



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.

September 1, 2025

Fort Worth, TX

Number 465

Spirit Matters

Lori King-Nelson, M.Div

As I opened my computer, preparing to write my column for the September newsletter, a BREAKING NEWS banner popped up on the screen. A mass shooting had occurred at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis, MN. Seventeen wounded, two children dead. One of the doctors treating the wounded said the hospital was stretched thin because there had been another mass shooting just hours before and staff was still caring for those victims.

Then, just as we are all grappling with the heartbreak of this, it was announced that the shooter was transgender and certain leaders were calling for all trans people to be rounded up, detained, and studied—just like they did with the young white men who represent 99.9999999% of all mass shootings. Oh, wait. They never rounded up, detained, and studied those folks.

There has been much to be anxious about and weep over recently and we can be tempted to stop looking for the good in the world and in others. We absolutely must resist that urge because our love and our connection with others is needed now more than ever.

I am reminded of the words by Steven Kalas, “I can’t prove that being human matters, but I’ve decided to live as if it does.” Being human demands of us that we act in a loving way; seeing the divine in others and in ourselves. Being human also demands of us that we respond to the tragedies and difficult times with compassion, strength, and love. We are stronger together and can move through these times because we have each other to help carry the weight of grief, fear, and loss.

On Saturday, August 16th Rita Vinson, Bob and Peggy Portman, and Patrick Gutierrez brought us an in-depth look back at the assassination of JFK and the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby. Every person in the room (those old enough to remember) shared their memories of those days, that dark time in US history. People moved through the shock and disbelief together. We shared our compassion and love, and our strength with others and they shared theirs with us and we made it through. Together. We can do that now, today. I encourage each of you to share your perspectives on trans people and back that up with facts in order to help create a safe and honest space for our trans siblings. Please consider joining the discussion group Trans Inclusion In Congregations beginning September 21 after church. Understanding is more important than ever.

Our theme for September is **Building Belonging**. That is so appropriate for the times we are living in. Let’s not be afraid to open our arms wide to let others in. Let’s share our love. Let’s live as though being human matters.

Peace,
Lori

IN THIS CONGREGATION, WE BELIEVE:

LOVE IS LOVE

BLACK LIVES MATTER

CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL

NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL

ALL GENDERS ARE WHOLE, HOLY & GOOD

WOMEN HAVE AGENCY OVER THEIR BODIES

Worship With Us This Month!

September 7

UUism Continues To Evolve—Can You?

**Daniel Polk, Executive Director,
North Texas UU Congregations**

The current political climate and surrounding culture have prompted changes in the UUA, and we don't know how things will be even next year, much less in the next decade. Will you be part of the process or do you want to keep things the way they are or have been?

September 14

Trans America

Lori King-Nelson, M.Div

Transphobia, which is the fear, hatred, or prejudice directed toward transgender and gender non-conforming people, is deadly. Transphobia manifests in various forms across American society, including harmful legislation restricting rights and healthcare, discriminatory media portrayals, violence, and daily harassment such as misgendering and exclusion from public spaces. Transgender individuals face increased risks of violence, mental health issues, and economic instability due to these systemic and interpersonal forms of prejudice.

Let's talk about how we can create change that provides safety and instills a sense of belonging for our trans siblings.

September 21

What Butterflies Can Teach US

Sacred Hearth CUUPs

A CUUPs Sacred Hearth service celebrating the autumnal equinox, the migration of monarch butterflies and what their journey can teach us about our own journeys in life.

September 28

O Me! O Life!

Why Belonging Matters

Lori King-Nelson, M.Div

The need for belonging is universal. Belonging enables us to feel confident showing up as our authentic selves while empowering us to access our full range of skills, abilities and potential. We feel a sense of belonging when we feel connected to others, and when we feel that our presence and contributions are valued. And it can come from anywhere — from friends and family, coworkers, members of a community and even through social media. But how is belonging defined by experts? According to Cornell University, the definition of belonging is “the feeling of security and support when there is a sense of acceptance, inclusion, and identity for a member of a certain group.”

Religious Education News

We are lifelong learners

Adult Religious Exploration News

The Adult Religious Exploration (ARE) Committee is delighted to report that our schedule for the 2025-26 Church year is set, with a full compliment of classes, starting with our Inquirers series, beginning **THIS Sunday, September 7**, immediately following worship—or as soon as you've grabbed your lunch, which you can then take with you into Jagers Parlor.

The Inquirers series is designed to introduce Unitarian Universalism, and the workings of this congregation. It is meant for newcomers, as well as folks who may have been around a while and are looking for deeper connection and understanding. We are super psyched to have Alex Runnels leading this group. Alex is a long time UU, who has attended churches across the continent. You will probably recognize them as one of the voices in our fine choir. We are excited to have Alex on the ARE team!

For future weeks you can look forward to the following line-up:

First Sundays:

(No AM programming); *Inquirers “UU History and Values”* 12:20 PM Jagers Parlor

Second Sundays:

Spiritual Practices 9:45 AM Jagers Parlor; *Inquirers “Campus Tour & Orientation”* with guest speaker Patrick Gutierrez 12:20 PM Jagers Parlor

Third Sundays:

UUA's Meet the Moment 9:45 AM Jagers Parlor; (no PM programming)

Fourth Sundays:

Journeys 9:45 AM Jagers Parlor; *Trans Inclusion in Congregations* 12:30 PM Jagers Parlor

As each week approaches, we will publish a little more about the classes. ~Julia Sexton

Child and Youth Religious Education (CYRE)

Our CYRE programing unofficially started on August 31 with a time for them to check in after summer break and we officially start our programing September 7th!

Children's RE is during the service. Children 7-12 years old are encouraged to stay in the sanctuary until the Story of All Ages and then the children will be led out to attend class in the John Adams Room for the rest of the service time. Our classes are going through the Unitarian Universalist values with an emphasis on a different one each month. Each will have a focus on engaging with the value in a different way. (The 1st week is *Lesson and Activities*, the 2nd week is *Music*, the 3rd week is *Crafts*, and the 4th week is *Practical Application*.) **September's value is Justice.**

Youth RE is for those 13-18 and will be after service starting at 12:15 and going until 1:15. We will be going through the Coming of Age program. This involves them walking through what it is they believe, how to practice what they believe, and how that fits within the context of Unitarian Universalism and within the congregation in particular. Due to the time, the youth are welcome to bring a lunch!

If you're interested in having a child in the program, please catch one of our volunteers or a member of the RE committee to sign them up Sunday morning.

We are only able to hold our RE programing because of our amazing volunteers' willingness to give their time and energy. If we don't have two volunteers every class, then class will be canceled for the day. We appreciate your patience as we do our best to follow child safety policies and keep our program running at the highest standard we can. If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out to any member of the RE committee.

Nursery

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

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:

Tuesday, Sep 23 at 7:00 pm (CST) via Zoom—*The Light Eaters* by Zoe Schlanger [nonfiction]

Thursday, Oct 23 at 7:00 pm (CST) via Zoom—*The Ministry of Time* by Kalliane Bradley [fiction]

Thursday, Dec 4 at 7:00 pm (CST) via Zoom—*Lovely One: A memoir* by Ketanji Brown Jackson [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, or just show up and try it.
Board Goals 2025

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!

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. See Jo Burnham or Karl Thibodeaux for more information on how to help.

Help LGBTQ SAVES Cross the Finish Line —Black Tie Dinner Raffle

Thank you to our incredible All Peoples family for helping LGBTQ SAVES get so close to our goal for the Black Tie Dinner Raffle! We're just 5 tickets away from reaching our commitment to sell 20 raffle tickets at \$100 each.

Once we hit that goal, every additional ticket sold will directly support LGBTQ SAVES — 100% of the proceeds come back to us!

Grand Prize: A \$50,000 credit toward the vehicle of your choice from Park Place Motorcars Dallas

Tickets: \$100 each — or 5 for \$600

Get your tickets here: <https://blacktie.org/raffle/lgbtqsaves>

The winning ticket will be drawn on November 8 at the Black Tie Dinner — no need to be present to win!

Thank you again for your continued support. Let's finish strong and exceed our goal together!



Service Auction

All Peoples Service Auction is coming up in late October, early November. We have a nice dinner then auction. Church members offer items and services for the sale. It is a great evening and our biggest church fundraiser.

Think about what you could offer for the auction, a dinner or service, some art you are ready to pass on. Talk to me if you have questions.

Dan Sexton 817 845 9762.

Courier #465 September 2025

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

2025 Board Of Trustees

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

Contact Information

Minister
Lori King-Nelson, M. Div
minister@allpeopleschurchuu.org

Congregation President
Rosalyn Hunter
president@allpeopleschurchuu.org

Caring & Sharing
caringandsharing@allpeopleschurchuu.org

Membership
membership@allpeopleschurchuu.org

Minister Emerita
Rev. Marjorie Montgomery

Church Office
Karl Thibodeaux 817-451-1505
administrator@allpeopleschurchuu.org

Church Website
www.allpeopleschurchuu.org

Find Us On Facebook
www.facebook.com/FirstJefferson

Next Courier, Issue #466

Submission Date

Tuesday, **September 30, 2025** 10am
Send articles to
administrator@allpeopleschurchuu.org