acknowledging and healing our individual and collective wounds and weaknesses - we do ourselves and the world a grave disservice. So, this month, within the context

What is broken?

(Write, doodle or draw your response)



religious community - this place of *empowered optimism* - may we bring honesty, courage and compassion to ourselves and one another. May that which is broken be healed and made whole.

Unitarian Universalists of Santa Clarita Valley



2012

Website: <http://uuofscv.org>

While there are many paths to spiritual growth, it helps to regularly set aside time to think deeply about our experiences and how they relate to our core values. This year each month's worship services at UUofSCV lift up a particular theological theme for your reflection. You may also choose to engage with that theme by reading some of the books recommended here, watching movies related to the theme, discussing and/or journaling your thoughts, creating art, poetry or music, or engaging in service. May your insights unfold gently and joyfully, inspiring acts of love.
In Awe & Gratitude, Rev. Stefanie (RevSteffi@gmail.com)

Grandfather,
look at our brokenness.

We know that in all creation
only the human family
has strayed from the
Sacred Way.

We know that
we are the ones
who are divided.

And we are the ones
who must
come back together
to walk the Sacred Way.

Grandfather, Sacred One,
teach us love,
compassion and honor,
that we may heal the earth
and heal each other.

*(From the Ojibway Indians of
North America. SLT #518)*

*"Be patient with everyone,
but especially with yourself.
I mean, do not be disheartened
by your imperfections,
but always rise up
with fresh courage.
He who is fretted
by his own failings
will not correct them;
all profitable correction
comes from
a calm, peaceful mind."*

by St. Francois de Sales



Sorrow will one day turn to joy.
All that breaks the heart and
oppresses the soul will one day
give place to peace and
understanding and everyone
will be free.

(Paul Robeson. SLT Hymnal #689)

*Uprooting Racism: How White
People Can Work for Racial Justice,*
by Paul Kivel. New Society
Publisher, British Columbia 1996.
Kitchen Table Wisdom, by Rachel
Naomi Remen, M.D.
Defy Gravity, by Carolyn Myss
Repair, Elizabeth Spelman

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN:

Fears, Doubts, Blues & Pouts,
by H. Norman Wright
I'm Not Scared, by Todd Parr
When My Worries Get Too Big, by
Kari Dunn
There's A Nightmare in My Closet, by
Mercer Mayer
*The Big Little Book of Happy
Sadness,* by Colin Thompson

READINGS FROM THE SINGING THE LIVING TRADITION HYMNAL:

468, 488, 501, 535, 552, 581, 584,
597, 628, 635, 662, 688, 686

Quotes to ponder:

We all carry within us our places
of exile, our crimes and our
ravages. But our task is not to
unleash them on the world; it is to
fight them in ourselves and
others. - Albert Camus

Once we know our weaknesses
they cease to do us any harm. -
George Lichtenberg

When I despair, I remember that
all through history the way of truth
and love has always won. -
Mohandas Gandhi

God is another name for human
intelligence raised above all error
and imperfection, and extended
to all possible truth. - William
Ellery Channing

Action is the antidote to despair. -
Joan Baez

It is easier to build strong children
than to repair broken men.
Frederick Douglas

The heart is the only broken
instrument that works. - T. E
Kalem

NEXT MONTH'S THEME: TRANSFORMATION!

In **APRIL**, as the season of Spring
transforms the earth, we explore the
universal yearning for and promise
of personal and societal
transformation. Contribute to and
look for next month's Resource
Flyer, and do plan to attend our
Sunday services at 10:30 am
(22900 Market St., Newhall, CA).

Invite a friend and bring along a
flower to UUofSCV's special
Easter Sunday "Flower Communion
Service" on Sunday, April 8th!

Have a poem, drawing, book or movie recommendation for next month's issue on "TRANSFORMATION", or for inclusion in an upcoming worship service?
Want to help organize a movie outing or group discussion or share information about a service project relating to a planned monthly theme?
Contact the Committee on Shared Ministry or Rev. Stefanie (RevSteffi@gmail.com) by the 15th of this month.