Morning Worship  
11 a.m.  
October 15, 2017

Like Minded People  
Rev. Carlos R. Martinez

Our Unitarian faith comes from the Puritans via the 19th C. Transcendentalists, to the Humanists who admitted the challenge of being like minded people who always seemed to disagree.

Sunday School  
Our children and teachers begin in the Chapel at 11 a.m.

Fellowship Hour – Assembly Hall – 12:15 p.m.  
Please join us after worship.
LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Recently I was reminded of how good it feels to see and be seen. During one of our activities during RE/FM we practiced the art of really paying attention, and reflecting. The exercise required us to break into pairs and to face our partners. In the class we took turns in mirroring each other’s hands and arm movements as much as possible for two minutes. After the exercise we were keenly aware of how our body language can convey a message to those we know or guests as to whether they are valued, whether they are seen. It occurred to me how this is a wonderful exercise for how we might become of our more hospitable. Hospitality is more than putting a spread of food and serving coffee, it is offering a welcome, connection….belonging to our friends, our loved ones, and ourselves. Paz, Esther

“We show hospitality to strangers not merely because they need it, but because we need it, too. The stranger at the door is the living symbol and memory that we are all strangers here.” Thomas Long

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SUNDAY—October 8
9:30 am  Shelter Meeting
9:30 am  Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am  Worship Service
11:00 am  Sunday School
12:15 pm  Fellowship Hour
12:45 pm  Volunteer Choir
1:00 pm  UNGA Meeting

MONDAY—October 9
Columbus Day Holiday
Church Building Closed

WEDNESDAY—October 11
6:00 pm  Church Council

SUNDAY—October 15
9:30 am  Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am  Worship Service
11:00 am  Sunday School
12:15 pm  Fellowship Hour
12:45 pm  Volunteer Choir

WEDNESDAY—October 18
6:00 pm  Finance Meeting

SUNDAY—October 22
9:30 am  Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am  Worship Service
11:00 am  Sunday School
12:15 pm  Fellowship Hour

U.N. SUNDAY—October 22
United Nations & Global Affairs Committee will lead service.

SUNDAY—October 29
Rev. Bob Janis-Dillon will preach.

THOSE WHO ALSO MINISTER — OCTOBER 8

Pulpit Flowers—Given by Adrien and Duncan Riley in loving memory of Kenneth D. Melvin, the world’s best mentor, big brother and lifelong friend.

Usher/Greeters—
Bookstall—Ken Wachtell
Hospitality—Board of Trustees

THOSE WHO ALSO MINISTER — OCTOBER 15

Pulpit Art—Chalice Art by Onna Johnson, West Valley UU in Arizona

Usher/Greeters—Anna-Lisa Hafgren
Hospitality—Leslie McKenzie

October Shelter Coordinator—Bruce Foster – 212-685-8716
Shelter volunteers always welcome.
Thanks to all of you who participated in the five “Meet the Minister” sessions held in September. All together 44 people came to these meetings which included 13 people who participated in the Social Tea organized by our DRE Esther Rosado. (Note to self: Next time I am invited to a Social Tea I will remember that lunch is included. I had my lunch before arriving and I missed out on a delicious repast.)

In our “Meet the Minister” meetings I described the process of Interim ministry and the benefits which accrue to congregations which invest themselves in the work. (For those of you who are interested in learning more I have included below some references to expand your appreciation of the goals, challenges, and benefits ahead of interim work.)

For those of you who missed these meetings, I spoke of Interim Ministry as being an opportunity for the congregation to take stock of itself and to dream again of what it can be to attract the best possible future minister(s). Calling a minister is a competitive process. In any given year there may be more ministers than congregations or vice versa. In sum, the laws of supply and demand are operative. Congregations--to be competitive--work hard during the interim period to make themselves as attractive as possible by fixing areas in their congregational life that may have been broken or neglected. For example, increasing membership, improving upon programs and offerings, developing a robust RE program, working on improving healthy congregational practices, reviewing finances and governance procedures, etc...

In a very competitive environment for ministers the best congregations strive to gain an unfair advantage by doing the hard work upfront during the interim period to create the best possible environment for their future potential settled minister(s).

Though written in 1987, Peter’s Raible’s book, “How to Case A Church,” still provides good insights into the myriad of factors at play in a candidate’s decision process in choosing one congregation over another. Furthermore, candidates for ministry are advised to contact everyone possible (with some small exceptions) to get the skinny on what is really going on in the congregation they are considering. A good report card from the Interim Minister usually carries a lot of weight in convincing candidates who might otherwise be on the fence.

My role as your interim minister is to help guide you through the interim period so that you may have the best chance of getting the best possible minister. Today is the time to start dreaming and prepare well for the future you hope for. I am here to help. — Rev. Carlos

For further reading:


"I think people are transient. Back in the early church, there was a 'stick and stay' mentality. In this day and time, people have a fast food mentality of ministry. If it doesn't fit them or if it doesn't fit in their schedule, they'll move on to something else. That's a norm in today's time." ~ Pastor Marvin Sapp