



In Touch

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WICHITA

FOUNDED 1887

President's Letter

- Doug Wilson

Hello Everyone!

I'm settling into my duties as President. Anita has been very helpful with bringing me up to speed.

I was one of approximately a dozen First UU congregants who attended G.A. (General Assembly) this year. I was able to register as a delegate and participated in several votes to update the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) bylaws. The voting process was pretty interesting, and the 2.5-hour meeting passed quickly.

Saturday afternoon I attended a workshop titled "Getting to Mission: Congregational Conversation and Board Discernment." I found it to be more about the mission work and less about board discernment, but I will share the info, PowerPoint slides emailed to me, at a later date.

I particularly enjoyed UUA President Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray's sermon Sunday morning. She told us about her frightening experience in Charlottesville last year during the White Supremacy gathering/protest/counter-protest in which a woman was run over and killed. Frederick-Gray said the police just got out of the way, let the militias and Nazis run unchecked. It was fortunate more people weren't hurt or killed. It indicated to her, her own white privilege, because she was surprised by the behavior of the police.

It was great being surrounded by so many UUs at G.A., a feeling of belonging. This was common for nearly all First UU Wichita people who went. Other things we experienced, as discussed afterwards at a meeting hosted by Nancy Milner, included great service music and enthusiasm especially of the youth in attendance, a great diversity among attendees, and an excitement to share in more detail what we learned in a myriad of workshops with the rest of First UU. So look for this in the coming months!

Have you given more thought to how we can grow the congregation? Please, share your ideas with appropriate committees: for example, music ideas with the music committee, service ideas with the worship committee, etc. The committee chairpersons are usually listed on a page in *In Touch*, and most of their emails are in the church directory. Thanks.

See ya soon!

Doug

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.

Hymns That Add Energy

- Jana Rambo

Three of the five Music Committee members attended G.A. (Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly), and two of us were in a workshop about growing the congregation provided by the All Souls church in Tulsa. It seems that we aren't the only church that attracts visitors but then never sees them again. The All Souls staff emphasized that what brings people back is good music...so we have a lot of work to do.

One of the first steps I'd like us to take is to make a list of hymns that add to the energy of the service rather than bringing it down. Many hymns have good verbal messages, but the music is not uplifting, or is too hard to sing. That doesn't mean we should never use those hymns, but it's an important issue to keep in mind in planning services. We'll be collaborating with the Worship Committee to improve the services in this way.

Eric Whetmore has begun a list of such hymns, which we'll be looking at over our next meeting or two.

If you have favorite hymns you would like included in the list, please get in touch with me at jayrobo@aol.com or 316-686-4215.

Personally, I'd like us to learn songs not in the hymnal as well. "Let the Mystery Be," which was included in the service on July 15, is a good start.

We continue to intend to have more special music in the services. If you or someone you know could help us with this, please let us know.

August Sunday Services

- Anne Welsbacher

August services explore social concerns locally and nationally with presentations about confronting lies in our current national discourse, our own congregation's work in seeking justice, and volunteers who help advocate for children in foster care. We also hear from First UU members in a special presentation about our living faith tradition, circa 2018.

August kicks off with Andrew Davis as our featured speaker. Since January, Davis has spoken on the first Sunday of the month to assist through our congregation's lay-led period. On August 5, Davis presents "Thwarting Pinocchio: Jousting with the Big Lie."

On August 12, Sharon Kniss, chair of the social justice committee, will present "Journeying Towards Justice."

On August 19, we will hear from a representative from CASA of Sedgwick County. CASAs, or Court Appointed Special Advocates, help children who have been removed from abusive situations into foster care. Each volunteer is thoroughly screened and specially trained to be an advocate for the child's best interests.

The month ends, on August 26, with a special panel of First UU members who attended this year's General Assembly in Kansas City. Panelists will share what they saw and heard, and ideas we might incorporate into our congregational life. Bonnie Till will moderate.

Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey

- Anita Culp

The Adult Religious Exploration group will view and discuss the 13-episode *Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey*, which was a 2014 American science documentary television series.

“COSMOS explores the remarkable mysteries of the cosmos and our place within it. Hosted by renowned astrophysicist Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson, this thrilling, 13-part adventure will transport you across the universe of space and time, bringing to life never-before-told stories of the heroic quest for knowledge and a deeper understanding of nature. With an updated Cosmic Calendar, dazzling visual effects, and the wondrous Ship of the Imagination, prepare to take an unforgettable journey to new worlds and across the universe for a vision of the cosmos on the grandest – and smallest – scale” ([Amazon “Editorial Review”](#)). “*Cosmos* has been critically praised, winning several television broadcasting awards and a Peabody Award for educational content” ([Wikipedia](#)).

Join the Adult RE group in the corner room at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings for this series beginning August 5.



Holiday Party: Summer Foods Potluck Dinner

After the summer solstice, as the days begin to shorten, many faith traditions celebrate the time of the harvest. The Holiday Party Group invites one and all to a Summer Foods Dinner on Saturday, August 11, at First UU Church.

We will gather at 5:30 and dine at 6. Please bring your favorite dish to make or eat in the summer, perhaps cut melon, garden salad, fruit salad or a special bread, and join us for great food and great fun.

After our potluck dinner, we'll play games.

Picture left, Summer RE, the young teaching the young at heart.

August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00p Committee on Ministry 7:00p Worship Committee	2	3	4 6:00p Pagan Circle Lughnasadh
5 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p First Sunday Lunch	6	7 6:30p Zen Friends 7:00p UU Craft Night	8	9	10	11 10:00a Caring Committee 5:30p Summer Foods Potluck
12 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 10:00a Small Group 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:30p Leadership Council	13 6:30p Vegan Potluck	14	15 4:00p UU Craft Group 7:00p Board of Trustees 11:00p Newsletter and Calendar Deadline	16	17 11:30a Eclectic Readers	18
19 9:30a Seeking Circle 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:20p Social Action Group	20	21 6:30p Zen Friends	22 1:30p Newsletter Mailing	23	24	25 6:30p UU Humanist Group
26 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 10:00a Small Group 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Music Committee	27 1:00p Movie Group	28 6:30p Zen Friends 7:00p Membership Committee	29	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)

Who's Who @ First UU

FIRST UU OFFICERS & BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President— Doug Wilson

President-Elect— Andrew Davis

Board of Trustees— Jana Rambo, Holger Meyer, Joe Lozano, Lori Young, Masud Chand, Jayne Henry, and Linda Jordan

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— TBD

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— 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

Jennifer Connelly, Charles Merrifield, and Nancy Milner

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

RE Corner

- Denise Jackson-Simon

What a fun line-up we've had so far this summer, and we're only halfway through. So far, kids have made wonton soup, miniature gardens, liquid ice cream, Lego structures, and beaded necklaces. They've also learned about model trains and gone birdwatching. This is all thanks to generous congregation members giving of their time and sharing their interests.

Coming up, the kids will learn latch hook and Spanish, make pottery, have fun with discards, look for bugs, and have the opportunity to "ask an old person" whatever they'd like to know. Sounds like too much fun!

Please plan to join us on summer Sundays!

And then keep your eyes open for information about our fall Children's Religious Exploration program. We have some exciting changes in the works.

Remember, it's much more fun when you are there!



Awesome prizes!

Saturday, July 28th

Doors open 6:30 pm; Bingo starts 7:00

**\$5 for the 1st card,
\$2 for each additional card**

*PIZZA available for a small donation.
Call Vivien to order pizza.
683-9295 or 371-1949 (text)*

Iced Tea & Coffee provided, or BYOBeverage
Cookies: 50¢ each

Fun · Prizes · Conversation

**50/50 drawing
Bring a friend!**

Lammas Celebration

- Anne Bailey

The Pagan Circle at First UU Church will gather to celebrate Lammas, the first harvest, on Saturday, August 4, beginning at 6 p.m. with a potluck feast followed by an informal ritual about 7.

Please bring a generous dish to share. Coffee and tea will be available.

All are welcome, and you are encouraged to bring drums or other rhythm instruments.

Please call Anne Bailey, 316-650-4905, Linda Jordan, 316-512-6652, or Paula Peare, 316-312-5235, if you have questions.

Ripples

- LaRilla Combs

The Caring Committee is the arm of the church that acknowledges events in our members' and friends' lives, such as illnesses, surgeries, and bereavements. We also acknowledge celebratory events such as birthdays, weddings, births and graduations.

Fern and Herb Van Gieson recently moved into an apartment at Larksfield Place. We wish them happiness in their new home.

Great News! After several months in rehab, **Lila Arnold** is scheduled to be released to return home on July 31.

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

It's Save Your Stuff Time!

- Del Smith

Put aside your collectibles, tools, kitchenware, toys, homeware, etc., for our October 11-13 garage sale – a major fundraiser. Let your friends and family know, too.

Unitarian Universalist Association 2018-2019 Common Read

- Social Action Committee

The 2018-2019 UUA Common Read is *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*, edited by Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom. We plan to participate and [to] make it easy and affordable for people to do so by contacting local libraries and requesting that they obtain copies for their patrons. More information will be forthcoming.

“A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. It can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations.

“This highly anticipated anthology presents a powerful and penetrating look at environmental justice from some of the key thinkers and activists in Unitarian Universalism today. Fourteen activist ministers and lay leaders apply a keen intersectional analysis to the environmental crisis, revealing ways that capitalism, white supremacy, patriarchy, and other systems of oppression intersect with and contribute to ecological devastation. They also explore how spiritual practices, congregational organizing, and progressive theology can inform faith-based justice work in the twenty-first century. These prophetic voices, from a wide range of perspectives, reveal new approaches and opportunities for more holistic, accountable, and connected justice efforts. Each essay is accompanied by suggested ways to take the next steps for further learning and action” ([inSpirit](#): the UU Book and Gift Shop).

Current Volunteer Opportunities

First UU Leadership Team

- Help work on food bank donations, expungement efforts in Kansas, or Haiti student education support. Contact Sharon Kniss, chair of the Social Action Committee.
- Help raise funds for the church. Contact Vivien Minshull-Ford or Marcia Ellsworth, co-chairs of the EcoFest and Fundraising Committees.
- Help mulch and plant the church grounds. Contact Anita Culp, chair of the Gardening Group.
- Help plan music for church services. Contact Jana Rambo, chair of the Music Committee.
- Help care for congregational members. Contact LaRilla Combs or Jana Rambo, co-chairs of the Caring Committee.

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Eclectic Readers

- Del Smith

11:30 am, Friday, August 17: Meet for a brown bag lunch and discuss the book, not yet chosen at "press time." The title will be posted on social media, in the UpDate, and in the Order of Service. No matter the book selected, we're sure to have a lively discussion. Del Smith, 316-612-0826.

The Occasional Book Group

We will meet Saturday, September 8, 1-3 p.m., in the First UU Library to discuss the graphic novels *Maus* and *Maus II* by Art Spiegelman, published by Pantheon Books in 1991 and 1992, respectively.

Spiegelman depicts his parents' lives as Polish Jews before and during World War II and the Holocaust. He creates hauntingly beautiful scenes using a minimalist drawing style. *Maus* and *Maus II* have been described as history, fiction, biography, memoir, autobiography, and a mix of genres. *Maus* garnered the first Pulitzer Prize for a graphic novel in 1992.