



# In Touch

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WICHITA  
FOUNDED 1887

## News From Your Board Of Trustees

- Bonnie Till, President

Do you believe in miracles! I'm beginning to. Shortly after the January Board meeting at which the idea of installing wind and solar power at First UU was discussed, Kent Rowe discovered a Westar Energy Solar Project in conjunction with the EPA being offered to schools, non-profits, and government entities. Simply put, Westar will provide a solar array (on our roof or on our property) and maintain it at no cost to our church—no cost for any of it. The Board is in the process of submitting an application and is hopeful First UU will be selected to participate in this project.

**EcoFest Fundraiser (See Vivien Minshull-Ford's article elsewhere in this newsletter.** The committee is made up of Marcia Ellsworth, Vivien Minshull-Ford, Susan Hund-Milne, Dianne Waltner, and Mary Moore. If you've got a red hot idea, please contact one a committee member.

**One of our UU youth**, Cristin Vitkus, has expressed an interest in attending a UU Summer Seminary at the University of Chicago. The seminary is for UU youth interested in exploring ministry and what it means to be a religious professional. Some of

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## Save This Date! (It's Easy Being Green)

- Vivien Minshull-Ford

Saturday October 11 has been chosen for Eco-Fest 2014, a celebration of Green Living, which will spread awareness of recycling, sustainability, water conservation, organic products and other vital green issues which reflect UU values. In addition, First UU is a "green" community, beginning with design and choice of construction materials, as well as the installation of energy saving appliances.

Eco-Fest planning is in early stages, but there will be vendors, vegan food, music, fun activities for visitors of all ages, crafts (no animal products, of course), as well as useful and entertaining demonstrations. We will also be selling our vegan cookbook, now in preparation.

We are launching an Eco-Fest logo design contest, open to artists in and outside the church. Contest forms will be available on the website, and the deadline will be Friday April 4th, 2014.

So far, those involved are Marcia Ellsworth, Susan Hund-Milne, Dianne Waltner, Mary Moore, and Vivien Minshull-Ford, but we would like more members on the

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## Treasurer's Report

-Anne Bailey

As of January 31, 2014

	Budgeted	Actual
Income	\$ 10,432.16	\$ 9,719.03
Expenses	\$ 10,432.16	\$15,883.10
Net	-0-	(\$ 6,164.07)

Although the month of January shows a loss, church year to date income has exceeded expenses. I would encourage members and friends to continue to make their pledge payments as scheduled. We still need some creative fund raising activities during this fiscal year.

# In Touch

The newsletter of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita is published monthly.

[www.firstuu.net](http://www.firstuu.net)

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The deadline for In Touch and for the monthly calendar is the third Wednesday of each month.

## Chamber Music Concert Sunday March 30

- Carol Neighbor

Save 2:00 in the afternoon on Sunday, March 30 to enjoy our second concert of the 2013-2014 season. Splendid musicians are preparing music for this event: Violin Duo Nancy Johnson and Dominique Corbeil return to our series this time playing "Winter Conversations" composed by Elaine Fine. Marta Prugar, a Polish born violinist who like Nancy and Dominique, also plays in the Wichita Symphony will dazzle us with Polish folk music written by Wieniawski. Carol Neighbor and Greg Golding plan to perform some of your favorite pieces transcribed for recorder and guitar. Any addition to this program will appear in our online updates. A donation of \$10 is suggested. A refreshment time will follow the concert.

*We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: ...*

*A free and responsible search for truth and meaning; ...*

## Recipes wanted for new Cookbook

Vegan recipes are wanted to include in a cookbook for a church fundraiser. The cookbook will include recipes from the previous two cook booklets by the Meatless Monday group as well as info and tips on sustainability and much more! So please send your favorite vegan (no meat, eggs, dairy, or honey) recipes to Dianne Waltner or Susan Hund-Milne via email at [dwaltner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dwaltner@sbcglobal.net) or [susanhm@cox.net](mailto:susanhm@cox.net). Only electronic copies will be accepted.

## The MidAmerica Regional Assembly

-April 11, 12 & 13

- Mike Diggs

The first business meeting of the newly formed MidAmerica Region will be held in Topeka, Kansas at the Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, on Friday April 11 through Sunday, April 13. Early registration is \$175 per adult through March 15 and \$200 through March 31. Registration at the door is \$200 but does not include 4 meals included with preregistration. Hotel reservations can be made online through the region website [www.midamericauua.org/events/regional-assembly/topeka/1587-topeka-ramada-hotel](http://www.midamericauua.org/events/regional-assembly/topeka/1587-topeka-ramada-hotel) or directly with the hotel, at 785-234-5400. Inform the reservation clerk that you are attending the MidAmerica Regional Assembly. The nightly hotel room rate is \$81 plus taxes.

If you are interested in attending and acting as a delegate for First UU, please contact Mike Diggs at 687-6424 to coordinate.

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## News From Your Board Of Trustees

- continued

you may recall, Cristin attended UU Youth Leadership School last summer. She came back fired up and ready to go. Possibly, this summer's seminar will be the next step in growing our own UU minister. Watch out, Unitarian Universalist ministers everywhere! Please consider making a small donation (\$25) to this endeavor. Make your check out to *First Unitarian Universalist Church* and in the memo line write *UU Youth Education Opportunity*.

### By-law Review

Jamie Findling, Board Member and Chair of the By-law Review Task Force, reports the committee is making progress and has completed about ¼ of the review. To date, the committee is dealing with the easy parts like changing Prairie District to MidAmerican Region. The revision of what it means to be a member of First UU will require input from specific church committees (Membership, Covenant, and Stewardship) and *most importantly input from the entire congregation*. The congregation will have an opportunity for input at a time yet to be determined. The intent of the By-law Committee is to complete the revision process in time to vote on the changes at the Annual Meeting in June.

### Covenant Task Force

The members of the Covenant Task Force are Nancy Ross Milner, Del Smith, and Marcia Ellsworth. They have been developing a working definition of a covenant for First UU. The work of this committee will be presented to the congregation, date(s) yet to be determined. An array of opportunities in a variety of venues will help congregants practice skills needed for implementation of the covenant.

### Church Computers

The new computers have been delivered and will be installed as soon as Jack Regehr and the office staff can coordinate schedules.

**MidAmerica Region Meeting in Topeka - April 11-13, 2014 (See Mike Diggs' article elsewhere in this newsletter.)** The Board encourages members to attend.

## Who Was The Reverend James Joseph Reeb?

-Bonnie Till, President

### Biography

James Joseph Reeb was born in Wichita on January 1, 1927. He and his family were Bible-centered Christians. While still in high school, Reeb made the decision to become a Presbyterian minister. In 1953, he achieved this goal upon graduation from Princeton Theological Seminary. The process of evolving from a Bible-centered Christianity to Unitarianism took many paths all of which included living among and serving those in need. In 1957, Rev. Reeb petitioned the Unitarian Ministerial Association (UMA) to become an ordained Unitarian Minister and following a review process was accepted.

### The Call

On Sunday, March 7, 1965, 500 civil rights marchers in Alabama attempted to walk from Selma to Montgomery and were brutally beaten and gassed by state troopers and local police. The next day, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in Boston received a telegram from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, calling for ministers to join him in Selma to help fight for passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Rev. Reeb answered the call and in spite of his wife's

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## First Sunday Lunch: It's Carnival Time!

Wichita isn't known as a famous Mardi Gras celebration city, but that doesn't mean First Unitarian Universalists can't celebrate at least one aspect of the season: festive eating!

Kitchen Maven Magda Garrett (and friends) announce the theme of March's First Sunday Lunch as Mardi Gras! Magda and Friends will serve up New Orleans style Red Beans and Rice, but the rest is potluck style. (Do I hear gumbo?!) Let Magda know what you'll be bringing.

This is not only a time for socializing with our friends, but a fundraiser for the church. First time visitors are always our guests!

See you then!

*We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: ...  
Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our*

## Meet Amanda Diggs

- Marque Payne

Amanda first came to First UU when her mother brought her when she was 8 years old. Soon after that her father joined them and they have been coming ever since. However, Amanda is not still coming just because of the influence of her parents. She says that she loves the openness and non-judgmental acceptance of the people at the church and feels free to be herself there. She enjoys seeing her church friends who are so friendly that she usually doesn't notice if they have beliefs that are different from hers. It doesn't seem to matter to them.

Amanda's mother is pagan and her father is a secular humanist. The pagan ceremonies she experienced as a child helped her to feel closer to her family and to nature, but she was influenced by many Christian practices, and symbols in her early associations as well. These included Christian acquaintances from Girl Scouts and themes of holiday decorations and activities. She did not really comprehend that there was any difference between the pagan and Christian ways until her teens. Suddenly all of the ceremonies of her childhood made sense, and it seemed much more suitable for her and her own personal beliefs to stay with her family's

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*We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: ... Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; ....*

## Dates To Remember:

### March 20 and March 22<sup>nd</sup>:

Dr. Howard Resnick, author, Sanskrit scholar, musician and professor of religious studies, will present two special programs in March. On Thursday, March 20, he will give a lecture, "The Role of Spiritual Practice in Establishing and Safeguarding Social Justice." On Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, he will appear with Jakub Omsky in lecture/concert. Both events were arranged by Rev. David Carter. Time: 6 to 9 PM.

### March 1:

Sunflower Community Action Partners present "Night of Justice: Plan for Unity, A Call for Economic Empowerment," 6:30 PM, Tabernacle Bible Church, 1817 N. Volutsia.

### Month of March:

Paula Moore Photography: First UU's Art Exhibit. Beautiful! Take time before or after service to appreciate this gifted photographer's work. You'll be refreshed and inspired by the beauty! Jim Hammer, Aesthetics Committee, advises there may be a reception honoring Paula. We'll let you know by Facebook, ListServes, UpDates, Website, bulletin board and all available means of communication.





# March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	
2 9:45a Adult RE 11:00 Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p 1st Sun Lunch	3	4 7:00p UU Craft Night	5 6:00p Zen Friends 7:00p Committee on Ministry	6	7	8 8:00a Zen Friends Retreat
9 9:45a Adult RE 11:00 Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Leadership Council	10 6:30p Ethical Eating Vegan Potluck	11	12 6:00p Zen Friends 7:00p Book Discussion 7:00p Worship Comm	13	14	15 7:00p Full Moon Dance
16 9:30a Seeking Circle 9:45a Adult RE 11:00 Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE	17	18	19 6:00p Zen Friends 7:00p Board Meeting (newsletter/calendar deadline)	20 6:00p Resnick lecture 7:00p NOW Meeting	21 11:30a Eclectic Readers Group 6:00p Resnick lecture/concert	22 10:00a Caring Committee 6:00p UU Pagans Ostara
23 9:45a Adult RE 11:00 Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Music Comm	24	25 6:30p New Jim Crow Action Group	26 9:30a Newsletter Mailing 6:00p Zen Friends	27	28	29 6:30p Partner Church Dinner
30 9:45a Adult RE 11:00 Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 2:00p Chamber Music Concert	31					

Every Week at First UU

Adult Religious Exploration, Sunday, 9:45 am - Corey Swertfager, 201-6921

Social Justice Task Force, Sunday, 12:15 pm - Louis Goseland, 204-9972

(exception: when there is other church business, i.e, congregational meetings)

Zen Friends of Wichita, Wednesday, 6:00 pm - Bob Feleppa, 683-9295

Every Month at First UU

Board Meeting - third Wednesday, 7 pm - Bonnie Till, 722-8208

Book Discussion - second Wednesday, 7 pm - Anne Bailey, 943-3861

Caring Committee - fourth Saturday, 10 am - LaRilla Combs, 733-2089

Craft Night - first Tuesday, 7 pm - 440-3097, Amy Geyer

Dinners for Eight - dates vary, Marcia Ellsworth, 688-5352, Sigrid Trombley, 683-7075

Eclectic Readers - third Friday, 11:30 AM, Del Smith, 612-0826

First Sunday Lunch - Magda Garrett, 765-3352

Leadership Council - second Sunday, 12:15, Charles Merrifield, 688-5352

Meatless Monday (Ethical Eating) - second Monday, 6:30 PM, Dianne Waltner, 946-1115

Music Committee, fourth Sunday after church

Newsletter Deadline - third Wednesday, evening - Del Smith, 612-0826

Newsletter Folding - fourth Wednesday, 9:30 AM - Del Smith, 612-0826

Pagan Group - Seasonal ritual and potluck feasting - Kathy Hull, 204-9956, Anne Bailey 943-3861

As announced

Garden Group - Anita Culp, 744-2840

Singles Group Potlucks - Frank Ruf, 650-3842

Who's Who @ First UUOfficers & Board Of Trustees

President - Bonnie Till

President-Elect - Charles Merrifield

Board of Trustees

Anne Bailey

Elaine Edens

Jamey Findling

Magda Garrett

DeeDee Jordan

Nancy Milner

Vivien Minshull-Ford

Co-Treasurers - Anne Bailey & Marsha Diggs

Committee Chairpersons

Adult RE - Corey Swertfager

Buildings/Grounds - Tom Moore

Caring - Jana Rambo and LaRilla Combs

Children's RE - Wendy Haynie-Coxby

Communications - Del Smith

Denominational Affairs - Mike Diggs

Finance/Financial Commitment

- Charles Merrifield

Kitchen Mavens - Magda Garrett

Membership - Anne Bailey

Music - David Brewer

Partner Church - Betty Hensley and

Debbie Wadman

Personnel - Janet Roberts and

Magda Garrett

Social Action - Louis Goseland

Worship - Marsha Diggs

Committee On Ministry

David Brewer, Chair

Marcia Ellsworth

Kathy Hull

Susan Hund-Milne

Lara Pollock

Jana Rambo

Rev. Carter's office hours: Wednesday 11 am to 2 pm and by appointment.

Keep "In Touch" with First UU between newsletters: Weekly Up Dates (contact Anita Culp, Office manager); ListServ (contact Charles Merrifield); Website [www.firstuu.net](http://www.firstuu.net) has links to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Google+ and best of all, attend Sunday Services, 11 am.

## ‘The New Jim Crow’ Discussions Resume

We are beginning a new series of meetings on Michelle Alexander’s book *The New Jim Crow – Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* on Tuesday, March 25 at 6:30 PM at First UU. These meetings will focus on ways we can help focus attention on this problem and reach out to other religious and secular organizations in the community and state. We will also meet on April 22, with future sessions to be scheduled later.

### *Who was The Rev. Reeb, continued*

misgivings joined Dr. King in Selma for a second attempt to walk from Selma to Montgomery. This walk like the first attempt was stopped by the police. That evening in Selma after the failed attempt, Rev. Reeb and two other UU colleagues were attacked and badly beaten. Two days later in a Montgomery hospital, Rev. Reeb died of head injuries. His funeral was held at Browns Chapel A.M.E. Church in Selma. In Dr. King’s eulogy he said of Rev. Reeb, “He was a witness to the truth that men of different races and classes might live, eat, and work together as brothers.”

#### Reeb Memorial Fund and Award

On January 25, 1987, then minister of First Unitarian Church of Wichita, the Reverend Greta Worstell Crosby, established the James Joseph Reeb Memorial Fund. This was done in honor of the centennial year of the church and in memory of Rev. Reeb. The award is given to an organization or organizations active in Wichita in addressing basic human needs including but not limited to: food, clothing, housing, utilities, transportation, employment, education, health care, child care, reproductive freedom, and shelter from domestic violence.

## Healthy Folks Make The Best ...

### Leaders, Committee Members, Poets, Activists, Unitarian Universalists, You Name ‘Ems.

We have some pretty active people in our congregation who care enough about their health to follow a regular regimen. Sheri Barnes is known for her biking routines, locally and Biking Across Kansas adventures.

Some UUs meet every Wednesday in room 201 of Grace Presbyterian Church, 5002 E. Douglas from 11:15-12:45. Bonnie Till, Vivien Minshull-Ford and Diane Wahto get together with some other folks, not to sing hymns, but to share ideas about nutrition, food awareness, motivation, and exercise. Vivien is one of the leaders of this T.O.P.S. group and says each visit is an enjoyable, positive social event, where members care about and support one another. Those initials stand for Taking Off Pounds Sensibly, with weight loss as the group’s main goal. Once a week weigh-ins are incentives. For more information, call Vivien at 683-9295 or Mark Clevenger at 686-1228. (If the east location is out of your way, there are several T.O.P.S. groups in Wichita, including Derby and Bel Aire.)

Rev. Carter’s meditation classes certainly contribute to good health (and there’s one coming up soon in collaboration with UU Suzanna Matthews, as announced on Facebook ).

First UU is bursting with healing activity these days. Healthy congregations need healthy congregants. Thanks to all, named and unnamed, for setting such good examples.

## Are You Keeping Up with Our Website?

Rev. David Carter's sermons are videotaped and posted regularly on our website, thanks to Jack Regehr, webmaster, with the assistance of Marque Payne on the soundboard.

"Our Chosen Faith" blogs are maintained by webmaster Jack Regehr in chronological order. (Eventually there will be an index, as there is for the sermons). Rev. Carter, Louis Goseland, Charles Merrifield, Mary Erickson, Del Smith, and Jamey Findling have posted thus far. Watch for future blogs by Marsha Diggs, Marguerite Regan, Bonnie Till, Peter Ninemire, and Jenny Findling,

Go to [www.firstuu.net](http://www.firstuu.net) and then click on the appropriate tabs for sermons and blogs. But that's not all you'll find on the website. The home page gives basic information, but also has links to Facebook, Google+, Twitter and YouTube. There's a small photo gallery as well, FAQs and lots of information about our beloved community.

## Save This Date, *continued*

planning committee. We welcome questions, ideas, contributors, and volunteers: if you would like to help or have vendor or activity suggestions, call Marcia Ellsworth at 688-5352 and Vivien Minshull-Ford at 683-9295. Susan Hund-Milne, in charge of antiques and collectibles, can be contacted at 664-7387.

## "Not the Sea"

To waltz across a polished hardwood sea,  
 Its color richer still than wood or wine  
 My arms upon a Love who's only mine  
 And, shore forsaking shore, be fearless – free.  
 Oh song, oh step that rises from my soul  
 Without, within; beyond, around, between,  
 Magnificence, for vastness scarcely seen  
 Yet, found and bound within each piece, the whole  
 A fiery gust suspended in a breath  
 Behind an eye, the heart: a wink of light  
 And in a single touch – a dance, a night  
 Forever all at once forgetting death  
 So spin away, return! It well may be  
 That, in a single drop, we hold the sea.

- By Deborah Burnham  
 January 2010

## Hip Hip Hurray!

The word "minister" stems from *ministrare*, Latin meaning "to serve."

So, here's to the ministers among us. Chief and best known, of course, is Rev. David C. Carter, who inspires the congregation, as well as small groups and individuals. Leadership and those who serve on committees, staff members – all are in the ministry of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita.

Today we give our monthly HipHipUUrah shout out to the folks who are the first to greet visitors, members and friends to our church. Regular greeters at the front door are Elaine Edens, Millie Cherryholmes, Deborah Burnham, Vivien Minshull-Ford, Bonnie Till, Jennifer Hess, Janet Roberts, and Susan Hund-Milne. Jennifer Scriven and Porter Marshall take their turn handing out orders of service at the sanctuary door. Susan recruits the volunteer greeters and says we always need more. She likes to have three every Sunday, two at the front door and one to hand out orders of service. Let her know if you'd like to be part of this church ministry.

P.S.: A special thank you to everyone who takes time to visit with someone they don't know, whether before or after Sunday service or at a special event at church. You are a treasured and valued part of the shared ministry of our church.

## March Worship Schedule

- 3/2/14 Claudia Amaro,  
*"Dream 9, The Immigration System is Broken ~ How can we fix it?"* Personal observations from inside the system. Read more here: [www.tucson sentinel.com/local/report/080713\\_dream\\_9\\_released/](http://www.tucson sentinel.com/local/report/080713_dream_9_released/)
- 3/9/14 Imam Luzon Muhammad,  
*"Freedom, Justice, Equality, and Peace: Common Goals of Our Faiths."* A presentation by a local Muslim leader that will examine shared beliefs and goals.
- 3/16 Rev. David Carter,  
*"Spiritual Communism."* Community commitment and how it impacts our lives and our church.
- 3/23 Rev. David Carter,  
*"Margaret Fuller: A Woman Ahead of Her Times."* A continuation of the series on famous UUs.
- 3/30 Various Presenters collaborate on *"Humor Sunday,"* Laughter is the best medicine! Come laugh with us.

## Partner Church Dinner

7 PM, March 29

- By Debbie Wadman

Our church has a long standing partnership with a Romanian church in the rural Transylvanian village of Homorod Szentpal. We support this church with a fund raising dinner each year, after which the money earned is sent to them. In recent years our support has allowed them to put plumbing in their old church building, repair the heater, buy a printer, acquire new playground equipment for the children, and last year, to purchase new choir robes. An ongoing concern is the centuries old church bell; large funds are needed to repair.

Our Partner Church minister, Csaba Todor and his family were here in Wichita to visit us about ten years ago, and it is time we returned the visit to keep this exchange alive and thriving. Committee members Vivien Minshull-Ford and Debbie Wadman hope to travel to Romania this summer and stay with church members for a few days in Homorod Szentpal.

Our annual dinner will be at 7 p.m. on March 29 and features the traditional dishes of chicken paprikash, Hungarian goulash, potato bread, slaw, Apfelkuchen, and libations. The cost is \$15.00 per person, \$10.00 for children under 12. We hope all will support our efforts and enjoy a delicious meal at the same time. In addition, anyone willing to help cook one of the dishes, serve at the dinner, or clean up afterwards, please contact Debbie Wadman, Betty Hensley or Vivien Minshull-Ford. It takes lots of helpers to pull off an effective fund-raiser!

### Meet Amanda Diggs (continued)

faith. Like the First UU Church, her family had allowed her to do her own spiritual exploration. She feels freer and fairly well-rounded in her journey thus far because of this freedom.

Amanda says that most people are surprised to learn that she is adopted. It's hard to guess because not only does she look a lot like her parents, but she really has a lot of her mother's mannerisms as well.

# FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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## From Our Book Reading Groups

### Wednesday Evening Book Club:

Continuing our selections from Michael Durall's suggestions, we will gather on Wednesday, March 12 at 7:00 at the Church to talk about *The Rapture of Canaan* a novel by [Sheri Reynolds](#). The book was chosen as an [Oprah's Book Club](#) selection in April 1997. Adolescent Ninah lives in a strict [fundamentalist Christian](#) community (The Church of Fire and Brimstone and God's Almighty Baptizing Wind) led by her grandfather Herman. The community is governed by a series of strict rules covering everything from drinking to speaking to people outside of the community, with punishments ranging from sleeping on [stinging nettles](#) to spending a night in a grave. You are welcome to join us - please call Anne Bailey, 650-4905 for further information.

### Eclectic Readers Group:

11:30, Wednesday, March 21. *Elmer Gantry* by Sinclair Lewis is the story of an unethical man who is mistakenly ordained as a Baptist minister, becomes an evangelist, then a Methodist minister -- all in all a most unsavory character. On publication in 1927, the book created a public furor. It was [banned in Boston](#) and other cities and denounced from pulpits across the USA. One cleric suggested that Lewis should be imprisoned for five years, and there were also threats of physical violence against the author. The famous evangelist [Billy Sunday](#) called Lewis "[Satan's cohort](#)." *Elmer Gantry* ranked as the number one fiction bestseller of 1927, according to "Publisher's Weekly".

For those who like to read ahead: Doris Kearns Goodwin's *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* is the April selection.

*We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: The inherent worth and dignity of every person: ...*

*"You need not think alike to love alike."*

*- Francis David*