



# In Touch

First Unitarian Universalist Church of  
Wichita  
Founded 1887

## President's Message

- Rachel Rutledge

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August 2022

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As we go further into the summer, we are fortunate to still have a cool space and air conditioning. We continue to work toward getting needed repairs toward the HVAC system, which is going slowly but surely. When it's 107 degrees out, keeping the building cool is top priority! We still have plenty of hot weather, even dangerously hot weather, left, so we will apply our due diligence!

We have some changes going on in our space - installing a new video monitor in the sanctuary for including audio-visual elements in services or other presentations. It is just in the beginning stages of coming into place, but it is going to be a great addition. Holger Meyer and Bruce Roby are working on it right now, and the work is proceeding nicely.

The COVID community positivity rate continues to be around 17 percent, which means masking and social distancing are still a necessity for us. We surely miss our coffee before and after the service, and we also very much miss our First Sunday Lunches. I know a lot of us are thinking about what good stuff we will bring once the numbers are down and the masks are off, and we can use the kitchen. So many UUs are great cooks and the variety and specialty of the foods they share with us are truly a special part of our experience.

Looking past the summer and into the fall, we are very pleased to announce that we have hired a new Children's Religious Exploration Director! We will be hiring an assistant and nursery staff soon. (See "Bullet Points from the Board," page 4.) Thank you to the volunteers who assisted with the children in July and August, sharing interests and activities with the kids as part of their learning experience. The new children's staff will start in September.

Any ideas you have about how to grow the church, how to attract new members, how to retain members, or any new activities you would like to see in church, please let me or any board member know. We are totally open to new ideas and would love to hear from you about what you would like to see at your church and what kind of experiences you would look forward to.

# In Touch

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

[www.firstuu.net](http://www.firstuu.net)

Member

Unitarian Universalist Association

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(316) 684-3481

Anita Culp

M, Tu, & Th: 9:30am - 2:00pm

W & F: 1:00 - 5:00pm

Director of Religious Exploration:  
Anna Jenney

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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)

## August Anniversaries

- Anita Culp, Membership Committee

These members joined First UU Church during the month of August (with years of membership given). We celebrate your membership and look forward to your continuing participation in our church life: LaRilla Combs (45), Anita Culp (12), Roberta Hickman (3), and Sherry Skillwoman (3).

## Membership Committee

- Anne Bailey

The Membership Committee held its second "Inquirer's Class" on Zoom on July 21 and 28. If you are interested in becoming more involved at First UU Church or wish to learn about our history, we will be offering the class again in September. Watch the newsletter and weekly announcements for the dates.

The Committee will meet as usual on the second Wednesday, August 10, on Zoom. Please let me know if you would like to attend this meeting at [annebailey@earthlink.net](mailto: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

- 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.

The heat of August brings vegetable abundance from most gardens. If you have too much to eat, please donate the excess produce to the Produce Exchange at church. And if you want fresh veggies but don't have the time or skill to grow them yourself, please buy from the Produce Exchange. No set fees; prices are a free will donation that goes to the Emergency Fund that helps members with Dillon's gift cards for groceries or gas to get to work.

As of this writing, First UU Friends are still meeting monthly for lunch on the third Tuesday of each month at area eateries for good food and enjoyable conversation. Find the location for the August lunch in the weekly update for the second week of August or contact the church office at (316) 684-3481 for information and to make a reservation.

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, (316) 512-6652.

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.

## Bullet Points from the Board July 20, 2022

- We are still in the black, though we may need to replace an air conditioner unit. Please keep up with your pledges to help us make ends meet.
- COVID rates are rising along with hospitalizations, but COVID-related ICU patients are still low and there have been few if any deaths, so we will keep the mask requirement in place for now.
- Anna Jenney has been hired as the new Director of Religious Exploration. Welcome Anna! We are now looking for Anna's assistant along with two nursery positions. We will be circulating job descriptions for these positions soon, but if you have any questions before you see the job postings, please contact Andrew Davis.
- Please stay safe and cool as we move through July and into August.

## First UU Pagan Circle

- Anne Bailey

Because we met on July 30, we will not be meeting in August. Please watch the newsletter for a date in September when we will gather to celebrate Mabon, the second celebration of the harvest, a ritual of thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth.

If you have questions, please call Anne Bailey (316) 650-4905 or Linda Jordan (316) 512-6652.

# August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 6:30p Zen Friends	<b>2</b> 4:00p Worship Committee (Z) 7:00p UU Craft Night (Z)	<b>3</b> 7:00p Committee on Ministry (Z)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:30a Gardening Group
<b>7</b> 9:45a Adult Relig Explor(+Z) 11:00a Worship Service(+Z) 11:00a Children's Relig Exp	<b>8</b> 6:30p Zen Friends	<b>9</b> 10:30a Renaissance Food Pantry	<b>10</b> 7:00p Membership Committee (Z)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 12:00p Fridays for the Future	<b>13</b> 10:00a Caring Committee 10:00a - 5:00p Mary Erickson Art Show/Sale 7:00p Holiday Party Group (Z)
<b>14</b> 9:45a Adult Relig Explor(+Z) 11:00a Worship Service(+Z) 11:00a Children's Relig Exp 12:15p Leadership Council	<b>15</b> 6:30p Zen Friends	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:00p Board of Trustees (Z) 11:00p Newsletter and Calendar Deadline	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 11:30a Eclectic Readers	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:45a Adult Relig Explor(+Z) 11:00a Worship Service(+Z) 11:00a Children's Relig Exp 12:15p Social Action Committee	<b>22</b> 6:30p Zen Friends	<b>23</b> 10:30a Renaissance Food Pantry	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:45a Adult Relig Explor(+Z) 11:00a Worship Service(+Z) 11:00a Children's Relig Exp 12:15p Musi Committee	<b>29</b> 6:30p Zen Friends	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		(Z) - Meeting via Zoom (+Z) - Meeting In-Person plus via Zoom Call church office at 316-684-4581 for Zoom information.	



### 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 – Rachel Rutledge

President-Elect – Ned Lakin

Board of Trustees – Jerette Preisser, Ellie Shore, Jim Bucchorn, Andrew Davis,  
Celestra Snyder, Magda Garrett, Charles Merrifield

Treasurer – Anne Bailey

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Adult RE – Frank Ruf

Aesthetics – TBD

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

Caring – Jayne Henry and Magda Garrett

Children's RE – TBD

Chalice Book Store – Joe Lozano

Communications – TBD

EcoFest – Holger Meyer and Lucy Kirkham-Cochener

Finance – Charles Merrifield

Fundraising – Marcia Ellsworth and Vivien Minshull-Ford

Green Sanctuary – Linda Jordan

Kitchen Mavens – TBD

Librarian – Nancy Milner

Membership – Anne Bailey

Music – Jana Rambo

Nominating – Dan DeMott, Corey Swertfager, Melanie Jenney

Partner Church – Debbie Wadman

Personnel – TBD

Social Action – Ellie Shore

Stewardship – Ned Lakin

Worship – Kay Davis

Committee on Ministry – Peter Ninemire, Chair; Sigrid Trombley,  
Will Jordan, Jennifer Hess, and Caroni Lombard

#### GROUP CONTACTS

UU Craft Group – Anita Culp

Eclectic Readers – Anne Bailey

Fourth Monday Movie Group – Vivien Minshull-Ford

Gardening Group – Anita Culp and Linda Jordan

Holiday Party Group – Anita Culp

UU Humanist Group – Charles Merrifield

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

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

#### STAFF

Custodian – Magda Garret

Office Manager – Anita Culp

Pastoral Care – Joe Mohr

Director of Children's Religious Education – Anna Jenney

## Fine Art Sale To Benefit Ukraine Saturday, August 13, 2022, 10 AM - 5 PM

- Vivien Minshull-Ford

Here's a rare opportunity to purchase fine art, art equipment, and art supplies at bargain prices, while donating to a worthy cause. Mary Erickson, a Wichita artist, in collaboration with the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita, is holding a fine arts sale with 100 percent of the proceeds going to the men, women, and children of Ukraine.

Mary Erickson is an award-winning artist who has been featured in many juried art shows and competitions, often winning or placing. She was one of the artists who started the Pastel Society of Colorado, now an international organization with thousands of members. Mary's pastel landscapes, studies of children, dogs, and cats, and scenes of places she has visited are remarkable for their vibrant color sense and energy.

Mary is selling her paintings, as well as those of her sister Anne Chaney and other artists. Anne is a former art teacher and administrator of art education in Prince George's County, Maryland. Also included in the sale will be art equipment and supplies including easels, mat cutters, canvases, paints, art books, frames, brushes, and other items, all at very low prices.

Don't miss the opportunity to own a lovely work of art, while at the same time donating to a very worthy cause! Credit cards, checks, and PayPal accepted.

## Holiday Party Group on Zoom

- Judy Wherritt

The Holiday Party Group has gone virtual. We'll meet via Zoom on Saturday, August 13, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, come-and-go, for conversation on the theme of National Tell a Joke Day, which is celebrated on August 16 every year. Bring your favorite joke to share.

After jokes and chit-chat, we'll play a fun virtual game. Contact the church office for Zoom information.

## From the Worship Committee

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

Having considered the theme of journey, we turn our exploration to Transformation and Transcendence during the month of August. Every journey leaves us changed, transformed in some way – some we are keenly aware of, and others we may not recognize so readily. Change is a necessary part of our lives – both personally and as a congregation. So, this month we'll reflect on what it looks and feels like, and how we can learn to embrace transformation as a never-ending pilgrimage toward spiritual growth that transcends the present and leads us to wholeness.

Please join us for these worship services in August.

August 7: Lynn Way will present "*Already Broken: A Buddhist Perspective on the Season of Spring*" by Rev. James Ishmael Ford and "*Wandering Pilgrimage*" by Rev. Susan Maginn.

Rev. James Ishmael Ford encourages us to acknowledge the transitory nature of all things and to appreciate everything and everyone in our lives while they are here; to live in the moment rather than putting things off for another day which may not come. Rev. Susan Maginn expands on Ford's ideas as she takes us on a spiritual pilgrimage that reflects on our "wandering toward wholeness, healing and transformation, becoming our deepest and truest selves together, knowing we will stumble along the way, and we will restore one another."

August 14: Andrew Davis brings us "*What, So What, Now What,*" a sermon on transcendence and transformation disguised as observations on the shock of tripping and falling down, the frustration of trying to stand but failing, and the wonder of working our way back onto our feet.

August 21: Rev. Joe Mohr delivers "*Transformers: More Than Meets the Eye.*" Spirituality is the practice of being transformed. We at First UU are a community dedicated to creating space for those reimagining themselves. For some, that may be trying to be a better version of their current self. For others, it might be striving to become a different person entirely. Regardless of where you are on the spectrum of change, know that we are all beings capable of going beyond ourselves.

August 28: Charlie King will present "*A People of Transcendence*" by Rev. Jude Geiger. Rev. Geiger looks back to the roots of American Liberal Theology to trace the Unitarian transition from our original orthodoxy that contained little about spiritualism up to the birth of Transcendentalism. Geiger notes that Transcendentalists moved us out of strict creed toward a spiritualism that recognizes the Holy within each of us.



## A Bed of Flame

- Ameen Rihani - 1876-1940

I saw one day on the horizon grey,  
As with my load I wandered near the sea,  
A whiff of smoke embrace the sleeping sun;  
And just as their enchantment had begun,  
A lonely cloud that roved above the lea  
Passed by their couch and hid them from the day.  
I saw this and my soul, long silent, cried:  
“Would that I were the whiff of smoke  
Now sleeping with the sun!  
In beds of flame, how often was I tried,—  
How often have I ’neath the stroke  
Of God or Satan shone!”

# First Unitarian Universalist Church

7202 E. 21st  
Wichita, KS 67206

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## Eclectic Readers

- Anne Bailey

The book discussion group will be meeting at its regular time, the third Friday of the month, August 19, beginning at 11:30 for lunch, with discussion to follow at 12:00. The book chosen for August is *"The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland"* by Jim DeFede.

"DeFede shares the experiences of the citizens of Gander, Newfoundland, who were hosts to the more than six thousand passengers of thirty-eight U.S.-bound jetliners forced to land there in the wake of the September 11 attacks."

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.