

Sunday Services

March 5 – 9 and 11 a.m.

Contemplation as a Spiritual Practice – Rev. Bryan Jessup

Contemplation has been defined as considering something with deep attention or as regarding something steadily. It has also been defined as thinking about the spiritual meaning of things and working to be aware of the presence of mystery and wonder, even in the ordinary moments of life. Some of the great contemplative poets and writers are Christian, like Thomas Merton. Others are more nature-based, like Ralph Waldo Emerson. In this service we will explore what contemplation – or thinking about the spiritual meaning of ordinary things – might do in our lives.

March 12 – 9 and 11 a.m.

The Oral Tradition of Story Telling in Sufism – Pir Issa Chishti

Storytelling and conversation have an important role in the spiritual practice of Sufism. Join us as we explore the way these forms of oral tradition bring the message of radical inclusivity and openness of heart to all manifestations of the Divine.

Pir Issa Chishti is the son and successor of the late Pir Dr. Ibrahim Baba Chishti (Prof. Ibrahim Farajaje) in the Ajmeri Chishti Sufi lineage. He is currently pursuing his academic studies in the Bay Area. The Chishti path he represents is grounded in the teachings and life of Hazrat Moinuddin Chishti, Khawaja Gharib Nawaz, the Friend of the Poor and Marginalized.

March 19 – 9 and 11 a.m.

Creating Safe Places for Vulnerable Sharing and Growth – Rev. Bryan Jessup

In UU congregations across the country, and in other congregations as well, people come together to share what is truly in their hearts. Yet deep sharing is a tender and vulnerable business that requires people to take responsibility for themselves individually and create supportive structures and ground rules collectively. Safe places do not happen by accident and require careful maintenance. Still, creating safe places is worth the effort because in those spaces our hearts truly become one.

This is also Canvass Sunday.

Sunday March 26 – 9 and 11 a.m.

Transformational Personal Stories – Berti Welty

Join us as members and friends of the congregation share true, personal stories about an incident or awareness that was transformative in their lives. Be it a sudden insight or a shift in perspective, congregants are encouraged to search their memories for pivotal points in their lives. It takes courage to share personal snippets of one's life, and it can be very rewarding in feeling close to others and “being seen” for who you truly are. Anyone wishing to share a 3 to 5-minute story is asked to contact Berti Welty to participate. She can be reached at 476-0654.