



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.

December 1, 2023

Fort Worth, TX

Number 449

President's Message

We've been on a good streak lately. Our NTUUC grant came through for our Music Director and DRE. The Service Auction was a success. Thanks to everyone who helped with the auction, especially Cory Davis who provided the barbecue for dinner. Several folks have said it was our best dinner ever.

We're using some Service Auction funds to get our doors repaired. The plumber repaired the front bathrooms. Bit by bit we are getting in shape.

Our volunteer fair went well. Thanks to the everyone who signed up. Several folks agreed to be greeters and ushers and some committees recruited new helpers. This is getting our church operations in shape for us to be successful.

We will continue to discuss hiring a minister. Let us know what you think.

I'm looking forward to our visit from Santa this Sunday and our Christmas Choir Concert on the 17th.

~Dan Sexton, Board President

CHRISTMAS DINNER RETURNS TO ALL PEOPLES THIS YEAR

A group of Christmas Elves will be hosting a traditional-ish Christmas dinner at the church on Christmas Day, Monday, December 25. The meat and one or two side dishes will be provided by the Elves. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. You may bring a guest if you wish. Show up in Coleman Hall between noon and 12:30, and we will plan to eat at 1:00. Look for a sign-up sheet in the foyer beginning Sunday, December 3. Let us know who is coming and what food you will bring. Questions may be directed to Elf Colleen Brewer at brewer2ck@gmail.com.



FOOD-CLOTHING-WITH DIGNITY!

Fire at Eastside Community Assistance

A fire at Eastside Community Assistance (Eastside Ministries) early Tuesday morning has left its pantry and all of the food unusable. The pantry is not expected to reopen for two months, apparently leaving the nonprofit unable to give out Christmas-dinner groceries or regular groceries to clients for the foreseeable future. Eastside Board, staff, and volunteers are working to find out what they will be able to do, possibly with major help from other agencies, grocery stores, churches, and individuals.

I have just heard from the Board President of Eastside that they have resumed giving out bagged lunches to the homeless, using food being donated by staff and volunteers. The bagged lunches are not refrigerated and are not kept in the pantry. Our church members can help by donating bottled water, Vienna sausages in pop-top cans, individually wrapped crackers, chips, breakfast bars, and snacks to be put into the bagged lunches. If you can, take these items to the "Donations" door at Eastside (5929 E. Lancaster Ave.) between 8 AM and noon on weekdays.

Eastside will also need a lot of financial support to help them get their primary business started again; that is giving groceries to the needy residents of East Fort Worth. If you want to donate online, go to eastsidecommunityassistance.org, click on the "How To Give Help" menu item, then scroll to the bottom of the page.

The annual fund-raiser at St. Rita Catholic Church for the benefit of Eastside will still be held December 5. Attendance is free but donations are accepted for Eastside. For more information or to reserve a spot at a table, please call Mary Crader at 817 925 2706.

Colleen Brewer brewer2ck@gmail.com

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 December is **Mystery**. 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!

December 3

The Joy in Mystery

Matthew Hall

There can be joy in celebrating the “sacred spaces of the unknown” in our own lives. We will discuss the beautiful ways that being connected with, and an active participant in, a universe that is vast and mysterious shapes our personal faith journeys.

December 10

Living the Collective Dream

Lori King-Nelson, M.Div

The most fundamental meaning of advent is that of voluntary action that brings about justice in our world.

December 17

'Tis the Season

The All Peoples Church Choir

under the direction of Joshua Jordan

In celebration of the Christmas season, the All Peoples Church Choir will present a joyful collection of old and familiar songs with a contemporary and stylish twist sure to brighten your day. Come one, Come All ! You don't want to miss this special choir service.

December 24

The Holy Nobody

Lori King-Nelson, M.Div

In the hushed mystery of Christmas Eve we await the birth of a world at peace.

December 31

Burning Bowl

A member led service in observance of the New Year. We'll reflect on the past year and prepare to move forward into 2024. The service will include a ritual to symbolically release and leave behind past regrets while honoring our need to be steadfast and persevere.



Religious Education News

We are lifelong learners

Christmas Party with Santa and Mrs. Claus is THIS Sunday, December 3! We'll have an intergenerational party in the Library! Join RE Council as well as the children and youth in creating ornaments, trimming the tree, having some seasonal snacks, and saying hi to Mr. and Mrs. Claus!

Our Soul Matters theme for December is Mystery. Sometimes we can delight in leaning into uncertainty - what we don't know and even may never know. We'll be exploring the theme through Worship, our Family RE programming, and you can explore it on your own with spiritual practices, words of wisdom, songs, and videos suggested in the December Soul Matters packet. Email me to receive the packet in email, and we will also have a few hard copy packets available.

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.

December 3—Gather the Spirit We'll explore myriad ways of expressing spirituality. This week: We'll explore tarot for fun and as a spiritual practice with special guest Mr. Dean.

December 10—Song Sung Sunday We'll sing and listen to songs, including the story behind the music. This month: Soul Matters theme—Mystery!

December 17—Explorations into UU identity or science and the natural world.

December 24—And Now, for Something Completely Different We'll nurture a sense of play and joy; important aspects of resilience and spiritual development.

December 31—New Years Eve—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! OR DRESS UP as your favorite character! Aside from being a fun way to celebrate your fandom, New Year's Eve is a traditional time for "guising."

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://allpeopleschurhuu.org/redocuments/RERegistrationForm_2022_2023.pdf.

December 2023

Adults

We offer different opportunities every Sunday

December 3—Unitarian Universalist Ethics We'll discuss ethical frameworks in the *What We Choose* curriculum and apply our learnings to case studies. **This month: Cultivating a Virtuous Character—Virtue ethics;** "this approach to morality holds that cultivating and practicing virtues leads to virtuous character and ethical living. Our own virtuous behavior can, in turn, inform our community and shape the world around us." But how do we determine what virtues are valued in the collective?

December 10—Social Justice Sunday Denominational affairs update. What's going on with this year's Actions of Immediate Witness? How could we participate in *Side with Love's 30 Days of Love* this year? Come find out!

December 17—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: **Spiritual Partnerships.** A spiritual friend provides a listening ear and reflection for the spiritual journey. Spiritual directors are trained to provide such relationships. We'll explore how spiritual friends or spiritual directors can help to clarify and deepen our individual spiritual journeys.

December 24—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 Mystery. You are welcome to engage in the activities in the Soul Matters packets as a jumping off point. December's Soul Matters packet is available now! [Shoot me an email](#) if you want one!

December 31—New Years Eve—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! OR DRESS UP as your favorite character! Aside from being a fun way to celebrate your fandom, New Year's Eve is a traditional time for "guising."

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

On Sunday, December 10, 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 December 3 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

III. Islamic values and Qualities

1. The Islamic Personality
 - a. God-Consciousness (Taqwa)
 - b. Faith (Iman)
 - c. Sincerity
 - d. Responsibility
 - e. Integrity
 - f. Honesty, Truthfulness, Keeping Commitments, Fair-Dealing
 - g. Discipline and Self-Control
 - h. Humility, Patience, Endurance, Courage, Thankfulness
 - i. Dignity, Honor and Self-Respect

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. Sevigny [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

December—Yule

Saturday, December 16 (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.

Christmas by Candlelight 2023

For the past two years, All Peoples Church has had a table of eight guests hosted by APC members at Christmas by Candlelight. This year, no one from All Peoples has stepped up to host a table yet. The event is scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, December 5, which is one week from next Tuesday, but there is still time to sign up as a table host. Alternatively, you may call the phone number provided on the flyer to reserve a spot at a table hosted by someone else. Admission is free, but donations to Eastside Community Assistance are encouraged. Enjoy Christmas songs performed by a choir, Christmas decorations and good food (both provided by the table host), and good company, for a good cause.

*Eastside Ministries &
St. Rita Catholic Church
invite you to join us for
Christmas by Candlelight
December 5th, 2023 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
St. Rita Parish Center
5550 E. Lancaster Ave.
Forsyth, TX 76042*



...Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Come celebrate the Light of Advent as we gather for a relaxing evening of fellowship, music, meditation and prayer.

We are currently seeking ladies and gentlemen who would like to host a table for the evening. Being a host involves decorating and setting a Christmas-themed table and providing an appetizer and dessert to those seated at your table.
(The candles and beverages will be provided either on site or in a table host.)

Reservations to attend the event are also being taken at this time.

For more information about hosting a table or to reserve seats, please contact **Mary Cruder, 817-925-2706**

"For God so loved the world, He sent His only Son..."

Donations for Eastside Ministries will be accepted.



**Credo Community Choir of Dallas Presents
Protecting Our Children**

Protecting Our Tomorrows | Our Children, asks us all to imagine the kind of society we want to leave for future generations, explores the darker realities of inequity, trauma, and loss, and forges a pathway forward by encouraging confidence, communication, and community.

Audiences may choose from one of two performances taking place on December 2, 2023 (4PM and 7:30PM) at the Moody Performance Hall in the Dallas Arts District. These concerts include music by diverse composers, from Amanda Ramsey to Joel Thompson to Graham Nash, with live accompaniment by members of the Dallas arts scene. Original poetry composed by children will be woven into both performances and recited by a diverse group of North Texas young people.

Tickets \$25-100 available at TicketDFW.com or by calling (214) 871-5000.



Don't Forget to Feed Me

As we approach the holiday season, we recognize the increased financial strain many families face. Unfortunately, this often means they have less money for essentials, including pet food. Pets are cherished members of these families, and we want to ensure they receive the care they deserve.

Your generous donation can make a significant impact by enabling us to purchase pet food and provide support. Together, we can ensure that no pet goes hungry during this special time of year. See Jo Burnham or Karl Thibodeaux for more information on how to help.

**New Spiritual Exploration Opportunity
at All Peoples**

Join the new Sunday night Dharma Friends sangha at All Peoples. *Meets Sunday, 6:45pm, Jagers Parlor (Off this week—next lass will be December 10)* The first 15 minutes will be time for everyone to get settled in, have some tea and if there are any questions about meditation. Sessions are offered by Radiant Heart Ministry whose goals are to cultivate spiritual friendship as a sangha and also with our communities. Deepening our own practices, but also by engaging with those in the communities that could use a friend. This group is open to everyone. You don't have to be or become a Buddhist to join. Cultivating a loving heart and mind is the intention.



DHARMA FRIENDS
SUNDAY NIGHT SANGHA

OPEN TO ALL
JOIN US FOR MEDITATION, DHARMA DISCUSSION,
AND SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP

HOSTED BY RADIANT HEART MINISTRY
ALL PEOPLES CHURCH 6:45-8PM
1959 SANDY LANE
FORT WORTH, TX 76112
682-207-4286

Courier #449 December 2023

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

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Next Courier, Issue #450

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Wednesday, December 20, 2023 10am
Send articles to
administrator@allpeopleschurchuu.org