



# In Touch

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WICHITA  
FOUNDED 1887



# **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.

## **The Butterflies**

- Anita Culp

The flower gardens at the church are filled with butterflies this fall. The butterflies that are orange with black spots are Painted Ladies. They especially love the yellow zinnia flowers near the kitchen door. The Great Plains Nature Center reports that the Painted Lady populations have been especially large this year. In late October-early November when the purple asters bloom next to the handicap parking, they will be covered with yellow Sulphurs and silver-blue Eastern Tailed Blues. If you look closely at the silver butterflies you can see two little tails and orange spots on the back edge of the rear wings. It is thought that the antenna-like tails and eye spots fool birds into striking the back end of the butterfly instead of the head.

## **WUUPS: Full Moon and Samhain**

The Wichita UU Polytheists' Society will meet at 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 7, at First UU Church to celebrate the full moon with drumming, chants, and talk. If you have books on Pagan or earth-centered subjects that you are ready to let go of, please bring them for an informal "Swap Meet." We have talked about starting a Pagan/Wiccan section in our church lending library if you wish to donate for that purpose.

Our Samhain celebration will be held on Saturday, November 4 – a little past the actual date, but still appropriate to mark the beginning of our spiritual new year. We will gather for a potluck feast beginning at 6 p.m. followed by an informal ritual at 7. Please bring a generous dish to share. Coffee and tea will be available.

Feel free to call Anne Bailey, 316-650-4905, or Linda Jordan 316-512-6652, if you have questions.



## Caring

- LaRilla Combs

The Caring Committee is the arm of the church that acknowledges events in our members' and friends' lives such as illness, surgeries, and bereavements. We also acknowledge celebratory events such as birthdays, weddings, births and graduations. What touches one of us affects us all. In caring for one another we are cared for.

We send our caring thoughts to Millie Wherritt who fell in her home recently. She is regaining her strength in the Life Care Center on Edgemoor. She welcomes visits from her friends.

Sadly, another church member, Kathleen McGee, is recovering from a fall in her home and is recovering at home from vertigo related to Post-Concussion Syndrome. She tires easily and requests no calls or visits. She would appreciate cards.

A BIG THANK YOU to those who contributed to the Caring Committee Emergency Fund. Our needs are ongoing, so contributions are always welcome.

## Music Committee Notes

- Jana Rambo

The Music Committee has lately begun choir practice for singing at a service in October. The choir continues to need more members, especially tenor and bass voices.

We recently responded to a query about a concert from a singer/songwriter who has played in several UU churches. We will have more info later.

## RE Corner


- Denise Jackson-Simon, DRE

I'm always excited to start the new "church year" in RE, which I correlate with the school year. We've just finished up our summer Sundays, and I'd like to, once more, publicly thank all the congregation members who stepped up and shared a little of themselves with the kids. Those intergenerational experiences are priceless.

After our Goodies and Games Gathering on Sunday, September 24, we kick off Fall with Way Cool Sunday School on October 1. This month, we will focus on respect, responsibility, and character building, (Principles 1, 2, and 5) as we learn fables and their morals. We will look for an opportunity to perform a few short ones for the congregation.

To have the most effective and exciting program, WE NEED YOU HERE. So, parents, please make Sundays at UU a regular piece of your child's busy week. We promise to do our best to make it worthwhile and enjoyable.

# October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 10:00a Choir Practice 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Childrens' RE 12:45p First Sunday Lunch	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 3:30p Membership Committee 6:30p Zen Friends 7:00p UU Craft Night	<b>4</b> 7:00p Committee on Ministry	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:30a Inquirer's Class 7:00p Full Moon Circle
<b>8</b> 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Childrens' RE 12:30p Leadership Council	<b>9</b> 6:30p Big Pharma Film	<b>10</b> 6:30p Zen Friends	<b>11</b> 7:00p Worship Committee	<b>12</b> 7:00p Green Sanctuary Committee	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00a Caring Committee 5:30p Feast of St. John of Blaspheymy Potluck
<b>15</b> 9:30a Seeking Circle 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Childrens' RE 12:20p Social Action Group 4:00p Council of Elders Meditation Class	<b>16</b> 6:00p Vegan Potluck 6:30p Writers Group	<b>17</b> 6:30p Zen Friends	<b>18</b> 7:00p Board of Trustees 11:00p Newsletter and Calendar Deadline	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 11:30a Eclectic Readers Group	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Childrens' RE 4:00p Council of Elders Meditation Class	<b>23</b> 2:00p Movie Group	<b>24</b> 6:30p Zen Friends	<b>25</b> 1:30p Newsletter Mailing	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:30p UU Humanists Dinner and Meeting
<b>29</b> 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Childrens' RE 4:00p Council of Elders Meditation Class	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 6:30p Zen Friends				

**Unitarian Universalist Association Principles**

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

- \* The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- \* Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- \* Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- \* A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- \* The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- \* The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- \* Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

(Adopted by the 1984 and 1985 General Assemblies)

**Who's Who @ First UU****FIRST UU OFFICERS & BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

President – Holly Terrill

President-Elect – Doug Wilson

Board of Trustees – Kathleen McGee, Bonnie Till, Anne Welsbacher, Jana Rambo, Holger Meyer, Joe Lozano, and Lori Young

Treasurer(interim) – Anne Bailey

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Adult RE – Frank Ruf

Aesthetics – TBD

Building & Grounds – TBD

Caring – LaRilla Combs and Jana Rambo

Chalice Lighters Ambassador – Bonnie Till

Children's RE – TBD

Chalice Book Store – Joe Lozano

Communications – Anne Welsbacher

Custodian – Durell Gilmore

EcoFest – Marcia Ellsworth and Vivien Minshull-Ford

Finance – Corey Swertfager

Financial Commitment – TBD

Fundraising – Marcia Ellsworth and Vivien Minshull-Ford

Green Sanctuary – Linda Jordan

Hospitality – TBD

Kitchen Mavens – TBD

Librarian – Nancy Milner

Marketing – Debra Clements

Membership – Bonnie Till

Music – Jana Rambo

Partner Church – Betty Hensley and Debbie Wadman

Personnel – TBD

Program Development – Amy Geyer

Social Action – Sharon Kniss

UUA Denominational Liaison – Mike Diggs

Worship – Anne Welsbacher

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

Charles Merrifield, chair; LaRilla Combs, Linda Jordan, Paula Peare, Rachel Rutledge, Frank Ruf, and Rev. David Carter, ex officio

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Peter Ninemire, Vivien Minshull-Ford, and Rolando Gomez

**GROUP CONTACTS**

Craft Night – Anita Culp

Digerati Buchgemeinschaft – Rolando Gomez

Eclectic Readers – Del Smith

Fourth Monday Movie Group – TBA

Garden Group – Anita Culp and Linda Jordon

Humanist Group – Charles Merrifield

Occasional Book Club – Amy Geyer

Pagan Group – Anne Bailey and Kathy Hull

Writers Group – Amy Geyer

Zen Friends of Wichita – Bob Feleppa and Vivien Minshull-Ford

Minister's Musing:  
Demagoguery Versus *Democracy*\*  
- Rev. David Carter

ICE's appalling attacks on our embattled brothers and sisters currently stigmatized and maligned as "illegal immigrants," are often cheered on, aided, and abetted by so-called "Christians." The mendacity of these impostors is more than I can tolerate without impassioned rebuke. Who supports this deplorable descent into selectively inhumane governance? Who thinks these laws just, that protect an affluent, privileged group of deeply illusioned human beings, while both figuratively and literally assaulting and cruelly battering another?

According to a report from NPR, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents skirted their own "sensitive locations" policy – which dictates that areas like medical facilities are generally off-limits excluding "exigent circumstances" – in the **arrests of an undocumented couple [Oscar and Irma Sanchez] who were rushing their two-month-old baby to a hospital for an emergency, lifesaving procedure** [added emphasis mine].

<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2017/9/21/1700331/-Border-Patrol-arrests-of-undocumented-parents-rushing-baby-to-surgery-violates-human-decency>

What I find particularly disgraceful in all this is the ignominious influence of the exceedingly bellicose "Christian Right." What is it we are pretending not to know? Sadly, these self-proclaimed "Christians" are anything but. For all their pretense, posing as disciples of Love, these iniquitous hypocrites are the proverbial "wolves in sheep's clothing" unequivocally condemned by Jesus. Determinedly chopping at America's lofty ideals of freedom – one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all – which constitute America's true "greatness," these pretenders give religion a bad name. What happened?

Advocates [for just and humane laws and for the decent treatment of human beings] are puzzled why the Border Patrol chose to put the [above-mentioned] Sanchezes under such intense supervision, which one would expect for higher-value targets like drug traffickers or MS-13 gang members. **The couple has no criminal records.** They overstayed visitors visas that were issued 12 years ago. He works construction and landscaping; she stays home with **their four children, all of whom are citizens** [added emphasis mine].

<http://www.npr.org/2017/09/20/552339976/border-patrol-arrests-parents-while-infant-awaits-serious-operation>

Let's put aside the transparent lies. If we but do so, it quickly becomes clear what the ulterior motive behind these egregious violations of conscience and goodness is. It is the vain attempt to hang on to a vapid, insentient way of life founded on a brutal history of genocide against this continent's "First Nation," and against Africa's people of color, cruelly enslaved and forcibly dragged overseas by the millions by rapacious pirates, subsequently oppressed for centuries, and de facto imprisoned by a two-tiered system of glass ceilings and selectively disingenuous

*Continued on page 9*

## Worship Services in the Coming Year

- Annie Welsbacher

Welcome to the new year! The worship committee has planned new features as well as old favorites for 2017–2018 and welcomes your participation and feedback.

The kids will take a more active part in storytelling this year in our monthly intergenerational Sunday morning services. For the third Sunday of each month, enjoy stories of all ages – now presented by the kids themselves in story or skit form. October 15, the kids will present fables. November 19, hear stories about manners. And on December 17, the kids regale us with holiday stories. Also for this December service, RE Director Denise Jackson-Simon will facilitate very special adult-kid activities.

Our 130th anniversary history-themed services conclude in October. The series began in August with a service about former First UU minister Rev. John Isom and continued in September with a live excerpt of a play produced by Wichita Community Theatre, which was founded and housed by First UU in the 1940s. The final history-themed service will be held October 15. “Mrs. Carter’s Church” offers insights into the progressive theology of an outspoken 19th-century woman that might sound very familiar to our own 21st-century leanings. The service is presented by Anne Bailey.

This fall, the worship committee introduces new arts Sunday services. In recognition of our congregation’s long commitment to and participation in the arts and arts education, the first service of each month will highlight an art form. September 3 featured theatre arts with an excerpt from a live local production of a new play. October 1 highlights singing. Two choirs, including our own church choir, will perform two very different kinds of songs. Our church choir director, Carol Denning, will speak, and the congregation will be invited to join the music with special hymn and song selections. The November 5 service will explore the art of photography. In December, the first service of the month features drumming.

The worship committee welcomes new members Kay Davis and Thea Nietfeld, who join Anne Bailey, Susan Hund-Milne, Jana Rambo, Annie Welsbacher, and David Carter, ex-officio. The committee encourages congregation members to recommend presenters and suggest service topics. Join us the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., or contact one of us in person or via email.

## Vegan Potlucks Return

- Anita Culp  
-Magda Garrett

Vegan Potlucks are returning to First UU Church. The first potluck will be Monday, October 16. After that they will be held the 2nd Monday of each month from 6 - 8:30 p.m.; eat at 6:30. Please keep all contributions vegan with no meat, meat broth, eggs, dairy, or honey. In consideration of those with food allergies and sensitivities, please include a list of ingredients with your dish. A \$1 per adult love offering will be collected. Contact Magda Garrett, 316-765-3352, with specific questions.



*Ministers Musings, continued*

government. Amassed over centuries, from lands and peoples still ravaged by the unthinkable evil imperial projects of 17th, 18th, and 19th century Europe (which stand in vivid contrast to European culture's many glorious and laudable contributions to world history), the curiously indiscernible "privilege" many Americans "enjoy" is, upon waking from the dream, nothing other than a bloodstained monument to man's inhumanity to man. Only mass indulgence in cognitive dissonance can further postpone the overdue realization that it is way past time to invoke restorative practices for reparation and deep healing.

But Christian? Please!!! Those who cannot see the evil in tearing families apart and destroying lives are either not intelligent enough, or not honest enough to be honored by the estimable distinction of being named Christians. They are not and cannot be Christians, whatever they profess. Disciples of cruelty and persecution, their true identity is laid bare by their unconscionable deeds. Ancient wisdom teachings admonish the thoughtful: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." What do you think?

'Come, you who...gave me something to eat...something to drink, [who] invited me in...clothed me...looked after me... [and] came to visit me.' 'Truly...whatever you did for one of the least of [these, my] brothers and sisters...you did for me.' 'Depart from me...you [who] gave me nothing to eat...nothing to drink... did not invite me in...did not clothe me...[and] did not look after me. 'Truly...whatever you did not do for one of the least of [my brothers and sisters] ...you did not do for me...

For myself, I have no doubt about the reaping. The catastrophic karmic indebtedness that the supporters of these cruel and despicable immigration policies will have to bear for their willful inhumanity and hateful behavior will be an intolerable burden, one that every sane human being should do everything possible to avoid having to suffer and bear.

*\*Democracy may denote a system of social governance distinct from other systems such as theocracy, autocracy, etc. But here I intend to denote the notion of spiritual egalitarianism summarized in the second paragraph of the US Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."*

## Pastafarian Holiday Potluck

On Saturday, October 14, please join the Holiday Party Group in celebrating the Feast of St. John of Blasphemy, a holiday observed by Pastafarians around the world. Gather at the First UU Church at 5:30 p.m. and dine at 6. The Holiday Party Group will serve the sacred pasta and sauce. Please bring a covered dish.

In 2005, a Pastafarian wrote an open letter to the Kansas School Board asserting that if students are to be taught both Evolution and Intelligent Design, then they should also be taught that many people devoutly believe that the Intelligent Designer of the universe is the Flying Spaghetti Monster. For Pastafarian prayers, go to <http://loose-canon.info/page53.htm>.

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## FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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### Eclectic Readers

11:30 am, Friday, October 20: *The Latehomecomer – A Hmong Family Memoir*. Kao Kalia Yang's first book is the Wichita Public Library's [Big Read](#) for 2017. It was a finalist for the PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award and the Asian American Literary Award. It received the 2009 Minnesota Book Award. Yang's memoir is a love letter to her grandmother, as well as a troubling portrait of the consequences of U.S. intervention in Southeast Asia. The book is an account of the exodus of the Hmong people, first to refugee camps in Thailand and then, for many, to new homes in Minnesota. The author teaches at Carleton College, a private liberal arts college in Northfield, Minnesota. Brown bag lunch, discussion begins at approximately noon. Del Smith, [316-612-0826](tel:316-612-0826).

### Digerati Buchgemeinschaft

Come join the Digerati! We are an online book club. For October, we will join the Wichita Library Big Read and read *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir* by Kalia Yang. Discussions will take place at Goodreads. You can join us at <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/177877-digerati-buchgemeinschaft>. Contact Rolando Gomez, [shadoe7@mac.com](mailto:shadoe7@mac.com), for questions on how to join.