



In Touch

First Unitarian Universalist Church of
Wichita
Founded 1887

June 2022

Co-President's Message

May 2022

- Kirk Mitchell

For my own sanity, I've decided that it is time to focus strictly on what is happening locally. I'm still aware of fascist invasions, Supreme Court idiocy, inflation, goose-stepping politicians and such, but I'm best equipped to deal with problems where discussion and problem solving can happen face to face, or screen to screen. Or the problems can be solved by hands-on labor.

Fortunately, First UU has people that bring their skills, sharing, and willingness in abundance to help build a better world. The past two years of my involvement with the Board of Trustees and committee members and especially Anita, our office manager, have provided ample evidence that becoming a member was an uncommonly good choice I made after moving to Wichita.

The generosity of our membership is proving to be strong, and at last report, our financial situation is excellent, surpassing the tentative goal we set in January. We still have upcoming expenses for building maintenance, but our situation is rare when compared to other congregations of a variety of faiths.

The Nominating Committee has been able to find members willing to donate their time and experience to serve as board members and on other committees, as you will see on the ballot at our Annual meeting in June.

A change will be occurring with Children's RE with the resignation of Denise Jackson-Simon coming up June 26. Her 17 years of service are deeply appreciated! That does mean that the congregation needs to consider our goals, hopes, and direction of the program. As such, Andrew Davis has agreed to be board representative to restart a RE committee. It is our hope that parents or grandparents will join this committee to help guide it to success. Please consider it, and contact Andrew.

Continued on page 7

In Touch

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

www.firstuu.net

Member

Unitarian Universalist Association

Co-Presidents: Billie Knighton, Kirk Mitchell

Office Manager:

office@firstuu.net

(316) 684-3481

Anita Culp

M, Tu, & Th: 9:30am – 2:00pm

W & F: 1:00 – 5:00pm

Director of Religious Exploration:

Denise Jackson-Simon

simontrio@aol.com

(316) 644-2022

Newsletter Staff

Copy Editor: John Findling

jfindlin@ius.edu

Layout Editor:

Rolando Gomez

shadoe7@mac.com

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

jfindlin@ius.edu

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

It's Graduation time. We'd like to acknowledge some First UU graduates. (If we miss you, I apologize in advance; please let the Caring Committee know of your achievement.) Congrats to **Lynn Kientz** who graduated cum laude from WSU with a BA in Social Work, with an emphasis in addiction! **Amy Hale** got her second Master's in Aging Studies with a Graduate Certificate in Public Health!

The UU Friends lunch for June is still scheduled for June 21 (Happy Summer Solstice) as of this writing, unless the COVID numbers go really high again. Consult the UU Weekly Update for details on the location. Making a reservation with the church office is also helpful.

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

If you are in the habit of giving this time of year, remember the Emergency Fund at First UU as a possibility.

We are always interested in the joys and sorrows members would like included in the newsletter. If you'd like to share one please contact Linda Jordan.

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.

June Anniversaries

- Anita Culp, Membership Committee

These members joined First UU Church during the month of June (with years of membership given). We celebrate your membership and look forward to your continuing participation in our church life:

Jim Hammer (27)

Wendy Haynie-Cosby (13)

Sandy Roberts (9)

Stuart Boehmer (6)

Andrew Davis (5)

Kay Davis (5)

Jayne Henry (5)

Jerette Preisser (3)

Ann Barclay (3)

Scot Barclay (3)

First UU Film Program

- Vivien Minshull-Ford

The First UU Film Program will meet at 1 pm on the fourth Monday of June, which, this year, will be June 26. This is an excellent way to see movies of interest, chosen by program attendees, that you may have missed, or never ever heard of. Films are shown on the large TV in the Adult Religious Education room, and attendees are welcome to bring typical movie snacks or whatever they may wish to clear out of their refrigerator or pantry. For further information, please contact John Findling (502) 263-9619 or Vivien Minshull-Ford (316) 683-9295.

Bullet Points from the Board 18 May 2022

- Recognizing that we require in-service participants in worship services to be vaccinated, we will be watching the COVID positivity and hospitalization rates carefully. Since vaccinations and treatments for COVID are available, we will try to keep the church open to people wearing masks as long as possible, but encourage all members, visitors, and friends to make choices for their health that best take care of their needs. Once the positivity rate drops below 5 percent we will once again make masks optional.
- As of Monday, May 16, we had pledges totaling \$97,716.00 for the upcoming fiscal year. We will keep the budget approved at the mid-year meeting (\$95,500.00) as it is with one exception: any additional pledged income will be allocated to the Reserve fund for church maintenance.
- Denise Jackson-Simon is retiring as our Director of Children's Religious Education. Denise, thank you for your service. We will be forming a search committee to hire a new RE Director. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Andrew Davis or Kirk Mitchell. Their contact information is in the church directory.
- We can still pay our bills.

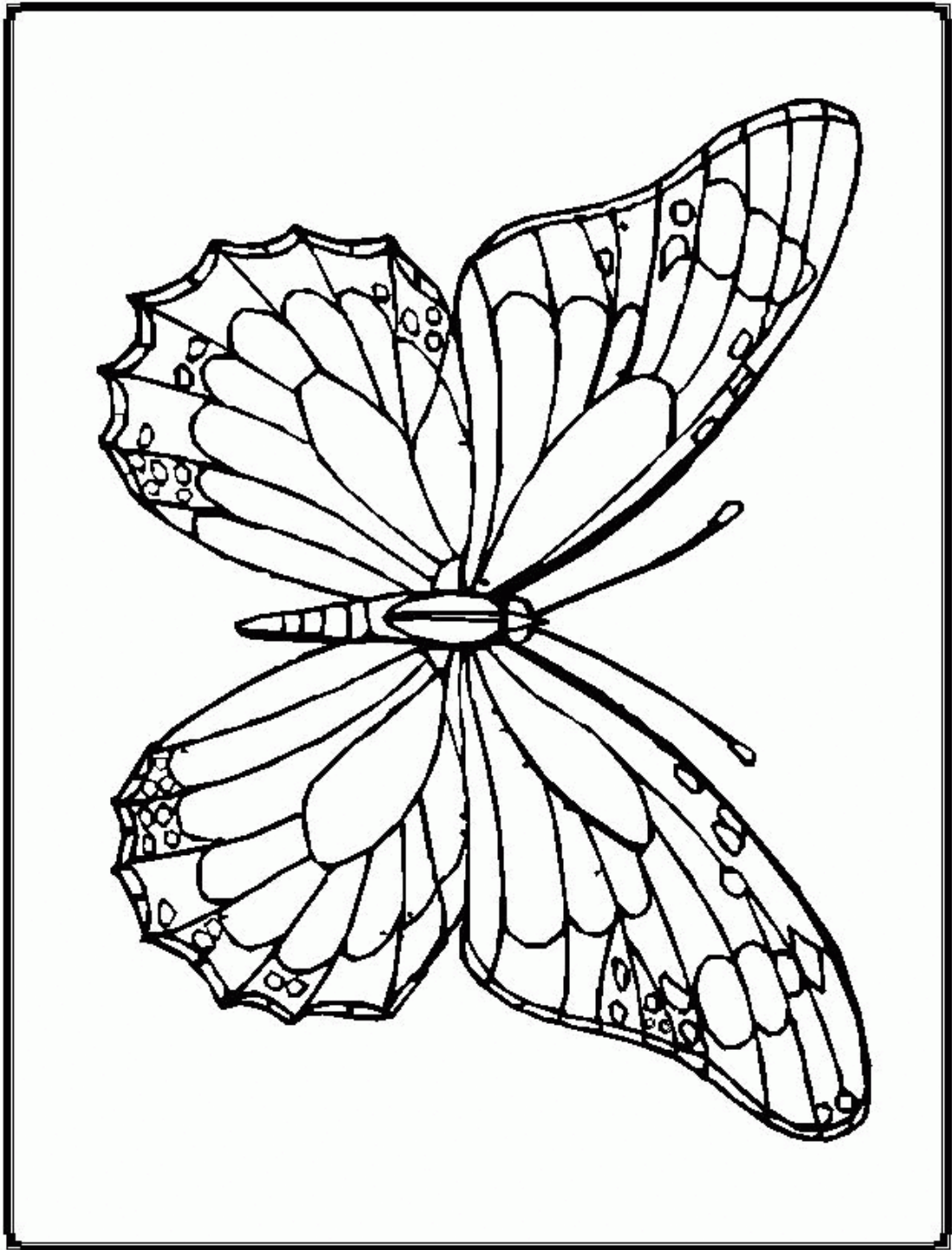
First UU Pagan Circle

- Anne Bailey

Summer Solstice? First Day of Sumer? Midsummer? Whatever you choose to call it the First UU Pagans will be gathering to celebrate (three days early) on Saturday, June 18, beginning at 7:00 pm. The Covid numbers will not allow us to feast as we would like to, but we can chant and sing and play our drums. Bring your own drink and a rhythm instrument and help us celebrate the longest day of the year. If you have questions, please call Anne Bailey (316) 650-4905 or Linda Jordan (316) 512-6652.

June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Best information about Zoom or In-Person meetings was used at time of publishing and may change.</p> <p>Contact the church office for up to date information.</p>	<p>(Z) - Meeting via Zoom (+Z) - Meeting In-Person and via Zoom</p> <p>Call church office at 316-684-4581 for Zoom information.</p>		1	2	3	4 9:30p Gardening Group
5 9:45a Adult Relig Expl(+Z) 11:00a Worship Service(+Z) 11:00a Children's RE	6 6:00p Vegan Potluck 6:30p Zen Friends (+Z)	7 4:00p Worship Comm (Z) 7:00p UU Craft Group (Z)	8 7:00p Membership Committee (Z)	9	10 12:00p Fridays for the Future	11 10:00a Caring Committee
12 9:45a Adult Relig Expl(+Z) 11:00a Worship Service(+Z) 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Annual Meeting(+Z)	13 6:30p Zen Friends (+Z)	14 12:30p Renaissance Food Pantry	15 6:00p Board of Trustees(Z) 11:00p Newsletter and Calendar Deadline	16	17 11:30a Eclectic Readers	18 7:00p Pagan Circle
19 9:45a Adult Relig Expl(+Z) 11:00a Worship Service(+Z) 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Social Action Committee (+Z)	20 6:30p Zen Friends (+Z)	21	22 7:00p Committee on Ministry	23	24	25
26 9:45a Adult Relig Expl(+Z) 11:00a Worship Service(+Z) 11:00a Children's RE	27 1:00p Movie Group 6:30p Zen Friends (+Z)	28 12:30p Renaissance Food Pantry	29	30		



Co-President's Message Continued

We had to take action when the positive rate of new COVID cases exceeded the 5 percent rate, and have gone back to requiring masks. I'm sure all of us share the frustration! That rate has increased by 50 percent since we made that decision, and as of last board meeting, was 7.5 percent. It's likely that our hoped-for summer reduction won't be in the cards. Our concern now is if the rate continues to increase to the point where live services would be unwise, and we'd have to go back to only Zoom services.

Rather than relying on just the positive rate of new cases, we'll be looking at hospitalizations and actual number of new cases as well in deciding whether to curtail live services. We recommend getting all available boosters as they've been shown to drastically reduce the need or time for hospitalizations. The therapeutic drugs available for those who do contract COVID have also been shown to do the same. For those who consider the risks unacceptable, we will continue with Zoom services.

Membership Committee

- Anne Bailey

The Membership Committee will meet on Zoom on Wednesday, June 8 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 or perhaps attend the next class for prospective members - annebailey@earthlink.net or (316) 650-4905. We are always looking for additional members to help with this important committee.

From the Worship Committee

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

Each of us has within us the need to be wanted, to belong to a community. Here we use the term to include family, friends, colleagues, church groups, and community organizations. Spiritually, we need to belong to something greater than ourselves. We don't want to be left outside of the circle. During the month of June, we will consider the meaning of "Widening the Circle" of love and compassion, of inclusion, and of thought as we seek to grow spiritually as individuals and together as a congregation.

June 5: Charlie King brings us "*Drawing on the Wide Side of the Brain*" by the Rev. Rod Richards, Unitarian Universalists of San Luis Obispo. Rev. Richards explores the difficulties inherent in drawing and redrawing a circle wider and leaving open spaces to include others and the necessity of doing so for our own welfare.

June 12: Andrew Davis presents "*The Growth Paradox.*" Andrew suggests we must look within and enlarge our center before we can realistically hope to expand the periphery of our church. We must open ourselves to the possibility that we must shed the limits that have defined us to this point in order to grow into something new.

June 19: Rev. Joe Mohr returns to the pulpit this week to share his musings on this month's theme in "*This Town Ain't Big Enough for the Both of Us.*" Many of us seem to be caught up in ownership and control of resources, power, and things in general. Rev. Joe asks what the world could look like if we could widen our view to learn to share instead.

June 26: Kay Davis presents "*Faith in a Post-Fact Era*" by Rev. Jude Geiger. Rev. Geiger explores the role of our faith in responding to the rise of White Nationalism and fascism in our nation and the world today. There is a growing tendency in the world for people to ignore fact and adhere to emotional responses that seek to preserve power for those like themselves while marginalizing others. What are we to do if we wish to preserve the worth and dignity of all people in a democratic environment that allows all their stories to be honored?

I Have Folded My Sorrows

- [Bob Kaufman](#) - 1925-1986

I have folded my sorrows into the mantle of summer night,
Assigning each brief storm its allotted space in time,
Quietly pursuing catastrophic histories buried in my eyes.
And yes, the world is not some unplayed Cosmic Game,
And the sun is still ninety-three million miles from me,
And in the imaginary forest, the shingled hippo becomes the gray unicorn.

No, my traffic is not with addled keepers of yesterday's disasters,
Seekers of manifest disembowelment on shafts of yesterday's pains.
Blues come dressed like introspective echoes of a journey.
And yes, I have searched the rooms of the moon on cold summer nights.

And yes, I have refought those unfinished encounters.

Still, they remain unfinished.

And yes, I have at times wished myself something different.

The tragedies are sung nightly at the funerals of the poet;
The revisited soul is wrapped in the aura of familiarity.

First Unitarian Universalist Church

7202 E. 21st
Wichita, KS 67206

www.firstuu.net

Eclectic Readers

- Anne Bailey

The book discussion group will be meeting at our regular time, the third Friday, June 17, beginning at 11:30 am for lunch with discussion to follow at 12:00 pm. The book chosen for June is *The Art of Forgetting* by Camille Noe Pagan. One reviewer summarized the book: "Preferring a meek and unassuming role in her personal and professional arenas, Marissa Rogers is forced to reevaluate her choices when her once-domineering best friend loses her memory in an accident, causing Marissa to confront painful shared memories and eventually gain new confidence." Copies of the book, borrowed from the Wichita Public Library, are available at the church. Please ask Anita Culp or Anne Bailey for a copy.