



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.

November 1, 2023

Fort Worth, TX

Number 448

President's Message

Come to the Fall Congregational Meeting after potluck this Sunday to see what's going on at All Peoples. We will review finances, discuss our ongoing minister search, and hear about Religious Education and Membership. This is also the meeting where we will vote for next year's board. Our current board has very graciously agreed to stay on one more year.

A goal the board has this year is increasing volunteer support for the church. This Sunday we will also have a volunteer fair. Find out how to be a greeter, usher or kitchen helper. Learn how to get involved with committees and find out about serving on the board.

Saturday Nov 11 is our annual Service Auction. Dinner tickets and quilt raffle tickets will be available Sunday. The theme is 70's Groovy Disco Night. Dinner is Barbecue. Bring in your donor forms and donations Sunday. I'm looking forward to seeing everybody next Saturday night for annual party of the year!

~Dan Sexton, Board President

All Peoples Church Volunteer Fair

Sunday, November 5, the foyer area will be full of tables offering information about the wide variety of volunteer opportunities available at All Peoples. Our church has many volunteer jobs that are necessary for its continued life: from preparing and presenting and recording our weekly worship services, to kitchen work; from building and grounds maintenance to Religious Exploration (children/youth and adult); from seeking new members and nurturing current members, to external social justice activities; and others not mentioned here. Come and find a place to employ your special talents to help our church thrive. If you have a skill, we can use it! Some vacant positions are particularly critical. We offer training for some volunteer jobs. Ask! People who are new to the church are especially invited to visit our tables and find out what's going on here. It's Potluck Sunday. Enjoy lunch, and check out our information.

Great Weather to Walk the Labyrinth

The tall weeds covering the labyrinth have been cut off near the ground to make the labyrinth walkable for the nice weather we hope to have in the fall. There is also a path cleared from the back of the parking lot out to the labyrinth. Maybe we will be inspired to do further work on the labyrinth when spring comes.

Remember to set your clocks back one hour this Saturday—Enjoy that extra hour of sleep because we have a big Sunday planned!

Worship Arts News

Our congregation subscribes to Soul Matters, a program that provides monthly theme based materials for all aspects of church life. We are beginning to use the materials, both in Worship and in our Adult RE offerings. The materials from Soul Matters are available to each of us to use on our spiritual journeys and to deepen connections among and amidst us.

Some new things you may have noticed in our worship services are that we are now singing the same opening hymn each week, and we have a monthly chalice lighting and chalice extinguishment. The Music Committee will pick an opening hymn each month, one that is easy to sing and fits well with the monthly theme. Our goal is to have a few hymns that we can all sing together, if we choose to. The chalice words will also support the monthly theme.

The theme for November is Generosity. Sarah Berel-Harrop will have the monthly Small Group packets available. They include spiritual exercises, inspirational quotes, companion pieces and questions to consider that can be used individually to explore the monthly theme. We encourage everyone to pick up a Soul Matters packet, take a look at the materials, and engage in one or more of the spiritual activities contained within the packets. Join us on the 4th Sunday of each month at 9:45am to discuss the monthly theme.

Worship is more than what happens during the 11am hour on Sundays. We hope that using the Soul Matters materials will assist each of us with our faith development. We'd love to hear your thoughts.

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

Worship With Us This Month!

November 5

Radical Generosity

Lori King-Nelson. M. Div

The challenge of becoming a reservoir of generosity that promises love and liberation for our most marginalized communities. Where do we start?

November 12

Transforming People who Transform the World

The Reverend Mark Christian

I have for many years suspected that the real reason our churches exist is to transform people who transform the world. What do we want to transform ourselves into and what do we want our world to become?

November 19

Inspired by a Kind Spirit

Lori King-Nelson. M. Div

There is nothing more generous than a person who chooses kindness in response to unkindness. Using kindness to grow justice.

November 26

Tolerance, Acceptance and Enabling: Drawing the Lines

Paul Schattman, PhD

Where are the lines between these three concepts? How do we define the lines or know when we've crossed them? How does that fit in with our covenant and recognizing the dignity and worth (and the autonomy) of every living soul in the quest of Truth?



Religious Education News

We are lifelong learners

Our Soul Matters theme for November is Generosity. Theologian Frederick Buecher characterized vocation as “the place where our deep gladness meets the world’s deep hunger.” I’ve also heard this paraphrased as where our gifts meet the world’s needs. While many needs may call out for attention, each individual cannot possibly meet all of them. This is where discernment comes in: making intentional choices about what we will do, what we are about in the world. Also, community: we, each with different gifts and preoccupations, gather and can build something bigger than ourselves. Our faith community doesn’t run itself. What are the needs of our community that call to you? What are your deepest desires about who we can be? And then, what of your gifts would you like to gladly share to make it so?

Religious Education Programming (Sundays)

Religious Education programming begins at 9:45 am

Family-Style Religious Education Programming

We will have a rotating format by week for Elementary, Middle School, and High School during the Religious Education hour. Adults may join their children or youth, or participate in another aspect of our morning programming.

November 5—*Gather the Spirit* We’ll explore myriad ways of expressing spirituality. This week: We’ll explore generosity practices and wonder how we can incorporate generosity into our daily lives.

November 12—*Song Sung Sunday* We’ll sing and listen to songs, including the story behind the music. This month: Soul Matters theme - Generosity!

November 19—*Explorations* into UU identity or science and the natural world. We’ll make seed bombs — a gift that keeps on giving

November 26—*And Now, for Something*

Completely Different We’ll nurture a sense of play and joy; important aspects of resilience and spiritual development. The Valentines cards we made in February were a big hit, so we’re doing it again! This week, we’ll make holiday cards for members of the congregation that Caring & Sharing committee will then send.

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

Families Newsletter We have a 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

We offer different opportunities every Sunday

November 5—*Unitarian Universalist Ethics* We’ll discuss ethical frameworks in the What We Choose curriculum and apply our learnings to case studies. This month: The Collective Good - utilitarian ethics; or wondering about the outcome of a given course of action, and what actions enhance the welfare of the collective. There’s a lot to chew on here: What’s good for the collective? Who “counts” as part of the collective? How do we solicit opinions about desired outcomes & pathways? How do we decide as a collective about what’s right?

November 12—*Social Justice Sunday* We’re thrilled to welcome Matthew Hall, the Senior Regional Advocacy Director for Raise Your Hand Texas (RYHT). RYHT is a non-partisan nonprofit organization supporting public policy solutions that invest in Texas’ 5.4 million public school students. They envision a world-class public school system that fuels a brighter public future for all Texans.

Looking ahead: In December, we will have a denominational affairs update. Let Jane Collins and / or Sarah know what types of work you’re interested in (eg, Actions of Immediate Witness, UUs for Social Justice, Side with Love, etc.)

November 19—*Spirit in Practice* Spirit In Practice offers an introduction to eight spheres of holistic & wholehearted spiritual practice. We approach spiritual practices from a pluralistic and interfaith perspective. We approach each person’s spirituality with curiosity, wonder and mutual respect. This month: Communal Spiritual Practices. We are excited to have a panel including folks from our own worship arts team, our CUUPS (Covenant of UU Pagans), and those who have participated in youth worship.

November 26—*Soul Matters* We will take time to engage our individual spiritual life, hear each others’ stories and build deeper connections with one another, using as a focus the Soul Matters theme of Generosity. You are welcome to engage in the activities in the Soul Matters packets as a jumping off point. November’s Soul Matters packet is available now! Shoot me an email if you want one!

Curious about Religious Exploration at All Peoples? Join the Second Sunday Table Talk.

On Sunday, November 12, 12PM (after worship) to 1PM, I will hold drop-in space in Jagers Parlor to discuss Religious Exploration at All Peoples. Topics include Religious Exploration philosophy, pedagogy, and ways to get involved in Religious Exploration, including volunteering. Anyone who’s curious about creating and maintaining excellence in Religious Exploration—for adults, families, children, and/or youth —is welcome. We’ll share a light meal while we chat. Child care will be available, please let me know by November 5 who will be staying for child care!

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

Adventures in Religion

August 6, 2023, through July 21, 2024

Sundays at 9:45AM on Facebook Messenger and by phone. We explore world religions. We are discussing *What Everyone Should Know about Islam and Muslims*, by Suzanne Haneef. 1996, 14th edition, Library of Islam. Paperback: ISBN: 0-935782-00-1. We read out loud together. No need to read in advance. "Written by an American Muslim, this work presents a brief yet comprehensive survey of the basic teachings on Islam." [Amazon, excerpt]

Feel free to join by phone or online at home or at church in the Sophia Lyon Fahs Room before the service. For access contact: Marian Wendel, mwendel@netzero.net.

This Month's Estimated Preview

Part One: Beliefs and Acts of Worship

II. Acts of Worship

1. The Declaration Faith (shadahah)
2. Prayer (salah)
3. Fasting (sawm)
4. Poor-due (zakah)
5. Pilgrimage (hajj)

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, November 30 at 7:00PM (CST) via Zoom—
South to America, A Journey Below The Mason-Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation by Imany Perry [nonfiction]

Thursday, December 28 at 7:00PM (CDT) via Zoom—
Between Two Moons by Aisha Abdel Gawad [fiction]

Thursday, January 25 at 7:00PM (CST) via Zoom—
Brave the Wild River: The Untold Story of Two Women who Mapped the Botany of the Grand Canyon by Melisa L. Seigny [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

November—Samhain

Saturday, November 4 (Coleman Hall) 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 #449

Submission Date
Tuesday, November 29, 2023 10am
Send articles to
administrator@allpeopleschurchuu.org