



In Touch

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WICHITA

FOUNDED 1887

Social Action at First UU

The Poor People's Campaign

- Brandi Kitty Frey

The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is a movement dedicated to fighting what the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King called the "triple evils" of racism, poverty, and the war economy, as well as ecological devastation that ravages the planet. We are working to carry on his work and legacy in a newly reformed campaign using the tactics of non-violent moral fusion direct action.

Many don't know what "moral fusion" means. It means standing together for the issues of others that one may not be directly affected by. For example, a white person is not directly affected by racism, but they are a strong supporter of environmental justice and economic justice. Rather than ignoring the systemic racism and war economy that ravages communities of color and countries across the globe, under the model of moral fusion, this white person would stand with their black comrades and fight for racial justice and for a peace economy as opposed to a war economy along with their own passion projects of environmental justice and economic justice.

Because, at the end of the day, we cannot talk about the war economy (55 cents of every discretionary federal dollar spent on the military) without talking about poverty (almost half of the American population is impoverished). We can't talk about poverty without talking about systemic racism (black folks make up 6% of Kansas gen pop, but 33% of incarcerated people in Kansas). We can't talk about systemic racism without talking about militarism (increasingly militarized police targeting people of color and poor people for prison slave labor). It is all connected.

And we all need to be working on all of it. Email kansas@poorpeoplescampaign.org, or email me at lovehearty42@gmail.com to learn how to get involved.

Helping Haitian Students

- Marcia Ellsworth

Last year we joined our resources with Global Faith in Action, a Wichita non-profit organization, that helps provide education to students in Lambert, Haiti. We have just renewed our sponsorship for two students by sending \$180 each so that they both can continue to attend school.

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In Touch

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

www.firstuu.net

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

Helping Haitian Students, continued

Global Faith in Action has been serving the people of this Haitian town for 25 years under the direction of Sam Muyskens. The community now has a school, a computer lab, trained teachers, and a health clinic.

Approximately, 80% of the community are unemployed and dependent on the sponsorship program. It costs \$180 to attend school for a year, but families rarely make more than \$200 a year and generally have more than one child. Without the help of others like First UU, they would not be able to attend school.

Several of our church members also sponsor students. If you are interested in sponsoring a student or just learning more about this program, check out their website at sponsorship@globalfaithinaction.org, or like them at www.facebook.com/ASAPHaiti.

New Small Group

- Thea Nietfeld

Roxanne McKenzie will lead the first session of the new small group on May 14 at 6:30 in the First UU meditation room. The theme, "Call to Faith in Turbulent Times," can be found on the uua.org site.

There will be 4 sessions. New people are welcome at the first session. I will suggest that the group welcome newcomers after the first session, but it will be their choice.

Ripples

- 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.

Keep **Lila Arnold** in your thoughts as she recovers from her fall. She is receiving rehabilitation services in the Life Care Center, 622 N. Edgemoor St., Wichita, 67208. Lila welcomes cards, calls, and visits, although it's best to check what time is best for a visit.

The Celebration of Life Service and reception for **Kathy Hull** on March 31 was a wonderful tribute to Kathy. Thanks to Kathy's relatives, UU members, friends, and co-workers who helped with the service and reception.

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

RE Corner

- Denise Jackson-Simon, DRE

In May, we will be exploring our connection with the Earth. All activities and lessons will center around that theme. The final Sunday in May, we will take our annual hike along the nature trails at the Great Plains Nature Center.

It is also the time when we ask congregation volunteers to think about leading a summer Sunday lesson. There will be a sign-up sheet on the office window beginning May 6. Please consider sharing yourself and your talents and interests with our children this summer.

Beltane

- Anne Bailey

The First UU Wichita Pagan Circle will meet to celebrate Beltane on Saturday, May 5. Although we will be after the traditional date of May 1, it will still be early in May and appropriate to celebrate the height of spring and the flowering of life.

Join us for a potluck feast at 6:00 (someone will be at the church by 5:30) followed by an informal ritual about 7:00. Please bring a generous dish to share. Coffee and tea will be available.

You are encouraged to bring drums or other rhythm instruments.

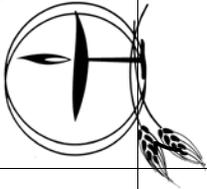
Feel free to call Anne Bailey (316-650-4905), Linda Jordan (316-512-6652) or Paula Peare (316-312-5235) if you have questions.

Summer Kickoff Party

You are cordially invited to kick off the summer with the UU Holiday Party Group at First UU Church on Memorial Day, Monday, May 28. Please join us for scintillating conversation, irresistible edibles, and laugh-out-loud games.

Please bring a covered dish for dinner. Gather at 5:30; dine at 6.

May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 3:00p Membership Committee 6:30p Zen Friends 7:00p UU Craft Night	2 7:00p Committee on Ministry	3	4	5 10:00a Poor Peoples Campaign Planning Meeting 6:00p Pagan Circle Beltane
6 9:45a Adult Relig Explora 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p First Sunday Lunch		8 6:30p Zen Friends	9 7:00p Worship Committee	10	11	12 10:00a Caring Committee 10:00a Call to Faith Group 2:00p Private Event
13 9:45a Adult Relig Explora 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:30p Leadership Council	14 6:30p Small Group Ministry 6:30p Vegan Potluck	15 6:30p Zen Friends	16 4:00p UU Craft Group 7:00p Board of Trustees 11:00p Newsletter and Calendar Deadline	17	18 11:30a Eclectic Readers Group	19 9:30a Inquirer's Class
20 9:30a Seeking Circle 9:45a Adult Relig Explora 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:20p Social Action Group	21	22 6:30p Zen Friends	23 1:30p Newsletter Mailing	24	25	26 6:30p UU Humanist Group
27 9:45a Adult Relig Explora 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Music Committee	28 Office Closed 2:00p Movie Group 5:30p Memorial Day Potluck	29 6:30p Zen Friends	30	31		

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)
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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 – Del Smith
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

Services in May

- Annie Welsbacher

Throughout our Sundays in May, we ponder the season of Beltane, share our principles with other UU churches passing the “traveling chalice,” hear from a guest ministerial intern about our current media obsessions, and learn about the actions and values of the organization Family Promise of Greater Wichita.

Linda Jordan speaks about the pagan observance of Beltane on May 6.

Also, see the article Beltane on page 4.

On May 13, Anne Bailey heads a service featuring the Traveling Chalice. This is the physical (large!) chalice used in our Boston mothership church, and throughout the spring, it has been handed nationwide from one UU church to another. Join us when we take our turn at what is sure to be an inspiring and affirming service.

On May 20, Jack Gaede, ministerial intern at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church in Kansas City, wonders, in his sermon “What Feeds Us,” what our world might be like if we would take as much care in taking in media as we do with our intake of food.

On May 27, we meet a representative from Family Promise of Greater Wichita, which addresses homelessness through support and hospitality.

Music Committee Notes

- Jana Rambo

We have been privileged to have some excellent concerts in the past few months and are looking forward to Roy Zimmerman’s return. We will need people to volunteer in various capacities – serving snacks and drinks, taking money, and cleaning up. See a committee member if you can help.

Thanks to Sharon Kniss for ably leading our hymn singing in the church services; having a leader definitely improves the quality of our singing. We would like to have one or more additional persons who could lead singing when Sharon isn't at church. We also made a list of people who have played in services in the past, but we don't know if the list is complete. Please let us know if you could help.

At our last meeting, we welcomed a new committee member, Vivien Minshull-Ford. We still need more members, so let us know if you would like to join us. We meet the fourth Sunday, at church after the service.

Something about Death

- Suzanne Miller

Something about death keeps us lifelike
in remains of time, practice,
talk, and wonder, keeps us seeing
absence as presence and presence as absence.

Something about knowledge or nearness
of death keeps us safe
in the love of our need for being
moved and held by all this.

Something about death writes stories
with great opening lines followed
by logic, surprise, depths, and
surfaces impossible to exhaust.

Something about death never finds,
dissolves, never writes, and is helpless.



Pictured from the 2017 Ecofest

FIRST UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

7202 E. 21st St. N.
Wichita, KS 67206
www.firstuu.net



Eclectic Readers

After our April hiatus, we return Friday, May 18, ready to discuss Flannery O'Connor's short story "All That Rises Must Converge." We'll also share some aspects about her life and her writing. She is considered one of American's greatest fiction writers, with an impressive body of fiction, two novels and more than thirty short stories. Her work is usually set in the rural American South, often explores alienation, and is concerned with the relationship between the individual and God. She was an apologist for Roman Catholicism, which can be a challenge to some comfort zones.

We meet at 11:30 for a brown bag lunch; discussion begins around 12 noon. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Del Smith, 316-612-0826.

Digerati Buchgemeinschaft

Come join the Digerati! We are an online book club. We start Steve Pinkers *Enlightenment Now*.

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.