



# In Touch

First Unitarian Universalist Church of  
Wichita  
Founded 1887

## Co-President's Message

- Billie Knighton

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March 2022

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So here we are, going into the third month of 2022, and the isolation we thought would be temporary is beginning to weigh heavily, at least for me. It's discouraging, yet as always, there is another side, too. Ideas and books keep popping up, along with the "news", such as it is; and in the midst of it all, two books, which I'll get to after a while, have taken on a lot of meaning for me.

But first, another matter has grabbed my attention. As you know, we have been made aware of a growing book censorship movement throughout the country that must be countered if we are to maintain the freedom of thought and access to knowledge we have taken for granted. And an article in Truthout by Eleanor Bader, "As the Right Censors Public Libraries, Families are Forming Banned Book Clubs" inspired me to wonder what we might do right here at U-U Wichita.

What if we were to create our own "banned book club"? After all, the isolation isn't going to last forever, and I would love to see an expansion of our library space where there is comfortable seating and a special section of books for parents and kids to share. If this sparks any interest, perhaps we might put some plans together to bring this about?

Now, for the two books. First of all is "Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of The Doctrine of Discovery" by Mark Charles and Soong-Chan Rah. Mark Charles is a man of Navajo and Dutch descent and brings a unique background to his understanding of Western history; Rah is Professor of Church Growth and Evangelism at North Park Seminary in Chicago, and together they have provided fresh understanding of the rise of colonialism and slavery. A powerful book, indeed.

The second book, "Decolonizing Wealth," by Edgar Villanueva, who brings his Native American heritage and understanding to bear, is a gift that helps us get past the standard "capitalism vs. socialism" stalemate.

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# In Touch

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The deadline for In Touch and for the monthly calendar is the third Wednesday of each month. Please send submissions to [jfindlin@ius.edu](mailto:jfindlin@ius.edu)

## Ripples from the Caring Committee

- Linda Jordan

The Caring Committee is the arm of the church that responds to events in the lives of the congregants. We send birthday and congratulations cards in joyful times and sympathy and get-well cards when appropriate. We offer support by providing transportation to church, medical appointments, and errands. During bereavements and illness, we sometimes provide light housekeeping and a few meals, and we help with receptions after memorial services

Thanks to all who have donated to our Emergency Fund. It has been put to good use this winter and is starting to run low. If you are able to contribute to aid other church members with \$25 Dillon's gift cards or cash, we would be most appreciative. If you write a check, make it out to the church, but put on the notation line on the lower left: Caring Committee Emergency Fund. Many thanks in advance for your help!

As of press time in mid-February, the COVID numbers are still high but going down, and the weather is uncertain. Therefore, we are postponing the monthly UU Friends Lunch until April. Please mark your calendars for UU Friends Lunch the third Tuesday in April and stay tuned for the location. And stay healthy and warm this month!

If you are feeling down or confused, remember Joe Mohr is available to First UU members for confidential at no charge to you. Contact him directly at: (508) 729-0781 to schedule an appointment.

May you have a great month, and if you have anything for the Caring Committee, let us know.

*What touches one of us touches us all.*

## Valentine Tea for Two Boxes

When the idea came up, more than one person said, “But we just got through doing the Holiday Boxes; we just can’t do another.” First we thought we had barely two and a half weeks to throw the project together; then that changed to “We have almost three weeks, we can do it, publicity and all!” And we did. Boxes, pink satin ribbon, and Valentine napkins were assembled and UU bakers got busy, choosing their recipes to create a good variety of treats. Bob Boewe of the Spice Merchant, who has helped us many times before, donated teabags and jigsaw puzzles as a raffle prize.

Saturday February 12, the UU Valentine Tea for Two Boxes team gathered at the church in P.P.E. to create the boxes. Marcia Ellsworth set up a “conveyor belt” on tables for filling the boxes with treats, and there were no Lucille Ball moments! Charles Merrifield, Bruce Roby, Jayne Henry, and April Bales took care of distribution of orders in the parking lot or delivery to addresses, in time for Valentine’s Day. We heard from someone, not a church member, who ordered several boxes, how delightful the boxes were.

The Valentine boxes made \$850 for the church. We would like to thank profusely our amazing bakers, Marcia Ellsworth (whose organization skills are also exemplary), Melanie Jenney, Lucy Kirkham-Cochener, Lynn Way, Rachel Rutledge, Debbie Wadman, Magda Garrett, and Kay Davis. Thanks to LaRilla Combs, Carol Findling, and Elaine Edens for putting together tiny bags of conversation hearts, and to Ellen Burd for helping with boxes. Thanks also to Jayne Henry and Vivien Minshull-Ford, who made tea sandwiches to provide savory relief from the sugar high. Above all, thanks to everyone who bought our boxes, making it all worthwhile and great fun, and a chance to get together again.



## 'Co-Presidents Message' continued

The subtitle is "Indigenous Wisdom to Heal Divides and Restore Balance," and I found it most inspiring.

So there you have it about how I have seen a bit of the usefulness of the time our isolation has provided! And when we can get together again, we will all have much to share about how, in spite of its inherent frustration, our isolation also provided opportunities for exploring ideas that otherwise might not have come to us. Take care.

## Bullet Points from the Board

February 19, 2022

- Magda Garret and Jayne Henry are the new co-chairs of the Caring Committee.
- We still have money in the bank and can pay our bills. Woo Hoo!
- We will be exploring ways to improve the ventilation within the Church building per UUA's recommendation to better ensure the health and welfare of those who enter it.
- The following was moved and approved unanimously:  
**Church will reopen for small groups on February 21; Church services and Children's RE for children over the age of five who have been vaccinated will reopen on March 6. As always, participants will be required to wear masks and continue social distancing.**
- See the bullet above and cheer loudly!
- We are still looking for volunteers to help with the stewardship campaign – and don't forget, the sooner we receive a specific response about what you can give during the upcoming year, the sooner people will stop asking you to respond.

## March Anniversaries

- Anita Culp, Membership Committee

These members joined First UU Church during the month of March (with years of membership given). We celebrate your membership and look forward to your continuing participation in our church life: Bonnie Till (42), Sigrid Trombley (36), Lila Arnold (21), Peter Ninemire (20), Melanie Jenney (18), Jana Rambo (13), Miranda Crouse (13), Vivien Minshull-Ford (13), and Billie Knighton (5).

## The Wind Sings Welcome in Early Spring

- Carl Sandburg

(For Paula)THE GRIP of the ice is gone now.  
The silvers chase purple.  
The purples tag silver.  
They let out their runners  
Here where summer says to the lilies:  
“Wish and be wistful,  
Circle this wind-hunted, wind-sung water.”

Come along always, come along now.  
You for me, kiss me, pull me by the ear.  
Push me along with the wind push.  
Sing like the whinnying wind.  
Sing like the hustling obstreperous wind.

Have you ever seen deeper purple ...  
this in my wild wind fingers?  
Could you have more fun with a pony or a goat?  
Have you seen such flicking heels before,  
Silver jig heels on the purple sky rim?  
Come along always, come along now.

# March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
(Z) - Meeting via Zoom Call church office at 316-684-4581 for Zoom information		<b>1</b> 4:00p Worship Committee (Z) 7:00p UU Craft Group (Z)	<b>2</b> 4:00p Committee on Ministry (Z)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:45a Adult Relig Expir (Z) 11:00a Worship Service (Z) at home Children's RE	<b>7</b> 6:30p Zen Friends (Z)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7:00p Membership Committee (Z)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10:00a Caring Committee (Z) 7:00p Holiday Party Group (Z)
<b>13</b> 9:45a Adult Relig Expir (Z) 11:00a Worship Service (Z) at home Children's RE 12:15p Leadership Council (Z)	<b>14</b> 6:30p Zen Friends (Z)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6:00p Board of Trustees (Z) 11:00p Newsletter and Calendar Deadline	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 11:30a Eclectic Readers (Z)	<b>19</b> 7:00p Pagan Circle
<b>20</b> 9:45a Adult RE (Z) 11:00a Worship Service (Z) at home Children's RE 12:15p Social Action Committee (Z) 7:00p Global Learning Center Lecture (+Z)	<b>21</b> 6:30p Zen Friends (Z)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00p UU Humanist Group (Z)
<b>27</b> 9:45a Adult Relig Expir (Z) 11:00a Worship Service (Z) at home Children's RE	<b>28</b> 6:30p Zen Friends (Z)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

## From the Worship Committee

- Kay Davis, Anne Bailey, Sara Jane Crespo, Linda Jordan, Rebecca Veron Lewis

“I learned, however, that the loss of balance is ultimately more painful than the giving up required to maintain balance. It is a lesson I have continually had to relearn. As must everyone, for as we negotiate the curves and corners of our lives, we must continually give up parts of ourselves. The only alternative to this giving up is not to travel at all on the journey of life.” ~M. Scott Peck, *The Road Less Traveled: A New Psychology of Love, Traditional Values and Spiritual Growth.*”

We all know we need to find balance in our lives. It is a lesson both the universe and our own life experience teaches us. Sometimes, we're better at it than at other times. This month, we will explore the theme of “Balance” in our worship services from several viewpoints. We hope you will join us.

**March 6:** Andrew Davis brings us “*Hold Tight Loosely.*” We know that we are surrounded by change: some, we welcome with open arms; some, we run from as fast as we can; and some, we don't understand at all and hope we can figure it out before it's too late. Andrew explores the balance we each need to create for ourselves in order to negotiate and master change in a way that benefits us without harming others.

**March 13:** Annie Welsbacher will present “*Balancing You, Me and Us.*” Annie Welsbacher will present a sermon by Rev. Megan Lloyd Joiner of the Unitarian Society of New Haven. Originally presented on March 18, 2018, Joyner tells us how being a part of a congregation is about living in a state of balancing – balancing what is offered with what is received, understanding that we all give what we can, when we can, and we will all have seasons in which we need to receive more than we can give; understanding that we may not exactly *want* what another can offer, and yet, when we can, we receive it with grace.

**March 20:** Linda Jordan shares “*Balance/Equinox*” by Rev. Meg Barnhouse interspersed with her own thoughts this Sunday as we consider how each of us goes about trying to achieve “balance within movement” in an ever-changing world.

**March 27:** Rev. Joe Mohr presents “*Being Grey in a Black and White World.*” Nowadays, life presents us with many decisions. Our tendency is to seek quick and easy solutions; however, we soon realize that things are never as easy as they seem. Having a balanced life involves being able to live in the in-between spaces.

## Holiday Party Group on Zoom

The UU Holiday Party Group invites you to celebrate Freedom of Information (FOI) on Zoom. The Holiday Party Group has gone virtual and will meet via Zoom on Saturday, March 12, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, come and go, for conversation starting with the theme of Freedom of Information. This day is observed annually on or near March 16, the birthday of James Madison, who is widely regarded as the Father of the Constitution and the foremost advocate for openness in government.

Before COVID, our group had a tradition of playing a game after dinner. We have revived this tradition with a fun “virtual” game. All are invited. Please contact the church office for Zoom information.

## First UU Pagan Circle

- Anne Bailey

In hopes that the Church will once again be open for in person meetings, we have scheduled a meeting of Circle for Saturday, March 19, at 7:00 pm, so that we can celebrate the coming of spring. Don't forget to drums or other rhythm instruments and remember that masks are required. If the church is not open, we will meet in April. By then we should be able to meet outdoors. Please feel free to call me at (316) 650-4905 if you have questions or comments.

## Music Committee

- Jana Rambo, Music Committee Chair

The Music Committee met a few times while we were attending in-person church and outlined some ways to improve the music in our services. However, since we are now having services only on Zoom, we have not met; we will again become more active when we resume meeting in person.



## Membership Committee

- Anne Bailey

The Membership Committee will meet on Zoom on Wednesday, March 9, at 7:00 pm. We will be talking about the latest presentation of our “Inquirer’s Class” on Zoom and plans for future classes. Please let me know if you would like to attend this meeting – [annebailey@earthlink.net](mailto:annebailey@earthlink.net) or (316) 650-4905. We are always looking for additional members to help with this important committee.

## Giving Waste Purpose: Meet Brad and Tiffany Dilts

Travis and Katie Folds of Compost ICT, who begun offering their service to 1<sup>st</sup> UU during Ecofest Wichita 2019, are no longer in business. Since 2019, they have been picking up the church compost every Monday morning and leaving two new buckets. Church members have been paying for three months at a time, and during the pandemic, putting household vegetable scraps, casserole disasters, and other kitchen waste out for collection. We have been putting to good use whatever would normally be added to the landfill, in keeping with our seventh principle.

The Folds have sold their farm to Brad and Tiffany Dilts of Serenity Farms, which produces organic vegetables and other home-created foods on land that has been chemical-free for twenty years, as part of CSA, community-supported agriculture. They also have an online store that can arrange to have fresh vegetables, meat, and eggs delivered right to your door: [serenityfarmcsa@hushmail.com](mailto:serenityfarmcsa@hushmail.com).

We first became acquainted with Serenity Farms at Ecofest Wichita 2019, when they sold produce, and hope they will do so again on May 1, when Ecofest Wichita 2022 takes place. Meanwhile, two compost buckets picked up weekly cost \$65 for a quarter. If anyone is interested in donating to defray the cost of Compost ICT, please contact our office manager, Anita Culp, at (316) 684-3481, or [office@firstuu.net](mailto:office@firstuu.net).

# First Unitarian Universalist Church

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*www.firstuu.net*

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## Eclectic Readers

- Anne Bailey

We will be meeting at our regular time on Friday, March 18, on Zoom only, beginning at 11:30 for lunch, with discussion beginning at 12:00. Please let Anita know if you would like to attend this session. Our selection for March is to read a book that has been banned or challenged. You should be prepared to tell us who banned it and why, if you agree with the banning, or anything else you found interesting or noteworthy. A list of 24 banned books is included in this newsletter to give you some ideas. Please call Anita at the church for Zoom information. That number is (316) 684-3481.

With the recent banning of the book “Maus,” which our book discussion group read some time ago, we are wondering how many of the following books you have read. Everyone is invited to join the Eclectic Readers on Zoom on Friday, March 19. Just let Anita know that you wish to attend.

### BANNED BOOKS

The Catcher in the Rye