



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.

April 10, 2026

Fort Worth, TX

Number 470

Spirit Matters

Lori King-Nelson, M.Div

Peace has been on my mind lately. Peace has been on most everyone's mind, I'm sure. Every story in the news is filled with bombs, threats, hateful rhetoric, anger, and more anger and we cry out into the world, when will this end? We feel helpless

Social Worker Melody Wilding writes in her blog, The Post-Grad Survival Guide, that she decided to ease some of her anxiety about world events by taking up yoga. She arrived at her first class and spent the next hour feeling awkward and self-conscious, her mind swirling with judgmental thoughts and non-stop comparisons to the other, more advanced students around her. Melody's instructor sensed the struggle and came over to her, quietly whispering, "Showing up is the hardest part. Your job is to keep coming back to the mat and starting fresh each time."

She goes on to say, "These words sum up the mindfulness concept known as Beginner's Mind, which refers to approaching situations with an attitude of openness and curiosity. It's based on a Zen teaching that explains, "In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities, in the expert's mind there are few."

Beginners Mind can help us approach the world, our world, with fresh eyes and allows us to move away from uncontrollable and unrealistic expectations. The result is a growing ability to see new and workable possibilities, new ways to feel more in control of our surroundings.

I want to leave you with a prayer by Steve Garnaas-Holmes with the hope that it breathes calm into our chaotic worlds.

Merciful One,

*give me grace to be mindful today
of your constant, loving presence.*

Give me wisdom to listen for your voice.

*Open my heart to your glory in everything,
your light in everyone,*

even those who do not see it.

Remind me everyone I meet is struggling.

*Help me to see with clear eyes,
without judging or reacting.*

*Help me to be patient with weakness
and forgiving of myself and others.*

*Nudge me to learn from every mistake,
to be courageous in the face of fear,
to seize every chance to show love.*

*Ever-present Love, keep me mindful this day
of your mysterious grace,*

*your goodness and mercy that shadow me
all of my day and through the night.*

Amen.

Grace and Peace,

Lori



Worship With Us This Month!

April 12

Choosing To Stay

Kendra Weddle, Ph D

In times like these, we still have the power of choosing, of being open to what it means for us to be fully human.

April 19

Sometimes the Best You Can Do

The Reverend David Grebel

There is so much energy in anger and fear. And, like a raging fire, it must go somewhere, it cannot be contained. We can allow the fire of our anger to burn us out. Or we can creatively channel it into actions that bring life.

Rev. Grebel spent 30 years in higher education serving for the final 23 years as Director of Extended Education for Texas Christian University. With 23 years of pastoral experience he recently completed a tenure as the pastor for the interim at Celebration Community Church in Fort Worth. He also served for 13 years as Broadway Baptist Church's Agape Meal pastor for persons experiencing homelessness.

April 26

Planting the Seeds of Peace

Lori King-Nelson, M Div

Emotionally surviving in today's anxious world requires shifting focus from uncontrollable threats to actionable present choices and cultivating a growth mindset. By accepting uncertainty as normal, breaking large challenges into small steps, and practicing self-care, individuals can build resilience and discover opportunities within the unknown. What happens when we embrace the possibility that we can't change everything in the world?

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 April is **Embracing Possibility**. The Worship Arts team encourages you to take a look at the resources you can use to deepen your spiritual practice please contact Julie Hevelone for more information.

President's message

As the Spring flowers push up through the earth to bloom and lighten our day, it is time for us to start thinking of how we can be of use to our community. First, some good news. UUA national has partnered with an insurance company, and by using all UUA churches as one risk group, we hope to spread out the risk and get insurance for our church again after our last insurance company left. This is in progress, and hopefully will be up for the next fiscal year.

We still need volunteers to help with teaching youth. Our group is super small now, but we hope that it will grow as long as we keep having children's RE available. Our hope is to hire someone to help for next year. We can talk more about that at the May congregational meeting.

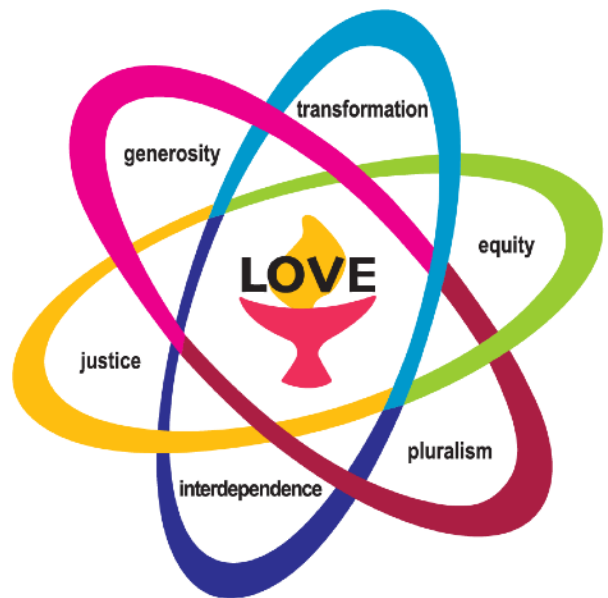
I'd also like to remind you that we do have gardening space in the back of the church if you are longing to plant your own flowers or vegetables but don't have space. Talk to Joel for more information.

Last I would like to remind you to please send in those pledge forms. None of our plans will work without some idea of how much we can afford. So, even if you aren't sure of the exact amount, send in an estimate as soon as you can so we can make decisions.

Spring doesn't last forever, so step outside and get some sun and rain, and don't forget to give yourself a chance to smell the flowers. Hoping that you have a Joyful month!

Rosalyn Hunter

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



Religious Exploration

Adult Religious Exploration

Adult Religious Exploration is excited to add two new series to our afternoon lineup.

#1) With the conclusion of the *Inquirers* series, we invite you to join host Patrick Gutierrez following Worship and potluck each **First Sunday at 12:40 for *Beyond Inquirers***. This series builds on the overview of the *Inquirers* series, delving deeper into who we are as Unitarian Universalists and how we do church.”

#2) *What is Paganism?* Do you find yourself hearing that word and wondering what it is? Interested in Paganism but don't know where to start? Every second Sunday after Worship Ivolin Thorn will be hosting a Paganism 101 class where we discover what Paganism is and what it encompasses. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join. This will be a lecture style class as opposed to a discussion group.

We continue to meet on 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sunday mornings at 9:45AM for discussions on *Spiritual Practices* with Stephanie Ryburn, *Bible Literacy for UUs* with Julia Sexton, and *Journeys* with Laurie Mikitka, as well as 4th Sunday afternoons for *Transgender Inclusion In Congregations* with Lori King-Nelson. **All sessions in Jagers Parlor unless otherwise noted.**

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, April 23 at 7:00 pm (CST) via Zoom—*Wild Thing: A life of Paul Gauguin* by Sue Prideaux [nonfiction]

Thursday, May 26 at 7:00PM (CST) via Zoom—*James* by Percival Everett [fiction]

Women's Alliance

The Women's Alliance will be meeting for a brown-bag lunch on Tuesday, April 14 at noon at the church. Join us for community and conversation. Our trip to the Botanic Garden has been cancelled so we will just be meeting for our lunch time gathering.

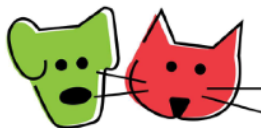
Crafters Group Welcomes All

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.



Time to Test Your Cinema Knowledge

Join James Wright and a cast of thousands for a fun Movie Trivia Quiz on Saturday, April at 3:00PM in Jagers Parlor. *And yes there will prizes!*



Don't Forget to Feed Me

PET FOOD BANK, Inc.

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! We will be collecting donations at our donation table set up in the foyer. **We have almost reached the goal for our sponsorship level for the upcoming Hungry Hound Hustle—please help us keep pets fed and at home with their owners.**

Sacred Hearth CUUPs News

We are excited to announce that we are planning on having 7 more rituals this calendar year including a Yule service this December as well as a Paganism 101 ARE class every second Sunday after service! If you know anyone that is interested or would be interested let **Ivolin Thorn, Andrew Fields, or Charlotte Bailey** know so that we can let them know about the amazing community we have here!

~Sacred Hearth CUUPs



Social Media Team Would Love to Hear from YOU!

Do you have an event you want advertised? Want to organize a social justice event but don't know how to spread the word? Look no further than your local **APC Social Media Team!** Please send all requests to socialmedia@allpeopleschurchuu.org and we work to not only advertise on our church's FB page but also our website.

We ask that you include the following information in your email:

- ⊕ Title of event, club, etc.
- ⊕ Date and time (if using church please verify with our rental calendar before scheduling to avoid any potential conflicts)
- ⊕ A summary of what people can expect to do/see/participate in.
- ⊕ Do you want this to be advertised publicly, only on the private group, or both.

In the past few months we have seen an uptick in content engagement and daily views, as well as follows. We are so excited to see how well we are able to help drive our shared values within the greater Fort Worth and western Arlington areas and even further!

~Ivy Thorn and your APC Social Media Team

Crossroads

Crossroads is All People's new Young Adult group!

Thanks to the amazing Alex Runnels we have a Discord server dedicated to our communication. If you know any one between the ages 18-39 get them in contact with Ivy or Alex so that we can continue to add to our numbers.

~Ivy Thorn and Alex Runnels (Co-leads)

Spectrum Turns 40 This Year!

To all those who have enjoyed Spectrum Concerts over the years, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the incredible gift of music that all these amazing musicians have provided for our church...wait, gift, but I've always made donations at the concerts.

Yes, the musicians have accepted our donations with humble gratitude but we should still look at what they have provided in return as a beautiful gift. No one has ever been turned away from a Spectrum Concert for lack of funds and the musicians have always delivered—out of love of what they do, the joy of sharing their music and appreciation for our enthusiastic support and beautiful venue. They have delivered with the same enthusiasm and professionalism irregardless of attendance or donations received. It has truly been a very generous gift.

Monday's (April 13, 7:30pm) concert will be a celebration of that 40 year commitment to our church and its members, so please consider joining us in expressing our gratitude for what they have given us. This is one time when your presence would be so greatly appreciated. Our own Sunday pianist, Misha will be playing—and yes, there will be cake.

Freewill donation really does mean just that—freewill and donation. Please do not ever let a lack of funds keep you from enjoying these concerts. Everyone involved believes firmly that the most important thing is to have an appreciative audience to share their music with. If you can contribute something, do so, either before or after (yes, you can even listen first and then decide if it was worth anything) and if you aren't able to donate this time, come in with your head up, sit down and enjoy the peace, comfort and joy that music can bring.

See you there!



Allegro Primavera

Celebrate 40 years of Spectrum with a program that includes Shostakovich's masterful Piano Quintet and spicy Tango music! Come for the music, stay for the post-concert celebration (oh, yes, there will be cake).

Quartettino for Clarinet and String Trio—Rezső Kókai

- I. Sonatina: Allegretto moderato
 - II. Scherzino: Allegro assai
 - III. Canzonetta: Andante moderato, sempre molto rubato
 - IV. Finaletto: Presto
- Ivan Petruzzello (Clarinet), Nikayla Kim (Violin), Donna Hall (Viola), Laura Ospina (Cello)

Piano Quintet in G minor—Dmitri Shostakovich Op. 57

- I. Allegro
 - II. Fugue: Adagio
 - III. Scherzo: Allegretto
 - IV. Intermezzo: Lento
 - V. Finale: Allegro
- Mikhail Berestnev (Piano), Nikayla Kim (Violin), Izumi Lund (Violin), Dan Sigale (Viola), Keira Fullerton (Cello)
- ¡Espectro de Tango!**
Nikayla Kim (Violin), Izumi Lund (Violin), Colin Garner (Viola), Keira Fullerton (Cello), William Clay (Double Bass)

Let's Get to Know Each Other Better

*It's time to renew our practice of stories about newcomers, venerable members and staff. What better way to begin than starting with our Minister, **Lori King-Nelson!***

Story by Claire Morgen

Our new minister, Lori King-Nelson was born and raised right here in Fort Worth, however, she has lived many other places. Ministry was not on her list of career ambitions during her youth. Her religion was the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) She has had an interesting life journey, which led to returning to her hometown and finding a home in Unitarian Universalism!

Lori King met Rob Spindle in the ninth grade and they soon became best friends. She married him at 16, after Rob joined the U.S. Navy to gain her father's permission for the marriage. They moved to Orlando, Florida, where the family soon included two children, Bo and Angie. While her husband embraced his Navy career, Lori worked and started college. As her military family moved around frequently, it was difficult for her to complete a degree. Online courses were not an option at the time.

The family was deployed to various Navy and Marine Corps bases including Florida, Virginia, North Carolina, California and Japan. Lori found North Carolina beautiful, but life in the Marine Corps town of Jacksonville was pretty boring. She worked as a bartender (the only job available) and volunteered in the school, but her favorite distractions were fishing and camping. They were then supposed to have an assignment in Gaeta, Italy, but a hunting accident that left Rob recovering from a gunshot wound to the neck, caused a delay. Then the Iran hostage crisis put a stop to sending military families overseas. So Lori never got to Italy. She and the children spent the next 18 months in Fort Worth while Rob was deployed.

They did, however, eventually get to the Naval Air Station in Alameda, California where the family spent long weekends hiking in the redwoods and camping in Yosemite. Lori recalls it as a magical time. From there they were assigned to the Marine Corps Air Station in Iwakuni, Japan, just south of Hiroshima on Honshu's Inland Sea. Lori speaks fondly of this move and how they all enjoyed the people and culture of Japan. They relished three and a half years there in the 1980s.

Unfortunately, when they returned to the States, Lori and Rob decided to part ways and underwent an amicable divorce. Lori came back to Fort Worth, returning to college and earning an associate degree from Tarrant County College. She then attended



Texas Wesleyan University where she earned a bachelor of science in comparative religious studies. She was strongly drawn to social justice, but still not interested in becoming a minister. She felt her calling was outside church walls. She did eventually attend Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University and graduated with a Master of Divinity degree. She had several internships within the Disciples of Christ. During this time, Lori met and married Jerry Nelson and had two more children, Dmitri and Perry. This marriage also ended in an amicable divorce.

For the four years previous to becoming our “part time” minister, Lori worked at a job that satisfied her passion for social justice. The Dallas Furniture Bank (DFB) provided beds for children who are in need—whether it's from transitional homelessness, domestic violence, disaster or other circumstances. DFB had been in operation since 2003 but struggled to satisfy the growing need generated by the Covid pandemic. Lori as general manager, with the help of her three sons, was able to grow the nonprofit to a staff of 10 employees and had funding to provide 100 children per month with a bed in which to sleep while she was in charge.

And for the last 10 years, Lori provided Sunday services to churches as needed. Dr. Kendra Weddle, who often speaks at our church, suggested she give her name to our worship committee, and Lori frequently conducted Sunday services here. Then an amazing affinity occurred. She grew to like what Unitarian Universalism offered. Likewise, church members responded to Lori and her sermons very positively. When All Peoples Church UU finally had enough pledges to fund a half-time minister, the position was offered to Lori and she accepted. She now devotes her full attention to our church.

Lori's personal plans for the future are to become an accredited, ordained UU minister—not an easy task. She will also continue to grow her nonprofit, Our Mortal Earth, which supports conservation and immigration justice in West Texas.

Continued on next page

from previous page

Lori's hopes for All Peoples Church are quite expansive.

- Lori would like to see a 10-15 percent growth per year in membership. She says, "Our members work so hard to make magic happen. It would be nice to have more hands to share the wonderful things this church offers."
 - She works closely with our Youth Religious Exploration leaders to find ways to bring in more youth, since we have a lot to offer but need more youth programs to showcase it.
 - Lori suggests having Community/Nights Out to show our neighbors some love, saying that this is the key to making ourselves known in the neighborhood. "Invite the neighbors over and let them in on the best-kept secret in town."
 - Lori feels we should work closely with NTUUC (the North Texas UU Council) to ensure that more UU events are held at All Peoples Church UU.
 - And finally, "It's so important to me to get to know each of our members personally." Last December she said, "Looking at the new year, I'd like to start visiting each member and learn more about them and their hopes for All Peoples Church."
- Perhaps she has had one of these meetings with you by now. If not yet, when Lori calls you, be sure to invite her over!

Calendar

Sun Apr 12, 2026

9:45am Spiritual Practice [Jaggers Parlor]
11am Worship Service [Sanctuary]
12:40pm Paganism 101 [Jaggers Parlor]
3pm DFW Support Group [Library]

Mon Apr 13, 2026

7:30pm Spectrum Chamber Music 40th Anniversary Concert [Sanctuary]

Tue Apr 14, 2026

11am Women's Alliance [Library]

Wed Apr 15, 2026

Tax Day
7pm Choir Rehearsal [Choir Room]

Sat Apr 18, 2026

12:30pm Crafters Group [Jaggers Parlor]
1:30pm Spring Paint Party [Library]
3pm Movie Quiz [Jaggers Parlor]

Sun Apr 19, 2026

9:45am Bible Literacy [Jaggers Parlor]
11am Worship Service [Sanctuary]
1pm Board of Trustees Meeting [Jaggers Parlor]
1:30pm Sudbury School Open House [RE Wing, Parlor, Coleman Hall, Kitchen]
3pm DFW Support Group [Library]

Wed Apr 22, 2026

7pm Choir Rehearsal [Choir Room]

Courier #470 April 2026

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

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Next Courier, Issue #470

Submission Date

Tuesday, April 30, 2026 10AM

Send articles to
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Church Website
www.allpeopleschurchuu.org

Find Us On Facebook
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Sat Apr 25, 2026

12:30pm Crafters Group [Jaggers Parlor]
3pm Wedding [Sanctuary, Coleman Hall, Jaggers Parlor, Library, Kitchen]

Sun Apr 26, 2026

9:45am Journeys [Jaggers Parlor]
11am Worship Service [Sanctuary]
1:40pm Trans Inclusion [Jaggers Parlor]
3pm DFW Support Group [Library]

Wed Apr 29, 2026

7pm Choir Rehearsal [Choir Room]

Sat May 2, 2026

12:30pm Crafters Group [Jaggers Parlor]
2pm Ritual Setup [Kitchen, Coleman Hall]
7pm Beltane—CUUPs Ritual[Coleman Hall]

Sun May 3, 2026

11am Worship Service [Sanctuary]
12:15pm Potluck Lunch [Coleman Hall]
12:40pm Beyond Inquirers [Jaggers Parlor]
3pm DFW Support Group [Library]