



In Touch

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WICHITA

FOUNDED 1887

Ecofest 2019 WICHITA

It's Easy Being Green!

- Bonnie Till

First UU's family-friendly annual celebration of green living and eco-stewardship this year will be on **Sunday, May 5, from noon to 5 p.m.**

This intergenerational Sunday-event is a celebration of one of First UU's core beliefs: protecting and nurturing the environment. **Yes, this event will be the Sunday Service on May 5.**

For those of you who remember EcoFest in the past, this one is going to be different in some ways and exactly the same in other ways.

- The biggest change is 1) EcoFest will be on Sunday, and 2) EcoFest will be Sunday afternoon only.
- Otherwise, everything will be much the same format: eco education, food, composting (new), shopping, used books, eco demos, eco kid's activities, plants, and pet rescue adoption (new) – puppies, and kittens, and bears, oh my! Well, probably not bears.

Everyone in the congregation is encouraged to participate and join in the fun of this glorious and energizing day. There are big jobs (most of these are already assigned) and there are *many* smaller jobs (like making something for the bake sale, or helping in the kitchen, or whatever may arise). We need lots of sunny faces and muscle to insure the day goes well.

Want to help? Now's the time! **Call:** Marcia Ellsworth (316-208-3083), Vivien Minshull-Ford (316-371-1949), or Bonnie Till (316-644-4043).

And, on May 5 don't forget your reusable water bottle. There will be a water station for refilling it.

In Touch

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

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 W & Th: 1:00 - 5:00pm

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

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.

Our hearts are saddened by the passing of member Dave Lombard on January 28. We extend our heartfelt condolences to wife Caroni and family. The memorial service will be held at First UU Church on **Saturday, March 2 at 1 p.m.** A reception will follow the service.

We are happy to hear that Thea Nietfeld's surgery on February 5 went well and that the tumor was contained, so there is no need for further treatment.

Best wishes to Millie Cherryholmes on her move to Presbyterian Manor in Newton. We wish Millie many years of happiness in her new home.

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

Board of Trustees February Meeting Agenda

Following is the First UU Board of Trustees February 20, 2019, 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.

- Check in
- Agenda review
- January minutes review
- Reports:**
 1. Treasurer's report
 2. President Elect's report
 3. President's report
- Continuing business:**
 1. Church website
 2. Shared vision
 3. Pastoral care
 4. Ceiling paint/repair
 5. What did I forget?
- Emerging business:**
 1. Pledge drive
 2. Photo copier replacement?
 3. As may occur
 4. Andrew's dual roles a conflict of interest?
- Adjourn

General Assembly 2019

- submitted by Anita Culp

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend. The 2019 General Assembly will be **June 19-23 in Spokane**, Washington. Most General Assembly events will be held in the Spokane Convention Center.

The Power of We—What do we want Unitarian Universalism to be? It is a time when we are asking big questions in our faith, and GA 2019 will be focused on digging into those questions together. It is a critical chance for congregational leaders and passionate UUs to set new goals and aspirations for our religious community. Help begin to reshape our Association and our congregations in new and powerful ways.

This year's theme is about collective power, "The Power of We," as well as the possibility, the purpose, the struggle, and the joy of what it means to be together in faithful community. In the past two years, Unitarian Universalism has recommitted to the work of liberation inside and outside our faith community. The antidote to a time of dangerous dehumanization is a love that connects us to our deeper humanity. Come to Spokane to experience what our shared faith can become when we embrace the Power of We.

Excellent Programming—GA will offer more than 100 programming selections over the course of five days. This year, in addition to Theme-Based Programming, the schedule will feature Role-Based Track Programming, including time for discussion among attendees, for sharing inspiring models and stories, and for concrete suggestions for how to further the work or "take it home." More programming details are available at www.uua.org/ga.

Registration and Housing—GA Registration and the GA Housing Reservation System opens on March 1 at 9 a.m. PST at www.uua.org/ga.

Financial Aid Available—The UUA is committed to the goal of making GA accessible to as many attendees as possible. Go to www.uua.org/ga in the month of March to learn about scholarships to support delegates—particularly those from marginalized groups—and about volunteer opportunities (work in exchange for registration).

source: UUA

Children's Religious Exploration (RE)

- Denise Jackson-Simon

Though we have touched on the exploration of our fifth principle, "All people need a voice," we have spent more time in February celebrating "Love." Of course, I believe love is the foundation of all good things, so it fits!

In March, along with a bit more time on the fifth principle, we will move onto the sixth, "Build a fair and peaceful world." We always make room for celebrations, and on March 17, we will celebrate the spring equinox with activities and goodies.

It has been exciting to have more new young visitors joining us this month. We look forward to seeing them again, along with all our children.

Please consider making Sundays in RE part of your child's spring commitments. It's much more fun when U are here!

Music Committee Notes

- Jana Rambo

The Music Committee is continuing our work to book concerts at the church. **Friday, March 22, at 7 p.m.** we will listen to **Jordan Butler, an area singer-songwriter**. You can listen to samples of his music at <https://soundcloud.com/jordan-butler-271573812>

We are in contact with Roy Zimmerman about a possible concert in April. Date to be announced.


We also hope to continue having special music in the services at least once a month. Recently, we've heard from Jenny Findling and Corey Swertfager. Thanks to both for sharing their talents

St. Patrick's Holiday Potluck

The UU Holiday Party Group invites you to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a delicious potluck dinner at First UU Church on Saturday, March 16. Gather at 5:30; dine at 6.

Bring your favorite dish to share, and we will partake of a great meal, including our original shamrock dessert. After dinner, we'll play laugh-out-loud games. Don't forget to wear green

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p First Sunday Lunch	4	5 6:30p Zen Friends 7:00p UU Craft Group	6 7:00p Committee on Ministry	7	8	9 10:00a Caring Committee
10 Daylight Savings Time 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 10:00a Small Group 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Leadership Council	11 6:00p Vegan Potluck	12 6:30p Zen Friends	13 7:00p Worship Committee	14 	15 11:30a Eclectic Readers	16 5:30p St. Patrick's Day Potluck
17 9:45a Adult Relig Expl 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Seeking Circle 12:20p Social Action Group	18	19 6:30p Zen Friends	20 4:00p UU Craft Group 7:00p Board of Trustees 11:00p Newsletter and Calendar Deadline	21	22 7:00p Jordan Butler Concert	23
24 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 10:00a Small Group 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Music Committee	25 1:00p Movie Group	26 6:30p Zen Friends 7:00p Membership Committee	27 1:30p Newsletter Mailing	28	29	30 6:30p UU Humanist Group
31 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship 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, Charlie King, 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 – Linda Jordan

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

Rachel Rutledge, chair; LaRilla Combs, Charles Merrifield, Paula Peare, and Frank Ruf

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jennifer Connelly, Charles Merrifield, and Nancy Milner

GROUP CONTACTS

Craft Group – 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 March

- Annie Welsbacher

March brings a bonus—five Sundays. This month, First UU will explore journeys, geographical as well as personal.

On **March 3**, Andrew Davis returns to the pulpit speaking on “Guiltless Gratitude.” Davis will explore how Unitarian Universalism encourages gratitude without indebtedness, so that UUs can embrace a rational path of responsible freedom by rejecting irrational guilt.

Rev. Sam Muyskens will be our speaker on Sunday, **March 10**. After serving as senior pastor of West Heights United Methodist Church from 1979 to 1992, Muyskens became the executive director of Inter-Faith Ministries and grew the organization into an internationally recognized organization. Currently, he is the founder and president of Global Faith in Action. Muyskens has traveled to Haiti 40 times on behalf of the ASAP Haiti Project, which he and other Haitian and Wichita residents founded years ago.

Muyskens says, “Dialogue in action is more than sharing our beliefs, even more than being respectful of differing religious beliefs. It is relationship building, it is life changing.”

Muyskens will share the story of Global Faith in Action’s Haiti Relief projects, which include educating Haitian children. The organization has set a goal to send at least 160 Children to Lambert School. Other projects include the Haiti Water project, the construction of dry latrines, the Haiti Alternative Spring Break trips, the construction of a computer technology center, and the refurbishment of the Lambert Medical Clinic.

On **March 17**, Kay Davis will speak through the perspective of fantasy and science fiction author Margaret Weis in her sermon, “Reflections on ‘This Is Now’ by Margaret Weis.” The presentation will examine our responses to events and phases of our life journeys and how we become distracted and lost if we fail to remain in the “now.”

On **March 24**, Brandi Kitty Frey will speak on “How to Be an Ally.” Respecting the inherent worth and dignity of all people and recognizing the interdependent web of which we are all a part are two key components of UUism. We will explore what that means when it comes to our interactions with members of marginalized groups.

Rounding out the month on **March 31**, Julie Burkhart will speak. In the wake of Dr. George Tiller’s assassination ten years ago on May 31, 2009, Burkhart founded Trust Women to honor his legacy and to continue fighting for reproductive rights. Burkhart will discuss the past decade of her journey, which has included the opening of new clinics in Oklahoma and Washington state, and most recently included a trip to Africa.

“Intersectionalities”: MidAmerica Regional Assembly 2019

This year, our Regional Assembly will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, at the Marriott St. Louis Airport Hotel, **April 5-7, 2019**. To find out more information about Regional Assembly, including pricing, hotel information, schedule of events, workshop information, information on volunteering, how to register, and much more, go to <https://www.uua.org/midamerica/ra>

Early Bird pricing is only offered until February 28. Regular prices start on March 1. Book your hotel room after completing your Regional Assembly registration. A special hotel rate is available until March 5.



First UU Pagan Circle

You are invited to join us for our March 2 gathering at 7:00 when we will talk about gender equality. March is designated as Gender Equality Month – a time to honor both genders, as well as a time to meditate on the equality of women and men, on the respect due to both women and men, and on Goddess/God manifesting as woman and man.

All are welcome and encouraged to join us. Drums, other rhythm instruments, and snacks are always welcome.

Feel free to call Anne Bailey (316) 650-4905 if you have questions.

Leadership Council Minutes, 10 February 2019

- Andrew Davis

Present: Kay Davis, Lynn Kientz, Mitch Kientz, Celestra Snyder, LaRilla Combs, Linda Jordan, Rachel Rutledge, Vivian Minshull-Ford, Marcia Ellsworth, Charles Merrifield

Small Group Ministry (Lynn Kientz): Lynn will be putting together a survey for the congregation on possible topics for Small Group Ministry study. Charles will help put it on Survey Monkey and send out to the congregation.

CoM (Rachel Rutledge): There was no meeting this month because of bad weather. Working with Sharon Kniss on Conflict Resolution where needed.

Shared Vision (Andrew Davis): The Board will consider an edited document of the Shared Vision Participants work product to be sent to the entire congregation for approval.

Aesthetics (Kay Davis): On February 15th a new show will be put up consisting of faculty and students from Northeast Magnet High School.

Caring Committee (LaRilla Combs): We need people to help meet the needs of our congregation. We meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 and the meetings last approximately one hour. We especially need hosts for receptions for memorial services and putting together a submission for *In Touch*.

Ecofest (Vivian Minshull-Ford & Marcia Ellsworth): May 5th. Letters and fliers are ready to be sent out. KMUW is the sponsor this year. We still need volunteers.

Green Sanctuary (Linda Jordan): We are working to combine Spiritual and Activist Aspects of Environmental Concerns.

Pagan Circle (Linda Jordan): We are growing. A special service for Beltane will be held in conjunction with Ecofest on May 5th.

Playground (Marcia Ellsworth): The next planning meeting is February 27th at 5:30.

Humanist Group (Charles Merrifield): On February 23rd our guest speaker is Mtangulizi Sanyika, who will also be the featured speaker for the Sunday service on the 24th. The informal gathering is at 6:30 with the presentation beginning at 7:00.

Finance Committee (Charles Merrifield): We have a surplus, since we are not currently employing a minister. We need to begin a pledge drive for the upcoming fiscal year by March 1st and still need someone to organize it.

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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Eclectic Readers

Please Look After Mom by Kyung-Sook Shin is the stunning, deeply moving story of a family's search for their mother, who goes missing one afternoon amid the crowds of the Seoul Station subway. Narrated by daughter, son, husband, and mother, *Please Look After Mom* is at once an authentic picture of contemporary life in Korea and a universal story of family love. The novel is an international sensation and a bestseller that has sold over 1.5 million copies in the author's native Korea. It is the first of her books to be translated into English.

Reviewers say that you will never think of your mother the same way again after you read this book. Copies of the book are available at church.

11:30 Friday, March 15 (brown bag lunch followed by discussion). Del Smith, 316-612-0826.