



FIRST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF AUSTIN

2013 Member Guide



FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF AUSTIN

4700 Grover Austin, texas 78756

512.452.6168 austinuu.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Senior Minister

Rev. Meg Barnhouse

meg@austinuu.org, ext. 304

Director of Finance & Operations

Sean Hale

sean@austinuu.org, ext. 308

Intermin Director of Lifespan RE

Marisol Caballero

mari@austinuu.org, ext. 306

Director of Music

Brent Baldwin

brentb@austinuu.org, ext. 314

Director of Membership & Communications

Carla Jo Schaefer

carlajo@austinuu.org, ext. 301

Office Administration & Rentals

Natalie Freeburg

natalie@austinuu.org, ext. 300

Bookkeeper

Jamie Schroeder

jamie@austinuu.org, ext. 302

Worship Services

9:15 & 10:45 am

WELCOME

We bid you welcome, who come with weary spirit seeking rest.

We bid you welcome, who come with hope in your heart.

We bid you welcome, who are seekers of a new faith.

Who come to probe and explore.

Who come to learn.

We bid you welcome, who enter this hall as a homecoming.

Who have found here room for your spirit.

Who find in this people a family.

Whoever you are, whatever you are,

wherever you are on your journey,

we bid you welcome.

- Richard S. Gilbert

There are many pathways that bring people to this church. Whatever it was that drew you here, I'm glad you have arrived! This is a church where you may come as you are, where we seek to be in "right relationship" with one another, with the Divine and with the earth. We use many sources of wisdom, including Jewish and Christian teachings, the teachings of eastern religions, and earth-based traditions. The mission of this church is "We gather in community to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice."

Sunday mornings are the time we gather together to sing, think, feel, and experience together. We light candles for our joys and our sorrows, to remember loved ones and to wish or pray. The life of the church continues during the week with small group experiences, discussion groups, workshops, fellowship meals, parties and justice work.

I hope you find a place here for growth and healing, for fun and expression, for adding to your own life and the lives of others.

All blessings,

Meg Barnhouse

THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF AUSTIN ... A BRIEF HISTORY

1892

The Unitarian Society of Austin was established by the Reverend Edwin Miller Wheelock, a Harvard-educated Union Civil War chaplain who settled in Austin after the war. Between the war and the establishment of the Unitarian Society, Reverend Wheelock held several important positions—State Commissioner of Education, Superintendent of the State School for the Blind, newspaper editor and Austin City Councilman. Wheelock served as minister until 1899. He died in 1901.

1916

After the death of Reverend Wheelock, organized Unitarianism in Austin fell into decline. Some former members met in various locations and at different times over the years. This informal group became known as the Community Church of Austin. An attempt to formally reorganize a Unitarian congregation in Austin was briefly revived in 1916; however, this attempt was unsuccessful. During the 1920s and 1930s, records indicate that a small group of people in sympathy with liberal religion met in a rented upstairs room near the Capitol.

1951

This was a landmark year for Unitarians in Austin. On April 1, 1951, 11 people from six families met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Kuhatschek to form the Unitarian Fellowship of Austin. Shortly thereafter, the fellowship outgrew members' homes, and so it was moved to the YWCA administrative offices at 914 Brazos Street. In 1953, the fellowship moved to the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs at 2312 San Gabriel Street.

1954

In May of this year, the Unitarian fellowship took the next step and applied for church status with 66 member families. In the letter of application, Mrs. Cecil Bridges, the president of the fellowship, wrote that during "this past year 50 (UT) students signed 'Unitarian' on religious preference cards, a very high figure for this part of the country." Shortly thereafter, the fellowship was given full church status and called its first full-time minister since Edwin M. Wheelock. The minister of the new church was Reverend George Marshfield of Ottawa, Canada.

1957-1967

Mrs. Emily Wheelock Howson, the daughter of the founder of Unitarianism in Austin, died in 1957 and bequeathed \$100,000 to the Unitarian Church "without conditions." The land representing our present site was purchased and the original church was built with Mrs. Howson's generous donation. The first sanctuary is now called Howson Hall. This original church building was dedicated on January 24, 1961, the year that the American Unitarian Association merged with the Universalist Church of America. In 1967, the religious education wing was added.

1988

By the 1980s, the church facility had become overcrowded because of increased membership. Church members Everett and Margaret DuPuy gave the church a sizable donation, enabling it to start a capital fund drive that culminated in the addition of our present sanctuary, which was dedicated in 1988. The Alternate Space Gallery was also remodeled at this time, and it continues to serve as a venue for artistic displays, receptions, and meetings.

2009-2010

During these two years, the church engaged in an extensive searching of its soul, to better understand the role of the church and the UU faith in the lives of its members, the church community, and the greater Austin community of which it is a part. This process included leadership from its Board of Trustees, and extensive participation of the entire congregation in focus groups, workshops and training with consultants.

The process resulted in a new mission statement, a set of values, a statement of the ends these values and mission were expected to achieve, and a covenant of healthy relations of members with each other. The church adopted a new policy-based form of governance to clarify roles of leaders and members and to turn into action the words in the new statements of values, mission, ends, and covenant for the church and in the lives of its members. The mission statement is "We gather in community to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice."

In August 2011, the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin welcomed Reverend Meg Barnhouse as settled minister.

First UU 2013 Member Guide

OUR VALUES, MISSION, ENDS AND COVENANT OF HEALTHY RELATIONS

In September 2010, the congregation of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin approved this statement of values, mission, ends, and a covenant of healthy relations, to guide the church in its operations and decisions, and to guide the lives of its members.

OUR VALUES

Transcendence – To connect with wonder and awe of the unity of life

Community – To connect with joy, sorrow, and service with those whose lives we touch

Compassion – To treat ourselves and others with love

Courage – To live lives of honesty, vulnerability, and beauty

Transformation – To pursue the growth that changes our lives and heals our world

OUR MISSION

At First UU Church of Austin, we gather in community to nourish souls, transform lives and do justice.

ENDS

First UU Church of Austin is an intentionally hospitable community where:

All people are treated with respect and dignity

All people of goodwill are welcomed

People are supported in times of joy and need

People find connection with one another in fellowship

We are fully engaged and generous with time, treasure and talent

We invite people of goodwill to find a spiritual home with us

We engage as UUs in public life

First UU Church of Austin nourishes souls and transforms lives by:

Engaging and supporting one another in spiritual practice and growth

Providing worship, programs and activities that awaken meaning and transcendence

Providing a caring, supportive and safe place to rekindle the spirit

First UU Church of Austin witnesses to justice in our personal lives and beyond by:

Practicing liberal religious values in the public arena

Empowering all people to access the richness of life

Providing leadership to the greater UUA community to expand the reach of our movement

Partnering with the interfaith community to live our shared values

A COVENANT OF HEALTHY RELATIONS

As a religious community, we promise:

To nurture the spiritual growth of people of all ages in our church.

To keep communications with one another direct, honest, and respectful in a spirit of compassion, love, and trust.

To support our church with generous gifts of time, talent, and money in gratitude for the fellowship, joy, and inspiration we receive.

To be present with others through life's inevitable transitions.

To make our church a safe place to express our deepest fears and our greatest joys.

To forgive ourselves and others when we fall short of expectations, showing good humor and the optimism required for moving forward and calling ourselves back into covenant.

To engage with the larger world to promote justice and peace.

We acknowledge and commit ourselves to the work of sustaining our beloved community, welcoming all in good faith, and ministering to each other. Thus do we covenant with one another.

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES THAT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATIONS 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.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM DRAWS FROM MANY SOURCES:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures that moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men that challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions that inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings that call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings that counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.
- Spiritual teachings of earth-entered traditions that celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

These principles and sources of faith are the backbone of our religious community.



CONNECTING AT FIRST UU

There are many ways to connect in our community. Whether you want to participate in a small reading group or get involved in social issues ... there is a place for you. Over the next several pages is a list of opportunities to connect at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin.

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- Adult Religious Education
- Chalice Circles
- Children/Youth Programming Committee
- Senior Youth Group and Junior Youth Group
- Camp Fire USA, Troop 17 "The Mighty Platypi"
- CampUU/Hogwarts
- Children's Choir
- Heritage Book Club
- Men's Group
- Mind and Meaning Book Club
- Mindfulness Meditation Group
- Philosophical Discussion Group
- Sunday Book Group
- The Presence Group
- Women's Spirituality Group
- Yoga Covenant Group

SOCIAL ACTION, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND OUTREACH

- Action for Justice
- Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH)
 - Freeze Nights
 - Sack Lunch Program
 - Serving Supper at ARCH
- Churchwide Project: Spring into Action
- CROP Walk Austin
- Hands-On Housing
- North Central Caregivers
- People's Community Clinic Partnership
- UUA Resources
 - UU Service Committee
 - UU United Nations Office

CHURCH: WORSHIP, WELCOMING, AND GOVERNANCE

- Board of Trustees
- Caring Ministry
- Denominational Affairs
- Facilities Committee
- Fellowship Committee

- Finance Ministry
- Flower Committee
- Freshen UUp project
- Green Sanctuary
- Grounds Committee
- Healthy Relations Ministry
- Media Committee
- Membership Committee
- Memorial/Endowment
- Music and Choir
- Nominating Committee
- Public Affairs Forum Committee
- Stewardship Committee
- Ushers and Greeters for Sunday Services
- Web Team
- Worship Ministry Committee

CONNECTING WITH THE CHURCH

- Caring Cards
- Caring Ministry
- Chalice Circles
- Congregational Outreach Project
- Denominational Affairs
- Freshen UUp project
- Healthy Relations Ministry
- Listening Ministry
- Membership Committee
- North Central Caregivers
- Ushers and Greeters for Sunday Services

FELLOWSHIP AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Birding Covenant Group
- Chalice Circles
- Circle of Friends Singles Group
- Fellowship Committee
- Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- Senior Lunch Group
- Sharing Suppers
- Yew Grove Pagan Interfaith
- Young Adults

THEATER, MUSIC, AND ART

Alternative Space Gallery Committee

ArtMission

Children's Choir

Children's Theater

Eclectic Folk Jam

Music and Choir

Paradox Players

Reader's Theater

DISCUSSION, STUDY, AND PHILOSOPHY

Public Affairs Forum Committee

Yew Grove Pagan Interfaith



ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MINISTRIES

ACTION FOR JUSTICE

Action for Justice, a committee under Social Action, was formed as a way to get First UU members involved in lobbying and political issues. The group is focused mainly on the issues of women's health, immigration, and education, and will be partnering with non-profit organizations and faith groups throughout Texas.

Contact: Samantha Frederickson

Email: actionforjustice@austinuu.org

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (ADULT RE)

Serves as an advisory committee to the director of religious education, liaison with the congregation and Adult RE program, and assists in the implementation of adult religious education programming.

Contact: Cyndi Louden

Email: are@austinuu.org

ALTERNATIVE SPACE GALLERY, FIRST UU GALLERY COMMITTEE

Bringing art to the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin's gallery.

Contact: Tomás Rodriguez

Email: gallery@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-451-2131

ARTMISSION

ArtMission provides workshops, art actions, and events that use creativity to transform lives, build community, and do justice.

Contact: Kiya Heartwood

Email: kiya@kiyaheartwood.com

AUSTIN RESOURCE CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS (ARCH)

First UU members support ARCH in several ways:

- Monthly first Sunday Serving Suppers - Members serve supper to 100 homeless men at ARCH. Volunteers serve in teams of four from 5:30-8:00 pm.

Contact: Natalie Freeburg

Email: archsuppers@austinuu.org

Phone 415-203-4808

- Weekly Sack Lunch program to make and deliver 30 lunches for the working homeless in partnership with ARCH/Frontsteps.

Meetings: Monday evenings, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Contact: Mary Jane Ford

Email: sacklunch@austinuu.org; phone: 512- 926-4122

- Freeze Night Shelter—From November through February, on Tuesdays when Austin's temperature is predicted to be 30 degrees or 37 degrees and raining, we provide an evening meal, shelter in Howson Hall, and breakfast for 50 homeless men, in cooperation with the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless.

Contact: Peggy Morton

Email: freezenight@austinuu.org

BIRDING COVENANT GROUP

Appreciating nature through birding, and learning more about Austin's native and visiting birds.

Contact: Joseph Hunt

Email : birds@austinuu.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The goal of First UU Church's Board of Trustees is to ensure that the fulfillment of our mission, values, and covenants.

Meetings: Open board meetings are held at church at 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. Visitors are welcome.

Contact: Susan Thomson

Email: justboard@austinuu.org

THE BOOKSTORE

Books and resources in the gallery every Sunday.

Contact: Melanie Walter-Mahoney

Email: bookstore@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-447-1546

CAMP FIRE USA, TROOP 17 "THE MIGHTY PLATYPI"

An inclusive, family-oriented scouting program helping to grow a new generation of responsible, independent thinkers and leaders.

Meetings: Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m., at church or at field trip locations, usually until 12:00 noon.

Contact: Jennifer Juday

Email: jjuday@yahoo.com

Phone: 512-821-3544

CAMPUU

First UU's annual summer camp—get involved at Hogwarts!

Meetings: CampUU Planning meetings during the spring and the camp itself, usually late July and early August.

Contact: Vicki Almstrum

Email: campuu@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-459-8678

CARING MINISTRY

Strengthening the First Unitarian Universalist community and supporting church friends and members.

Contact: Joseph Hunt

Email: caring@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-663-4302

CARING CARDS

Sending well-wishes, birthday-grams, sympathy, and friendship to members in need and members in celebration.

Contact: Joseph Hunt

Email: caring@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-663-4302

CHALICE CIRCLES

Chalice Circles are lay-led small committed groups that deepen and expand the ministry of our congregation. The purpose of the Chalice Circle program is to help build community and provide opportunities for deeper relationships and deeper spiritual exploration.

Meetings: Most meet weekly on weekday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m.

Contact: Lisa Carrell

Email: chalicecircles@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-698-2831

CHILDREN/YOUTH PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Serves as an advisory committee to the director of religious education, liaison with the congregation and the Children and Youth RE program, and assists in the implementation of Children and Youth Religious Education programming and special events.

Contact: Bess Green

Email: cpc@austinuu.org

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Making music for grades K-3 and 4-6.

Meetings: Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m.

Contact: Chris Heidel

Email: cc@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-694-5870

CHOIR AND MUSIC

Children's Choir, Adult Choir, and our Sunday Sanctuary music.

Meetings: Wednesdays, 7:30-9 p.m.

Contact: Kit Christie, Membership Coordinator

Email: kitchristie@sbcglobal.net

Phone: 512-828-4561

CHILDREN'S THEATER

Adults bringing the magic of theater to children. A project of Paradox Players, with morning shows and Sunday matinees. Actors, musicians, and crew welcome!

Contact: Jean Boehme

Email: joboej@hotmail.com

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS SINGLES GROUP

A welcoming group for singles and separated members and friends, open to UUs and people from outside the church.

Meetings: Monthly Sunday meetings

Contact: Mary Ann Stafford

Email: singles@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-587-8373

CHURCHWIDE SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECT: SPRING INTO ACTION

A congregation-wide outreach project encouraging as many people as possible toward a project focused on a key social issue each spring.

Contact: Wendy Erisman

Email: churchwideproject@austinuu.org

CROP WALK AUSTIN

Join thousands of Austinites to raise awareness and money to help end local and global hunger—an annual interfaith event.

Contact: Eric Hartman

Email: socialaction@austinuu.org

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Keeping the church informed on Unitarian Universalist Association events and opportunities.

Contact: Karen Franks

Email: denom@austinuu.org

ECLECTIC FOLK JAM

Playing folk and roots music, open to anybody who comes to play or sing. Bring your own sheet music if you like!

Meetings: Second Friday of every month, 7-10 p.m.

Contact: Mary Jane Ford

Email: singalong@austinuu.org

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Organizing church utilities, maintenance, and upkeep.

Contact: John Payne

Email: facilities@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-327-7951

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Coordinating special events, parties, potlucks, and gatherings—building fellowship at First UU!

Contact: Sally Scott

Email: fellowship@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-453-2289

FINANCE MINISTRY

Promoting fiscal accountability and safeguarding of Church assets.

Contact: Dan Griffiths, Kae McLaughlin

Email: finance@austinuu.org

Phone: 979-255-0700

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Enhancing the sanctuary with flowers, and bringing flower arrangers together.

Contact: Barbara Denny

Email: flowers@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-342-9767

FRESHEN UUP

Join the efforts to give First UU facilities a facelift! Operation FreshenUUp will have us painting, cleaning, and generally sprucing up the church throughout 2013. The projects will be broken up into a variety of smaller efforts throughout the year.

Contact: Vicki Almstrum

Email: FreshenUUp@austinuu.org

GREEN SANCTUARY

Committed to integrating earth-friendly practices into our church's spiritual and physical realms, lessening the church's footprint on the planet, and educating the congregation on environmental issues.

Contact: Beki and Richard Halpin

Email: green@austinuu.org

GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The Grounds Committee provides oversight for the maintenance and enhancement of the church's landscape throughout the year.

Contact: Bill Walters

Email: grounds@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-231-0866

HANDS-ON HOUSING

Join UU's from across Austin for a weekend of compassionate carpentry, fellowship, and good works.

Contact: Beverly Donoghue

Email: handsonhousing@austinuu.org

Phone: 971-5402

HEALTHY RELATIONS MINISTRY

Seeking to bring our Healthy Relations covenant to life in our congregation.

Contact: Margaret Borden

Email: healthyrelations@austinuu.org

HERITAGE BOOK CLUB

Meeting in member's homes to discuss one book each month.

Contact: Sally Scott

Email: heritage@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-453-2289

IAC (INTERFAITH ACTION)

Bringing people of diverse cultures and religions together to enhance Austin. This inter-church group operates between many of Austin's inclusive religious organizations.

Contact: Lynn Adams

Email: lynngadams@aol.com

LIBRARY

Building a diverse library for readers both inside and outside the church.

Contact: Stephanie Gill, Andi Windham

Email: library@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-291-3106

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Promotes community-building and lifespan religious exploration through programming and events for every age.

Contact: Mari Caballero

Email: mari@austinuu.org

Phone: 452-6168 ext 306

LISTENING MINISTRY

Providing active listening to congregation members in times of crisis, and training new listeners.

Contact: Joseph Hunt

Email: caring@austinuu.org

Phone: 612-663-4302

MEDIA COMMITTEE

Recording services and providing AV support for forums and church events.

Meetings: Primarily through email

Contact: Tom Martin

Email: tech@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-415-9205

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Welcoming visitors and new members, and keeping in touch with long-term members. We seek to be on the forefront of welcoming visitors and helping new members find areas of interest within the church community.

Meetings: Meeting every other month after Sunday services and over email

Contact: Gary Payne, Rue Wood

Email: membership@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-441-4720

MEMORIAL/ENDOWMENT

Maintaining the church's butterfly wall memorial and memorial contributions to First UU.

Contact: Rose Ann Reeser

Email: memorial@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-327-7951

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Men's fellowship and discussion, one Saturday a month.

Meetings: Second Saturday of the month, 7 a.m.

Contact: Mark Kilpatrick

Email: men@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-917-8423

MIND AND MEANING BOOK CLUB

Reading and discussing science and philosophy, one chapter a week.

Contact: Donna Tauler

Email: mindmeaning@austinuu.org

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION GROUP

A place for group meditation and reflection. Meetings typically consist of a brief introduction to insight or breathing meditation, 30 minutes of meditation practice, and reflection and readings. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Meetings: Mondays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Contact: Michael Kersey

Email: meditation@austinuu.org

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Helping members find their perfect niche; evaluating leadership needs, developing leadership, and presenting volunteer candidates to fill positions of responsibility in the church organization.

Contact: Lynda West

Email: nomcom@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-231-0866

NORTH CENTRAL CAREGIVERS

North Central Caregivers of Austin is an alliance of several area churches that provides transportation and other services to older adults living right here in our neighborhood. Services are provided free of charge and the group is funded by donations.

Contact: Linda Buehlmann

Email: ncc@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-453-2273

PARADOX PLAYERS THEATRE COMPANY

First UU's community theater group; always looking for actors, tech and backstage people, carpenters, painters, artists, and help with ticket sales and special events.

Contact: Ann Edwards

Email: info@paradoxplayers.org

Phone: 512-799-1148

PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CLINIC PARTNERSHIP

Ongoing joint efforts supporting PCC. Volunteers work in community to mail out immunization reminders and photocopy and organize informative handouts about comprehensive health and wellness care to uninsured and underinsured central Texans.

Contact: Sheri Overton

Email: pcc@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-847-2685

PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSION GROUP

An unstructured discussion group.

Contact: Marcus Barnes

Email: aerodyne@prodigy.net

Phone: 512-338-1816

THE PRESENCE GROUP

Reading the works of authors with a modern Transcendental style, including Bryon Katie and David Hawkins.

Contact: Tom Najar

Email: presence@austinuu.org

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM COMMITTEE

The Public Affairs Forum Committee presents expert speakers on many topics. These include politics, international affairs, economic and social justice issues, the natural environment, art, literature, and music. Our mission is to nurture the mind and spirit; stimulate discussion of important issues; and build a connection with members, visitors and the larger community.

Meetings: Public Affairs Forums are most Sundays at 12 p.m. Contact committee for meeting information.

Contact: Bonny Gardner; Leslie Currens

Email: forum@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-338-0201 (Bonnie);

512-338-1067 (Leslie)

READER'S THEATER

Experiencing drama and theater through scripts and plays read aloud.

Contact: Barbara Weeks

Email: readers@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-835-1744

SENIOR LUNCH GROUP

Meets one Tuesday a month for shared food and entertainment.

Meetings: Third Tuesdays, 12 p.m.

Contact: Alice Cashman

Email: seniors@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-837-0988

SHARING SUPPERS

A monthly gathering for shared food and fellowship in a member's home—a wonderful group for new members to get to know people in the church!

Meetings: Third Saturday of the month

Contact: Jeanne Barker

Email: sharing@austinuu.org

LITTLE SUPPERS

Sharing suppers for the toddler set. Toddlers, bring your families for play, potluck dinner, and conversation. Families take turns hosting in toddler-proofed homes. Group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

Contact: Robin Richardson

Email: robin.w.richardson@gmail.com

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Outreach opportunities to the Austin community and beyond.

Contact: Peggy Morton

Email: socialaction@austinuu.org

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Planning, promoting and managing the annual stewardship campaign. If your life, or the life of someone close to you, has been transformed at First UU, this might be the right ministry for you.

Meetings: Varies; please contact one of the co-chairs for details.

Contact: Meg Barnhouse or Sean Hale

Email: stewardship@austinuu.org

Phone: 512-452-6168

SUNDAY BOOK GROUP

Discussing a wide variety of books, chapter by chapter.

Contact: Jim Burson

Email: sundaybook@austinuu.org

Phone: 794-1086

TEXAS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST JUSTICE MINISTRY

A multi-congregational effort to pass positive measures through the state legislature and bring Unitarian Universalist principles through the Texas public square.

Contact: Alexandra Neville and Mike Phillips

Email: alexandra.gwynne@gmail.com or

mcmphillips@yahoo.com

Phone: 210-322-9083 (Alexandra)

USHERS AND GREETERS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

Providing opportunities to greet visitors and members of the congregation during Sunday services.
Meetings: Three training meetings per year
Contact: Kitty Traylor
Email: usher@austinuu.org
Phone: 512-451-9479

UU UNITED NATIONS OFFICE

The voice of the Unitarian Universalist Association at the United Nations.
Contact: Judy Sadegh
Email: socialaction@austinuu.org
Phone: 512-496-5771

UU SERVICE COMMITTEE

The UU Service Committee works to advance human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world. Membership in UUSC and support of its program is a major way that UUs locally and across the country do justice. During the holidays, we sell cards and fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate to benefit the work of UUSC at our Alternative and Fair Trade Holiday Market.
Contact: Peggy Morton
Email: socialaction@austinuu.org
Phone: 512-751-6415

WEB TEAM

The Web Team is a group of church members and friends with experience and skills in managing websites and related services. This group is available to advise and assist with special tasks, and step in when the Webmaster is unavailable.
Meetings: Primarily through email and listserv
Contact: Peter Roll
Email: webmaster@austinuu.org
Phone: 512-318-2305

WOMEN IN TRANSITION

A group for women experiencing mid-life changes and transitions, meeting monthly.
Contact: Susan Bethke
Email: transition@austinuu.org

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Meeting in circle to create sacred space as we focus on the themes of women's spirituality and active participation in our own rituals. Our structure is based on shared leadership and consensus decision making.
Contact: Linda Webster
Email: women@austinuu.org
Phone: 512-458-1852

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee trains and provides lay leaders to assist the Worship Leader in the Sunday services. Members help shape and lead worship, coordinate speakers to fill the pulpit, contact guest speakers, and guide the congregation through the stages of the service. Members work with the minister and receive training on pulpit presence and technologies. At our meetings we may discuss readings, speakers, the Order of Service, topics, announcements. The WMC is an opportunity to work directly with the minister in the spiritual growth of our church.
Contact: Wendy Kuo
Email: worship@austinuu.org
Phone: 512-372-9813

YEW GROVE PAGAN INTERFAITH

Providing opportunities to connect in ritual, honor the seasons, and enjoy fellowship together. See our web page at www.austinuu.org/yewgrove
Contact: Bill and Stephanie Gill
Email: yewgrove@austinuu.org
Phone: 512-291-3106

YOGA COVENANT GROUP

We practice rhythmic, flowing Hatha yoga for discipline and fellowship. We practice deep breathing for expansion of vital flow and postures for stretching and strengthening the body muscles.
Meetings: Tuesdays at 1:30 pm
Contact: Mary Jane Ford
Email: yoga@austinuu.org
Phone: 512-926-4122

YOUNG ADULTS

For 20- and 30-somethings—conversations, sharing, and supporting each other in our spiritual path.
Meetings: First and third Thursdays, 7:00 pm. Email to confirm.
Contact: Wendy Robertson
Email: fuucyaa@austinuu.org

YOUTH GROUP, JUNIOR AND SENIOR

Junior Youth group (grades 6th-8th) and Senior Youth Group (9th-12th) meet on Sundays to explore their UU faith through discussion of current events, study of world religions, social justice work, community building, leadership development, and worship.
Meetings: Sundays at 10:45
Contact: Andrew Young
Email: andrew@austinuu.org
Phone: 512-576-0840





**At First UU Church of Austin, we gather in
community to nourish souls, transform lives
and do justice.**