

Senior Minister's report to the USS Board and Program Council ~ November 15, 2018

Tonight's Board Meeting

UU ministry student Sangye Hawke will be joining us for some of our meetings as well as attending some other administration-related committee meetings as part of her field education at Starr King School. While she will be attending primarily to observe and learn the workings of a larger congregation, she brings a pastoral presence, which can always be welcome. She is called in particular to matters of community safety and to chaplaincy in response to emergencies. This week she attended FEMA training.

Meetings and Activities Since Last Month's Meeting

I've met with the Board President, Executive Committee, Program Council, (plus 2 PC leaders for an agenda-planning meeting), 150th Anniversary Team, Fundraising Strategy Team, and Stewardship Committee chair, Bobbie Keill. Of course, Lucy and I meet at least once a week, and today we had a staff meeting. Staff and ministers will host a Holiday Open House in the welcome hall Wednesday, Dec. 19, 3:00-6:00 PM. *Pastoral care has included home visits, several office visits and phone calls, and two memorial services. *The "Coco" movie night was a fun success, with 40-50 folks, including some kids we were hosting through Family Promise and some older adults who don't have young ones.

150th Anniversary

The last planned event for this year of celebration is the USS Authors' Festival this coming Sunday, Nov. 18, 2:00-5:00 p.m., organized by Marilyn Reynolds, Cherie O'Boyle, and JoAnn Anglin. More than a dozen published writers or photographers will be showing their work and giving brief readings. This includes Doug Kraft and me, though my doctoral thesis is not published in the traditional sense. Hope you can come back after lunch and enjoy this even.

Thanks to the vision and efforts of Tina Stidman and Sandra Navarro, the Holiday Market raised \$1,642 for the Anniversary Gifts appeal. We have raised \$193,000 toward the goal of \$20,000! I am confident that both new and repeat contributors will bring us to a successful conclusion.

Adult Enrichment, Child/Youth Religious Education and Family Ministry

Steady attendance for the Senior High Youth Group is 3, but we have a strong advisor team, and have had some Sundays with 5 youth. The Junior High Youth Group has many 8th graders, so SHYG will get bigger next year. *Planning has begun about training volunteers and scheduling Our Whole Lives classes for the 2019-20 year. *The child dedication ritual will take place in this Sunday's service, with Rosalie Camp participating. *The Family Ministry team has met several times and added members; next time is Nov. 25. *Sangye Hawke has led a Spiritually Mindful Parenting every week for 8 sessions. *We have had six sessions of Senior LifeSong with Chaplain Cynthia Davis, who is a USS member, plus good programs scheduled for the Alliance, such as last week's talk by the CEO of this area's library system.

Community and Denomination

*I participated in an interfaith service of solidarity with the Jewish community at B'nai Israel, and several USS folks attended. *Rev. Lucy will represent us at the Interfaith Community Thanksgiving service, Nov. 20, St. Ignatius RC Church. *Dr. Kim Marta and Gina Guarneri and I hosted a quarterly meeting of the local Refugee Forum, with reps from not-for-profits and government agencies; about 90 came for this. *Lucy and I attended the fall meeting and retreat of the Pacific Central Chapter of the UU Ministers Association. *We will have a few UU guest preachers from December to April.