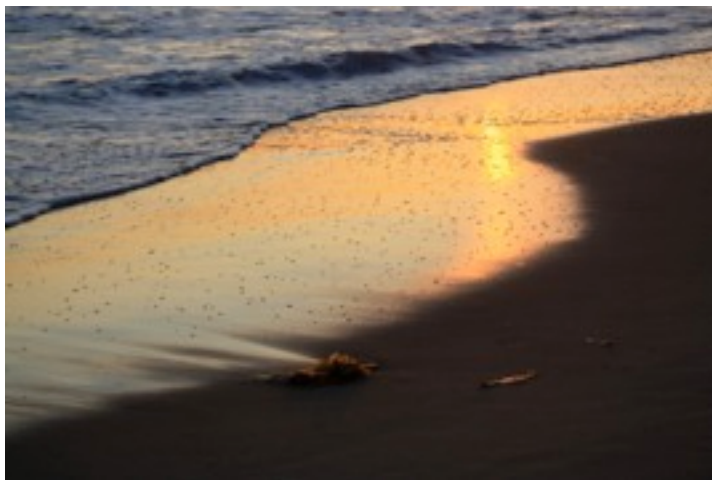


NOVEMBER 2011

Faith

Mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Clarita

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.



In November we explore FAITH, which can be known as a “thing” to inherit, discover, cultivate, explore, have, challenge, reject, protect, hide behind, find solace within, proclaim, and be motivated by. It is widely spoken of as something known to get you through hard times; to improve both mental and physical health. The Bible speaks of Faith as that which we owe God and as that which has its own rewards (ex: *those who have Faith are blessed, will never thirst, will be radiant, at peace, safe, prosperous, and have their prayers answered, etc.*). Faith, understood as

synonymous with Belief, is commonly lifted up as the best way to make the impossible possible. At the same time, it can be recognized as blinding human beings to important truths - including that of their own ability and responsibility to reason and act with integrity on behalf of that which is just. So what does it mean when we say Unitarian Universalists are a “People of Faith”? Unitarian Universalists are a People of Faith in that we are united around a set of shared religious values and principles. However, those are freely chosen,

not imposed (we have no creed which members are required to accept). We encourage one another to cultivate our Beliefs freely and responsibly, and to bring them to life through our Behaviors. Fredric John Muire, in his book “Heretics’ Faith” explains that the Unitarian Universalist context promotes an understanding of Faith that combines Belief and Behavior. In that view it is not enough to simply Believe something or talk about it. Instead, Unitarian Universalists are called to bring Faith to life by “walking the talk”. What do you think?

What is the symbol of the Unitarian Universalist Faith Tradition?

(Try to doodle or draw your response)

Unitarian Universalists of Santa Clarita Valley



2011

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 will 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)

What good is it
my brothers and sisters,
if you say you have faith
but do not have works?
Can faith save you?
If a brother or sister
is naked and lacks daily food,
and one of you says to them:
Go in peace.
Keep warm and eat your fill.
And yet you do not
supply their bodily needs,
what is the good of that?

So faith by itself,
if it has no works,
is dead.

Show me your faith
apart from your works
and I, by my works,
will show you
my faith.

James 2:14-18

(Singing the Living Tradition Hymnal #668)



FAITH Journaling

I have Faith in:

My Faith is inspired by:

I show my Faith through:

Quotes to ponder:

Faith is necessary to man. Woe to him who believes in nothing. Victor Hugo

A man of courage is also full of faith. Marcus Tullius Cicero

Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies. Mother Theresa

Doubt is a pain too lonely to know that faith is his twin brother. Kahlil Gibran

Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith. Henry Ward Beecher

Faith is a knowledge within the heart, beyond the reach of proof. Kahlil Gibran

Faith is not something to grasp. It is a state to grow into. Mahandas Gandhi

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

Movies, books and songs on the theme of FAITH, recommended by UUofSCV members:

MOVIES:

Religulous (R)
Leap of Faith (PG-13)
Malcolm X (PG-13)
Keeping the Faith (PG-13)
Islam: Empire of Faith (NR)
The Crucible (PG-13)
The Color Purple (PG-13)
Nemo (G)
Dogma (R)
I The Worst of All (R)

BOOKS FOR ADULTS:

The End of Faith. By Sam Harris
A Chosen Faith. By John Buehrens and Forrest Church
Faith Under Siege: A History of Unitarian Theology. By Anatole Browder
A Prayer for Owen Meany. By John Irving
Tender Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith. By Anne Lamott
A Heretics' Faith. By John Frederic Muir
Caleb's Crossing. By Geraldine Brooks

Charles and Emma: The Darwin's Leap of Faith. By Deobrah Heiligmann
Faith is a Verb. By Kenneth Stokes
AD 381. By Charles Freeman
Keeping Faith. By Jodi Picoult
Faith. By Sharon Salzberg

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN:

Faith (Global Fund for Children)
The Raindrop. By Brian D. McClure
Who Am I? Brian D. McClure
Faith The Cow. Susan Bame Hoover

SONGS:

Beatles, Getting Better
Beatles, Here Comes the Sun
Ben Harper, Better Way
Sweet Honey, Sometime
Ben Harper, I'll Rise
SLT Hymnal #1017
George Michael, Faith
Eric Clapton, Running on Faith

READINGS FROM THE SINGING THE LIVING TRADITION HYMNAL:

566, 567, 569, 693

NEXT MONTH'S THEME:

In **DECEMBER** we explore the light of **HOPE** so necessary as we traverse the dim landscape of the winter season and of our own fears, doubts, regrets, and limitations. In this darkest of months we explore and celebrate the many gifts of Hope to be found at this time within the world's religious traditions. Look for next month's Resource Flyer and attend our Sunday services at 10:30 am (22900 Market St., Newhall, CA) on December 4, 11, 18.

The Intergenerational UU Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be on December 24th at 7:00 pm.

Have a poem, drawing, book or movie recommendation for next month's issue on "HOPE", 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.