



February 2020

In Touch

First Unitarian Universalist Church of
Wichita
Founded 1887

More “Take a Deep Breath and Put One Foot in Front of the Other” Presidents Letter

- Andrew Davis

Grit, stick-to-itiveness, gumption, toughness – these are all synonyms for resilience, our SoulMatters theme for February. Before I go on, the English teacher in me would like to praise the UUA SoulMatters Team for using the correct word, as opposed to the trendy “resiliency,” which is horribly incorrect. Now I can sleep well at night.

More important than my sleep, however, is the significance of the word itself. In an age of hyperbole and superheroes, mere “hanging in there” hardly seems worth mentioning, and yet gutting out the hard times may be more heroic than the most unlikely of extraordinary efforts.

Good parents hang in there even when they’re so tired they just want to crawl into a hole and sleep for a month. Good students, who are clearly smart, but rely more on grit than giftedness to carry themselves through weeks when there’s a major test in every class and all of the big projects and papers are due on the same day. Good bosses are not only clever, but use stick-to-itiveness to overcome the most unexpected problems, and good employees are tough enough to grow through their mistakes. Good people, regardless of their role, have gumption enough to carry them through the disappointments that inevitably come their way, and from where I sit good UUs are characterized more by their resilience than any other trait.

Continued on page 4

In Touch

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

www.firstuu.net

Member

Unitarian Universalist Association

President: Andrew Davis

Office Manager:

office@firstuu.net

(316) 684-3481

Anita Culp

M, Tu, & F: 9:30am – 2:00pm

W & Th: 1:00 – 5:00pm

Director of Religious Exploration:

Denise Jackson-Simon

simontrio@aol.com

(316) 644-2022

Newsletter Staff

Copy Editor: Dania Laubach

dania.laubach@gmail.com

Layout Editor:

Rolando Gomez

shadoe7@mac.com

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

Valentine's Tea

February and the Valentine's Tea are just around the corner and the UU fundraisers are making plans that require your help. First of all, get out your calendars and have your Sweetheart, or other special friend mark this date for a fun event. Next, volunteer, if you are able, to bake, to set up tables, serve, or help clean up. Finally, come and enjoy the delicious pastries, cakes, pies and cookies, with tea or coffee. Accompanied by live music, you can relax with friends, indulge your sweet tooth in a cozy environment and even purchase libations. Child care provided. (Options available for vegan, gluten free, low-sugar items, if you let us know when you reserve your tickets, what your dietary needs are.)

Details: Valentine's Tea, 3:00-5:00 PM on Saturday, February 15th, in the UU Gathering Space

Cost: \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children under 10.

Reserve your tickets by calling Anne Bailey or Vivien Minshull-Ford

Call Debbie if you want to help with baking. 651-3359.

Volunteers Needed!

Help Design our "Betty's Place" Playground

The fence is up, the stage is set, and the stage roof is scheduled to go up at Betty's Place (the fenced in space just outside the Religious Education room). Keep your eyes open for a meeting to decide on how to make this a unique, natural, creative, and musical center. We need all hands on deck; planners, builders, painters, gardeners, and dreamers welcome! All help and ideas will be greatly appreciated and will be time well spent. If you haven't been a part of this exciting project before, it doesn't matter. In order to get it completed by spring, we need our UU community to pitch in. Please let Marcia Ellsworth (mjelsworth@aol.com) know if you are interested in being a part of the team.

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.

- Thank you to all those who contributed to the fund for our Holiday Family! We, thanks to your generosity, rose over \$200 to make their holiday brighter!
- We extended condolences to Charlie King, on the death of his sister, Becki King Sulberg on December 24, 2019.
- Seeking spiritual counseling and/or emotional support? Please feel free to contact our Spiritual Counselor, Joe Mohr: 580-729-0781.
- We regret to announce Fern Van Geison had another fall and fractured her hip again. Luckily, no surgery was required. She is back at the skilled nursing unit at Larksfield Place for rehab.

If you have something for the Caring Committee to place in the newsletter please *text* it to Linda Jordon: 316-512-6652.

Remember joys shared are multiplied, and sorrows shared are lighter to bear.
What touches one of us affects us all. In caring for one another, we are cared for.

Second Time Around – First UU's Thrift Store

In the Adult Religious Education Room, on the white shelves, you'll find a treasure trove of leftovers from our November garage sale, now real bargains! We have a traveling coffee maker in its zipped case, complete with filters and containers for milk, sugar, and coffee; a clay church from Mexico; a Mary J. Hadley water cooler/beverage urn (you don't see one of those every day!); a set of luxury Japanese porcelain, a flower-painted hat box, a bamboo wine rack, and lots of jewelry. Nearly every item is marked down. You can visit Second Time Around after church any Sunday and if you find something to buy, put your money in the box – it's so easy!

The Fundraising Committee invites members of the congregation and visitors to add choice items that they would like to donate, so long as items are clean, in good repair, and appealing. Please price your items reasonably: if you have any questions, call Vivien Minshull-Ford at 683-9295 or Marcia Ellsworth at 208-3083.

Come and visit Second Time Around soon!

*More "Take a Deep Breath and Put One Foot in Front of the Other",
continued*

Unlike members of other traditions, we can't fall back on creed to wipe away our failings. We don't close our eyes and pray a miracle will make it all better. We don't defer to authority when faced with a difficult decision. Regardless of the difficulty, we take a deep breath, put one foot in front of the other, and get on with it. Some days our steps aren't very big, and we don't get much done, but with our principles to guide us, our resilience carries us through. So, pick the synonym you like best to carry with you on your journey, and let's keep putting one foot in front of the other, together.

Smart Justice Act Lobbying Day

Come get on the bus to Topeka, KS on Monday, January 27th! The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is sponsoring a Smart Justice Act lobbying day, with transportation, lunch, and training on how to lobby your legislators provided. Contact Janelle Patterson or Joe Lozano for more details. Make your voice heard!

Bullet Points from the Board

- If it hasn't already arrived, you should soon receive a snail mail letter announcing our Mid-Year Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 26th. With that letter you will find a copy of the Shared Vision statement the Board has recommended to replace our current Vision Statement. Please read it so you are ready to vote.
- Rob Williams will be heading up our efforts to provide donations of clothing, kitchen supplies, and other home essentials to those in the community who are still falling through the cracks. More details will come at our Mid-Year meeting.
- Holger Meyer and Kent Rowe will be heading up this year's EcoFest. If you haven't already decided how you want to be involved, there's still time to sign up. See Holger or Kent for details.

The First UU Music Committee Needs Your Voice and Talent!

Unitarian Universalism has a long tradition of focus on the arts, particularly music: it's the task of the Music Committee to provide music for services, concerts, and other events. We would like to expand our program, adding more variety of music and musical events.

Music Committee Goals for 2020:

1. Performers of special music during services.

We are looking for soloists, groups, voice and/or instrumental, to play during the prelude and postlude, the offertory, and Joys and Sorrows. No one would have to play for all those times as we have an accompanist, but a musician or singer to perform during one or two sections of the service would provide interest and variety. The music can be any genre, folk, jazz, blues, classical, or any instrument.

If you sing or play, or both, please call or email Jana Rambo at (316) 992-5528 or at jayrobo@aol.com

2. A choir leader and a choir: we are looking for singers!

If anyone in the congregation has choir leading experience, or would like to sing in a choir, please contact Jana Rambo.

3. More concerts.

We have had an excellent schedule of concerts in the past, with the help of Carol Neighbor, retired performer with the Wichita Symphony Orchestra, who has brought WSO musicians together and arranged music selections. We are constantly on the lookout for other musical groups or soloists who can give performances, including folk musicians. If you know of a performance possibility, or if you yourself perform, contact Jana Rambo.

4. More people to join the Music Committee.

We would love to welcome new members with energy and new ideas. If this appeals to you, contact Jana Rambo. We meet once a month on the second Sunday following the service.

5. Finally, we need a hymn leader for one Sunday a month.

A hymn leader gets to know the hymns chosen for the service (chosen by Worship Committee) and sings and conducts the congregation from the pulpit. We already have three good singers but need one more. Once again, if interested, please contact Jana Rambo.

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 6:00p Pagan Circle- Imbolc
2 9:45a Adult Relig Explora 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p First Sunday Lunch	3 6:30p Zen Friends	4 7:00p UU Craft Group	5 7:00p Committee on Ministry	6	7	8 10:00a Caring Committee 7:00p Tom Neilson Concert
9 9:45a Adult Relig Explora 10:00a Small Group 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Leadership Council	10 4:00p Worship Committee 6:00p VeganPotluck 6:30p Zen Friends	11	12 7:00p Membership Committee	13	14	15 3:00p Valentine Tea 5:30p Holiday Party Group
16 9:45a Adult Relig Explora 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:20p Social Action Group	17 6:30p Zen Friends	18	19 6:00p Board of Trustees 11:00p Newsletter and Calendar Deadline	20	21 11:30a Eclectic Readers	22 6:30p Game Night
23 9:45a Adult RE 10:00a Small Group 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Music Committee 12:15p Service Leader Mtg	24 1:00p Movie Group 6:30p Zen Friends	25	26 1:30p Newsletter Mailing	27	28	29 6:30p UU Humanists

What Does It Mean to Be a People of Resilience? Worship Services for February

- Worship Committee

Worship in February focuses on the theme of resilience. Most of us have been taught that resilience depends on each individual acting alone; relying on our own inner strength and personal toughness to carry us through difficulties. Yet at our best, we say two things at the same time: "You can do it!" and "You don't have to do it on your own!"

Our services this month will consider the resilience of our environment as we move from winter to spring, the power of music, of words, and of sharing our needs with others to bring us together in community, bringing both joy and healing.

2/2: Linda Jordan takes the pulpit as we celebrate Imbolc (or Candlemas), and is also called Brigid's Day. This Gaelic traditional festival marks the beginning of spring. Most commonly, it is held on the first or second day of February, about halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. Historically, it was widely observed throughout Ireland, Scotland, and the Isle of Man, and this year it will be celebrated by our local Pagan Circle on Saturday, February 1st - All are welcome.

2/9: We're shifting gears this week when Tom Neilson returns to Wichita to lead us in a fun and joyful worship service filled with music and story. Come join in for an uplifting hour that will keep you humming along all day and into the week ahead. Also, please join us at his concert the night before!

2/16: Sometimes, words give us clarity; sometimes, they give us confusion. This is especially true of words that have come to be used as political weapons. In his presentation, "The Healing Power of Liberal Theology" Andrew Davis will celebrate the history of the Unitarian Universalist tradition and cut through the confusion created by those who have sought to prop themselves up by tearing down others.

2/23: Peter Ninemire will share his own thoughts on the resilience of the human spirit as he presents a SoulMatters service based on "The Breaking Point...and After," a sermon by the Rev. Audette Fulbright Fulson.

Meeting For Service Leaders (and those interested in leading):

The Worship Committee will be holding a meeting for service leaders after church on Sunday, **February 23rd**. We will go over the protocols and priorities involved with this important role. Anyone who is interested in leading our services, from someone who have never lead a service through the most seasoned long-time member, is welcome to attend. Snacks and welcoming smiles will be provided.

Book Review: First, the Reflection by Diane Wahto

- Suzanne Miller

Diane Wahto's second full length book of poems, *First, the Reflection*, was recently published by Spartan Press in Kansas City. Copies are available from her publisher online and at Watermark Books in Wichita. Wahto is a longtime member of First UU.

Her poems are tiny novels inviting readers to live with the characters, plots, and scenes of her personal life, as well as with those of our world's ancient and historical (political) past. Somehow, it all fits together--each poem, a next chapter. It's storytelling you don't want to end.

Here is one (out of many) of my favorites (from page 60 of *First, the Reflection*):

I Am Ocean

Inside me lives the sea salt water
that once covered this land, water
that sustains us, connects us to what
is around us, keeps us steady
as we walk through a world
often untethered to anything
we can hang onto. I look
inward, find my balance,
hope for the peace that comes
with connection, with the blue
of water, the green of land,
the white of the sands
as I wade into the ocean.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) CORNER

- Denise Jackson-Simon

Thank you to everyone who gave to the kids' chosen nonprofit organization, Valley Center of Hope Equine Sanctuary this past holiday season. Maybe there's a soft spot for horses or there was a greater ability and desire to donate. Whatever the reason, we raised \$150, the most since we started our holiday drives several years ago. I'm excited to send them the check and know it will be appreciated and put to good use!

Our Soul Matters' theme for February is Resilience. We will explore the following: Despite failures and roadblocks, through resilience and grit we can accomplish goals; Remembering the importance of loving family and friends in hard times...celebrating how we are "loved back to life"; Remembering how humor helps us step away from our focus on pain and puts things into perspective; and Remembering that nature is a healer and teacher.

On February 2nd and 16th, we will start out in the main service, and then continue in the classroom. We are looking for more ways for the children to participate in the service when they are there. On the 9th and 23rd, we will meet for the whole time in the classroom for lessons and activities. We will celebrate Black History Month and Valentine's Day as part of our exploration this month.

It is so much more meaningful, exciting, and fun when we have several children in attendance. Please consider making UU Sunday mornings a part of your child's life experience. We love having them here! Thank you for those who attend, we look forward to continuing exploring the UU principles with you!

Tom Neilson Concert

- The Music Committee

Tom Neilson will be returning to present a concert and service again in February. Those who attended last time can attest that you don't want to miss this. You can check out his music at his website, <https://tomneilsonmusic.com/>

Concert will be on Saturday, Feb. 8th at 7:00 PM at the church.
Suggested donation is \$20 or as you are able to pay.
Refreshments will be available.

We hope you'll also join us for Tom's presentation of service at the church service the next day, Feb. 9th. His theme will be "Love and Justice".

First Unitarian Universalist Church

7202 E. 21st
Wichita, KS 67206

www.firstuu.net

Coming Soon to the UU Film Club – An Oscar Contender!

- Marcia Ellsworth

Join the 1st UU movie group on Monday, January 27th, at 1pm to view and discuss Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood." It is a 2019 comedy-drama starring Leonardo Di Caprio and Brad Pitt as an actor and his stunt double. Set in 1969 Los Angeles, the film is a nostalgic trip into the classic pop culture of Hollywood during the 60's when times were hard. Baby Boomers, especially, will enjoy the many references to those years. Quentin Tarantino's film has already won Golden Globes for Screenplay and best supporting actor (Brad Pitt) and is an Academy Awards nominee for best picture. Bring movie snacks to share.