



# In Touch

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WICHITA

FOUNDED 1887

## Leadership Council Minutes: 10 March 2019

- Andrew Davis

**Present:** Andrew Davis, Kay Davis, Marcia Ellsworth, Lynn Kientz, Mitch Kientz, Charles Merrifield, Vivian Minshull-Ford, Jana Rambo, Rachel Rutledge

**Partner Church:** We are still looking for clarity from partner church on stable church organization and accounting of funds.

**Worship Committee:** Anne Welsbacher has resigned due to increase in workload with her job. She has been a great committee chair and will be missed. The committee is down to five members and would like to add at least one more to streamline the work for members. This is a great way to contribute to the high-quality services we enjoy every Sunday.

**Aesthetics Committee:** We will be changing art exhibits on March 29. If anyone has suggestions for future exhibits from specific artists, please contact Kay Davis at [kmdavis9909@att.net](mailto:kmdavis9909@att.net).

**Committee on Ministry (CoM):** Brandi Kitty Fry, our Sunday Service Speaker on March 24, will speak on "How to Be an Ally."

We are proud of our status as a Welcoming Community and are looking for ways to improve how we can serve as a spiritual home to those seeking refuge from unwelcoming parts of American Culture.

We will ask the worship committee to include an affirmation of our commitment to diversity in the introduction to our Worship Services.

**Ecofest:** Feeling a bit overwhelmed with all of the work to do, but we are on target. We want to stress to the congregation that this year EcoFest will be our worship service for Sunday, May 5, in the form of an all-hands-on deck social service project.

**Outdoor Intergenerational Activity Area:** We are finalizing the plans and hope to move forward as soon as possible. Contact Marcia Ellsworth for information.

**Website:** We are exploring hiring a webmaster to ensure a smooth working website that better meets our needs.

**Stewardship Campaign:** We will kick off the stewardship campaign for the 2019-20 fiscal year on April 7. You can pick up Stewardship Campaign information and Pledge Cards on that day. The stewardship sermon for this year is titled, "What Will You Say Yes To." We hope to have all pledges turned in by May 15 so that the Board can make a final budget to submit to the church for approval at the upcoming Congregational Meeting.

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# In Touch

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

We are saddened to hear of former member Fred DeWitt's death on Thursday, February 28. Our heartfelt condolences to wife Susan and children. Fred was active in the men's breakfast group.

We are saddened to learn of former member Peggy Browning's death on Tuesday, March 12. Peggy is fondly remembered by many long-time members of First UU. Peggy was very active in the church and served on the board and as president of the congregation. Peggy was also very active in the broader community and especially in women's issues. A memorial service was held at Larksfield Place March 23. Memorials have been established for Larksfield Place Caring Fund and Botanica.

A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped with the Dave Lombard's memorial reception. You are greatly appreciated.

Do you know someone in our congregation who would benefit from a closer connection to the church? The caring committee might be able to help. On behalf of the church, we reach out to congregants who, for example, have been recently bereaved, have an illness, or need help from the congregation for similar reasons. Contact Jana Rambo ([jayrobo@aol.com](mailto:jayrobo@aol.com)) or LaRilla Combs ([LaRillaCombs@aol.com](mailto:LaRillaCombs@aol.com)) if you know of someone.

In the meantime, please be aware that the committee can't meet all needs on our own. Please consider ways in which you yourself can help, and let us know.

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

## EcoFest Planning Meeting Notice

- Bonnie Till

An EcoFest planning meeting will be held on Thursday, **April 18**, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the church. *Everyone involved with putting EcoFest together should plan to be there.* Anyone interested in helping at EcoFest is welcome.



# EcoFest 2019 WICHITA

*It's Easy Being Green!*

## EcoFest Facts and Tips

- Bonnie Till

EcoFest is **Sunday, May 5**. Here are some important things you need to know about this year's EcoFest:

1. EcoFest is on a Sunday this year. Why a Sunday? Changing the format of Sunday morning service can be energizing. Other UU churches have "shaken up" Sunday morning and found it brings in fresh ideas and renews interest. EcoFest is an intergenerational celebration of First UU's commitment to green living and eco-stewardship.
2. Yes, there will be a lunch just like on all first Sundays at First UU. However, there will be a lot more folks stopping by to join us. The food for sale will be ecofriendly, vegetarian, vegan, and delicious. Again this year and even better than last, there will be emphasis on composting any food waste and making sure all serving dishes and utensils are washed or composted. We will be assisted in this goal by Travis and Katie Folds of CompostICT.
3. *And for heaven's sake, don't forget your refillable water bottle because there will be a water station for refilling it.*
4. The cost to get in is \$3 per person (twelve and up). Those under 12 get free admission.
5. EcoFest will run from noon to five. There will be a lot to see and do in that time frame. Food will be served from noon until the food runs out.
6. Here is a small sampling of exhibitors and vendors who will be participating in EcoFest:
  - CompostICT (Want to compost? Travis and Katie will tell you how.)
  - Strong Roots Healthy Farming (farming without pesticides)
  - Belle & Buddy's Kitchen (jams, jellies, apple butter)
  - Puppy Smiles (all-natural healthy dog treats)
  - Bag Free Wichita
  - Zero Waste
  - Lori Lawrence
  - River Walk Clean-Up
  - Great Plains Nature Center
  - Dog Adoption
7. Finally, the EcoFest Committee challenges you to think of ways you can be more caring of the environment in your own home and life. One suggestion: When you are eating out and the waitress asks you what you want to drink, tell her what you want, and add that you do not need a straw. This seemingly small gesture can have a great impact. Just thought of another one: When you eat out, take your own reusable container with you for any leftovers you might want to take home.

*Leadership Council Minutes, continued*

**Humanist Group:** Dr. Mtangulizi Sanyika's presentation on February 23 and his sermon on February 24 were both well attended and evoked strong, positive responses.

Dr. James Schwartz, from WSU, will be speaking at the March meeting on "The Ethics of Space Mining."

**Green Sanctuary:** Final paperwork for Green Sanctuary certification will be submitted after the Stewardship Campaign has been completed.

**Caring Committee:** The memorial service for David Lombard was held Saturday, March 2. Linda Jordan will be joining the Caring Committee. We are still looking for more members.

**Music Committee:** Jordan Butler will be performing on Friday, March 22. Roy Zimmerman will be performing on Monday, April 29.

**Small Group Ministry:** Celestra Snyder will join Lynn and Mitch Kientz as the leadership team for small group ministries.

## Name Tags for Prizes

- Susan Hund-Milne, Membership Committee

In the interest of promoting fellowship and helping newcomers feel welcome, the Membership Committee will be offering prizes on various Sundays. Those wearing a name tag will be given a ticket stub and be eligible to win a prize in a drawing after the service.

Prizes include Equal Exchange coffee, tea or candy. If anyone has new items that might be appropriate to use, feel free to donate them. Let's make this church user-friendly!

# Roy Zimmerman Concert

First UU Church Of Wichita

7202 E 21st St North

Monday, April 29 @ 7 pm

\$15 or pay what you can

## Pagan Circle at First UU

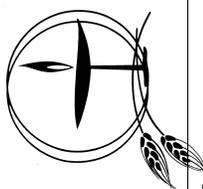
We will meet for our monthly gathering on Saturday, April 6, at 7 p.m. We will be learning something about Hecate—the goddess of magic, witchcraft, the night, moon, ghosts, and necromancy. She was the only child of the Titans Perses and Asteria, from whom she received her power over heaven, earth, and sea.

Everyone is welcome, and you are encouraged to bring snack foods, drums, and other rhythm instruments. Please feel free to call Anne Bailey (316-650-4905) if you have questions.

Our meeting in May will take place on WEDNESDAY, May 1. We will celebrate Beltane on May 1 this year because on Saturday, preparations for EcoFest will be taking over the entire Church. Mark your calendars—details later.



# April 2019

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

## Stewardship Options

- Charles Merrifield

There are a variety of ways to donate money to the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita. Please consider these different methods so you can decide which is best for you:

### Cash

- Quick and Direct
- Anonymous
- Bad for tax records and mailing

### Check

- Good for tax records and mailing
- Time consuming and repetitive

### Online Bill Pay

- Go to Bill Pay on your bank or credit union web page.
- Set up each year to automatically send monthly payments.
- Usually no charge for each transaction.

### Vanco

- Set up each year to automatically send monthly payments.
- Make payments from credit card or bank or credit union account.
- Complete Vanco application at church.
- Cost church about 3% of payment.

### PayPal

- Set up each year to automatically send monthly payments, or individual payments can be performed.
- Make payments from credit card or bank or credit union account.
- Can use card reader at church.
- Can use PayPal QR code with smartphone. QR code is on Order of Service each Sunday.
- Costs church about 3% of payment.



Our QR code

## Mondo: Ask a Zen Teacher

- Annie Welsbacher

On **May 19**, Taiun Michael Elliston, Soto Zen Priest with the Abbot of the Atlanta Soto Zen Center and the guiding teacher of Wichita's Southwind Sangha, will speak about...whatever you want him to!

In the spirit of the Zen practice of "Mondo"—the spontaneous answers of a Zen teacher to questions posed by his students—Abbott Elliston has asked that we provide questions for him to answer in the moment. Here is your chance to find out whatever you want about Soto Zen practice in general or Wichita's Southwind Sangha or the Atlanta Soto Zen Center in particular.

**Please email or text First UU President Doug Wilson with your questions by Wednesday, May 15**, so he can gather and present as many questions as time allows to Abbott Elliston on May 19.

## Services in April

- Annie Welsbacher

Spring! Or is it? This is Kansas; who knows? But one thing is certain: spring months bring annual rites aplenty. Among those we'll explore is First UU's annual stewardship drive, when we touch base with one another and discuss what our church means to us and why it is worth keeping alive and vital. Another First UU rite has moved to spring this year—our annual EcoFest Wichita, to be held on Sunday, May 5—and we'll learn what one young woman is doing to try to preserve the planet that EcoFest is all about. We also celebrate the ritual of rebirth reflected in the Easter season, and we'll close the month by reuniting with our professorial friend from Lawrence.

On **April 7**, Andrew Davis will present “What Will You Say ‘Yes’ To?” which considers our stewardship of the church and which elements of our shared vision each of us is willing to support with the resources available to us.

On **April 14**, Holger Meyer will discuss the #FridaysForFuture movement to demand action against climate change. This movement was launched last August by then-15-year-old Greta Thunberg in Stockholm and already has prompted tens of thousands of students in Sweden to skip school every Friday to strike for the climate. Meyer will share speeches and clips by Thunberg, an eloquent speaker he describes as “for me personally a beacon of hope in a world that is often dark.”

**April 21** is Easter Sunday and celebrates wholeness. Our service will draw wisdom to honor this time of rebirth and wholeness with readings from the Unitarian Universalist Soul Matters package.

On **April 28**, Bob Minor, sociology professor from KU, will return to the pulpit to present “Must We Understand Human Beings Unlike Ourselves?” Healing our society means a commitment in the healer/activist to the idea that there are levels of understanding and depths of comprehension.

## RE Corner

- Denise Jackson-Simon, Director of Children's Religious Exploration

The 7th Principle, “We care for earth's lifeboat,” is the focus of our lessons in **April**.

- We will participate in the first half of the service on the **7th** and **21st**.
- Following our time in the service on the **21st**, we will celebrate Easter with activities and our annual egg hunt.
- On the **14th**, we will celebrate Earth Day as part of our study of this principle.
- On the **28th**, we will be in the classroom for a lesson.

I hope to see you all this month as we celebrate spring and the new life and beautiful weather that this time of year brings. It's much more fun when U are here!

## Remembering Kristi Parker

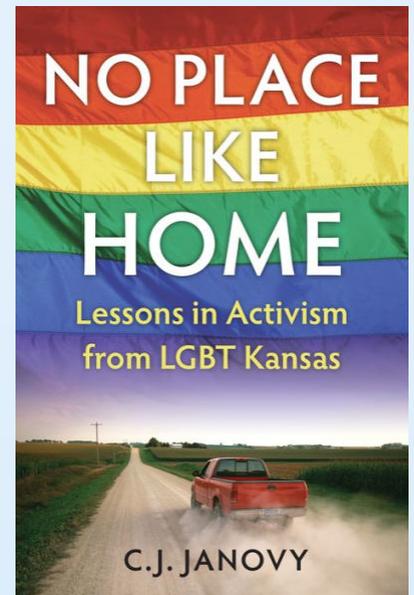
- Annie Welsbacher

For many years, First UU advertised in and supported the monthly *Liberty Press*, established in 1994 with the motto, “We were gay before it was cool.” Its publisher – and its heart and soul – was Kristi Parker, who died suddenly of a stroke at age 49 on March 10, 2018. That month, First UU held her memorial service, which brought in a record-breaking crowd from Parker’s wide and deep network of loved ones.

Wichita Professional Communicators, on whose board Parker served, has commemorated her with the purchase and donation to the Wichita Public Library of a new book in her name. *No Place Like Home: Lessons in Activism from LGBT Kansas*, by C. J. Janovy, was published by the University Press of Kansas in 2018. Parker was interviewed shortly before her death and is quoted in the book.

An online blurb describes the book thus: “Far from the coastal centers of culture and politics, Kansas stands at the very center of American stereotypes about red states. In the American imagination, it is a place LGBT people leave. *No Place Like Home* is about why they stay. The book tells the epic story of how a few disorganized and politically naïve Kansans, realizing they were unfairly under attack, rolled up their sleeves, went looking for fights, and ended up making friends in one of the country's most hostile states.”

*No Place Like Home* is available at Watermark Books.



## UU Christians

- Charles Merrifield

Throughout much of the United States, many UUs consider themselves to be Christians. However, there have been concerns that self-identified Christians report being criticized at our local church. The Committee on Ministry believes that such criticism is inconsistent with the diversity which is part of our heritage and values, especially since UUism is historically based in Christianity.

The Committee on Ministry would like to determine the comfort and welcome felt by our Christian members. To contribute your voice and experience, please email the chair of the Committee on Ministry, Rachel Rutledge, at [riersocwk@gmail.com](mailto:riersocwk@gmail.com).

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## Humanist Meeting Goes to Space March 30

- Charles Merrifield

Dr. James Schwartz will discuss "The Ethics of Space Exploration" at our next meeting on **March 30** at the First Unitarian Universalist Church at 7:00 p.m.

With the passage of the 2015 Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act and the similar Luxembourg Law on Use of Resources in Space, there is growing excitement about the extraction and use of resources from the Moon and near-Earth asteroids. In his talk, which is based on a chapter of his upcoming book *The Value of Space Science*, Dr. Schwartz will explore the issue of space mining from an ethics and policy perspective. Highlighting the relative scarcity of easily accessible space resources, he will argue that space mining must be regulated carefully in order to ensure the sustainability of spaceflight activities.

Dr. Schwartz is editor of *The Ethics of Space Exploration* (Springer 2016) and has taught for the WSU Philosophy Department since 2014. An internationally-recognized researcher of the philosophy and ethics of space exploration, his publications have appeared in *Advances in Space Research*, *Acta Astronautica*, *Space Policy*, *Astropolitics*, *International Journal of Astrobiology*, *Journal of the British Interplanetary Society*, *Futures*, *Environmental Ethics*, *Ethics & the Environment*, and *Philosophia Mathematica*. He has also contributed invited chapters to six edited volumes on ethics and space exploration.

The March 30 meeting will be preceded by a thirty-minute social period with drinks, snacks, and desserts. Let us know if you can bring a snack or dessert to share. Childcare can be arranged if you let us know ahead of time.

## Music Committee Notes

- Jana Rambo

**Roy Zimmerman will be performing at First UU on Monday, April 29.** We would have preferred a weekend date, but this is the time he'll be in our area!

The Music Committee helped with Carol Neighbor's concert on February 24 in celebration of her 80th birthday. She and her friends performed a variety of music, interspersed with memories of Carol's long musical career. Committee members and others helped serve at the reception and clean up afterwards.

By the time this newsletter comes out, Jordan Butler's March 22 concert will be in the past. We have been working to publicize it and are hoping for a good turnout.

We continue to work toward having more music in the services. If you have musical ability and are willing to help, please get in touch with a Music Committee member. Also, if you know any musicians who would play for a service, please give us their information.

## April Anniversaries

- Anita Culp, Membership Committee

The following members joined First UU Church during the month of April (with years of membership given). We celebrate your membership and look forward to your continuing participation in our church life: April Bales (2), Jim Buchhorn (4), Elizabeth Crawford (2), Susan Hund-Milne (32), Suzanna Mathews (9), Kathleen McGee (28), Suzanne Miller (4), Janelle Patterson (2), Janet Roberts (11), Bruce Roby (2), Rick Welsbacher (11).

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# FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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## Eclectic Readers

Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* is the Eclectic Readers selection for April. It's an educated guess that many of us have read the book since it was first published in 1970, but a revisit and discussion in the current "MeToo" times will be rewarding.

Angelou was a precocious but insecure black girl in the American South during the 1930s and subsequently in California during the 1940s. Maya's parents divorced when she was only three years old and shipped Maya and her older brother, Bailey, to live with their paternal grandmother, Annie Henderson, in rural Stamps, Arkansas. Annie, whom they call Momma, ran the only store in the black section of Stamps and was the central moral figure in Maya's childhood.

**April 19**, 11:30: brown bag lunch, followed by discussion. Del Smith, 316-612-0826

## An Excuse to Throw a Party: Holiday Party Group

Americans celebrate many food-related holidays in April, including National Peach Cobbler Day, National Garlic Day, National Zucchini Bread Day, and Mushroom Day, or, as we call them, an excuse to throw a party.

Please join the Holiday Party Group for a potluck dinner to be followed by games on Saturday, **April 13**, at First UU Church. Gather at 5:30; dine at 6.