



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.

March 1, 2025

Fort Worth, TX

Number 462

Spirit Matters

Lori King-Nelson, M.Div

To “keep your heart” amidst life’s chaos means to actively protect your emotional well-being by being mindful of your thoughts, actions, and the influences around you, essentially guarding against negativity and focusing on positive practices like self-care, gratitude, and seeking peace through spiritual practices, all while acknowledging that “keeping your heart” is a continuous effort, especially when facing challenges.

In our crazy, divided, distracted world, our hearts are crying out for peace—peace in our hearts, our bodies, and in our minds. I have had to limit my intake of news—and that includes political and exclusionary posts on social media as well because I can only take so much of the hate and intolerance. I have increased the amount of spiritually mindful time in each day and I am also paying close attention to moments when stress and frustration levels are rising. During those moments of rising negativity, I shut my eyes and try to focus inward, letting my mind repeat the mantra, “Peace in the air I breathe, peace in the soil I stand on, peace in the sounds that surround me. Peace in my heart. Peace in your heart.”

This usually hits the reset button for me but sometimes we are called to help others “keep their heart” too because what is going on personally and globally can be too much to bear. Sometimes we are called to BE that mantra for others. We can be the peace in the air they breathe, be the peace in the soil they stand on, the peace in the sounds that surround them. We can share the peace in our heart so they can regain peace in theirs.

I encourage you to “keep your heart” during the rough days and months ahead. There will be times when you don't have the bandwidth to help others do the same and someone else will need to step up--that is what our community is for—we share the responsibility of loving one another through our joys and sorrows and fears.

As always, my office door remains open and I invite you to come sit in silence whenever you need.

*Peace in my heart, peace in your heart,
Lori*

Worship With Us This Month!

March 2

Trusting the Love That Guides Us

Lori King-Nelson, M.Div

The world has lost its way. It is so clear to see chaos, hate, and greed growing rapidly, while fear among marginalized populations rises to critical levels. Can we really protect others and transform lives with just our love?

March 9

Remembering the Pandemic:

Five Years of Covid-19

Rosalyn Hunter

March 16

When Trusting Your Curiosity Leads to Dancing

Kendra Weddle, PhD

When we get mired down in the demands and struggles of life, it can become easy to stifle our curiosity and live life on the surface, rarely going deeper. In this sermon, I explore a well-known New Testament parable and find there an invitation to follow our quest for adventure, to seek knowledge from all corners, and to celebrate together what we find.

March 23

The Church's One Foundation

Lori King-Nelson, M.Div

The Church, in its many forms, has both struggled and flourished across history. What our forgetful hearts must remember is that love is the Church's one foundation. As a people who base all words and actions on love we need to hear our foundational covenant again and again if we are to ever make our beliefs a reality.

March 30

Singing a Song of Joy

Lori King-Nelson, M.Div

Singing will remain rooted in suffering forever. The most beautiful and enduring songs were born of suffering and sung in faith—trusting that their song of sorrow would one day become a song of joy.

Religious Education News

We are lifelong learners

Children and Youth Religious Education News

Children and Youth Religious Education follows a 4-week rotating format beginning after the story for all ages (roughly 12:15pm) until 12:30pm. We are now doing *Lego VALUUES*.

3/2—Lego ValUUes with Rain Brady

3/9—Song Sung Sunday with Jacob Green & Dean Patterson

3/16—Youth Service Day

3/23—Explorations

Children & Youth RE cannot be possible without the help of volunteers, we ask that volunteers give just one Sunday to help our children and youth build essential faith foundations. To find out more about volunteering, please contact Rain Brady at AllPeoplesRE@Gmail.com.

Nursery

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

Other news

We are now live with our new communication platform, Remind. You can opt in to receive texts for all things RE related here: <https://www.remind.com/join/f683gh>

If you are interested in volunteering to help Family Style RE, please fill out this form here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/17Rw17-svPbXa71oe_y_1pht8ulP_SoJdrn4In9vZF1o/viewform?edit_requested=true

Rain Brady, RE Coordinator, allpeoplesre@gmail.com

Adult Religious Exploration News

All sessions will be held in Jagers Parlor, unless a conflict arises.

3/2 (9:45am)—The *Less Me, More We* series continues, hosted by Colleen Brewer. This week's topic will be *Commitment, Connection, and Play*.

First, we will examine our commitments to our church community: our level of accountability for our church commitments, and how those commitments relate to the other commitments in our lives. Then we will take a look at the value of play/social activities in making our church members a more cohesive group.

3/9 (12:30pm)—Discussion of *Texas Tough: The Rise of America's Prison Empire*, by Robert Perkinson, hosted by Joel Bailey and Jane Collins. This week we will discuss Chapter 6: "Best in the Nation".

3/16 (9:45am)—*Facing Death with Life* series, hosted by Julia Sexton

Suicide and Right To Die

"We cannot tear out a single page of our life, but we can throw the whole book in the fire."

~George Sand, 19th century novelist

This workshop focuses on two related topics, both emotionally charged, but in different ways. Suicide and suicide prevention is one topic. The right of terminally ill people to die in the manner and time of their own choosing is the other. Through videos, print resources, journaling, and sharing, participants explore their own experiences and feelings. Together participants connect the issues to their Unitarian Universalist faith.

3/23 (9:45am)—*Journeys* is hosted by Laurie Mikitka in a small-group-ministry style format. Addressing a suggested topic (usually not announced in advance), we will take time to engage our individual spiritual lives, hear each other's stories and build deeper connections with one another.

3/30 (12:30pm)—Mary Kirwin and Jane Collins will give a presentation on Unitarians in Romania, reporting on some of their experiences in Romania last year.

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, March 20 5 at 7:00PM (CST) via Zoom—*Go as River* by Shelley Read [fiction]

Thursday, April 24 at 7:00pm (CST) via Zoom—*An Edible History of Humanity* by Tom Standage [nonfiction]

Tai Chi Class

Tai Chi class is currently meeting at 1:00 PM Friday afternoons, in the church sanctuary. Everyone is welcome. If you have questions, contact [Colleen Brewer](mailto:Colleen), or just show up and try it.



President's Message

Even though it has barely started, this has already been a challenging and sometimes frightening year. We have seen threats to the basic rights of ourselves, our friends, and our neighbors. But no stroke of a politician's pen can change our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of our fellow man. For this reason, it is more important than ever that each one of us continues to support this congregation, so that we can serve as a beacon of liberal, compassionate ideals, a lighthouse to spread the message that the way to go forward is through love not hate.

Recently, we hosted a fundraising concert for the North Texas TRANSportation Network which raises money to give travel grants to trans persons who must travel out of state to get treatments that they have been denied where they are living. Over two-hundred people packed into our church to support this cause. We will continue to act in ways that help support and protect the vulnerable in our communities.

As we approach our annual Stewardship drive, I ask each of you to think of what you personally could contribute of your time, skills, or funds to help us enhance our mission to make this state a safe and loving place for all.

~Rosalyn Hunter

Board president of All Peoples Church UU

Board Goals 2025

This year the church board named three goals we would like to focus on in 2025.

- 1. Building a stronger community.**
We hope to help foster deeper connections between our members, friends, and guests as well as between our church and the surrounding communities that we are a part of.
- 2. Foster a sense of reciprocity, responsibility, and commitment among our members.**
More than ever, we should focus on being respectful and kind to each other.
- 3. Maintain a safe and secure building.**
We plan to work on security policies in case of fire or emergency, and keep the building clean, and well maintained.



March 2025

Service—11am Sunday



Notes From Our Recent Meeting About ICE and Our Church

New executive orders have struck down the former ruling that immigration officials are barred from searching and detaining immigrants in Churches, Schools, and Hospitals. This means that churches are no longer a place of safety for people in our communities.

In February, a group of members and citizens met to discuss how we at All Peoples Church UU would respond if challenged by Immigration officials at our church.

First, we decided that we **OPPOSE** the ruling that churches can no longer be a place of sanctuary. We oppose the concept of taking people from a place of worship to be incarcerated, so we will resist this ruling to the extent that it is possible to safely do so. Although we can not legally stop officials if they have a valid warrant from entering the building, we can stick to the letter of the law and make sure that all people are informed so that they can act as needed.

Our suggestions are **1.** Do not volunteer information on the immigration status of any member, friend, or guest. **2.** Make sure that any immigration official wishing to search the building can show proper ID and a valid warrant signed by a judge. **3.** Inform everyone in the church as soon as ICE enters the building. (We have walky-talkies to make this quick) giving time for those concerned to exit before the search. **4.** Close the doors to private areas, offices, classrooms, etc. Requiring them to have a warrant to search these places. **5.** Record and document everything they do. (Use your phone.) **6.** Feel free to sing! (A protest song not only raises spirits, but can be used as a signal that it is time to sneak out the back door).

Since our doors are open to all on Sundays, it is important that we have sufficient greeters in case we are raided then. If you are willing to help man the doors, please contact Karl or Jo Burnham.

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.

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 on Saturdays and join our social crafting group. Newcomers are always welcome. We meet on the every Saturday in Jagers Parlor from 12:30PM until 2:30PM.

Don't Forget to Feed Me

Thank you for your generous ongoing support of this program!

We are currently raising funds with your donations for a sponsorship booth at the annual Hungry Dog Hustle fundraiser. Please see Jo Burnham if you would like to contribute. This is an excellent opportunity to spread the word about All Peoples Church UU and support an important cause.

From Don't Forget to Feed Me:

Community Partner:

DF2FM's annual fundraising event is coming up quickly. We are scheduled to hold our 5k/1m on April 26, 2025, at MUTTS Canine Cantina in Clearfork.

In-kind donations will be used as prizes and/or raffle items at the Hungry Hound Hustle 5k/1mi event, a fundraiser supporting Don't Forget to Feed Me Pet Food Bank, a 501c3 nonprofit and the only pet food bank in North Texas.

Donors, that do not request to be anonymous, will be mentioned on the website, social media, and at the event.

Your contribution will not only add to the excitement of the event but also support our mission: to supply pet food to local agencies in support of pet owners while educating the public about pet food insecurity. By providing pet food for those in need during challenging financial times and increasing awareness, we offer an alternative to surrendering — or worse, abandoning — a family pet. Don't Forget to Feed Me helps to ensure that no pet owner must choose between stay...or go.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maria Koegl, Executive Director



Be sure to check out our Instagram page: [allpeoplesuu](#)

Courier #462 March 2025

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

2025 Board Of Trustees

President, Rosalyn Hunter
Vice President, Available
Treasurer, Tony Collins
Secretary, Stephanie Ryburn
Member-at-Large, Rita Foust
Member-at-Large, Dan Levine
Member-at-Large, Dean Patterson

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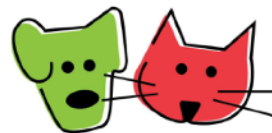
Church Website
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Next Courier, Issue #463

Submission Date

Tuesday, **April 3, 2025** 10am
Send articles to
administrator@allpeopleschurchuu.org



Don't Forget to Feed Me

PET FOOD BANK, Inc.