



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.

February 1, 2024

Fort Worth, TX

Number 451

President's Message

I've been thinking about church life and what that means. We offer a great Sunday morning service with fellowship and food after. Potluck is good food and a chance to talk with different folks—members and visitors alike. Make a point to sit with somebody you don't know well.

What else should the church offer? If there were more adult education groups and classes offered, would you come? When is the best time for a class? Before church, after church, Wednesday night?

Should we organize more social events? We used to have a dinner group called Dinners for 9 where different folks would host a dinner for a group of church members. Would you host a dinner if we got that going again?

A big goal this coming year is building up church operations. But we also want to have more church social life.

Let's hear what you think!

~Dan Sexton, Board President



Spectrum East Winter Concert

Piano Plus...An Evening of Chamber Music
Featuring Jon Lee, 1st Prize Winner 2022 Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition

Monday February 12, 2024 At 7:30pm

Free Admission (Freewill Donations Appreciated)

We're so excited to be joined by Cliburn-award-winning pianist Jon Lee for this evening of chamber music. The program begins with a bit of a nod to Valentine's Day: a beautifully romantic movement of a new piano quartet currently being composed by Yanlin Liu, a composer working on his Doctorate in composition at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. The program continues with Mozart's charming Trio for clarinet, viola and piano known as the "Kegelstatt" Trio. The second part of the program is devoted to Robert Schumann's passionate Trio No. 1 for violin, cello and piano. So that's technically TWO romantic pieces in honor of Valentine's Day.

There will be a free post-concert reception to visit with Jon and the other artists, hosted by All Peoples.

Yanlin Liu—2nd Movement from the Quartet in C Minor for Violin, Viola, Cello and Piano (2024)

Qiong Hulsey, violin

Sorin Guttman, viola

Keira Fullerton, cello

Jon Lee, piano

W.A. Mozart—"Kegelstatt" Trio in E Flat, K. 498 for Clarinet, Viola and Piano

Ivan Petruzzello, clarinet

Dan Sigale, viola

Jon Lee, piano

Robert Schumann—Trio No. 1 in D minor, Op. 63 for violin, cello and piano

Qiong Hulsey, violin

Allan Steele, cello

Jon Lee, piano



Worship Arts News

The Soul Matters monthly theme for February is The Gifts of Justice and Equity and the February Hymn is Guide My Feet. It's a good one, please come and sing with us! 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.

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

Worship With Us This Month!

February 4

Strong Congregations

Daniel Polk

When I said that I have visited more than forty UU congregations, someone asked me what I saw as common elements among them. I'll share some of what I've seen and learned.

Daniel Polk serves as Executive Director of NTUUC—North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations.

February 11

An Infinitely Ordinary Day

Lori King-Nelson, M. Div.

Donella Meadows said, "No one can define or measure justice, democracy, security, freedom, truth, or love. No one can define or measure any value. But if no one speaks up for them, if systems aren't designed to produce them, if we don't speak about them and point toward their presence or absence, they will cease to exist." How do we use our privilege to move toward shared power that brings about justice and equity?

February 18

America Doesn't Need More God. It Needs More Atheists.

Written by Kate Cohen. Read by Laurie Mikitka.

Where atheism becomes a positive belief and not just a negative one is our understanding that, without a higher power, we need human power to change the world.

This essay was adapted from *We of Little Faith: Why I Stopped Pretending to Believe (and Maybe You Should Too)*, by Kate Cohen. Shared with the author's permission.

February 25

White Space and Invisible Ghettos

Lori King-Nelson, M.Div

Elijah Anderson writes, "Since the end of the Civil Rights Movement, large numbers of black people have made their way into settings previously occupied only by whites, though their reception has been mixed. Overwhelmingly white neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, restaurants, and other public spaces remain. Black people perceive such settings as "the white space," which they often consider to be informally "off limits" for people like them." Even as we become a more diverse society studies show that white people continue to maintain "white space," often unintentionally, and do not work toward moving the margins that reinforce the boundaries of what is being called "invisible ghettos." How do we work toward justice and equity in these spaces?



Religious Education News

We are lifelong learners

"We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive.

We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregations, our Association, and society at large."

~UUA Proposed Article II



Our **Soul Matters** theme for February is **Justice and Equity**. 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 February Soul Matters packet. [Email me](mailto:) to receive the packet in email, and we will also have a few hard copy packets available. Or, join the new Soul Matters private facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1112530629923934/>

This group will:

- Have the current and past month's Soul Matters packets available for download,
- Hold space for folks to share about their experiences with the spiritual exercises digging into Justice & Equity
- Share quotes & content related to the theme of Justice & Equity, and hold space for folks to share their thoughts and experiences about Justice & Equity throughout the month.

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.

February 4TH—Gather the Spirit We'll explore myriad ways of expressing spirituality. *This week:* We'll explore noticing one another and listening to each other's experiences as a spiritual practice.

February 11TH—Song Sung Sunday We'll sing and listen to songs, including the story behind the music. This month: Soul Matters theme—Justice & Equity!

February 18TH—Explorations into UU identity or science and the natural world This Sunday: we'll learn about the Sankofa archives at Meadville Lombard Theological School & the Black Power movement in Unitarian Universalism.

February 2024

February 25TH—And Now, for Something

Completely Different We'll nurture a sense of play and joy; important aspects of resilience and spiritual development. Back, by popular demand: **Blanket Forts!!!**

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

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

February 4TH—Unitarian Universalist Ethics We'll discuss ethical frameworks in the What We Choose curriculum and apply our learnings to case studies. This month: Narrative Ethics. How do the particularities of our lives inform the way we make ethical decisions?

February 11TH—Social Justice Sunday We are excited to welcome Emily, one of the mentors who serves the Fort Worth Sudbury School, to speak about progressive education.

February 18TH—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: Body Practices. How does movement support our spiritual lives? Special guest Colleen Brewer will share her experiences with Tai Chi.

February 25TH—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 Justice and Equity.

Trans Inclusion in Congregations course starts Sunday, February 4!

This course, developed by the Transforming Hearts Collective, is generously funded by the Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry. 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. Based on the availability of our facilitators, we plan to meet on the **first and second Sundays of each month beginning February 4 from 1–2:30PM**. Register using this link: <https://forms.gle/fdNBowX4xifPZ7be9>

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

Around the Community

Explore Justice & Equity by participating in one or more of these great community events:

Friday, February 9, 6-8 PM: Repro Shabbat teach-in explores the intersection of reproductive and LGBTQ+ justice, the Jewish take on both, and learn about local efforts to advance these rights. This event is free and all are welcome! RSVP required to join: <https://bit.ly/TXReproShabbat>

Friday, February 23, 8AM-5:30PM: Gathering at the Wellspring hosts Traces of the Trade, a day-long-exploration of how the enslavement and trafficking of Africans and African Americans in the United States from 1619 until the end of the Civil War in 1865 continues to reverberate throughout our nation, our government, and our individual lives. Register for this free event: <https://www.wellspringonmain.org/projects-3>.

Saturday, February 24, 9:30-11:45 AM: Tarrant County V.O.T.E.S and Justice Network of Tarrant County will provide an opportunity to network and to get information about voting and non-partisan voter mobilization, including social media training! Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/democracy-needs-us-now-a-fun-educational-voting-event-for-all-tickets-797413454107>.

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 Two: Values and Morals

III. Islamic values and Qualities

1. The Islamic Personality
 - a. Charitableness, Generosity, and Hospitality
 - b. Consideration and Good Manners
 - c. Brotherliness
 - d. Warmth and Lovingness
 - e. Striving and Hard Work
 - f. Love of Knowledge
 - g. Consideration and Good Manners
 - h. Brotherliness
 - i. Warmth and Lovingness
 - j. Striving and Hard Work
 - k. Love of Knowledge

IV. Islamic Morals and Behavior

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, 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]

Thursday, May 2 at 7:00PM (CST) via Zoom—*The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride [fiction]

CUUPs News

Coming up: Imbolc

February 3, Coleman Hall Doors open at 7pm. Ritual begins at 7:30pm with Potluck Dinner afterwards.

Come join us for our Bardic Circle and feast as we celebrate Inspiration and the act of Creation. We will be working with the Welsh deities Taliesin, Cerridwen, and Manawydan.

Bring with you songs, poetry, short stories, or physical works of creation such as art pieces and handicrafts(knitting, sewing, felting, woodworking, etc) to share the inspiration behind them if they are works of your own or what about them gives you inspiration if they are pieces done by others. Feasting will be done during the presenting stage of the evening.

This is a potluck, so please do bring food as you are willing and able!

Rules for participation for presenting:

- ♣ Any work that is not done by you must be given proper attribution to the original creator, author, or songwriter.
- ♣ Music must be sung, spoken, or played(if an instrumental piece) by the presenter; no recordings of others are allowed to be played. If you have a song but you don't want to sing feel free to speak the lyrics instead, we'll understand and won't judge!
- ♣ AI generated works are not allowed at this event. Works must be created with human intelligence and spirit.
- ♣ Digital works ARE allowed

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.

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.

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 ongoing support of this program!

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.

Courier #451 February 2024

All Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist
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Tuesday, February 27, 2024 10am
Send articles to
administrator@allpeopleschurchuu.org