



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, 2025

Fort Worth, TX

Number 468

Spirit Matters

Lori King-Nelson, M.Div

Christmas is widely celebrated as a major religious and cultural holiday, primarily marking the birth of Jesus in Christianity. However, the end-of-year holiday season is also a time when people from many faith traditions, as well as those who are secular, come together to celebrate, reflect, and share in festivities. Respecting the dignity and historical significance of all faith traditions at Christmas is essential for fostering understanding, inclusivity, and harmony in our increasingly diverse communities.

The origins of Christmas are deeply rooted in Christian theology, but its timing and many customs have broader historical significance. December 25th coincides with ancient winter festivals such as the Roman Saturnalia and the pagan celebration of the winter solstice. Over the centuries, Christmas has incorporated (we might also say culturally appropriated) traditions from various cultures, reflecting a history of adaptation and some inclusion.

Dignity is a core value in all major faith traditions. It calls for recognizing the inherent worth of every individual and their beliefs. At the holiday season, respecting the dignity of all faiths means acknowledging that the holiday season holds different meanings for different people. For Christians, it is a time of anticipation. For others, it may be an opportunity to retell the stories of their faith tradition, celebrate family, community, or the changing of the seasons.

In multicultural societies, it is important to create inclusive environments during the winter holiday season. This can be achieved by recognizing and learning about other faith traditions: Understanding the significance of Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali, and other holidays that occur around the same time broadens our perspective and deepens mutual respect. Inclusive celebrations means incorporating diverse symbols, greetings, and customs in holiday events that help everyone feel valued and included. Respecting different practices means understanding that some may abstain from holiday festivities for religious or personal reasons.

Allowing space for these choices is key to honoring dignity.

Open dialogue and education are powerful tools for promoting respect among faith traditions. Schools, workplaces, and communities can encourage conversations about the historical and religious significance of various holidays. Educational initiatives can dispel misconceptions and foster empathy, ensuring that the dignity of all traditions is upheld.

December offers a unique opportunity to reflect on the importance of respecting the dignity and historical significance of all faith traditions. By honoring the diverse ways people celebrate, and by fostering understanding and inclusion, we strengthen the bonds that unite us as a global community. Let this season be a time of genuine respect and appreciation for the rich tapestry of beliefs that enrich our world.

I'll see you and your guests at the Christmas Concert this Sunday.

*Peace,
Lori*

Christmas Day at All Peoples

December 25, 12:00PM, Coleman Hall Join us for a festive holiday potluck. Lori will have a sign up sheet on Sunday. We are still looking to for a volunteer to prepare and bring a main course. Please see Lori this Sunday and let her know if you can help.





Worship With Us This Month!

Soul Matters

All Peoples subscribes to Soul Matters Sharing Circle, a network of Unitarian Universalist congregations who follow the same monthly themes so we can more easily share resources. The worship materials provided each month include liturgy, music and readings on our monthly themes. We also receive spiritual exercises and questions that encourage reflection on daily living and recommended resources that support us as we weave the theme into our daily lives.

Our theme for December is ***Choosing Hope***. The Worship Arts team encourages you to take a look at the resources you can use to deepen your spiritual practice by accessing this link: https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/uploads/9/4/5/0/94501751/sm_2025-12_sg_choosing_hope.docx

December 7

Finding Hope

Lori King-Nelson M Div

December 14

A World in Wintertime

The All Peoples Church Choir

Under the direction of Joshua Jordan

Worship and our annual choral presentation to celebrate the Christmas season and winter holidays. With an emphasis on light, hope, and community we'll sing a mix of traditional holiday carols, classical and contemporary arrangements, maybe a folk song, too. Come One, Come All! You don't want to miss this special music service.

December 21

All I Want For Christmas

Lori King-Nelson M Div

Christmas morning will arrive, with all of the anticipation and fanfare—there will be presents and family gatherings and so much food! But not everyone will experience the joy of the season. If you could have only one thing this Christmas, what would you choose?

December 24

Christmas Magic

Lori King-Nelson, M Div

A candlelight Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols.

December 28

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



President's message

This year, All Peoples Church has focused on community, fostering connections between members, and our surroundings. We have done so with Movie Matinees, paint parties, community activism, and after service coffee hours. We hope the friends you make in church each week will help make your life better.

As the new year comes, we will be focusing on Service, and new ways to make the church a more important part of our community. In March we will be hosting a meeting of the organization NTUUC which includes members from local North Texas UU churches. We also plan to discuss Child Religious Education at All Peoples. To remember what things worked for us, and what we can offer to the families with young children who attend here.

I hope that we can work together to make a community that is more accepting and nurturing. A community that can more fully serve the spiritual needs of all our members. To you and yours, I wish all of you a happy holiday.

Rosalyn Hunter

*President of the Board of Trustees,
All Peoples Church UU*

Everyone is Welcome in Our Groups!

Book Discussion Group

All Peoples Book Discussion Group meets the 4th Thursday of the month via Zoom. We love reading all types of books. We welcome new members and/or suggestions of books to read. For information, contact Ana Evans 817-939-2763.

Upcoming Titles:

Thursday, Jan 22 at 7:00PM (CST) via Zoom—*The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon [fiction]

Thursday, Feb 26 at 7:00PM (CST) via Zoom—*Revenge of the Tipping Point: Overstories, Superspreaders, and the Rise of Social Engineering* by Malcolm Gladwell [nonfiction]

Thursday, March 26 at 7:00PM (CST) via Zoom—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain [fiction]

Women's Alliance

Women's Alliance meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Please see Laurie Mikitka for info.

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.

Sacred Hearth CUUPs News

CUUPs stands for Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans. CUUPs celebrates many traditions and philosophies with god/dess-based, earth-centered, tribal and Pagan spiritual paths. We are a diverse theological community open to those in alignment with Unitarian Universalist purposes, values, and principles. CUUPs honors diversity and respect for all.

"Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature."

Unitarian Universalism honors the beautiful tapestry of religious diversity including Pagan spiritual traditions, EcoSpirituality, and the many expressions of nature or Earth centered spirituality.

"Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

The tenants and values of Unitarian Universalism invite us to open our hearts to the sacredness of our planet and our relationship with the world. The inclusion of a Pagan and Earth relating and centered theo/alogy like all others is debated, discussed, and celebrated.

We meet are every 2nd Saturday for Picnic with the Pagans and every last Sunday after service for our business meeting. We are a growing group and encourage the curious and devoted to join!



Don't Forget to Feed Me

Thank you for your generous ongoing support of this program! With the current spike in food bank needs, your support is appreciated more than ever.

Just a reminder this Sunday is Don't Forget to Feed Me Sunday! Jo and Karl will be collecting donations and we will also have a table set up in the foyer. DFTFM is focusing on trying to keep pets in homes for the holidays. They have had an anonymous donor step forward with a \$5,000 matching gift for their year end goal!

Art for All Peoples

I'm sorry I couldn't be there this past Sunday, but will be in the lobby on the 14th, with some new pieces. I'll also have 5x7 prints, framed and unframed, of some of the pieces in Coleman, and some you've not seen before.

My art genre is bricolage. which is the creating something from materials at hand – it's recycled art, but if you use a fancy French word you can charge twice as much, right? The word derives from the verb bricoler, to putter, and shares roots with the term bric a brac; there's also French home improvement store is named Brico Marche'. See you on Sunday!

*Cursed with a Creative Mind
Daniel Banker Tennyson*



Courier #468 December 2025

All Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist
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Next Courier, Issue #469

Submission Date

Tuesday, January 6, 2025 10AM

Send articles to
administrator@allpeopleschurchuu.org

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