



# All Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist Courier

*We are a liberal religious community of diverse individuals. We nurture spiritual growth, encourage lifelong education, work for social justice, serve the larger community, and celebrate life's gifts together through meaningful worship. We welcome and support others in their expression of religious freedom.*

March 1, 2023

Fort Worth, TX

Number 440

## President's Message

Our Annual Spring Stewardship drive will start this coming Sunday, March 5th. Be sure to come for potluck and stewardship kick off. Michael Zepeda gave a great speech introducing the drive last Sunday. Our new fiscal year starts July 1. We do a Spring Stewardship Drive and make a new budget that is presented at the Congregational Meeting in May.

There will be a pledge packet for each household available Sunday. I ask that you fill the pledge card out with the amount you can donate to the church next year. Please consider what you can do for APC. In donating money and in giving time. There is a slot on the pledge card to write down volunteer hours you expect to do. We have 65 pledging households. The average pledge is \$2,320, median is \$1,200. Last fiscal year's total pledge was \$127,779. Our total income was \$183,820 and includes Sunday plate, rent and grants.

I want our church to do more. I want to have a minister to lead us. I want volunteers to help with the service, work on the potluck, and teach Sunday School. More classes and groups meeting. Let's use this great building we have. Sunday Mar 19 after service we will give a building and grounds tour.

Where will our All Peoples Church family go? What will we do? What resources do we need to get there? Let's talk about it this coming month.

*~Dan Sexton, Board President*

## Church Council Meeting April 1

***This is not a joke!***

The meeting will be **Saturday, April 1 at 1:00PM** in Coleman Hall (lunch provided).

All committee chairs (or other representative if the chair is not available) will meet with members of the Board. Each committee will report on recent/current activities and plans for the coming months. We do this so that we can accomplish more by sharing ideas, pooling our resources, and working together.

Any church member who wants to participate in this process is also welcome to attend

## Save the Date: Easter hunt to benefit Eastside Ministries!

Easter is just around the corner (**April 9**)! On Easter Sunday we will have an Easter hunt for our children and youth to benefit one of our longstanding community service partners—Eastside Ministries. We invite everyone to please bring non-perishable food items to donate to Eastside Ministries and place them in the cart in the hall. We ask you to consider bringing some boxed items as they are lighter for our youngest to carry.

ALL PEOPLES CHURCH  
Unitarian  Universalist



## Worship With Us This Month!

**Join us Sundays at 11am in the Sanctuary or on Facebook or YouTube**

Worship Arts announces the schedule of Sunday Services and guest speakers for March, 2023. Because we are still in an interim period without the guidance and inspiration of professional clergy, we rely on the congregation to develop and present meaningful worship each week. We are fortunate to have a cadre of guest speakers/ministers to call upon. However, it does require an added level of commitment and accountability from us to sustain quality services each week. Thank you to all who care and remain dedicated to this goal. We're grateful for all who participate and we rely on you to come out and join us during this important hour of church life. We look forward to seeing you.

### March 5

***What Do You Believe?***

**Lori King-Nelson, M.Div. and  
All Peoples Church Choir**

### March 12

***Free and Responsible?***

**Kendra Weddle, PhD.**

Too often in our busy and complex world, we incorrectly think that freedom is about having a wide array of choices. And yet, sometimes these same choices do not signal freedom but rather attachment, its own kind of limitation. So, what does it mean to be on a search that is both free and responsible? In this sermon, Kendra offers some reflections on this important aspect of being human and being in community.

### March 19

**Lori King-Nelson, M.Div.**

### March 26

***Animism: A Foundation for Connecting to Nature*  
John Beckett**

## Caring & Sharing Cart

Caring and Sharing is sponsoring a give-and-take cart, Sundays after church, at the corner of the foyer and the hallway that leads to Jagers Parlor. Take a look! It is not the orange grocery cart, which is only for donations to Eastside Ministries.

It is a utility card stocked with essential non-food household items, such as paper goods, personal hygiene products, disposable dishes, cleaning supplies, and soap/detergent. Anyone who needs an item on the cart may take it. Church members and friends are invited to donate items as they are willing and able. There is also a cash donation jar on the cart for those who want to donate that way. The cart is available for give-and-take during the time after church each Sunday, and is kept locked up at all other times.

## Hungry Hound Hustle

Thank you to everyone who donates to Don't Forget To Feed Me each month.

Many of you are regulars and we, and the pets (and owners) who ultimately receive the food appreciate it every time! Every donation you make goes directly to helping to feed hungry pets

DFTFM's large annual fundraiser is coming up in April. Each year they hold the **Hungry Hound Hustle** which is 5K fun run & 1K dog walk.

In addition to inviting everyone to participate, of course, we also want to make this an opportunity to represent All Peoples as a whole. We will be using our DFTFM donation funds for February and March to secure a sponsorship at the race.

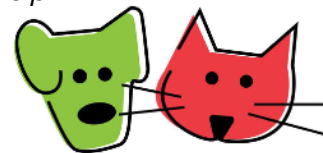
This will be great chance to represent ourselves to a large group of Fort Worth pet owners—as many of you are too!

The date is **April 22** and we are looking for volunteers of any age to staff our table and inform and invite the masses to visit us here.

The event does not last all day so it won't be a huge time requirement and the more of you help out, the less time you will each have to spend.

So let's bravely go out in public once again and tell people about this special place called All Peoples!

*Please see Jo Burnham or Karl Thibodeaux if you would like to help.*



**Don't Forget to Feed Me**

**PET FOOD BANK, Inc.**

# Religious Education News

## We are lifelong learners

I enjoyed some great preaching at the Proctor Conference (“the social justice network”) this past week. Tag-team preachers Dr. Brandon Crowley and Rev. Teresa Lynn Fry Brown gracing the pulpit of Ebenezer Baptist Church, exhorted us to think about “sanctified succession” and true mentorship, mentorship that is not jealous or holding power and control. Rather, mentors who empty themselves out to give their mentees not just information, but also spiritual depth, support, and learnings gleaned from experience that can provide a springboard to greater personal and organizational strength. What’s your lineage? Who has mentored you into the roles that you play with the congregation and in other contexts? And how are you mentoring others?

## Religious Education Programming

All Religious Education programming begins at 9:45AM on Sunday mornings.

### Children’s and Youth Programming

**Elementary** age Children and **High School** youth continue to engage the multi-age curriculum *Circle of Trees*.

“*Circle of Trees* is a multigenerational program of workshops that nurture deep connection with trees, nature, and all of earth’s living creatures. The program uses trees as an entry point to understand and connect with life on earth.”

**Nursery:** Our nursery is open during worship for children under 8 and during the RE hour for children not participating in scheduled curriculum.

**Middle School Youth** will connect to each other and to community by exploring YRUU games and traditions. **NOTE time change:** Middle school class starts at 10:00AM

**High School Youth** Let’s have a conversation about what would best serve you!

**New Families Newsletter** We have a new newsletter for families! Please reach out to Sarah at [firstjeffre@gmail.com](mailto:firstjeffre@gmail.com) if you would like to receive it.

It’s easy to join our cohorts! To enroll children and youth, please complete the registration form: [https://firstjefferson.org/redocs/RERegistrationForm\\_2022\\_2023.pdf](https://firstjefferson.org/redocs/RERegistrationForm_2022_2023.pdf).

### Adults

We offer different opportunities every Sunday

**March 5th—Unitarian Universalist Ethics** Following the curriculum What We Choose we will consider our guiding principles for moral decisions and examine how we each individually decide what is right. This month’s session we continue our exploration of Relational Ethics.

**March 12th—Social Justice Sunday** We welcome Matthew Marchbanks, the communications director of Center for Transforming Lives (<https://transforminglives.org/>), our share the plate recipient for this quarter. Center for Transforming Lives provides two-generational services (to parents and to children) in order to break the cycle of poverty.

**March 19th—Spirit of Life** Ashley Newlin continues to facilitate *Spirit of Life*, which offers participants space, time, and community to explore their Unitarian Universalist spirituality. This Month’s session is: *Roots Hold Me Close: Tradition, Teachers, And Spiritual Formation*.

**March 26th—Journeys** We will take time to engage our individual spiritual life, hear each others’ stories and build deeper connections with one another.

### New Online Class! Real Talk: How Parents and Caregivers Can Support Healthy Sexuality for their Children and Youth

We will hold three stand-alone class sessions on the third Wednesdays, February 15, March 15, and April 19 from 7-8:30PM. We will record the sessions so that registered participants can view them asynchronously. On the Saturdays following the evening sessions at a time to be determined, we invite all participants to an optional "continuing the conversation" session.

Topics include: Communication & Relationships (Feb), Sexual Health (March), and Consent & Boundaries, including Social Media use (Apr.). Come to one, two, or all! To pre-register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/SpringRealTalk>.

## Around the Denomination

### Letter-Writing Party for Justice

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church Social Justice Council and Broadway Baptist Church Justice Committee are inviting you to a Letter-Writing Party.

### Sunday, March 19, 2023 1:00–2:30PM

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church  
901 Page Ave, Fort Worth, 76110

This event will be an opportunity for Westside, Broadway, and other churches and organizations, to write letters to Texas legislators advocating action on bills that affect our shared missions and values.

Potential Topics for letters: Proposed bills in the legislature regarding LGBTQ equity including treatment of minors for gender transition; prison reform; women’s health including maternal care and abortion access; school choice; and gun control.

Target legislators will be Rep. Craig Goldman and Sen. Phil King with additional letters (and addresses) to fill in for other representatives in Tarrant County.

We’ll have everything ready for you —

⇒pre-written letters

⇒envelopes and pens

⇒stamps—please consider a donation to our stamp fund Light refreshments will be provided.

## Save the date for Texas UU Justice Ministry Lobby Day!

On March 13, we will:

⇒ Rally with interfaith partners on the South Steps of the capitol, around the issue of Black maternal mortality and 12 months of postpartum healthcare for mothers and birthing people!

⇒ Meet with legislative offices to advocate for the bills and issues that matter to us! (TXUUJM and our partners will provide bill information, talking points, and schedule visits. We need you to sign up so we know you're coming!)

⇒ Sing! UU hymns and justice songs will fill the main capitol rotunda, led by UU musicians and music directors, at 12 noon on a busy day in the capitol!

⇒ Learn about the 88th Legislature and how to develop relationships and keep the pressure on our leaders to be accountable to the people!

If you can't make the whole day, we will be offering in-district actions that you can do from home! Double the impact by calling your legislators on the same day that other UU's are meeting with legislative offices!

~Sarah Berel-Harrop, DRE, [firstjeffre@gmail.com](mailto:firstjeffre@gmail.com)



## Adventures in Religion

October 2, 2022, through March 26, 2023

*Sundays at 9:45AM on Facebook Messenger and by phone. We will return to church, after COVID cases abate. Watch for announcement. We explore world religions. We are discussing *Islam: A Short History*, by Karen Armstrong. 2002 Modern Library Paperback Edition. The Modern Library, New York, 2002. Paperback: ISBN: 0-8129-6618-X. We read out loud together. No need to read in advance. *No religion in the modern world is as feared and misunderstood as Islam. This book demonstrates that the world's fastest growing faith is a much more complex phenomenon.* [Amazon, excerpt]*

Contact: Marian Wendel, [mwendel@netzero.net](mailto:mwendel@netzero.net).

### This Month's Estimated Preview

3. Culmination

- A New Order (935-1258)
- The Crusades

## Book Discussion Group

All Peoples book discussion group currently meets via Zoom. We read and discuss a variety of books. Suggestions for books are encouraged. For information, contact Ana Evans 817-939-2763

(continued next column)

## Upcoming Titles:

**Saturday, March 25 at 10 am (CST) via Zoom—**  
*Jesus and John Wayne* by Kristin Kobes Du Mez [nonfiction]

**Thursday, April 27 at 7:00 pm (CST) via Zoom—**  
*The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell [fiction]

**Thursday, May 25 at 10 am (CST) via Zoom—**  
*War Doctor* by David Nott [nonfiction]

## CUUPs News

**March—Join us for Spring Equinox**

**Saturday, March 18** Doors open at 7pm. Ritual begins at 7:30pm with Potluck Dinner afterwards.

**Every Month—Full Moon Fridays**

Your friendly UU Pagans do enjoy the Turning of the Seasons and the Cycles of the Moon. In addition to our 8 holidays on the Wheel of the Year, we meet on the Friday closest to the full moon each month to celebrate and honor a different goddess and god. *Doors open at 7:30PM with ritual starting at 8:00.* Bring a snack to share and your favorite divination tool. We hope to see you there!

## Crafters Group Welcomes All

Do you draw? Knit? Crochet? Paint? Jewelcraft? Write? Or any other craft that can be carried with you and done anywhere? Then bring your supply bring your supplies to All Peoples on the 2<sup>ND</sup> and/or 4<sup>TH</sup> Saturday of any month and join our social crafting group. Newcomers are always welcome. We meet on the 2<sup>ND</sup> and 4<sup>TH</sup> Saturday of the month in Jagers Parlor from 12:30pm until 2:30PM.

## FROM: The Department of Idle Thoughts, Lead Thinker Paul Schattman

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice". The Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. uttered these words in one of his more famous speeches. He did not originate this idea. He paraphrased it from a one hundred year old sermon by Unitarian minister and fervent abolitionist the Reverend Theodore Parker.

They lied. The arc does not bend toward Justice. It does not bend period unless we do the bending. As Thomas Jefferson noted in the Declaration of Independence

"... all experience hath shewn that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed."

Our Chosen Faith requires us, as the great Civil Rights leader John Lewis put it, "to make good trouble". It is the only way to bend the arc of toward justice.

***We'd love to hear from other members and encourage your submission.***

## **Courier #440 March 2023**

All Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist  
1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76112-5412

## **2023 Board Of Trustees**

President, Dan Sexton  
Vice President, Colleen Brewer  
Treasurer, Tony Collins  
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Member-at-Large, Joy Fletcher  
Member-at-Large, Brit Garcia  
Member-at-Large, Christina LuQuis

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[www.facebook.com/FirstJefferson](http://www.facebook.com/FirstJefferson)

## **Next Courier, Issue #441**

Submission Date  
Tuesday, March 28, 2023 10am  
Send edited articles to  
[administrator@firstjefferson.org](mailto:administrator@firstjefferson.org)