



In Touch

First Unitarian Universalist Church of
Wichita
Founded 1887

March 2020

More Wisdom Presidents Letter

- Andrew Davis

It's an old story, told too many times to count in nearly every country in the world, but I'm not interested in all of it, just a tiny fragment that often gets overlooked in the grand sweep of the larger plot. In the library of Elsinore, Polonius (who considers himself very wise) is trying to discover Hamlet's true feelings for his daughter, Ophelia. He begins by playing it coy and asks Hamlet what he is reading, a reasonable enough question of a man surrounded by books. But Hamlet answers in a decidedly unreasonable way: "Words. Words. Words." The wise Polonius, unwittingly trapped by Hamlet's feigned insanity, hears what he wants to hear. He's certain that Hamlet has been driven mad by his love for Ophelia, never noticing Hamlet's wicked little smile. He knows that Polonius is too foolish to keep up with his crazy wisdom.

This is but one of many plays within the play that Hamlet must act, and regardless of the young prince's wisdom, it highlights his foolishness: he thinks the goal of the game is winning. Don't get me wrong. If my uncle were Claudius, who killed my father and married my mother to steal the throne not only from dad but me, I would want to win, too. And yet, it's nothing but foolishness to think a righteous cause run amok will only harm the guilty.

Polonius is an old fool, but he deserves better than death at Hamlet's hand, who mistook the quivering lump hiding behind a tapestry for Claudius. Ophelia's only fault is being a decent woman in a world too full of lies and testosterone; she was doomed from the start. Claudius at least deserves to die, but surely someone as smart as Hamlet should have known that anyone selfish enough to kill family for the crown would also take the kingdom with him, especially those who Hamlet loves most.

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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.

First UU Pagan Circle

We meet again on the first Saturday, **March 7, 7:00** at First UU Church. Our program will be presented by Donna Morris and it is just two days before the full moon. All are welcome and you are encouraged to bring drums, rattles, etc. and join us in joyful celebration. Feel free to call Anne Bailey (316-650-4905) if you have questions.

Holiday Party Group

We cordially invite everyone to help us celebrate National Pi Day. The number 3.14 is an approximation for the number Pi, and 3-14 is **March 14th** = Pi Day!

Please bring a pie-themed dish to share. There are dessert pies, pot pies, savory pies! Take your pick! We'll enjoy a potluck dinner and perhaps play games.

Pi Day Potluck: **Saturday, March 14, 2020**

Gather at **5:30; dine at 6p**, at First UU.

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.

We are pleased to announce Fern Van Gieson has returned home from rehab in assisted living at Larksfield Place. The second fall was not as bad as the first and she is recovering well.

We are pleased to welcome five new members to First UU: Kerry Dobin, Lucy Kirkham-Cochener, Kirk Mitchell, Ellie Shore, and Linda Walter-Swygert.

The next Enquirers' Class (designed for prospective members or those who want to know more about First UU) is scheduled for late March. Contact Anne Bailey 650-4905 for more information.

March Birthdays: Anne Bailey, Doug Clayton, Sigrid Trombley, Emerson Findling, Andrew Davis, Larry Bennett, Ned Lakin, Roberta Hickman, Lois Nelson, Annie Welsbacher, Brett Pollack, Nathan Bales, Millie Cherryholmes, Deborah Burnham, Sally Ross, Madeline Terrill, Linda Walter-Swygert, and Jeremy Everson.

Announcing a New Project:

If you are longing for something green to get you through until spring finally comes to stay, we can help. The Caring Committee is now selling starts of houseplants. They will be on a shelf in the Library window and marked as for sale with a suggested donation. Feel free to give more or less than posted donation suggestion, as we hope to give them a good home. The proceeds go to the Emergency Fund.

Of course, we will still have a BIG plant sale as part of EcoFest in May. If you are willing to help with the plant sale or if you have some plant starts to donate, please contact Linda Jordan at 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.

More Wisdom, continued

More people than this die, of course, and Hamlet must be one of them. It is, after all, a Shakespearean tragedy, but none of their deaths change the lesson we can learn from even this tiny fragment of the play: foolishness fills the emptiness left when wisdom withers and dies.

We live in dangerous times: the rule of law is threatened. With the help of social media and a diffuse anger that floats palpably through the air inflated egos spin wildly out of control, democracy seems to be teetering on the breach. And all of this is but the backdrop for harm done to innocents in the name of power. In short, there seems to be no end to the lengths that some people will go to win, and those of us who are appalled by this behavior can find ourselves wondering whether or not we should respond in kind. After all, those other people not only started it, they refuse to stop it.

To be sure, there is a fight to be had, and I hope that in my own small way, I am helping fight it. But we need to be careful how we fight it. I'm not one to ever suggest that Claudius be allowed to run rough shod over all that is good and decent in the world, but I wonder whether good and decent can remain in a world if those who oppose such foolishness are willing to set wisdom aside even as they fight for it.

Bullet Points from the Board

- The surface of our parking lot is failing in several spots and needs to be repaired soon to prevent a catastrophic failure. The Board voted to resurface it as soon as the weather permits.
- We are beginning to organize the pledge drive to for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. This will be an opportunity to support the tentative budget we approved at our Mid-Year meeting with the money we need to keep us going. Please begin thinking about how you will support our church in the upcoming year.
- Don't forget – Ecofest is **Sunday, May 3rd** this year. We have already signed up several Eco-Activists, and it is shaping up to be a great event.
- The security system cameras have been installed. We can now better monitor our property and take care of it.

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45a Adult Relig Explora 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p First Sunday Lunch	2 6:30p Zen Friends	3 7:00p UU Craft Group	4 7:00p Committee on Ministry	5	6	7 7:00p Pagan Circle
8 Daylight S. Time starts 9:45a Adult Relig Explora 10:00a Small Group 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Leadership Council	9 4:00p Worship Committee 6:00p Vegan Potluck 6:30p Zen Friends	10	11 7:00p Membership Committee	12	13	14 10:00a Caring Committee 5:30p National Pi Day Potluck Party
15 9:45a Adult Relig Explora 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:20p Social Action Group	16 6:30p Zen Friends	17	18 6:00p Board of Trustees 11:00p Newsletter and Calendar Deadline	19	20 11:30a Eclectic Readers	21 6:30p Game Night
22 9:45a Adult Relig Explora 10:00a Small Group 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Music Committee	23 1:00p Movie Group 6:30p Zen Friends	24	25 1:30p Newsletter Mailing	26	27	28 6:30p UU Humanists
29 9:45a Adult Relig Explora 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 1:00p Private Event	30 6:30p Zen Friends	31				



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 – Andrew Davis

President-Elect – Holger Meyer

Board of Trustees – Joe Lozano, Rolando Gomez, Masud Chand, Jayne Henry, Linda Jordan, Vivien Minshull-Ford, and Kent Rowe

Treasurer – Anne Bailey

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Adult RE – Frank Ruf

Aesthetics – Kay Davis

Building & Grounds – Bruce Roby (Bldg) and Anita Culp (Grnds)

Caring – LaRilla Combs and Jana Rambo

Chalice Lighters Ambassador – Bonnie Till

Children's RE – TBD

Chalice Book Store – Joe Lozano

Communications – TBD

EcoFest – TBD

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 – TBD

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY – Charles Merrifield, Chair: LaRilla Combs, Paula Peare, Susan Hund-Milne, Will Jordan, and Jennifer Hess

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Magda Garrett, Anne Bailey, and Nancy Milner

GROUP CONTACTS

Craft Group – Judy Wherritt

Digerati Buchgemeinschaft – Rolando Gomez

Eclectic Readers – Anne Bailey

Fourth Monday Movie Group – Vivien Minshull-Ford

Garden Group – Anita Culp and Linda Jordan

Humanist Group – Charles Merrifield

Occasional Book Club – Judy Wherritt

Pagan Group – Anne Bailey, Linda Jordan, and Paula Peare

Zen Friends of Wichita – Bob Feleppa and Vivien Minshull-Ford

STAFF

Custodian – Linda Jordan

Office Manager – Anita Culp

Pastoral Care – Joe Mohr

Director of Children's Religious Education – Denise Jackson-Simon

What Does It Mean to Be a People of Wisdom? Worship Services for March

- Worship Committee

We often regard those who have amassed the most advanced degrees, or been lucky enough to live a long time as those who possess the most wisdom. This suggests that wisdom is about accumulation—piling on more knowledge, or experience, or more books to read and degrees to earn. Perhaps, true wisdom is just the opposite. Martin H. Fischer tells us that, “Knowledge is a process of piling up facts; wisdom lies in their simplification.” When we strip away all of the non-essential messages that usually occupy our lives, we are freed to notice sources of wisdom we may have forgotten—the wisdom of the body, the wisdom gained through our failures and mistakes, and the wisdom of putting our own questions at the center of our search for truth and meaning. This month our services explore some of the untapped sources of wisdom and encourage each of us to ask ourselves, “Where have I not looked before?”

3/1: Kent Rowe brings us his original presentation, “The Mythology of Wisdom.” “Wisdom” is traced through ancient mythology into the current day. Kent will tie in primordial wisdom and impart the elusiveness of wisdom as we humans flounder within a technological soup of hypocrisy. Special music provided by Carol Neighbor and Greg Golding.

3/8: Lara Pollock. “Greta Speaks”. Continuing with our Greta Speaks series, Lara will share Valley of the Shadow, a sermon from 1963 that her mother, Greta Crosby, delivered at a college in Hollins, Virginia. Living in the shadow of insidious racial inequity, Greta gently yet compellingly encourages her young audience to consider joining the Civil Rights Movement.

3/15: Wisdom is often associated with the ability to see the big picture when others can’t. Andrew Davis presents his “Chards of Wisdom,” an exploration of how we can find big significance in the smallest parts of our lives. Special music presented by Nikki Moddelmog and Susan Mayo

3/22: The last Humor Sunday was in 2017 so it must be time to try to be funny again. Anne Bailey joins us in the pulpit this week to share “Laughter”. Margaret Mead said, “Laughter is man’s most distinctive emotional expression. Man shares his capacity for love and hate, anger and fear, loyalty and grief with other living creatures. But humor, which has an intellectual as well as emotional element, belongs to man.” To that Anne adds, “She must have said this before the days of political correctness, ‘because I’m pretty sure we all laugh sometimes.’”

3/29: Bruce Roby presents “Exploring Wisdom.” Bruce will share his own reflections on what wisdom is, and then lead us in a guided discussion of the theme, encouraging others to share their own definitions and examples of wisdom. Special music shared by cellist, Laura Martinez.



We Own This Now

- Holger Myer

"We Own This Now" is coming to Wichita! This Ted & Company play will be performed at University United Methodist Church, 2220 N. Yale Ave., **on April 19, 2020 @ 7:00 pm.**

The Wichita show is a benefit for the Kanza Heritage Society. Tickets are \$20 or pay what you can. Indigenous people are free. For tickets see Billie Knighton and Caroline Alexander, or buy online at <https://first-church-of-the-brethren.square.site/>. There will be a ticket sale after service on Sunday.

Created in partnership with the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition, this play looks at love of land and loss of land. We Own This Now provides a starting point for further conversation: What does it mean to "own" something? What is the relationship between "owning" and "taking" – and what is the relationship between "ownership" and (taking) responsibility?

Religious Education (RE) Corner

- Denise Jackson-Simon

Hello and Happy March. It feels strange saying that as I write this, and snow is currently blanketing the city. Spring will be upon us soon and I am looking forward to the fresh, new beginnings it brings.

In keeping with our Soul Matters theme for March, we will be exploring Wisdom. The lessons include: Wisdom of Simplicity; Wisdom of Clowning (that should be fun!); Wisdom of our UU Sources; Wisdom of Story; and Wisdom of our Bodies.

With five Sundays this month, we will participate in half of the main service on the 8th and 22nd with follow up activities in the classroom the other three Sundays, (1st, 15th, & 29th), we will meet for lessons and activities for the whole time in the classroom.

We continue to have visitors from time to time and we love that! Remember, it is much more meaningful and fun for all the children when more kids attend. So please keep Sundays mornings at UU as part of your child's week when possible. We love having them here! Thank you for those who attend, we look forward to continuing exploring the UU principles with you! See you soon!

**First Unitarian
Universalist Church**

7202 E. 21st
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Eclectic Readers Group: Finding Duncan

The Eclectic Readers Group has chosen "Finding Duncan" by Gretchen Eick as our selection for discussion next month. Gretchen Eick has roots in Wichita and is the author of "Dissent in Wichita". Her novel, "Finding Duncan" is partially set in Wichita and should prove interesting. We will meet on March 20th at 11:30 for lunch with discussion to follow at 12:00 at First UU. Please join us.