



# In Touch

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WICHITA

FOUNDED 1887

## President's Letter

- Doug Wilson

Dear First UU:

Another summer is wrapping up. They go so fast to me. I suppose for others winter goes fast and summer drags on. I guess I start with that because I feel a quickening at First UU too, an enthusiasm, a hustle and bustle. I love it! Every meeting or other First UU event I go to, from services to bingo, I'm loving how involved and gung go everyone is! In fact, I love all of you. (Not trying to sound like a minister! Ask Elizabeth; I come home from a meeting exclaiming how much I love you people! She does too, btw.)

This is not to say, my duties have been all roses; we have our issues too, but each time anything less pleasant comes up, it's so awesome how we come together and handle it.

So I'm excited to keep the momentum going and to carry it into things like congregational vision work, fulfilling our mission, and growing the congregation.

Thanks all.

See ya soon,  
Doug

## Music Committee Notes

- Jana Rambo

**Save the date: Tom Neilson will be doing a concert again at First UU February 16** and will also do the service the following day. The concert this year wasn't well attended; we're hoping the 2019 concert won't coincide with any major sports events and will be better attended.

We continue to look for affordable concerts to host at First UU. If you know of performers who might want to do a concert at our venue, please contact me or another Music Committee member.

Thanks to Corey for making a list of possible performers for our services and putting it on Google docs.

Also, thanks to Anita for volunteering to lead singing in services when Sharon is away.

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# 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.

## Board of Trustees August Meeting Agenda

Following is the First UU Board of Trustees August 15, 2018, meeting agenda. If you would like more information about agenda items, you may refer to the minutes, which are usually kept on file in the church library.

"One is wise to cultivate the tree that bears fruit in our soul."

- Henry David Thoreau

Check in

Agenda review

Consent agenda and July minutes

### Reports:

1. Treasurer Report
2. President Elect's report
3. President's Report

### Old business:

1. UUA Ministerial Agreement revisions concerns.
2. Vision Work Via Andrew.
3. Appoint a Committee on Ministry Chairperson.

### New business:

1. Nutritional Seminar Proposal.
2. Anti-racism/Love Reaches Out workshops.
3. Complaint about a 1st UU congregant.
4. Any new business?

Adjourn

## Create Things by Hand

- Anne Bailey

The Craft Group meets on the first Tuesday at 7:00 and on the third Wednesday at 4:00 – September 4 and 12 this month.

This group is open to anyone who likes to create things by hand. Some of us work with beads, some with yarn, and others with embroidery floss. This is an opportunity to bring your own project, work, and talk with likeminded people.

No reservations necessary – just show up.

## On Communication and Our Healthy Congregation

- Thea Nietfeld

Direct and positive communication is essential for a healthy congregation, where people feel safe and trusted.

Some years ago, I worked with this congregation for 18 months as a conflict consultant. Since members wanted to change long term patterns, we worked to open up leadership and decision-making, and to improve overall communication. It was a joy to work with the congregation on this, and I hope everyone – new and old – takes time to review the "Covenant of Health Relations" posted in the foyer.

I hope we all remain vigilant when secrets, negativity, or gossip arises, as it does in any group. The best response is a gentle "Let's not go there" when we wonder how the conversation can continue in a healthy way.

Trying to follow the aspirations in this covenant will keep our conversations and congregation healthy.

### **Covenant of Healthy Relations**

This covenant is a solemn agreement supporting an environment of respect, safety, transparency and honesty in communication allowing our community to relate in harmony.

#### **RESPECT (Showing regard and appreciation for others). I covenant to:**

Treat others with respect by listening with patience even when not in agreement.

Refuse to denigrate others or to support the denigration of others by my silence.

Support and encourage the personal and spiritual growth of others.

Acknowledge that everyone makes mistakes. I will seek forgiveness and offer forgiveness.

Keep my opinions open to change while not insisting that others change their opinions.

Listen to others' points of view in a non-judgmental way.

Expect positive intent in the actions of others.

#### **SAFETY (Courteous, sincere, and thoughtful consideration for others). I covenant to:**

Request and give confidentiality.

Share diverse ideas in a physically and emotionally safe manner.

Help provide a physically and emotionally safe environment for myself and others.

Take time to process information before responding.

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## Remembering Johnnie Nelson

-Anita Culp

Johnnie and Ronee Nelson were members of First UU Church in the 1990's. Their daughters, Veronika and Anna, remember going to the front of the church to light a candle for Joys and Sorrows. Johnnie recently passed away and Veronika has reached out to First UU to invite congregants to his Celebration of Life service.

The service will be held October 6, 3:00 p.m., at the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Hutchinson, 1809 E. 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. In lieu of flowers, donations to Johnnie's favorite charity, Heifer International, are welcome.

## 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.*

Congratulations and best wishes to **Kayla Beshire and Jeremiah Connelly** who were married Tuesday, July 31.

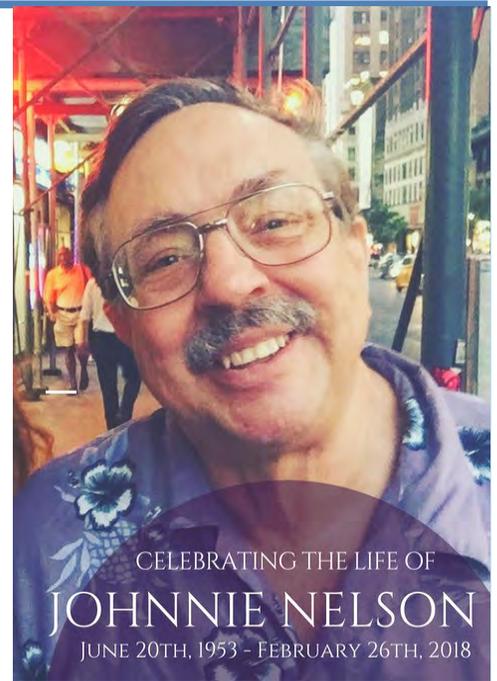
Congratulations and best wishes to **Miranda (Mo) Pollock and Jake Crouse** who were married Wednesday, August 8.

Our heartfelt condolences for **Mitch Kientz** whose Grandmother passed away Thursday, August 9.

Wonderful news: **Lila Arnold** has returned home, continues to gain strength, and is receiving physical therapy.

**Emergency Fund Request:** The Caring Committee emergency fund is very low. Without more contributions, we will be unable to assist people who need a little help with items most of us take for granted like gas to get to work, food, or medication. Contributions of any amount would be appreciated. Thanks to everyone who has contributed in the past.

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



# September 2018

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

## 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

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## September Services

- Annie Welsbacher

We'll enjoy five September Sundays, starting with the September 2 service featuring Andrew Davis presenting "The Gospel of Dumbledore." Each of us creates and manages meaning for ourselves, and yet we do this together. "The Gospel of Dumbledore" shows how the responsible pursuit of truth and meaning not only has benefits for ourselves, but also for those with whom we share our work.

September 9, Doug Wilson leads us in our beloved annual water ceremony. This UU tradition, which began in 1980 at a service held in East Lansing, Michigan, symbolizes our shared faith from many sources. Bring water that holds meaning for you, collected during summer travels or from your own community or home. We'll each pour a bit into a bowl and say a few words about why this water is special to us. (Water will be available to use metaphorically for those who forget to bring their own). Following the service, Anne Bailey will continue the symbolic sharing of our faith by using our ceremonial water to water our partner tree.

The September 16 sermon is "Exploring the Soul and Why it Matters" with special speaker Barb Gutsch, UU Fellowship of Salina's Lay Leader. She draws on *A Hidden Wholeness* by Parker Palmer, a book describing how we live divided lives to achieve success and be accepted, with our outside selves often hiding our true inner selves. Barb explores what is "soul," why it matters, and how each of us can begin to live an undivided life.

On September 23, Annie Welsbacher will channel a former west-coast minister in "Falling Out." Judith Meyer, minister emerita with the UU Community Church of Santa Monica, spoke for the "Pipes Lecture Series" in November 2017. A year after the U.S. presidential election, she addressed how she coped with her own version of the "anxiety, anger, and fear that have become part of our daily lives this past year." Annie will share the efforts Judith took "to focus...uneasiness and salvage some meaning from the mess we are in."

Our own Rev. Thea Nietfeld closes out the month with the September 30 service, "UU Spirituality on Tap." Imagination, silence, and conversation will be woven into this hour of group spiritual direction. Thea will describe her spirit's movement during the UU Retreat/Workshop at the Transfiguration Spirituality Center in Glendale, Ohio, last month. She will address the standard spiritual-direction approach of maintaining a personal practice, connecting with a beloved community, and offering service to the world.

### *Music Committee notes, continued*

It would be nice to have a couple more people who can operate the sound system when the usual operators aren't available. Thanks to Eric for volunteering and getting with Anne to learn how. I'm told it's not difficult, so if you could help with this, please get in touch with Anne.

*On Communication and Our Healthy Congregation, continued*

**TRANSPARENCY (Open and candid decision making with free access to all). I covenant to:**

Make official decisions through the democratic process according to church by-laws.

Maximize sharing of congregational information.

Frame information for accuracy and understanding rather than distort it for persuasive advantage.

Speak directly to the person or committee when issues arise or ask for mediation.

**HONESTY (Honorable and fair in speech, intentions, and actions). I covenant to:**

Interact with others in a fair manner.

Take responsibility for my own actions and feelings by not blaming others.

Agree to respectfully disagree when consensus cannot be reached.

**2018 Wichita Expungement Drive**

- Holger Meyer

The Wichita Bar Association and Kansas Legal Services have a project to expunge criminal records this fall from 8/15 to 9/30/2018.

A link to the flier ([2018 WICHITA EXPUNGEMENT DRIVE Public flyer](#)) containing details is posted in the [Mass Incarceration link on the Social Justice page](#) of First UU's website.

**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.

**Labor Day Potluck**

You are cordially invited to bid farewell to summer with the UU Holiday Party Group when we celebrate Labor Day, Monday, September 3, at First UU Church. Join us for scintillating conversation, irresistible edibles, and laugh-out-loud games.

We will gather at 5:30 and dine at 6. Please bring a covered dish for dinner.

## Eclectic Readers

- Del Smith

11:30 am, September 21: Janelle Diller's *Never Enough Flamingos*, a novel set in territory familiar to many of us, is our September selection. Diller, a Mennonite, grew up in Hesston listening to the Depression-era and World War II stories her parents and grandparents shared. She is well-versed in Mennonite history going back to the 16th century.

The narrator, Catherine "Cat" Peters is six or seven when the novel opens with Cat and her father going to town to make the final payment on his farm. It's the day the town bank closes permanently. So begins a decade of struggle.

The *Kirkus Review* sums up the novel: "A dark secret hides just below the surface in Sweethome, Kansas, where the Great Depression and drought have brought poverty and despair to the peaceful Mennonite farming community.... Peopled with some enduring characters and driven by both compassion and sarcasm, this is a vivid, surprising page-turner."

Copies of the book are available from Anita Culp at the church. Bring a brown bag lunch and join the discussion which begins around noon. 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.

## Digerati Buchgemeinschaft

- Rolando Gomez

Come join the Digerati! We are an online book club. For October will be joining the Wichita Big Read. The Big Read Wichita will return for an 11th year, featuring the book *Station Eleven*, a science fiction novel by Emily St. John Mandel. *Station Eleven* won the prestigious Arthur C. Clarke Award in 2015 and was a finalist for the National Book Award and the PEN/Faulkner Award. Since its original publication in 2014, the book has been translated into 27 languages.

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.

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# FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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## Missing Butterflies and Sighting Goldfinches - Anita Culp

It's official; the experts all say butterflies are having a terrible summer in Kansas. Our flower garden is no different; we have an abundance of blooms but only a few butterflies.

On the bright side, the purple coneflowers produced their usual bountiful supply of seeds, and American goldfinches have been regular visitors. If you are in the library during daylight hours, sit so you can look out the window and watch for these small yellow and black beauties as they perch on the large seed heads and eat away.

## Pagan Circle Celebration

Our next gathering will be on Saturday, September 1, 2018, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Although our printed schedule says we will be celebrating the New Moon, it will be one week past the Full Moon (August 26) and one day before the last quarter (September 2). Oh, well. Not sure what calendar was consulted for that one.

There will be singing, chanting, and a craft project involving bead stringing. Snack foods are always welcome. Bring drums and other instruments if you wish.

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