



# In Touch

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WICHITA

FOUNDED 1887

## Ministerial Transition: Getting From Here to There

- Bonnie Till, Member Board of Trustees

During the month of March the Ministerial Search Task Force accomplished the following:

- Posted a Congregational Record (description of our church, its history, membership, and financial status) on the UUA website.
- Posted a contract minister position description on the UUA website.

This was the first step required by the Unitarian Universalist Association to get First UU of Wichita up and running in the search process.



*Kent Rowe installing solar panels on the roof!*

# 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.

## New Members

- Mitch and Lynn Kientz

Our names are Mitchel and Lynn Kientz. We are happy to be part of this congregation! Mitch and I have lived in the El Dorado area for the better of 25 years. We have been married for 18 years as of this past October. Mitchel is a native-born Kansan and I was born in California and have lived in Kansas since I was 12 years old. Mitch is a Certified Medication Aide in a local nursing home in El Dorado and I am a Licensed Addictions Counselor currently looking for work. Mitch and I have been attending the CUUPS Pagan Circle events at this church for a number of years. We decided recently that we needed to find a group of like-minded individuals who believe in standing up for things and doing what they feel is right. Also, he and I were looking for something that the two of us could do together as a couple and enjoy fellowship and hopefully make some new friends. We have two sons, Robert and Marcus. Marcus is currently living with us. Robert is married and lives near Kansas City with his wife and his daughter and son.

When we first began visiting your church on Sundays, we were greeted with kindness and enthusiasm, which we found very welcoming. As we started attending on a regular basis, we felt we had found what we were looking for in your congregation. We have always enjoyed the topics raised in the weekly sermons, which has also helped us discuss more things as a couple. So far, the other things that we enjoy attending are the Craft Night, the First Sunday luncheons, the musical events, and the Adult Religious Exploration class. We are looking forward to getting acquainted with you and getting more involved with the wonderful people of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita!

## Remembering Kathy

- Anne Bailey, Linda Jordan, Paula Peare

The members of the Pagan Circle mourn the death of our leader and dear friend, Kathy Hull, who was taken from us on March 12. She was many things: artist, musician, dancer, pagan priestess. Kathy was a lifelong seeker of knowledge, which she feely shared as teacher in a variety of settings.

At the UU Church she led the Full Moon Dances for over 20 years, taught a meditation class, as well as "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven" and "Rise Up and Call Her Name" (UU pagan curricula). She helped create and print the vegan cookbook "It's easy Being Vegan" and made many buttons for various projects.

In the community she created the "Dias de los Muertos" mural at 25th and Arkansas with help from the neighborhood and the Pagan Community. She and Diane Lincoln-Thomas co-chaired the "Sacred Spaces" project. It is a series of panels representing doorways to each of the world's major religions and features endangered animals and highlights our need to take care of the earth. It is scheduled to be on display again at WSU in June. As part of the Art Faculty annual show she created a seven-circuit labyrinth called "Snakes in the Grass" made up of two intertwined snakes. It was displayed at WSU and later was moved to the UU Church. Our yearly Samhain (Halloween) celebration was conceptualized by Kathy as the "Feast for the Dead" to honor our biological and spiritual ancestors. It almost always featured a spiral dance led by Kathy.

Over the years she mentored many students through her job at WSU and she always encouraged group members to take active leadership roles in our gatherings. She has given us the tools and desire to carry on. As we say goodbye, we have a vision of Kathy dressed in white, dancing free, in the Summerland, long hair flowing, her face glowing with joy sending love and comfort to us all. She left us great treasure we can utilize now to keep creating love and beauty in the world and then pass it on.

## Children's Religious Exploration Corner

- Denise Jackson-Simon, DRE

Happy Spring! I hope you and yours are finding time to get outside and enjoy the new beginnings of the season sprouting all around.

In spite of very low numbers in our RE program recently, we have continued to explore love, peace, and respect. Those in attendance have enjoyed the activities and they are a joy to be with.

We'll have our annual Easter celebration with games, food, and hiding and hunting eggs on April 1. The remainder of the month our focus will be on our connection with the Earth. The 3rd Sunday we hope to be able to have the children share something in the main service. Sundays in April will be filled with celebrations of Spring, Easter, Earth, and being a part of UU. We hope to see you and your children there.

## TWO Garage Sales!

- Anita Culp

### Living Estate Garage Sale

Long-time member, Betty Hensley, is donating to the church the proceeds from her living estate garage sale to be held at 4707 Looman St., Wichita, 67220. The Hensley donation is really wonderful - books, furniture, pictures, kitchen equipment, and garden tools.

- April 11 (9:00 - 5:00) Pricing
- April 12 (8:00 - 5:00) Sale
- April 13 and 14 (9:00 - 5:00) Sale

Volunteers are needed to price on Wednesday and to staff the sale on Thursday through Saturday. Contact Marcia or Vivien if you can help.

### Church Mega Garage Sale

Save your stuff for the church sale! We want your salable collectibles, tools, kitchenware, toys, homeware etc. Ask your friends and family to put items aside for our sale.

- April 18 (9:00 - 6:00) Pricing and Set Up
- April 19 and 20 (9:00 - 5:00) Sale
- April 21 (9:00 - 12:30) Sale  
(1:00 - 5:00) Clean Up

Bring your small items to the church no earlier than April 1. Save larger items for the week prior. If you can't store these items at home, contact Vivien (316-683-9295) or Marcia (316-688-5352) to make other arrangements for storage.

Volunteers are needed to price on Wednesday, Thursday through Saturday to staff the sale, and Saturday to clean-up the church sale. Contact Vivien or Marcia if you can help.

## Pagan Circle

- Anne Bailey

We meet again on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. to celebrate Loki's Day. Although the official International Loki's Day is March 31, it is also appropriate to celebrate Loki on every Saturday since the last day of the week was known as Lokedagr or Loki Day in Old Norse. Come, bring a joke or pun to celebrate the Trickster God, drums or rattles or other noisemakers. Snack foods also welcome. Call Anne Bailey (316-650-4905), Linda Jordan (316-512-6652) or Paula Peare (316-312-5235) if you have questions about our gathering.

# April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p First Sunday Lunch	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 3:00p Membership Committee 6:30p Zen Friends 7:00p UU Craft Night	<b>4</b> 7:00p Committee on Membership	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00a Call to Faith Group 7:00p Pagan Circle Loki's Day Celebration
<b>8</b> 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:30p Leadership Council	<b>9</b> 6:30p Vegan Pottluck	<b>10</b> 6:30p Zen Friends	<b>11</b> 9:00a Hensley Garage Sale Pricing 7:00p Worship Committee	<b>12</b> 8:00a - 5:00p Hensley Garage Sale	<b>13</b> 9:00a - 5:00p Hensley Garage Sale	<b>14</b> 9:00a - 5:00p Hensley Garage Sale 10:00a Caring Committee
<b>15</b> 9:30a Seeking Circle 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:20p Social Action Group	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30p Zen Friends	<b>18</b> 9:00a Church Garage Sale Pricing & Setup 7:00p Board of Trustees 11:00p Newsletter and Calendar Deadline	<b>19</b> 9:00a - 5:00p Church Garage Sale	<b>20</b> 9:00a - 5:00p Church Garage Sale	<b>21</b> 9:00a - 12:30p Church Garage Sale 1:00 - 5:00p Sale Cleanup 5:30p Poems & Pecan Pottluck
<b>22</b> 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE	<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 Humanist Group
<b>29</b> 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 3:00p Roy Zimmerman Concert	<b>30</b>					

**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 – 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 – Charles Merrifield  
 Financial Commitment – TBD  
 Fundraising – Marcia Ellsworth and Vivien Minshull-Ford  
 Green Sanctuary – Linda Jordan  
 Hospitality – TBD  
 Kitchen Mavens – TBD  
 Librarian – Nancy Milner  
 Marketing – TBA  
 Membership – Anne Bailey  
 Music – Jana Rambo  
 Partner Church – Betty Hensley and Debbie Wadman  
 Personnel – TBD  
 Program Development – TBD  
 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, and Frank Ruf

**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 Jordan  
 Humanist Group – Charles Merrifield  
 Occasional Book Club – TBA  
 Pagan Group – Anne Bailey, Linda Jordan, and Paula Peare  
 Zen Friends of Wichita – Bob Feleppa and Vivien Minshull-Ford

## Caring Committee

- Jana Rambo, Caring Committee Co-Chair

The Caring Committee coordinates the church's response to needs and events in the lives of church members and friends. We send cards for birthdays and other occasions, serve at receptions following memorial services, and make visits to people in hospitals and nursing homes.

Occasionally, we receive requests from people within and outside the church who need a small amount of money for immediate needs such as gas or food. We maintain a small emergency fund in the church office for these needs. We would appreciate donations so we can keep this assistance going to those in need. If you donate a Dillons gift card, please indicate how much money is on it.

We need more members on our committee! We meet the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the church. Please contact me or LaRilla Combs if you would like to attend.

## New Nametags

- Anita Culp

The Membership Committee has urged everyone to wear a nametag and one of the reasons is to make guests feel less conspicuous. Giving a guest a nametag, but doing so for them alone actually makes them even more noticeable. That's good for us to notice them; but uncomfortable for them. In line with making guests feel more comfortable, the Membership Committee has printed new white nametags for congregants. Check the tag board for your new tag which was printed in Eaglefeather font designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, a Unitarian Universalist. (To read an interesting article about the font, go to <http://articles.latimes.com/1997/nov/16/news/ls-54268>.) The tags are arranged mostly in alphabetical order. If you can't find your nametag, ask Anne Bailey or Anita Culp and we'll make sure you get a new one.

## Welcome to Our New Pianist

Greetings First UU congregation from your new pianist, Eric Whetmore!

I am thankful and excited to serve as your church musician. Growing up, my family was Seventh-Day Adventist, and my parents were quite strict about what media we children could consume. Although little TV was watched, *music* was played almost continuously in our home. (We did not own a TV until I was ten years old!) The music was exclusively limited to Christian and classical music. When I finally got my driver's license, I raced to the store and bought my first CD: *Past Master's Vol. II* by *The Beatles*. I loved it *immediately* and have been listening to "Oldies" music ever since. I felt a similar feeling of exhilaration upon discovering Unitarian Universalism about five years ago.

I started taking piano lessons in second grade with Dr. Mary Frantz in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and continued with Dr. Jamie Knight when I moved to Wichita to attend Friends University. Music has always been part of my life. Temporarily, I tried to avoid being a musician, and became a scientist, only to return years later. (But, that's another story....) When I'm not playing music, I'm thinking about music. I have performed in many different settings: weddings, funerals, country clubs, restaurants, and more. Unitarian Universalist churches are my favorite. I try to pick music to compliment the Service themes and rituals. I love using music to help transport people away to places only music can take us.

My wife, Jamie, and two-year-old son, Desi, and I are glad to join your church community. I welcome the opportunity to meet You. Please feel free to chat with me after a service, or contact me by email:

[ericwhetmore@gmail.com](mailto:ericwhetmore@gmail.com)

## Poetry, Pecans, and Comfort Food Potluck

Please join the Holiday Party Group in celebrating National Poetry Month, National Pecan Month, and Stress Awareness Month with a potluck dinner on Saturday, April 21, at First UU Church. Gather at 5:30; dine at 6. After dinner we'll play games.

If you feel like cooking with pecans, great! If you want to bring your favorite comfort food to help us de-stress, wonderful! If you also have a poem you would like to share, all the better!

## April Sunday Services

- Anne Welsbacher

Sunday services in April offer a UU take on Easter in these strange times, civil rights and liberties, the creative spirit, environmental insights, and humanism. April offers a bonus: five Sunday services.

On April 1, Thea Neitfeld presents “Faithful Fools celebrate Easter.” Her sermon will consider our call to be faithful in these times – and how the Easter story might be encouraging.

On April 8, Micah Kubik brings insights into Kansas ACLU, which protects the civil rights of marginalized folks, including women, people of color, LGBTQ people, prisoners, people with disabilities, immigrants, and the poor. Kansas ACLU defends all Kansas residents regardless of political partisanship.

On April 15, Rev. Michael Nelson, recently retired from the UU church in Manhattan, Kansas, presents “Inside the Mind of Creation.” In the beginning and at the end, all is one and nothing. How do we make sense of what happens in between? What integrates the parts into a whole? The path that encourages unity and universalism asks us to listen to what whispers and to respond with emotional intelligence. Painting nudges Rev. Nelson into a mysterious coherence.

For Earth Day, April 22, eco-warrior Kent Rowe presents a service describing the good works of SOAR, the Society of Alternative Resources, which advises government, businesses, and residents on alternative resources, sustainability, and renewable energy issues.

On April 29, we will hear from a member of First UU’s monthly Humanist group.

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FIRST UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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### Eclectic Readers

NO APRIL MEETING: The all-church Garage Sale conflicts with our regular meeting date.

The May selection is a short story by Flannery O'Conner, "All That Rises Must Converge." The story is readily available in anthologies in the Wichita Public Library system. O'Conner was, and still is, a highly respected writer whose death at 39 years of age cut short her career. Book club members are asked to read something about her life and her career to share with the group, as well as discuss the selected short story.

Friday, May 18: 11:30 brown bag lunch, with discussion to follow. Del Smith, [316-612-0826](tel:316-612-0826)

### Digerati Buchgemeinschaft

Come join the Digerati! We are an online book club. We finishing reading Ursula K. LeGuin's *Lavinia*. Join us in plotting, er planning our April book. 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.