



In Touch

First Unitarian Universalist Church of
Wichita
Founded 1887

Co-President's Message

- Billie Knighton

May 2022

What a mix this year has been so far as we've coped with the global pandemic while enduring the best we can the trials and heartaches it has engendered. Locally, as a congregation, we have made decisions and taken actions to protect ourselves and each other while maintaining services and support to the church in the face of many challenges. As one measure of the congregation's commitment to our continued functioning, I would like to especially acknowledge the faithfulness of our members in meeting their financial pledges throughout this time when so many usual activities have been quite curtailed.

And, now, as we are coming out from under the most severe phases of the pandemic, it is difficult to imagine what our new "normal" will look like! I don't think we can go through the challenges we have endured without realizing we are now facing many new realities that will call for our attention.

One that has come our way recently is that Wichita U-U has stepped up to support our local Global Learning Center with a meeting place after the center lost its usual meeting place! What a valuable contribution this is!

And think of the magical new children's space just waiting for a full resumption of their activities! Such gifted talent and dedication went into its creation and every time I drive up to the church, there is a surge of joy in my old heart when it comes into view!

And now, as a congregation, we are in the midst of resuming other activities as well as preparing for our annual meeting when decisions and plans for the coming year will unfold, and we can look forward to finding ways to foster and promote a future that includes some new and challenging realities as well as opportunities for renewal of our sense of community.

It takes so many gifted and dedicated people to make a church community work, and we are deeply blessed in that regard!

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. Please send submissions to

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Ripples from the Caring Committee

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.

We encourage you to reach out to someone who makes you smile when you think of them, just to say help, and maybe get together for coffee or a walk. And if help would help, remember that Joe Mohr is available to church members for counseling free of charge. Call him directly at (580) 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.

Membership Committee

- Anne Bailey

The Membership Committee will meet on Zoom on Wednesday, May 11, at 7:00 pm. We will be talking about the work of this committee and the latest presentation of our "Inquirer's Class." Please let me know if you would like to attend this meeting – annebailey@earthlink.net or (316) 650-4905. We are always looking for additional members to help with this important committee.

The 1ST UU Jumbo Garage Sale

- Vivien Minshull-Ford

May is coming up fast, so I am once again putting out the word. Comb through your house and garage for salable items which you don't want and need to get out of the house. We will be grateful for books and artwork, children's games and toys (in good condition), usable furniture and home decorations, kitchenware and appliances, working electronics, salable clothing, luggage, garden tools, garden furniture and equipment, and whatever else you think might be of interest to shoppers.

You won't want to miss this event!

JUMBO Sale!

* BAKED
GOODS!

* CRAFTS!

* PLANTS!

First Unitarian Universalist Church
7702 E. 21st St N * Wichita, KS

May 19-21, 2022

5/19 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (no early admittance)

5/20 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. | 5/21 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Facebook: First UU Garage Sale
Website: www.FirstUU.net

Bullet Points from the Board

April 20, 2022

- Andrew Davis

- DON'T FORGET! If you haven't yet made your pledge for this year's stewardship campaign, please contact Ned Lakin, our Stewardship Committee Chair, or Anita Culp, our office manager.
- With 80 percent of the year completed we have collected 82% our projected budget, so we can pay our bills.
- COVID rates are rising again – up to 3.3% – so we are watching the trends closely. We hope we won't have to reinstate a mask requirement, but our first concern is for the health of our members.
- As we move toward normality – whatever that might ultimately mean – we need to begin thinking about ways to support Children's RE. If you are interested in offering support in terms of offering guidance and advice, working with children, or somehow reinvigorating the program after two years of virtual contact, please contact one of our co-presidents, Billie Knighton or Kirk Mitchell, or any member of the Board.

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.

May Anniversaries

- Anita Culp, Membership Committee

These members joined First UU Church during the month of May (with years of membership given). We celebrate your membership and look forward to your continuing participation in our church life: Fern Van Gieson (63), Elaine Edens (49), Ellen Oberle (20), Lara Pollock (20),

Debbie Wadman (13), Dan DeMott (11), Magda Garrett (7), Durell Gilmore (7), Masud Chand (7), Doug Wilson (6), Ed McCormack (4), Janelle McCormack (4), and Celestra Snyder (4).

1ST UU Film Program

- Vivien Minshull-Ford

Our film program has been on hold for three years now, and it's been missed. We used to get together and watch a wide variety of films and have a discussion afterwards. Usually a person who chose a film we showed would introduce it with information about awards, concept, actors, crew, or locations. We brought popcorn and movie theater snacks. Anita tells me that there's a three-year-old bag of popping corn in the kitchen from our last program. I think we can treat ourselves to a new bag!

Our plan now is to bring back the program on the fourth Monday of every month, beginning on Monday, May 27, from 1 pm to 3 pm, in the Adult RE room. Our aim is to show films which have never come to Wichita in our lifetimes or were shown in theaters for only a very short time. Of course, during the pandemic, no movies were shown at local theaters. People at home were streaming if they could. Recently, a few major films have reached Wichita, but some, like me, have been afraid to go to theaters as masking was not required.

Some of the best films recently have been productions from Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, and other companies, rather than products of Hollywood. We will have streaming capabilities, so we can pick up films that came to Wichita and left before one could see them, like *Nomadland* or Denzil Washington's *Macbeth*, which has not yet reached Wichita. We are also looking through our DVD collections for films to show. The great advantage of the film program is being able to make suggestions of things to show, and we are very easy going about choices: German New Age, British Carry-on Movies, or Hollywood musicals? Harold Lloyd or Pauly Shore. Well, perhaps not Pauly Shore.

If you are interested in joining us, have questions, or have a suggestion of what to show, call John Findling at (502) 263-9619 or Vivien Minshull-Ford at (316) 683-9295. Plan on coming on Monday, May 27, at 1 pm.

The RE Corner

- Denise Jackson-Simon, DRE

Here is a note from the Soul Matters program we use. This year our monthly themes invite us to think about not only what values our UU faith calls us to but also the actions and skills that our times require of us. Pandemic time, along with our racial, political, and environmental challenges, exposes the need for humanity to change and adjust in important ways. So each month we will explore a different skill that we need to lean into so that we don't just return to normal after the pandemic is over but actually bring about a "new normal."

In May, we explore the ways in which our times call us to "Nurture Beauty." Here are the five ways we will explore: Appreciate It: Celebrating Beauty in Others; Create It: Celebrating Our Power to Bring Beauty into the World; Experience It: Honoring All the Ways We Take Beauty In; Own It: Celebrating the Beauty That is Us; and Share It: Memorial Day.

I hope you will plan to join us on Sundays. It is much more fun when U are there! Also, once again, I will be asking congregation members to sign up for a Summer Sunday to hang out with the kids, sharing your hobbies and interests. It is a wonderful intergenerational opportunity that benefits all involved. There will be a sign-up sheet on the office window in May.

First Sunday Snacks

- Debbie Wadman

We will try a First Sunday Lunch in June. But for May 1, we'll again have snacks! Everyone is asked to bring their favorite finger food to share. This way we can take our plates to sit and visit with one another again, or stand, socially distanced, and share a little fellowship after two full years! Suggestions: veggies and dip or chips, deviled eggs, tuna salad and crackers, a cheese and olive plate, appetizers you might take to a party, a plate of cookies, or doughnut holes. Iced tea will be provided, but someone might bring juice, soda, or a bag of ice. Help for cleanup afterwards will be greatly appreciated. A \$1 donation per adult for kitchen use will be requested per church policy.

Membership Committee

- Anne Bailey

The Membership Committee will meet on Zoom on Wednesday, April 13, at 7:00 pm. We will be discussing the work of this committee and the latest presentation of our "Inquirer's Class". Please let me know if you would like to attend this meeting - annebailey@earthlink.net or (316) 650-4905. We are always looking for additional members to help with this important committee.

UU Holiday Party Group

- Judy Wherritt

The UU Holiday Party Group invites you to celebrate Memorial Day on Monday, May 30, on Zoom. The Holiday Party Group has gone virtual. We'll meet via Zoom from 7 pm to 8:30 pm, come-and-go, for conversation starting with the theme of Memorial Day. Do you have someone special you would like to memorialize?

Just in case we need more conversation topics, Salad Day and Lumpy Rug Day are also celebrated in May.

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.

Plant Exchange

- Vivien Minshull-Ford

New member Kerry Dobbins would like to set up a plant exchange. She has native plants such as milkweeds and asters available as this is the best time for thinning out plants. Kerry would be interested in perennials, cuttings, starts, seedlings. Please call her at (608) 658-2739 to find out what she has to offer in the way of prairie plants. If you know others would like to take part in this plant swap, invite them to join in.

The Jumbo Garage Sale Management would also be interested in selling surplus plants to benefit the church. Please keep us in mind!

First UU Pagan Circle

- Anne Bailey

Because we are meeting on April 30, we will not meet on the first Saturday in May as has been our custom. Please join us in June to celebrate the Summer Solstice. The date has not been scheduled at press time for this newsletter but check back in the June newsletter. Please feel free to call me at (316) 650-4905 if you have questions or comments.

First Unitarian Universalist Church

7202 E. 21st
Wichita, KS 67206

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Eclectic Readers

- Anne Bailey

The book discussion group will not meet in May because the Jumbo Garage sale will be happening on our regular meeting date. Our next meeting will be on June 17. Check the June newsletter for details about our next book.