

# CVUUF Newsitarian Universalist Fellowship

A Welcoming Community to all persons regardless of their race, nationality, or sexual orientation.

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This newsletter is published online monthly by members of the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Download your copy at www.cvuuf.org.

Deadline for articles or photos is the next to last Sunday of each month at 6pm. Submissions are to be directed to: <a href="mailto:newsletter@cvuuf.org">newsletter@cvuuf.org</a>

and may be edited at the sole discretion of the editor, Liza Diniakos.

Other ways to

#### SHARE

information:

**News & Notes** (Sunday handouts/weekly email) Email:

newsandnotes@cvuuf.org

#### Online Calendar:

Under the "CVUUF" pulldown at the top, follow instructions for "Request Event": http://cvuuf.org/webcal/month.php

#### Facebook:

www.facebook.com/ CVUUF



#### **Upcoming Sunday Services**

September 6 - Peace Is Possible - Barbara Gaughen-Muller -

Come to hear Barbara's proposal for peace. She believes that every conversation can lead you to peace.

Married to the late Dr. Robert Muller who served as former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations, Barbara Gaughen-Muller is President of the UNA-USA Santa Barbara and Tri-Counties chapter. A table in Fellowship Hall will offer many of her and her late husband's books. Interested readers can also receive a daily reflection at goodmorningworld.org.

September 13 — Of Scooters, Rivers and Maps of the Heart —

and Water Communion—Rev. Anne Felton Hines — It is the beginning

of the new church year, but this is a special year, during which we look at your journey as a congregation – where you've been, and where you want to go. And of course, the major "task" will be to choose and then prepare for the welcoming of a new Settled Minister at the end of the church year.

As is the tradition in many UU congregations, we begin this "Ingathering" service with a Water Ritual. Please bring water you've collected in travels over the summer – or from home if that's where you remained.

September 20 — From Surviving Scarcity to Thriving Generously

— Richard Felton — If we are to truly matter...if our congregations are to truly matter, we must be about more than survival. We have been given minds, hearts and souls to live lives of meaning, not lives of fear. While media is always talking about scarcity, we, as people of faith, need to counter that culture with a belief in the abundance of life.

How do we move ourselves and our Fellowship into a culture of thriving generously? Rick Felton has worked for over 30 years with non-profit organizations and churches -- including Unitarian Universalist -- in the areas of stewardship and other fundraising. Since April he has been working with our Board and Stewardship Committee on our current pledge campaign. He also happens to be Rev. Anne's brother!

September 27 - An Evangelist for Hope - Rev. Anne Felton

Tines — For many of us, the word "evangelist" congers up extreme religious views that condemn rather than forgive, exclude rather than welcome, and hold numerous views contrary to our UU values. But the word has nothing to do with one theology over another, and might be a good concept for us to embrace.

**CVUUF Sundays on CD:** Recordings of most Sunday services are available on audio CD. They may be purchased for a \$3 donation, made at time of order. All proceeds go to the Library Fund. Order yours at the Library bookcase in Social Hall and do remember to pick up the CDs you've ordered! Sunday recordings can also be heard at <a href="https://www.cvuuf.org/worship/audiosermons">www.cvuuf.org/worship/audiosermons</a>, Some can even be downloaded to your iPod.



# *In the Meantime...*

Reverend Anne Felton Hines

Well, it's September – the official start of the Interim Year – that time when you take a look at who you are as a congregation, and what you want to become – all as part of the process of finding the perfect new Settled Minister to serve you during the next part of your amazing journey!

And I am now "officially" your Interim Minister, here to guide you through this process. It's a little weird, I know, because I've already been with you since last March. But until now, I've been your "Consulting Minister" – and only half-time at that. My task was primarily to provide some continuity, help you through the difficult transitions after the departure of Rev. Lora and later Justine Fischer, and work with the Board, Council and other leaders of CVUUF.

But as Interim Minister (full-time as of Oct. 1st), there are specific "tasks" that I am to address with you; in my sermon on Sept. 13th (which will follow a special Water Communion), I'll speak more about what to expect during this time.

And because we're now embarking on the Interim year, it seems appropriate to change the title of my newsletter columns to "In the Meantime..." – because "in the meantime," while the Search Committee is doing their work, the rest of the congregation will be doing the work of those "tasks" I've mentioned, and visa versa!

Fortunately, we already have a head start, and already there are people I want to thank.

For the past year there have been five people who have served as Worship Associate one Sunday a month: Arlene Bloom, Jill Schlaus, Robin Lindsey, Mike Talvola, and Erik Halseth. I cannot speak their praises loudly enough, so well have they supported me and guest speakers since my first service here on March 1st. Each of them have been invaluable.

But I knew that their "term" was coming to an end, and I also felt the need to have a team of Worship Associates who would also help me recruit guest speakers and take care of some of the details of worship. So I invited six Worship Associates trained and recommended by Rev. Lora to form a Worship Ministry Team, whose purpose is to support the minister in providing meaningful worship services throughout the year. I am deeply grateful to Gaye Allan, Liza Diniakos, Lorella Hess, Christina Houlberg, Mike Talvola, and Thelma Williams, for agreeing to serve in this capacity; I, as minister, chair the WMT.

We've also been very fortunate to have Sam Dickerson step in as Summer R.E. Program Coordinator, while we seek a new Director of Religious Education; she has been doing an incredible job! But I felt it important that she have a team of knowledgeable and dedicated folks to offer her – and the next DRE -- some support. Our thanks go to LeeAnne Christiansen, Liza Diniakos, and Tom Wolf, for agreeing to serve, and for all the help they've been providing over the summer.

And finally, I want to thank the members of the DRE Search Committee: Kelly Castillo, Carolyn Gass, Erik Halseth, and Andy Pletcher. They are dedicated to finding the best person possible to serve the young families at CVUUF, and continue the inspiring ministry to the children and youth that you have experienced for many years.

Yes...a lot has been going on since March! So as we "officially" begin our interim year together, I feel blessed by all the work that's already underway, and the many wonderful people – volunteers and staff alike – who have responded so graciously with a "Yes!" – sometimes even before being asked!

Blessings to you all.

Anne

### President's Message



Three overlapping annual routines happen each year for our congregation. Our fiscal year begins July 1, the calendar year starts Jan. 1, and the "church year" begins in September. After Labor Day, with summer vacation season over, schools back in session, and autumn on the horizon, we kick off the new church year with a service of Ingathering.

This new church year is buzzing with opportunities and excitement. New religious education classes and curricula are launching. Chalice Circles are being organized and will soon begin to meet. Our Ministerial Search Committee will be inviting us all to participate in cottage conversations, a survey, and a "Beyond Categorical Thinking" workshop. The Director of Religious Education search team is working to recruit a terrific person for that role. The Board and Council will gather for a leadership retreat in October to focus on the congregation's health, progress, and priorities. Rev Anne's role as Interim Minister will expand to full-time as of October 1 – hallelujah for that!

Our "Thriving Forward" stewardship campaign will also kick off in September, led by an excellent Stewardship Committee co-chaired by Lea Halseth and Don Cooper. We believe we can "thrive forward" to a new inspiring vision that invites more people into our congregation, continues our strong worship and religious education, and provides service and a courageous voice of justice and compassion in the surrounding communities.

Thirty-six of our members have volunteered to serve as canvassers and will attend training in early September. Each of them will receive 3-4 names of other members to call on during the campaign. Every one of these thirty-six people has volunteered to be a canvasser and to reach out to fellow members for reasons that are personal. Those reasons are as varied and diverse as the people involved, but they all share something in common. The well-being and continued vitality of our Unitarian-Universalist congregation is very important to each of them.

The stewardship campaign has two purposes—deepening relationships and deepening generosity. The campaign is intended to foster connections, build community, and ensure a bright future for our congregation so we can expand our outreach in the community and call an outstanding new minister. An crucial focus of the effort is one on one meetings. We are intentionally bringing people in our congregation together, to reinforce our faith and values, nurture relationships, care for our community, and share hopes and dreams.

If you are not one of the thirty-six canvassers, I ask you please to expect to hear from one of them and be prepared to make your canvasser's experience rewarding. Make them glad they volunteered. Show your canvasser appreciation and gratitude – it is well-deserved. Respond warmly and promptly when your canvasser invites you to meet. Your canvasser hopes to get to know you better and to experience the joy that happens when people listen to each other. Take advantage of the opportunity to meet with your canvasser. They don't bite.

If you are one of our canvassers – thank you for dedicating your time and energy to our common cause, thank you for your faith and generosity, and for helping our beloved congregation thrive forward!.

See you on Sunday,

Willie, president@cvuuf.org

### Religious Education News

#### A NOTE FROM REV. ANNE...

I appreciate the volunteers who will be guiding our children in Religious Education this year. I trust that this commitment will be fun and worthwhile. Please know that I think you are volunteering for the most important position of the church—shaping our future!

Our position for Director of Religious Education has been broadcast to the community. We hope to fill the position by middle of September.

I look forward to Ingathering, Sunday, September 13. Please remember to bring water for our Water Communion.

#### YRUUNews from Tom Smith-

**Sept 6th:** The Ventura UU church is trying to get their YRUU program going, and they asked to come visit ours. So it'd be nice if we had people here this week for our normal Sunday fun. And I invited them to Game Day afterwards if anyone wants to stay.

**Sept 13th: Schmingathering!** Our annual start of the year get together and/or pool party! At the Pletchers! Depending on numbers, we may need a little bit of additional adult supervision. RSVP and bring snacks

Oct 24: Back to the Future 2 movie night

Oct 31: Halloween! Party / Karaoke / Haunted House

Stay Tuned: Rocky Horror Picture Show & Con!



## CVUUF Children's Choir WANTS YOU!!!

Come make music and friends! Learn music fundamentals!
Provide a service to the fellowship! Come have fun!
K-9th Graders come Sundays 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.
to the corner elementary RE room starting 9/13/15!
(For more information contact <a href="mailto:randalledwards1@yahoo.com">randalledwards1@yahoo.com</a>)

# News From Our Outreach Director



We are thrilled to have launched our new Reproductive Justice team. The first meeting had over 20 people in attendance enthusiastically looking at the projects we might take on. Sunday, August 30 we hosted a letter writing event in conjunction with the Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network. Our efforts contributed close to 300 letters that will be sent to our elected officials thanking them for their work and encouraging more action. Additionally, we are planning a large outreach for our OWL classes. Put Sunday, November 15 in your datebook to come learn about our dynamic program. We are hoping to truly spread our wings and make this a service that is truly taken advantage of by the regular community. This new vibrant group is getting off to a great start. The next meeting will be Sunday, September 13 at 5:00. It is a potluck.

This month's Climate Action Team/ Citizen's Climate Lobby will meet in the Board Room on Sunday, September 13th at 12:15 (note the date change is due to Labor Day weekend). You will have an opportunity to catch up on all the Citizen's Climate Lobby business as well as our Climate Action Team.

Feeding Hands will take place at Calvary Church on Tuesday, September 1.

Kudos to Maria Ornelas for coordinating the backpack drive for the MICOP youth. You are always welcome to join her in her monthly outreach working with these young people. It is a richly rewarding experience.

The Escalating Inequality group is working on addressing wage theft, increasing minimum wage to \$15. and hosting a county justice retreat. Stay tuned for news on that and so much more.

If you have any questions, please find me on Sunday or email me at outreachdirector@cvuuf.org.



### CHANGES TO CVUUF SCRIPT PROGRAM

Vons is no longer supporting their escrip program. If you shop at Ralphs however, you can sign up or renew our benefits from your purchases **on or after September 1st**. They do not even let me (as coordinator) know who uses the program. I will put the paper that you need to bring with you in Fellowship Hall. The Ralphs store you use will swipe your club card and the paper with the barcode at the same time and we will continue to get dollars from them quarterly. Thank you to everyone who supports and has supported our efforts to raise funds this way. Your friends and neighbors who are sympathetic to our fellowship can also participate.

~JoAnn Van Reenan



# we are filling the pulpit

#### Ministerial Search Committee

By the time you read this you may have already heard news about the upcoming events that will be occurring as part of the search process for our next minister.

In the month of **September**, look for invitations to participate in **Cottage Conversations and the on-line survey**.

The MSC will use your input from the survey and the Cottage Conversations to present our congregation to prospective ministers in search. We'll also use this information to help us as we interview ministers in the beginning of 2016. **Your input is vital** to this process to assure a search that will "fill the pulpit" with a called minister that fits well with our mission and members.

On **Sunday**, **November 1**, we will be holding a **Beyond Categorical Thinking** service and workshop, a UUA program designed to promote inclusive thinking

Other forms of input that will help in preparing our Congregational Packet, the document that presents us to searching ministers, are photos of CVUUF related events and community activities. In particular, photos from the last four years will help refresh the packet used for our last search. If you have photos to offer, please contact Sloane Powers: sloanepowers@live.com.

We, the MSC, are looking forward to working with you. Please feel free to contact any of us with questions or comments:

Christine Blasman, Arlene Bloom, Casey Dake, Sloane Powers, Penny Smith, Tim Snowber and David Barker, Chairperson of the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC).



#### Planned Parenthood 40th Annual Book Sale

September 19 through 28, 2015 Earl Warren Showgrounds

The used book sale offers nearly 200,000 books from current best sellers to antiquarian treasures in over 50 categories. A special opening night reception on Thursday, September 18th, 5 - 9 pm, \$30 admission fee, provides book lovers and collectors wine, appetizers and first choice of thousands of titles.

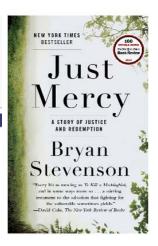
The regular sale, free to the public, will have additional books daily. For more information call (805) 722-1527, or visit booksale.ppsbvslo.org.



#### **UUA Bookstore**

Your Search for Truth and Meaning Begins Here

The 2015-2016 <u>UUA Common Read</u> is *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. Get a great start to the church year by gathering a group to participate in a shared discussion of vital issues that resonate across our faith movement.





#### Dear Readers and Partners in our Global U/U Story,

This year, the UN's Millennium Develop Goals (2000-2015) conclude with much success in reducing global poverty and enhancing greater inclusion for women and steps toward basic education for all children. Setting the goals and working towards them was the right thing to do.

Over the past three years, various stakeholders and Member States consulted and deliberated on a successor framework to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that expire this year. A post-2015 development agenda (including the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs) was finally agreed upon after feverish negotiations that extended two days beyond the target date of completion. The UN welcomed the outcome document titled "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

The goal of the SDGs was to leave no one behind. The UU-UNO participated with civil society input to ensure that human rights were made a priority. We were the only NGO to address the planning group on the necessity to ensure the inclusion of sexual orientation/gender identity human rights. This led to a coalition of over 100 NGOs calling for inclusion of all vulnerable groups with special emphasis on those with disabilities. Only by explicit reference to vulnerable groups and careful data collection and disaggregation of the data can we be sure that all vulnerable groups are included in the post-2015 development goals. Another emphasis was on combating climate change and ensuring that all future development is sustainable.

We hope the positive aspirations expressed in the new Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals will not be negated by the regressive elements which may tend toward austerity, privatization, corporate empowerment, and state repression. The challenge is for civil society together with progressive governments to make these new SDGs work. This was the message given at an event put on by the UN Department of Public Information last week. As with the MDGs, the SDGs are a living set of goals that will take form and work as we, the people of the world, make it work. The tension between the developed and developing world and between the owners and workers will continue. Being absent from the struggle concedes victory to the other side. It is incumbent on us to remain vigilant and active to ensure equitable development that respects both human rights and the imperatives of climate change. We must respect the capacity of the planet and share burdens and responsibilities to care for the planet and all life that depends on it.

In faith,
Bruce Knotts,
Director, UU-UNO
(fom August 2015 UU-UNO newsletter)

# WE are on the Side of Love

The national Standing on the Side of Love organization is "a community of people compelled to speak out against oppression, united in the common belief that love is the ultimate guiding force of our world."

# DETAINEE VISITATION /PENPAL

#### **Adelanto Detention Facility**

Friday, September 11, 2015, 8:15am Contact: Liza Diniakos

CVUUF volunteers who have not yet visited are encouraged to share this meaningful experience.

Two-person teams will sit and talk with each detainee. We should return to CVUUF between 5:00 and 6:00pm.

If you prefer, we can also give you the name of a detainee to send a letter of support.

Contact Liza Diniakos to receive the name of a detainee you can write/visit.



#### RAISING JUSTICE/BUILDING COMMUNITY

Thursday, September 18, 2015, 3pm Ventura Marriott

Contact: Michael Teasdale

Keynote Speaker: California Secretary of

State Alex Padilla.

Free.



Monday, November 2, 2015, 6:30pm

Grant R. Brimhall Library

An important panel discussion presented by the Thousand Oaks branch of AAUW and by CLUE-VC. This event is part of the "Thousand Oaks Reads: One City One Book" program and will feature latino students who, while they live in the shadows of society, strive to reach the American Dream.







# What do #BlackLivesMatter and environmental justice have to do with each other?

#### Everything.

When Katrina—a Category 5 hurricane that's part of the pattern of more frequent and severe weather events predicted by leading climatologists due to global warming—made landfall on August 29, 2005, the impact was beyond devastating. But it was not felt equally by everyone in the storm's path.

The neighborhoods hit hardest, the people who were unable to evacuate, the horrifyingly inadequate federal response, the media coverage of the survivors, and the rebuilding efforts all point to the fact that all lives did not and do not matter to our government or to the media. Poor people, disproportionately African American people, bore the greatest impacts of the storm.

Black people lived in the lowest-lying areas of New Orleans, the flood-prone areas where banks would give them home loans. Communities of color are most often frontline communities because the places seen as less valuable are where they have been allowed to live. And in the post-flood planning, it was the Black neighborhoods that were targeted to become green areas where residents were not allowed to return.

Racism and environmental destruction intersect on a planetary scale after years of colonialism and inhumane capitalism. Katrina lifted up to the nation the brutal reality that this country does not treat People of Color—especially Black people—as human beings with inherent dignity and worth, and communities around the country continue to give proof.

In the decade since the storm, the three local Unitarian Universalist congregations clustered together to lift up UU values in the Gulf South, and formed the Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Renewal, whose mission is to serve as a catalyst in New Orleans and beyond to promote social, economic, environmental, and racial justice. This is accomplished through activism, community engagement, organizing, and transformational learning.

Individually and collectively, the congregations and the Center build relationships, partnerships, and resources for justice. The Center has been hosting volunteers since its founding, inviting everyone who shows up into a dialogue about race and class, systemic oppression and solidarity before working with our frontline partners. We invite everyone who comes here to explicitly connect the dots between what has happened in New Orleans and the systems that operate in their home town.

-read more at www.commit2respond.org/ten years after katrina-



#### Job Openings

Thanks to a grant from the Pacific Southwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Friends of Orange County Detainees is hiring a part-time Outreach Coordinator. Please see the attached position description. Please apply and/or share it with anyone you think might be interested. Key qualifications include a solid grasp of English and Spanish

(verbal and written), comfort with presenting information to groups of people, and experience with community outreach. Applications due September 12. See other district job openings at <a href="mailto:psychology.com">psychology.com</a>.



## September 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6pm» Feeding Hands	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7:30pm» Meditation Group	3 9:45am» Jonquil Group 7pm» Stewardship training 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	4 9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:15am» Worship Service 10:15am» Children's Choir rehearsal 11am» Worship Service 12:15pm» Membership Committee Meeting 12:30pm» Photo committee meeting 1pm» Stewardship training 2pm» Gaming Afternoon 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting	6:30pm» Finance Committee 7:15pm» Opal Covenant Group 7:30pm» MSC meeting	9:45am» Gardenia Group	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 12:30pm» Daytime Book Club & potluck 6pm» OA Meeting 7:30pm» Meditation Group	7pm» Sapphire group		10am» RE Teacher Orientation 2:30pm» Emerald Covenant group 7pm» Movie Group
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:15am» Worship Service 10am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 10:15am» Children's Choir rehearsal 11am» Worship Service 12:15pm» Dharma Workshop 12:15pm» Citizens Climate Lobby/ Climate Action Team meeting 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting 5pm» Reproductive Justice Team meeting & potluck	Group 7:30pm» Drop-in Book Club 7:30pm» MSC meeting	7pm» Music Ministry Meeting	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7pm» Transitions Group 7:30pm» Meditation Group	9:45am» Jonquil Group 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:15am» Worship Service 10:15am» Children's Choir rehearsal 11am» Worship Service 5pm» Movie Group 3 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting 6pm» NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	7:30pm» MSC meeting	9:45am» Gardenia Group	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7:30pm» Meditation Group	7pm» RE committee 7:30pm» Choir Rehearsal	9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 7:30pm» Movie Group 1	20
27	28	29	30			
9:15am» Worship Service 10am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 10:15am» Children's Choir rehearsal 11am» Worship Service 12:15pm» Dharma Workshop 5pm» Newcomer AA Meeting	7pm» Women's Group 7:30pm» MSC meeting		9am» CVUUF Office Administrator hours 6pm» OA Meeting 7:30pm» Meditation Group			

## Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship COVENANT OF GOOD RELATIONS

In order to assist us in fulfilling our mission to nurture spiritually courageous people who transform the world through justice and compassion, we the members and friends of the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship enter into this Covenant of Good Relations.

We, the members and friends of this congregation, value:

- •Opening our hearts and minds to those who have traveled journeys unlike ours and whose strengths and challenges may be different from ours.
- A welcoming space for all to speak their truth respectfully.
- •The importance of deep listening and respect for each other.
- Relationships with others of all ages, and the gifts that each generation brings to our community.
- The democratic process, through which we give voice to concerns and offer our time and energy to arrive at solutions.

In the wider community, we honor our responsibilities for upholding spiritual ideals, engaging in civil discourse with those of other religious traditions, and promoting our UU values.

In my interactions with others in this congregation, I will:

- Speak honestly and directly to the person(s) with whom I have a concern, using thoughtful, compassionate language.
- Forgive the errors and shortcomings of myself and others as we contribute to our shared ministry and express gratitude for the many gifts we bring.
- Assume good intentions in those with whom I disagree and examine my own part in the disagreement.
- •Listen deeply to, and actively seek resolution with those concerned before engaging the Conflict Resolution Committee, Committee on Ministry, the Council or the Board of Trustees in conflict mediation.
- Expect divergent beliefs and opinions and persist in respectful dialogue—especially in times of uncertainty—remaining open to new understandings while doing my part to sustain this Covenant.
- Respect the minister and staff's professionalism, time and privacy.
- Assume responsibility for understanding the church structure and governance model.
- Assume responsibility for keeping informed of church business.

Through this Covenant of Good Relations, it is our intention to foster healthy and productive relations within our church community as we work together to achieve our mission.



### Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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#### Staff

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#### Board of Trustees 2015-2016

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Tom Wolf, Trustee At Large



#### additional UU resource links:

<u>Unitarian Universalist Association</u> (UUA)

The UUA serves 1,000+ congregations in the US and the world.

#### Pacific Southwest District (PSWD)

PSWD serves 50 Pacific Southwest congregations in California, Arizona and Nevada.

Sunday Service is held at 9:15 & 11:00 am, with Coffee Hour following each service.
Children's Religious Education is held during the 9:15am service. Childcare is provided and YRUU (our high school RE program) meets during the 11:00am service.

Visitors are always welcome!