



In Touch

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WICHITA

FOUNDED 1887

From the Outgoing President

- Corey Swertfager, President

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as president this past year. I am inspired by and grateful for all the people who make First UU a loving, happening place. A special thank you to Del Smith, who acted as my trusted advisor, helping to keep things in perspective, to cast larger nets, and to expand communications.

I am thrilled that we have some new leaders stepping up: Holly Terrill as president, Doug Wilson as president-elect, Debra Clements as chair of the new Marketing Committee, Amy Geyer as chair of the new Program Development Committee, Sharon Kniss as chair of the Social Action Group, and Andrew and Kay Davis as facilitators of upcoming vision/mission workshops. Their enthusiasm is contagious! Look for their fresh ideas in this and future editions of *In Touch*.

Though I will take a break from official First UU leadership roles for a while, I will serve as treasurer and will be happy to be a worker bee where needed. I look forward to continuing to stand of the side of love with you. Let there be justice with laughter!

From the Incoming President

- Holly Terrill

pres i dent. 'prez(ə)dənt, 'prezə,dent/. *noun.* the head of a society, council, or other organization.

When I Google-searched the definition of "president," I was overcome with a feeling of heaviness and then determination. I've been handed a huge responsibility; I don't accept the obligation of helping lead and facilitate growth within our congregation lightly. The passion that pushes me to live each day of my life to the fullest will aid me in my journey to empower and encourage those around me to do the same.

I'll integrate the insight I've developed over the past year with experience to provide support to our faith community and the outside communities we collectively serve. I'll look to each of you to work alongside me so that we can create a better home for our children and for the children of those we love.

As your incoming president of the congregation of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita, I 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

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From the President-Elect

- Doug Wilson

I'm honored to be the next president-elect. I'm also scared! Ok, scared may be a little strong. Concerned. I hope I can be of some help to Holly our president. I hope the next year prepares me for being president.

I'm humbled by the great work Corey has done this last year. What a role model! There are others too, other people that work ceaselessly to enrich our experience here at First UU Wichita. I'm continually appreciative of them, and I'm inspired by them to serve the congregation in a manner that benefits us all.

In Touch

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www.firstuu.net

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

Tax-Smart Giving from Your IRA

- Annie Welsbacher

Still need to take your required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA? Starting at age 70.5, you can direct a qualified distribution to a public charity like First UU to satisfy your RMD – and this transfer will not increase your taxable income. By minimizing your total taxable income, you might pay less income tax than if you took a distribution first and then sent the same amount to a charity. If you don't itemize, you can still take advantage of this law. Making a qualified charitable distribution eliminates the need for taking a charitable deduction, so you don't have to itemize on your tax return to recognize a tax savings.

Growth Group Introduces Adopt-a-Bill/Share-a-Bill

- Amy Geyer

Everyone could use a little extra income now and then, even our church. Maybe you would like to make an extra contribution. Adopt-a-Bill/Share-a-Bill is designed to let you choose what that extra contribution will pay for. We have tried to break down the expenses into a wide variety of dollar amounts so there's something to fit almost every budget.

To participate, look for the Adopt-a-Bill/Share-a-Bill board in the Gathering Space. Fill out a ticket, put it in a provided envelope, and place it in the offering tray. The board will display a new sheet every month.

We hope this program will help provide an added sense of ownership and increased knowledge of all the things required to keep the church functioning. And, of course, undesignated contributions are always welcome!

From the Incoming President, continued

use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large; the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

It will be a great privilege for me to serve in this role for the next twelve months. Thank you for your faith, trust, and respect.

Changes in Chalice Bookstore

- Del Smith

"The times, they are a-changin'," sang Bob Dylan, our Nobel Prize winner. And so are a few things about the Chalice Bookstore.

Joe Lozano is now the official go-to guy for the Bookstore, but at his request, Del Smith is still feeding her addiction to used books – selling, buying, reading. On July 2, watch for these changes:

- Prices consistent with what we charge the public at EcoFest and garage sales: \$2 for hardcovers; \$1 for trade paperbacks; \$.50 for regular paperbacks. The Bookstore will still be self-serve. Prices are posted in a standing frame on the small table inside the door.
- Books assessed at special value will be sold elsewhere (internet or bookstore).
- Something brand new to First UU: A lending library of favorite titles. One shelf in the Bookstore (east wall of the library) will be designated as an informal "Lending Library." Take what you want to read, and bring it back when you're through – or donate a book you would love to share with others. Simple as that! (Please note that this is entirely separate from the official Church Library on the west wall of the Library.)

We continue to take donations of books in good condition which would appeal to our congregation. If you want to donate a large collection of books, please talk to Joe before bringing boxes and boxes of books to the church.

Some things never change! Joe will need help at all public sales – EcoFest 2017 in September is next. Don't wait for him to ask you, volunteer now! (Joe's contact info: tjoe232@gmail.com / 310-936-8041.)

If you have questions about the Chalice Bookstore, look up one or both of us – Joe Lozano and Del Smith – at church on Sunday.

RE Corner: Active Summer and Beyond

- Denise Jackson-Simon

Yay! A big thank you to all the congregation members who signed up to teach a Sunday this summer. The schedule is full of activities from fables and magic, to cooking and remote-control vehicles, plus lots more. It's a fun-filled summer for sure, and, as always, it's much more fun when you are here!

Once summer ends, we'll begin our new church year, and we'll need Religious Exploration team members to help facilitate lessons for our children and youth. During July, I will be selecting our curricula and creating a schedule of lessons for fall. To best serve our children, we need at least three or four volunteers for the children and a sponsor for the youth group. Consider giving it a try this year! Contact me, Denise Jackson-Simon, Director of Religious Exploration, at 316-945-7622, or catch me at church on most Sundays.

And, parents, I'll say it again. To provide the most beneficial program possible, we need your children at church.

I hope to see you all soon! Happy summertime!

Bagworm Dreams

(For Anita and Linda, in memory of a happy morning,
picking bagworms off the UU Junipers)
- Vivien Minshull-Ford

You wondered what our purpose is
Dangling from your junipers like pale ghosts
Said to be the souls of stealers of firewood
Repulsive cocoons decorated with fronds of plant material
Which you like to pull off and destroy
Do we have hopes and dreams, a moral code
Are we super intelligent like the Octopus
Though as yet undiscovered, under-appreciated?
Will we be around long after you are gone?
Look, I can withdraw my head into my tiny house
And shut the door tight if I am disturbed.
Inside, I am refinishing the stairs
Color-coding my book collection
Painting the upstairs bathroom duck egg blue
Re-hanging portraits of my brown, grey, and red ancestors.
If you don't mind, we won't go into bagworm sex,
Sultry and complicated, involving pheromones
And thousands of larvae floating away
To other trees, other gardens, other universes.

Seeking Passionate People to Promote First UU!

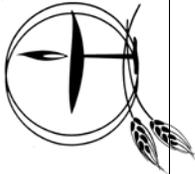
- Debra Clements

Here's the last call to join the new Marketing Committee before we schedule our initial meeting. The following people have already expressed their interest: Amy Geyer, Jennifer Hess, Jack Regehr, and Annie Welsbacher. Are you passionate about getting the word out about our Seven Principles, inclusiveness, and social action work? Then please let me know at debra.clements@cox.net or 316-558-2528.

Full Moon Celebration Returns

At an informal gathering on the full moon in June, we realized that we really missed getting together at the time of the full moon. So, we have scheduled Full Moon Celebrations for the next six months at least. The first one will be on Saturday, July 8. We will meet at 7:00 at First UU Church. All are welcome – bring your drums, songs, poems, stories, meditations, maybe even a little snack to share. Call Anne Bailey, 316-650-4905, for further details.

July 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p First Sunday Lunch	3 7:00a Private Event	4 Office Closed 5:30p Fourth of July Potluck	5 7:00p Committee on Ministry 7:00p UU Craft Night	6 7:00a Private Event	7	8 10:00a Caring Committee 7:00p Full Moon Circle
9 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 10:00a Choir Practice 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:30p Leadership Council	10 7:00a Private Event 6:30p Meditation Class	11 6:30p Zen Friends	12 1:30p Worship Committee	13 7:00a Private Event 7:00p Green Sanctuary Committee	14	15
16 9:30 Seeking Circle 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:20p Social Action Group	17 7:00a Private Event 6:30p Meditation Class 6:30p Writers Group	18 6:30p Zen Friends	19 7:00p Board of Trustees 11:00p Newsletter and Calendar Deadline	20 7:00a Private Event	21 11:30a Eclectic Readers Group	22
23 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE	24 7:00a Private Event 2:00p Movie Group 6:30p Meditation Class	25 6:30p Zen Friends	26 1:30p Newsletter Mailing	27 7:00a Private Event	28	29
30 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE	31 7:00a Private Event 6:30p Meditation Class					

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 – Corey Swertfager

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



What Makes First UU First UU

- Del Smith

When visitors introduce themselves, our congregation says, more or less in unison, "Welcome." And we mean it. We often mention our diversity, and I tend to think in terms of theology and/or of Holly Near's terms in "We Are a Gentle Angry People" (1978): young, old, gentle, angry, straight, gay, transgender, queer, black, white, brown...

Whimsy struck recently. I sit at the back of the room, and a lot of people walk by me every Sunday. Could our choice of footwear be an offbeat way of reflecting our diversity as a congregation?

Someone once remarked that the "dress code" at our church is "no dress code." On Sundays, some will dress as for the office or dinner in a nice restaurant; others will wear jeans and tee shirt, and everything in between.

Just another way of saying "All are welcome!"

Flowing into the Wind

- Suzanne Miller

I walk the way the river flows,
 but into the wind. Thus, this river flows
 into the wind too, raising latitudes of sparkles
 tossing the noon sun off its waves.
 When I cross the bridge, I pause in the center
 and look down on those lights
 tossing now electric blue sky flakes,
 jade tree mud washes, and halogen white sun
 lamps in patterns no longer gridlike but
 fractured into heaving diamonds and crosshatched
 into sagging ripples like the iridescence
 of frail skin on aging hands and arms.

Caring Committee

- 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 graduation.

Our heartfelt condolences to Roxanne and John McKenzie on the passing of Roxanne's father.

We are saddened by the passing of Marsha Ebaugh on Saturday, June 3. Many longtime members remember Marsha as being an active member and at one time serving as church treasurer.

Congratulations to Brett Pollok who received his associate's degree from Wichita Area Technical College.

What touches one of us affects us all. In caring for one another we are cared for.

Two Hundred and Forty-First Anniversary Party

You are cordially invited to the UU Holiday Party Group's *Fourth of July Party* on Tuesday, July 4, at the First UU Church; gather at 5:30 and dine at 6. Come help us celebrate the 241st anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. We'll enjoy a potluck dinner and then play games.

Worship Questions

- Susan Hund-Milne

Ever wonder what goes into creating a Sunday Service? Members of the Worship Committee create the script, which includes readings, hymns – everything but the sermon. We recruit service leaders to read the scripts. We also choose and schedule the speakers for the Sundays that Rev. David Carter is not in the pulpit.

We would love feedback about the services. Are they meaningful to you? Would you like to see elements added or changed? What parts do you like? We also welcome feedback about the sermons and invited speakers. Which have most (or least) appealed to you?

We always need topic ideas and names of potential presenters. If you know of someone to recommend, please give us their name. And if you're interested in joining the worship committee, we'd love to have you.

Contact any of the committee members: Annie Welsbacher (chair), Anne Bailey, Susan Hund-Milne, Roxanne McKenzie, Jana Rambo, or Rev. David Carter.

Garage Sale Success

- Marcia Ellsworth

A great big thanks to everyone who participated in our Second Annual Jumble/Garage sale! We surpassed expectations and made about \$5000 from donations of lots and lots of household items. It is so true that one man's junk is another man's treasure. There was a steady stream of traffic for the three days we were open, most leaving with a happy face and a good deal. Thank you volunteers and those who donated the merchandise. We will have another sale next spring, so as you see things you no longer need or use, put them aside for our annual sale! Most anything that is clean and in good condition sells.

Thanks to Nancy

- Joe Lozano

Thanks go out from the Chalice Bookstore to Nancy Milner for all the wonderful books (boxes of them!) that she has generously donated to support our sales. They were all great quality books that proved easy to sell!

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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Eclectic Readers

11:30 a.m., Friday, July 21: *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, by Jamie Ford. “On the eve of America’s World War II internment of its Japanese residents, 12-year-old Henry Lee meets his first true love.... the only other Asian at Henry’s otherwise all-white Seattle elementary school. She’s also Japanese, which lies at the heart of Henry’s subsequent struggles – with his Chinese nationalist father; his racist, bullying classmates; and, finally, his brutally suspicious country. The hotel of the book’s title is the real Panama Hotel, and that’s where Ford’s story begins, with the basement discovery of what Seattle’s Japanese families left behind when they were sent to the camps. The tale jumps between 1986, just after the death of Henry’s wife ([who is not his childhood sweetheart]), and the 1940s, setting up its driving mystery: What happened to Henry’s [first love]?” (<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/12/books/review/McCulloch-t.html>). Anita Culp checked out multiple copies of the book for us. See her if you want to read the book and join us for lunch and an always interesting discussion.

In August we'll read *Maus*, “a graphic novel by American cartoonist Art Spiegelman. It depicts Spiegelman...interviewing his father about his experiences as a Polish Jew and Holocaust survivor....Critics have classified *Maus* as memoir, biography, history, fiction, autobiography, or a mix of genres. In 1992, it became the first graphic novel to win a Pulitzer Prize” (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maus>).

Digerati Buchgemeinschaft

Come join the Digerati! We are an online book club. We are deciding what to read next. 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, for questions on how to join.