



In Touch

First Unitarian Universalist Church of
Wichita
Founded 1887

November 2019

More Voices: President's Letter

- Andrew Davis

Being a lay-led congregation is neither better nor worse than having a full or part-time minister, but it's clearly different. On the down-side it is more work, but on the up-side we don't as easily risk falling into complacency, since we can't pass the buck to the woman or man in charge. On balance, I think we've made a good start on this new phase of our lives together. I can see lots of little things I wish we'd been able to do better or even at all in some cases, but I'm convinced we're moving in the right direction.

Some of our best work has come from the Worship Committee and our members who have stepped up to present a sermon. In addition to Linda Jordan and Anne Bailey helping us celebrate Pagan holidays, and Lara Pollack beginning her "Greta Speaks" series, we've already had eight members select, adapt, prepare, and present a sermon from UUA SoulMatters resources, and we have at least two more SoulMatters sermons scheduled for each month through June.

Over the years I've seen a lot of people put in a lot of time trying to make life meaningful for themselves and others. I have not, however, ever seen as many people do as consistently good work as these people have. Their voices have made our Sunday morning's, and by extension our lives, far better than they would otherwise have been, and I am looking forward to more voices in the months to come.

It takes a great deal of courage to stand up in front of your peers and speak to the significance of the principles and purposes of our church. It takes a great deal of work to personalize the message and deliver it in a way that resonates with members and visitors alike. I'd like to publicly thank the Worship Committee for organizing these efforts and all of our members who stepped forward to fill a big need. To those who haven't given a talk, we couldn't survive without the work you do and the presence you keep in our community, so thank you and keep up your good work. So, whether you're a talky member or a quiet one, the work you do matters.

Thank you.

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.

Ripples

- Caring Committee Representative: Linda Jordan

The Caring Committee is the part 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.

During the past month, Lila Arnold has been dealing with ongoing health issues. She may be in Larksfeld Place, or hopefully home by now. She could use a friendly phone call as well as our best wishes. Roxanne McKenzie is recovering at home from blood clots in her lungs, and remains upbeat and we send positive thoughts and healing energy her way.

We mark the passing of long-time member Millie Wherritt, on September 29th, and hold her friends and family in our thoughts and prayers. A date for her memorial service is to be announced. We also offer comfort and consolation to Vivien Minshull-Ford and her family on the passing of Vivien's mother on September 26th. We have recently learned of the death of Ellen Oberle's brother and father this past August and extend comfort and sympathy to her and her kin.



Concrete stage & sidewalk being poured for Betty's Place Playground October 9, 2019. Photo by Bruce Roby

Our Wildflower Seeds at Wichita Alternative Gift Market

The 25th Annual Wichita Alternative Gift Market on Saturday, **November 9, 2019**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., will be at a new location—First Presbyterian Church, 525 N Broadway. This market features charitable gifts starting at only \$1.00, fair-trade crafts and foods, café lunch, and more. Childcare and children’s activities will be available. Admission is free.

The community-wide market is hosted by dozens of local groups. This will be the second year in a row that First UU is participating. Our booth will raise funds for Seeds Banks of Hope. Volunteers organized by the Social Action Committee will provide complimentary wildflower seed packets containing seeds harvested from our flower garden for shoppers who donate tax-deductible gifts in honor of their loved ones. We are going to be assembling them on Sunday October 27 after service, and everyone is encouraged to join in!

<https://alternativegiftmarketwichita.wordpress.com/>

<https://alternativegifts.org/giving/gifting/causes/04-seed-banks-of-hope-haiti>

Bullet Points from the Board

-Andrew Davis

- We have budgeted to have our lawn service do some extra work on the grounds to keep the trees in shape, remove volunteer trees, do some of the “big” clean up we need.
- We will host The Society of Alternative Resources (SOAR) for an event at the church on Saturday, January 11th to facilitate community organizations’ efforts to address environmental sustainability efforts.
- A reminder: there will be a Church Community Fair after the Sunday service and before First Lunch on Sunday, November third. This will give everyone a chance to consider how they want to be involved in the church as we move into the new year.
- At our congregational meeting in January, we will have an official vote on the new Shared Vision we have been working on for nearly a year now. We will have copies available at church services starting in December so that you can not only review the Shared Vision statements, but see an example of how they can be used to explain ourselves to the community at large.

Compost ICT: An Environmental Solution to Kitchen Waste

- Vivien Minshull-Ford

For a month now, we have been receiving a sealed (no smell) container where all acceptable kitchen scraps and other compostable waste go. On Mondays, Compost ICT people whisk away the full container to be turned into useful compost and leave us a nice clean new one, as they do for many area restaurants and businesses. We're signed up through December, at \$55 a quarter to see how this program works for us. With the holiday parties coming up, our bucket is sure to be easy to fill. In fact, we may need a second container each month (only \$10 more each quarter).

What Can Be Composted?

In addition to, fruit and veggie scraps, Compost ICT will take: coffee grounds with paper filters, tea bags, paper towels, toilet/tissue paper, paper bags, newspaper, dairy, meat (bones, too), bread, egg shells and cartons, plants, nuts, grass clippings, small twigs, fur, feathers, and hair. There are several lists posted in the kitchen.

What Compost ICT will NOT take are: plastic bags, wax paper plates and cups, animal waste, and Styrofoam. One day we hope to have our own compost center, but meanwhile, Compost ICT fits in perfectly with our 7th Principal philosophy and Green Sanctuary program.

Produce Exchange Final Harvests:

-Linda Jordan

As of this writing, we haven't had a hard freeze so those green tomatoes may ripen yet! The produce exchange will close for the season the Sunday following our first hard freeze.

If you still have excess produce from your garden we gratefully accept your donations. Do you have green tomatoes? Don't leave them to rot on the vine! Bring them in! Someone will likely wish to fry them up!

Thanks again to all who have made this project a success. Your donations and purchases of produce have added to the emergency fund and helped meet the needs of our congregation members. While we prepare to set our gardens to rest, fret not, as the garden produce exchange will return next year.



Historic Horror Masterpiece Found

- Charles Merrifield

Have you ever seen this poster in the church library? The Beast from the Beginning of Time poster has been in the church library for several decades. It is an advertising poster for a 1965 feature length film in which our late member Dick Welsbacher starred. He may even have written the script.

For years I have wanted to see this movie, but I thought it was lost in the mists of time. But, no, last month, Dick Welsbacher's daughter, Annie, found an old VHS copy of a television broadcast of the movie. The video quality is not great, but sound is well preserved.

Let's watch this historic local masterpiece the night after Halloween, Friday, November 1, at the church at 7:00 p.m. for a fundraiser for the church. Popcorn and goodies will be sold. Space is limited, so please make a reservation by texting 316-371-3960, or by emailing chasmerrifield@gmail.com.

November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Daylight Savings Time Ends 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p First Sunday Lunch	4 6:30p Zen Friends	5 7:00p UU Craft Night	6 7:00p Committee on Ministry	7	8 7:00p Welsbacher Movie Showing	9 6:00p Pagan Circle - Feast for the Dead 10:00a Caring Committee 5:30p Pre-Thanksgiving Holiday Potluck
10 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 10:00 Small Group 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Leadership Council	11 4:00p Worship Committee 6:00p Vegan Potluck 6:30p Zen Friends	12 9:30a - 3:00p Garage Sale Setup	13 10:00a - 5:00p Garage Sale Setup 7:00p Membership Committee	14 9:00a - 5:00p Garage Sale	15 9:00a - 5:00p Garage Sale	16 9:00a - 1:00p Garage Sale 6:30p Game Night
17 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:20p Social Action Group	18 6:30p Zen Friends	19	20 6:00p Board of Trustees 11:00p Newsletter and Calendar Deadline	21	22 11:30a Eclectic Readers	23 6:30p UU Humanist Social and Meeting
24 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 10:00a Small Group 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Music Committee	25 1:30p Movie Group 6:30p Zen Friends	26	27 1:30p Newsletter Mailing	28 Office Closed Thanksgiving	29	30

Services in November

- From the Worship Committee and SoulMatters Team

Our SoulMatters theme this month considers what it means to be “A People of Attention.”

Our services will encourage us to look deeply at ourselves and the world around us.

Alice Walker famously wrote, *“I think it pisses God off if you walk by the color purple in a field somewhere and don't notice it. People think pleasing God is all God cares about. But any fool living in the world can see it always trying to please us back.”* These words remind us that attention and gratitude go hand in hand, and that attention doesn't only awaken us to life's gifts; it also makes it impossible to ignore life's suffering. While we expect to feel grateful this month of thanks, we may also feel devoted to paying attention to the grand conversation of life happening all around us. Paying attention may help you notice all you've been given; can assist your heart to be swayed into love for people and causes, and shows where the world is fraying and could use your touch, words, and consideration to mend and make the edges meet.

So, Friends, we wish you to join us this month but advise that true attention comes at a cost, once these details, needs, and fields of purple are seen authentically, you may not be able to look away and your heart may make your hands turn to create necessary positive changes.

11/3. Annie Welsbacher presents her adaptation of “An Ethics of Attention” by the Rev. Victoria E. Safford from the SoulMatters collection. “Giving our attention away to distraction is not merely rude to the person in front of us; it is an act of irreverence to ourselves.”

11/10: Dr. Bob Minor returns to our pulpit with “The Impostor Syndrome,” in which he explores how dominant, oppressor cultures condition those who are in subordinate positions to internalize and remain in a “victim role” in order to keep the overall cultural hierarchy in power. Dr. Minor stresses what those who are victims of the “Imposter Phenomenon” must do to overcome the feelings of inferiority that impede their success and realization of their true potential.

11/17: Andrew Davis shares his musings on the magic of paying attention in his latest work, “Learning to Look, Learning to Listen, Learning to Live.”

11/24: Doug Wilson draws from “Pay Attention!” by the Rev. Moly Housh Gordon from the SoulMatters collection to explore our need for filters and discernment when we are constantly bombarded with information. “Anything can be worthy of our attention if we have, with care, found it to be so. Anything can be a distraction if we are not mindful.”

November Anniversaries

- Anita Culp, Membership Committee

The following members joined First UU Church during the month of November (years of membership). We are excited to celebrate your membership and look forward to your continuing participation in our church life: Nancy Ross Milner (41), Charles Merrifield (33), Nancy Berube (27), Jennifer Hess (7), Tia Bivens (1), and Dania Laubach (1).

RE Corner

- Denise Jackson-Simon, DRE

The children have enjoyed our lessons on Expectation and Belonging. This month, the theme is Attention. **November 3rd and 17th**, they will participate in the first half of the main service and then continue with activities in the classroom. On the **10th and 24th**, we will meet in the classroom the entire time for our lesson and activities.

Using the Soul Matters materials, we will explore the following: Attention to Our Inner Self through the Practice of Prayer; Attention to the Needs of Others through the Practice of Helping; Turning Attention to the Now through the Practice of Mindfulness; and Attention to the Beauty around Us through the Practice of Gratitude. This, of course, ties in beautifully as we celebrate the season of Thanksgiving.

It was such a joy to see our children setting the table and serving the meal for our Fall Family Round-up. They did a great job. I appreciate the folks who participated in the creation of our steppingstones. They will find a home in our newly developing outdoor space.

I am grateful for the privilege to work with such wonderful young people and am thrilled to see some new kids showing up on Sundays. Remember, it is much more fun when U are there!

First UU Pagan Circle

- Anne Bailey

You are invited to the 28th Annual Feast for the Dead, our Samhain/Halloween celebration, to be held this year on Saturday, November 2, at the Church. We will begin at 6:00 with a Potluck-Covered Dish Dinner followed, about 7:00, by ritual honoring our departed loved ones.

Please bring a generous dish to share. Costumes are welcome. You may bring something to represent an ancestor or a person significant to you who has recently passed over. Call 316-684-3481 for further information.

Pre-Thanksgiving Party

The Holiday Party Group invites you to help us celebrate Pre-Thanksgiving on Saturday, November 9 at First UU Church.

Gather at 5:30; dine at 6. Please bring a dish to share. We'll enjoy a potluck dinner and then play games.

Digerati Buchgemeinschaft

First UU Online Book club. We are lining up to join in on the [Big Read](#) and read [Lab Girl](#) by Hope Jahren. The Big Read starts October 1st and runs through Nov. 15th. See the Eclectic Readers article for how to get a free copy.

Join us as we discuss and select future books. You can find [us in Goodreads](#).

Our Fall Garage Sale

- Vivien Minshull-Ford

It's time to get ready for our upcoming First UU garage sale Thursday, November 14 (9-5), Friday, November 15 (9-5), and Saturday, November 16 (9-1). We will be accepting donations of items on Sunday, November 10; Monday, November 11; and Tuesday, November 12, by appointment, and on Wednesday, November 13 – set up and pricing day – from 9 to 5.

Please bring clean, usable items before the sale begins: kitchen gadgets and utensils, any kind of tool, Christmas ornaments, toys, clothing in very good condition, small furniture, antiques, and decorative items. If you will be bringing boxes of collectibles which have spent a long time in your basement or garage, they may have gathered hitchhikers: please inspect containers before you donate them: we had several spiders visit our last garage sale!

If you can donate your time to arrange and price donations, or be available to work on sale days, please let either Vivien (683-9295) or Marcia (208-3083). It takes a big crew to go through the donations, figure out where each item can be displayed, and attach prices. It's usually a lot of fun, and there will be pizza and other treats. The biggest crowds of bargain hunters usually come on Thursday and Saturday morning.

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Eclectic Readers

- Anne Bailey

The Eclectic Readers Group has selected *The Art Forger* by Barbara A. Shapiro to read for November. From a review of the book: "March 18, 1990, thirteen works of art worth today over \$500 million were stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. It remains the largest unsolved art heist in history, and Claire Roth, a struggling young artist, is about to discover that there's more to this crime than meets the eye." If that review isn't enough to get you itching to read, here's one more, "Shapiro deftly takes on the role of magician, dazzling us with ingenious sleights of hand and a narrative juggling act; watching her bring all the pieces together makes for an exciting and very pleasurable read. If you love art, a mystery, and a tale of unrequited love, this tale is for you."

Copies loaned from the City Library are available in the Church Library.

Join us for a lively discussion on Friday, November 15. Bring your own lunch, which begins at 11:30a. Discussion starts at noon.