



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.

January 1, 2024

Fort Worth, TX

Number 450

President's Message

A new year, a new start. What do we want to accomplish this year? New Minister? Improve our operations? Get building in better shape? A new oven? We need to discuss our priorities and the funds needed to achieve them.

The Sudbury School is our partner in using the building. We will be in conversation on their needs for the building.

Onward!

~Dan Sexton, Board President

Worship Arts News

The *Soul Matters* monthly theme for January is *Liberating Love*. Soul Matters provides Small Group packets on the monthly themes which Sarah Berel-Harrop will have available for all who are interested. The packets 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.

One way we are incorporating the Liberating Love theme this month is our January 7th worship service focusing on the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and the *Guest at Your Table* program. The mission of the UUSC is to advance human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies. The work is grounded in the belief that all people have inherent power and dignity.

On November 19, 2023, we launched our Guest at Your Table program during the worship service. Guest at Your Table is the UUSC's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. UUSC works in more than 20 countries, with over 50 grassroots partners and there are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work of the UUSC. ***Please join us during the 1/7/2024 Worship Service to learn more about the Guest at Your Table program and its beneficiaries.*** Our Guest at Your Table program will continue through the end of January, and donations will be collected during service on 1/28/2024. We look forward to seeing you in the worship service!

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





Worship With Us This Month!

January 7

Guest at Your Table: Pursuing Liberation
Video sermon by Rev. Julián Jamaica Soto,
UU minister

On November 19, 2023, we launched our Guest at Your Table (GAYT) program during the worship service. GAYT is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)'s annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. UUSC works in more than 20 countries, with over 50 grassroots partners and there are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work of the UUSC. Please join us in worship to learn more about the Guest at Your Table and its beneficiaries. Our GAYT program is scheduled to continue through the end of January; GAYT boxes and donations will be collected during service on 1/28/2024.

January 14

The Love We Make...
Lori King-Nelson, M. Div.

Love has broader implications than just determining how we behave in our individual relationships; love is a belief that all people deserve freedom from oppression.

January 21

Love is the Heart of the Matter
Kendra Weddle, PhD

True love requires our work of cultivation *and* letting go.

January 28

Bringing Our Full Self Forward: A UU Potluck
Lori King-Nelson, M.Div

Is there a better example of liberating love than that which welcomes differing beliefs into a set of principles that transform us into justice seeking people?

Religious Education News

We are lifelong learners

“Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.”

~UUA Proposed Article II

Our Soul Matters theme for January is Liberating Love. 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 January Soul Matters packet. Email me to receive the packet in email, and we will also have a few hard copy packets available.

For the rest of the congregational year, Soul Matters themes will explore the values central to Unitarian Universalism as reflected in the proposed revisions to the UUA’s Article II. These values, and our covenant to live out our values, would replace the 7 (+1!) Principles. This year’s General Assembly will vote on adoption of the Article II revision.

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.

January 7th—Gather the Spirit We’ll explore myriad ways of expressing spirituality. This week: We’ll explore spiritual practices based in love, such as the Buddhist metta prayer.

January 14th—Song Sung Sunday We’ll sing and listen to songs, including the story behind the music. This month: Soul Matters theme - Love!

January 21st—Explorations into UU identity or science and the natural world This Sunday: we’ll explore Universalism through a scavenger hunt!

January 28th—And Now, for Something Completely Different We’ll nurture a sense of play and joy; important aspects of resilience and spiritual development.

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 Religious Education Programming

We offer different opportunities every Sunday

January 7th—Unitarian Universalist Ethics We'll discuss ethical frameworks in the *What We Choose* curriculum and apply our learnings to case studies. This month: Natural, Legal, and Human Rights. Where do human rights come from? By what authority are they conferred? What do we do when rights are in conflict with one another?

January 14th—Social Justice Sunday We are excited to welcome Umair Khan, President of the Metroplex Atheists, the longest standing secular organization in North Texas. MA pursues activism on behalf of separation of religion from government education and education against the attacks of Christian Nationalist and their impacts on our democratic freedoms. MA is part of the Dallas-Fort Worth Community of Atheist, agnostics, and freethinkers. Umair focuses on cultivating collaboration and solidarity with our communities to defend the rights of LGBTQ+, the feminist movement for equality and the working class to have power over their labor

January 21st—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: Mind Practices. We will explore the spiritual aspects of intellectual pursuits.

January 28th—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 Liberating Love. You are welcome to engage in the activities in the Soul Matters packets as a jumping off point. January'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, January 14th, 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 January 7 who will be staying for child care!

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

Looking ahead

Guest at Your Table

We have extended our participation in the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)'s **Guest at Your Table** program through January 28th, when we will

collect the boxes/donations during the service. The idea is to invite a "guest" (a UUSC partner) to your table. While it is a fundraiser (participants add funds to the box at mealtimes), you also are invited to learn about the guests. Each week this month, I will share in the newsletter a video highlighting one of the UUSC partners work. Please take a few moments to view and learn about the week's guest. **This week: *Foundation for Justice and the Democratic Rule of Law***, which advocates for the right to migrate and connects those whose human rights have been violated with critical resources. <https://vimeo.com/866150869/3c90f29b78>

Trans Inclusion in Congregations course from Transforming Hearts Collective

We hope to begin this course, generously funded by the Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry, in February. This six-session course explores how to create fully inclusive and affirming congregations. We'll explore beloved community, trans identity and spirituality, and congregational culture and tools for transforming culture. Register your interest by participating in this poll: <https://forms.gle/TfTTikYSK1z6QQEx6>

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. Faith (Iman) *continued*
 - b. Sincerity
 - c. Responsibility
 - d. Integrity
 - e. Honesty, Truthfulness, Keeping Commitments, Fair-Dealing
 - f. Discipline and Self-Control
 - g. Humility, Patience, Endurance, Courage, Thankfulness
 - h. Dignity, Honor and Self-Respect
 - i. Purity, Modesty, and Chastity
 - j. Kindness, Helpfulness, and Cooperation
 - k. Charitableness, Generosity, and Hospitality
 - l. Consideration and Good Manners
 - m. Brotherliness
 - n. Warmth and Lovingness
 - o. Striving and Hard Work
 - p. Love of Knowledge

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, January 25 at 7:00PM (CST) via Zoom—
Between Two Moons by Aisha Abdel Gawad [fiction]

Thursday, February 22 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]

Thursday, March 28 at 7:00PM (CST) via Zoom—A
Full Life: Reflections at Ninety by Jimmy Carter [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

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.

Don't Forget to Feed Me

Thank you for your generous support in December. You went above and beyond and many pets will be grateful.

Your donations 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.

Dharma Friends at All Peoples

Meets Sunday, 6:45pm, Jagers Parlor 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.

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

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Next Courier, Issue #451

Submission Date
Tuesday, January 30, 2024 10am
Send articles to
administrator@allpeopleschurchuu.org