



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.

July 1, 2023

Fort Worth, TX

Number 444

President's Message

Welcome to summer in Texas, and day after day of triple digit temperatures. Pray for the church air conditioners. I know a number of folks are heading to cooler northern climes for a couple of weeks.

Remember Michael Zepeda will be facilitating "visioning" sessions on 3rd Sundays, with the next session scheduled for July 16th at 10AM in the parlor. When I think about "vision", I consider our impact in the community. But I also really want a strong church community for my family where we have friends and are accepted as we are and a place of respite where we can talk about anything. I ask you to consider how we want to "be". Can visitors feel that we have a close community? Is this a community they will want to be a part of.

In our arc of development I think we are still re-building from the pandemic. I am happy with where we are, but we need to continue building. *Welcome our visitors. Enlist more committee members. Train more folks to help on Sunday mornings. And have fun while doing it!*

~Dan Sexton, Board President

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 July 2023. Because we are still in an interim period between ministers we rely on lay leadership 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.

July 2

Paul Schattman, PhD

Of the Light and the Lightkeepers

Humanity has always been invested in, one might even say obsessed with, Light in all its applications and dimensions. Why? And if we regard ourselves, as it seems we do, as custodians of the Light what does that mean? These are tangled questions. I have some tangled answers to pose with which you might or might not agree.

July 9

Lori King-Nelson, M.Div.

July 16

The Reverend Denise Blakely

June 23

The Reverend Lora Brandis

June 30

Sarah Berel-Harrop, Director of Religious Education, All Peoples Church UU
To Explore Strange New Worlds...

Science Fiction, fantasy, and speculative fiction move us out of the realm of the ordinary and the here and now. They move us into a space where we can play with our preconceptions, our beliefs about the world around us, and possible new ways of thinking and doing. We can test and stretch our values as we engage in this play. Fandoms are communities that engage in this sort of play together. This Sunday, we'll explore how fandoms can help us to actively dream a new dream, and to build the world that we dream about.

ALL PEOPLES CHURCH
Unitarian  Universalist

Religious Education News

We are lifelong learners

Our congregation **SHOWED UP** for pride throughout June. All Peoples members attended the Fort Worth city council public comment meeting to protest the mayor's decision to remove the optional pride badge from the library's summer reading program. Our own Michael Zepeda spoke at a Tarrant County interfaith pride service. We contributed volunteers to the Inclusive Faith Coalition of Tarrant County's booth at Trinity Pride. While all this was happening, Jane Collins also attended Tarrant County Commissioners meetings in solidarity with groups seeking more accountability for the Tarrant County Jail!

We didn't do these things on our own! Our partnerships with *the IFC* and the *Justice Network for Tarrant County* give us ongoing information about ways that we can help to bend Tarrant County towards Justice as well as companionship on the journey.

Religious Education Programming

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

Children's and Youth Summer Programming

We will have themed weeks for Elementary, Middle School, and High School during the Religious Education hour. Participants will engage in the following rotating themes:

July 2ND—Gather the Spirit. We'll explore myriad ways of expressing spirituality.

July 9TH—Song Sung Sunday. We'll sing and listen to songs, including the story behind the music.

July 16TH—Explorations into science and the natural world.

July 23RD—And Now, for Something Completely Different. We'll nurture a sense of play and joy; important aspects of resilience and spiritual development.

July 30TH—Intergenerational All Peoples Con! Star Wars, Star Trek ... all fandoms can co-exist and learn from one another. Bring your action figures, art, favorite memes so we can share our favorite fandoms with one another!

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

Banned Books Programming We're collaborating with LGBTQ Saves to hold several Banned/Diverse Books events through the summer, including ways that you can participate from home or the beach! Save the date for a banned books fair on July 29. Email me if you'd like a reading tracker!

Families Newsletter We have a new newsletter for families! Please reach out to Sarah at 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://allpeopleschurchuu.org/redocuments/RERegistrationForm_2022_2023.pdf.

Adults Religious Education Programming

We offer different opportunities every Sunday

July 2nd—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.

July 9TH—Social Justice Sunday General Assembly (GA), which was held in June, is the annual meeting of Unitarian Universalist Congregations. GA business includes the election of denominational leaders as well as votes on social justice priorities. We'll review the actions taken, next steps, and other denominational affairs.

July 16TH—Visions our own Vision Statement Committee would like to continue the conversation that Rev. Foerster started about what such a statement might contain. If you're late, come on in; you are welcome. We encourage Youth and Young Adults to participate so that all age groups' perspectives are represented.

July 23TH—Journeys We will take time to engage our individual spiritual life, hear each others' stories and build deeper connections with one another.

July 30TH—Intergenerational All Peoples Con! Star Wars, Star Trek...all fandoms can co-exist and learn from one another. Bring your action figures, art, favorite memes so we can share our favorite fandoms with one another!

~Sarah Berel-Harrop, DRE, firstjeffre@gmail.com

Adventures in Religion

October 2, 2022, through August 27, 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] Feel free to join by phone or online at home or at church in the Alcott Room before the service. For access contact: *Marian Wendel, mwendel@netzero.net.*

(continued)

The Courier

(from previous page)

This Month's Estimated Preview

5. Islam Agonistes
- What is a Modern Muslim State?
 - Fundamentalism
 - Muslims in a Minority
 - The Way Forward

Coming Soon to Adventures in Religion

What Everyone Should Know About Islam and Muslims (6/1/1995 edition) by Suzanne Haneef
“Written by an American Muslim, this work presents a brief yet comprehensive survey of the basic teachings on Islam.” [Amazon, excerpt]

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.

Upcoming Titles:

Thursday, July 27 at 7:00PM (CST) via Zoom—*The Wager* by David Grann [nonfiction]

Saturday, August 26 at 10:00AM (CST) via Zoom—*Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver [fiction]

Thursday, September 26 at 7:00PM (CST) via Zoom—*The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery [nonfiction]

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 2ND and/or 4TH Saturday of any month and join our social crafting group. Newcomers are always welcome. We meet on the 2ND and 4TH Saturday of the month in Jagers Parlor from 12:30pm until 2:30PM.

CUUPs News

In August—Join us for Lammas/Lughnasa

Saturday, August 5 Doors open at 7pm. Ritual begins at 7:30pm with Potluck Dinner afterwards.

Picnic with the Pagans Join after the Crafter's Meeting on the second Saturday of each month for a potluck lunch. Bring a dish to share and enjoy food and fellowship.

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.

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

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Next Courier, Issue #445

Submission Date
Tuesday, August 1, 2023 10am
Send edited articles to
administrator@allpeopleschurchuu.org