From the Minister’s Study

"If a man loses pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured, or far away."
Henry David Thoreau

What’s Your Song? is October’s monthly theme. The question is about what it is that brings you fully alive and makes you the person you are. What makes your heart sing and your spirit soar? The answers to these questions will be different for each one of us.

Personally, I love jazz music. If I walk into a room where jazz is playing, especially if it’s live jazz, I immediately feel happier. For some people, classical music will do it, for others, it’s blue grass or folk or rock and roll that lifts their spirits. We all come with different preferences, not just in music, but also in how we interact with life.

Some of us are extroverts, drawing energy from interactions with other people. Others are introverts who need times of solitude to recharge. Some people prefer to make decisions through analysis of facts and figures, others prefer to go with their intuition. Some prefer to process information by thinking, others prefer to do it by feeling. Neither is right or wrong, just different.

Some people like bright colors and others prefer muted tones. Some like living in the city and others prefer the country. Some like watching sports, some prefer going to the theatre, and still others like both. Some like cats, some like dogs – you get the idea.

Within this mix there is a song, music that we make together. Harmony requires that we not all sing the same note. The harmony is in blending our differences together. Music also depends on rests, silent spaces between the notes.

I like how UU minister and musician, Amy Carol Webb puts it:

We meet in the spaces between us:
stillness;
music;
heard or unheard,
the apparent void teeming
with the you and the I that overlap,
in this one sacred living moment.
We meet in the spaces between us.

This month’s theme asks each of us to listen for the song that is our own individual life and to also find ways to blend it with others. In order to listen, there must be silent spaces, those resting places where we can be still enough to listen for the songs of life that uplift, renew, and restore us to wholeness.
This October, let’s ask ourselves and each other: “What’s your song? Will you share it with me?”

Yours in the spirit,
Rev. Diane
Upcoming Services

Sunday, October 4, 10:30 a.m.
What's Your Song?
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Every person alive has a pulse and a rhythm of life distinctively their own. When we are quiet enough to hear our own heart’s song, and then to share it with others, we create a space for authentic meeting, a place to make harmony with our different voices and songs. As in music, listening and silent spaces – the rests – are what make life sing.
Worship Associate: Michelle Maliniak
Music: Desert Chorale and Leeza Beriyeva

Sunday, October 11, 10:30 a.m.
Bill Keyes
Poetry Sunday
Worship Associate: Wendy Gordon Weeks
Music: Leeza Beriyeva

Sunday, October 18, 10:30 a.m.
Songs of the Heart
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Some of us grew up learning things by heart – committing them to memory, which has become something of a lost art. We’ll look at how committing verses of poetry to heart through memorization can be a spiritual practice, bringing the words into our daily lives as a source of inspiration and sustenance.
Worship Associate: Celeste Rogers
Music: Desert Chorale and Leeza Beriyeva

Sunday, October 25, 10:30 a.m.
A Generous Heart
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Thomas Merton wrote, “The mature person realizes that life affirms itself most, not in acquiring things, but in giving time, efforts, strength, intelligence, and love to others.” Being a generous person is about so much more than the size of the checks we write, but about a spirit of generosity in how we live our lives. In giving, we realize our own capacities for wisdom, compassion, and love.
Worship Associate: Brian Moon
Music: Leeza Beriyeva

Wednesday, October 28, 7:00 p.m.
Mid-week Alternative Worship
Rev. Diane Dowgiert, Kathleen Hogue, Brian Moon, Mary Wiese

Sunday, November 1, 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Building a New Way
November’s theme is Voices for the Voiceless. We’ll begin the month in celebration of Day of the Dead, listening for the voices of the dearly departed, our loved ones who are no longer with us. What might they have to tell us about how to live in the world we inhabit today? How can we honor the past while building new ways of living now and leaving a legacy for the future? Please bring an item to place on our altar of remembrance: a photo or a memento of a departed loved one.
Worship Associate: Michelle Maliniak
Music: Desert Chorale and Leeza Beriyeva

October Share the Plate

Half of all non-pledge income in the offering on October 18th will be shared with Our Family Services. Their website states: Our Family Services provides shelter and support to homeless children, youth and families. We promote peace and understanding by helping people talk to each other.

We help build a better community through counseling, education, services for elders and adults with disabilities, information and referral, and our Center for Community Dialogue. For more information visit their website http://www.ourfamilyservices.org/

Volunteers Needed
Volunteers are needed to set up and operate the annual church yard sale. Please see Margi in Goddard Hall after Sunday services. Set-up days are Oct 21 and 22. Sale days are Oct 23-25.

Black Live Matters Discussion Group commences on Sunday, October 18 from 12:30 to 2 in Servetus. All are welcome. Childcare provided. More Information Gwen Goodman 954-3599

GET READY FOR THE INDIGENOUS MARKETPLACE!
Sunday, October 25, after church, we will have many native artisans from around the state, Mexico and even some from Ecuador, all selling beautiful and interesting wares. Plan to attend and bring your neighbors and friends! A great opportunity to acquire gifts or stunning objects for yourself. And don't forget to ask how you can help with this economic justice project of UUCT. All purchases must be paid with cash or check only. Contact person: Julia Mehrer at 520-762-4035, perujourney@gainbroadband.com

Crop Hunger Walk- Walk with your friends and UUs from around Tucson in this truly interfaith fund raiser. Sign up today to start getting sponsors. The 2 mile walk will take place after church on November 1st. Location: First Methodist Church Park Ave. & 4th St. Contact: khogue@uuctucson.org.