



In Touch

First Unitarian Universalist Church of
Wichita
Founded 1887

July 2022

Co-President's Message

- Billie Knighton

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as Co-President this past year with Kirk Mitchell, who brought wonderful skills and dedication to the task of shepherding us through a most challenging year! Indeed, it was kind of a free ride for me as he skillfully put together the agendas and facilitated the meetings, all of which would have been far beyond my understanding of these group processes.

Being here, though, in the capacity of co-president gave me a uniquely wonderful understanding of the dedication of our members, how they doubled down and maintained the functioning of our community so beautifully despite limitations imposed by the pandemic. So, let us be sure to breathe in how we accomplished this through our cooperation and concern for each other in the face of the profound challenge imposed by the pandemic.

One thing we may discover after all this is that there will not be what we might see as a "return to normal": but there will be some profound opportunity to see with new eyes what may be most important for us now as we continue to cherish our unique and loving community.

In Touch

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Unitarian Universalist
Association

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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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July Anniversaries

- Anita Culp, Membership Committee

These members joined First UU Church during the month of July (with years of membership given). We celebrate your membership and look forward to your continuing participation in our church life: Lois Nelson (5) and Lynn Way (2).

Membership Committee

- Anne Bailey

The Membership Committee will be holding its second "Inquirer's Class" on Zoom on Thursday, July 21, beginning at 7:00 pm. The second session will be one week later on Thursday, July 28. Anyone who has thought about joining the First UU Church or is interested in learning more about Unitarian-Universalism is welcome to attend. Please call Anita in the church office at (316) 684-3481 to receive the Zoom information.

The Committee will meet as usual on the second Wednesday, July 13, at 7:00 pm on Zoom. 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.

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

The UU Friends are meeting for lunch at 11:30 on the third Tuesday of each month. Please join us for good food and delightful conversation. Check the weekly update for the location, and make a reservation with the church office if possible.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Lynn Way on the recent passing of her sister-in-law. We also send sympathy to Judy Naillon, Jack Regehr, and Niecy Regehr on the passing of Jack's father.

The Caring Committee extends thanks to the volunteers who are taking members to medical appointments. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

The summer is a time of being outdoors and increased physical activity. Please remember to take good care of your individual needs. There are more weather-related health emergencies related to heat than from any other weather condition.

Attention gardeners: Let's hope we have a bountiful harvest of fruits and vegetables. We will once again have a Produce Exchange beginning July 31. If you find you have an overabundance of crops, please consider donating them to those who want fresh veggies. We ask a free will donation for produce taken from the exchange. The money goes to support the Caring Committee's Emergency Fund for members needing assistance.

If you are experiencing emotional and stress-related issues, Joe Mohr is available to church members for confidential counseling at no cost to members. Contact him directly to schedule at (580) 729-0781.

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.

Music Committee

- Jana Rambo

The Music Committee meets the fourth Sunday of each month after the church service. We have missed a couple of meetings but are working toward having them more regularly. We would like to include more special music in the services; if you sing or play an instrument and could do so in a service, please let us know. Also, if you would like to help with the committee's work, please come to our meetings.



First UU Pagan Circle

- Anne Bailey

We will gather once again on Saturday, July 30, at 7:00 pm to celebrate Lammas a few days early. Weather permitting, we will meet outside. At this time it will not be possible to have a potluck dinner, but we can get together to chant and drum, so bring your rhythm instruments. If you have questions, please call Anne Bailey (316) 650-4905 or Linda Jordan (316) 512-6652.

July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:45a Adult Relig Explr(+Z) 11:00a Worship Service(+Z) 11:00a Children's RE	4 6:30p Zen Friends 7:00p 4th of July Party (Z)	5 4:00p Worship Committee 7:00p UU Craft Group (Z) 7:00p Committee on Ministry (Z)	6	7	8 noon - Fridays for the Future	9 10:00a Caring Committee
10 9:45a Adult Relig Explr(+Z) 11:00a Worship Service(+Z) 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Leadership Council	11 6:30p Zen Friends	12 12:30p Renaissance Food Pantry	13 7:00p Membership Committee (Z)	14	15 11:30a Eclectic Readers	16
17 9:45a Adult Relig Explr(+Z) 11:00a Worship Service(+Z) 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Social Action Comm	18 6:30p Zen Friends	19 11:30a UU Friends Lunch	20 6:00p Board of Trustees (Z) 11:00p Newsletter and Calendar Deadline	21	22	23
24 9:45a Adult Relig Explr(+Z) 11:00a Worship Service(+Z) 11:00a Children's RE	25 6:30p Zen Friends	26 12:30p Renaissance Food Pantry	27	28	29	30 7:00p Pagan Circle
31 9:45a Adult Relig Explr(+Z) 11:00a Worship Service(+Z) 11:00a Children's RE				(Z) - Meeting via Zoom (+Z) - Meeting In-Person and via Zoom Call church office at 316-684-4581 for Zoom information.		

It's All Gravy!

- Vivien Minshull-Ford

When all's said and done, our May jumbo garage sale may earn as much as \$6,000. The members of the Fundraising Committee want to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped with our best sale ever. First UU assembled a team of wonderful helpers, who pitched in to unpack, display, and price. At times the work was exhausting, especially for those assembling the bookstore, baking treats, putting up tents, and moving and sorting mountains of donations. It was hard work but there were pizza breaks and a chance to enjoy the community. Leftovers went to Good Will and the International Refugee Committee; we got the church back to normal just last week. Thank you again for your splendid support.

Members of the Fundraising Committee are Marcia Ellsworth, Vivien Minshull-Ford, Jayne Henry, Debbie Wadman, and Melanie Janney. We would welcome any of our congregation members who would like to help raise money for our church. We're always looking for ideas – and are already thinking about our next garage sale!

Holiday Party Group on Zoom

- Judy Wherritt

The UU Holiday Party Group invites you to celebrate Independence Day on Zoom. We'll meet via Zoom from 7:00 to 8:30 pm for conversation on Monday, July 4, and we will also play a fun Virtual game. Come help us celebrate the 246th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Contact the church office for Zoom information.



RE Corner

- Denise Jackson-Simon

Hello and Happy Summertime. This will be my final contribution to the RE Corner of the newsletter. As you know by now, I have resigned as Director of Religious Exploration for children and my last Sunday is June 26. It has been a joy and privilege to be a part of the Wichita UU family for the past 17-ish years. I have met and taught such wonderful children and worked with many lovely congregation members throughout the years. I anticipate the program growing again one day, hopefully soon, and can imagine Betty's Place buzzing with young voices. I plan to spend several Sunday mornings at home, and occasionally singing with Rob at CHUM, as well as joining you all in the pews at UU from time to time. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the lives of you and your children. With gratitude, Denise.

From the Worship Committee

- Anne Bailey, Kay Davis, Linda Jordan, Rebecca Veron Lewis

We are all on journeys in one way or another. As Rev. Susan Rak observes, "Sometimes the way before us is clearly laid out, and other times not so much. Whether the road is your spiritual journey or your life's course - or the direction of this congregation - the only way to make your way is to step out on the path." Whatever your journey, we invite you to join us for worship each week in July as we come together to support each other in our journeys of personal and spiritual growth.

Worship services for the month include:

7/3: Annie Welsbacher takes us on a "*Journey to Inner Space*" in a homily by Rev. Lynn Strauss. There's a struggle we all come to at different times in our lives - a struggle to free ourselves from old habits, old story lines, outmoded expectations of perfection, the ideal happy outcome. There are things we need to let go. From what do you need to be freed? What mooring do you need to cut, what wall do you need to tear down? Is it your body that needs freeing? Is it unhelpful emotions you need to jettison? Is it your spirit that is tied in knots? This morning we invite you into a journey toward free-floating.

7/10: Andrew Davis presents "*A Safe Space to Speak*." The easiest journeys to talk about are those filled with sights, sounds, smells, and tastes worth remembering. We share our memories of these journeys easily because they happened "out there," far away from our inner selves. But what about the interior journeys we take that are not so easily put into words? We all need a safe space to tell these stories, because they recall the journeys we take to find and claim our true selves.

7/17: The Rev. Joe Mohr returns this Sunday to share his thoughts about the importance of personal and spiritual journeys to our lives. Watch your Weekly Update and the First UU Facebook page for more information.

7/24: Holly Terrill will deliver "*On Setting Out and Coming Home*," a sermon by the Rev. Josh Pawelek exploring the meaning and nature of the spiritual journey. Pawelek tells us that the purpose of any religion is to help its adherents grow spiritually. In some religions the path is clear, but ours is more open-ended and filled with numerous paths from which to choose, making it difficult for us to explain what we mean when we talk about our lives as spiritual journeys.

7/31: Linda Jordan will bring us her thoughts about a different type of journey in "*The Sweat, Gifts and Abundance of Lammas*." The wheel of the year describes a journey. As we work to provide for our needs, we create gifts for each other, the church, the community, and ourselves. Lammas is the time to celebrate and appreciate them.

Constantinople

- Ameen Rihani - 1876-1940

When Othman's sword, as Paleologue's, is broken
And Othman's gods are smitten to the dust,
And naught remains, not even a rusty token
Of their hierarchal cruelty and lust;—
When church and mosque and synagogue shall be,
Despite the bigot's cry, the zealot's prayer,
Unbounded in their bounties all and free
In every heritage divine to share;—
When thou shalt rise, rejoicing in thy loss,
Upon the ruins of a state nefast
To reconcile the Crescent and the Cross
And wash thy hands of thine unholy past;—
When with the faith new-born of East and West,
Which spans the azure heights of man's desire,
The spirit of thy people, long oppressed,
Is all a-glow with its undying fire;—
When thou thyself, Byzantium, shalt stand
In the minaret of Freedom and thy voice,
Rising above the muazzens in the land,
Bids all the seekers of the light rejoice;—
When in thy heart the flame of freedom sings,
And in thy hand the torch of freedom glows,
And in thy word the sword of freedom rings,
And in thy deed the seed of freedom grows,—
Then shall we call thee Mistress of the Morn,
Bride of the Straits, Queen of the Golden Horn.

First Unitarian Universalist Church

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Eclectic Readers

- Anne Bailey

The book discussion group will be meeting at our regular time, the third Friday, July 15, beginning at 11:30 am for lunch with discussion to follow at 12:00. The book chosen for July is *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston.

Of Hurston's fiction, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* is arguably the best-known and perhaps the most controversial. The novel follows the fortunes of Janie Crawford, a woman living in the black town of Eaton, Florida. Hurston sets up her characters and her locale in the first chapter, which, along with the last, acts as a framing device for the story of Janie's life. Unlike Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison, Hurston does not write explicitly about black people in the context of a white world – a fact that earned her scathing criticism from the social realists – but she doesn't ignore the impact of black-white relations either.

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.