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OCTOBER 2018

FIRST  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH *of* Austin



FIRST UU  
NEWS

*Together we nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice  
to build the Beloved Community.*

# beginning at our ends

The Ends of First UU Church of Austin, [AustinUU.Org](http://AustinUU.Org)

**Racism Unlearning  
Circle****Saturday, October 20****Rm. 15****10 a.m.–12 p.m.**

This group is a place for white folks to discuss the creation and meaning of whiteness, white supremacy, racism, our role in perpetuating oppressive systems (intentionally or not), and how we can take accountable action to dismantle white supremacy and show up with minoritized peoples to demand an end to dehumanization. Meetings are third Saturday of every month. Check First UU Facebook events for more event info to prepare for meetings. Childcare RSVP: [childcare@austinuu.org](mailto:childcare@austinuu.org). Info: [racismunlearning@austinuu.org](mailto:racismunlearning@austinuu.org).

**“Getting to Know  
UU” Class****Sunday, October 7****Rm. 15A****12:15–1:30 p.m.**

This informal class is a good way to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and this church. Sign up for the class at the membership/visitor's table in the foyer on any Sunday morning, or email [membership@austinuu.org](mailto:membership@austinuu.org). Childcare is provided.

**IN THIS ISSUE**

Page <a href="#">2</a> :	IN THIS ISSUE	Page <a href="#">15</a> :	DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS
Page <a href="#">3</a> :	SUNDAY SERVICES		UBARU SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Page <a href="#">4</a> :	PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM	Page <a href="#">16</a> :	STEWARDSHIP Celebration Sunday Recap - <i>Stewardship Ministry</i>
Page <a href="#">5</a> :	PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM	Page <a href="#">17</a> :	STEWARDSHIP CONT.
	WOMEN'S ALLIANCE	Page <a href="#">18</a> :	STEWARDSHIP CONT.
Page <a href="#">6</a> :	FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK <b>Doing Mighty Things</b> - <i>Rev. Meg Barnhouse</i>	Page <a href="#">19</a> :	STEWARDSHIP CONT.
Page <a href="#">7</a> :	YOUR FIRST UU BOARD <b>Becoming Our 6th End</b> - <i>Maria Medina-Milner</i>	Page <a href="#">20</a> :	TTS INFORMATION Transformation Through Service
Page <a href="#">8</a> :	FROM JULES' DESKTOP Today, Yesterday, Tomorrow - <i>Jules Jaramillo</i>		TEXAS UU JUSTICE MINISTRY Alan Lumus General Assembly
Page <a href="#">9</a> :	FIRST SUNDAY SEMINARS	Page <a href="#">21</a> :	PCC CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE
Page <a href="#">10</a> :	FAITH IN ACTION Introducing October's Project: PCC Children's Book Drive		COVENANT CORNER If I Think the Church is Wrong - <i>Healthy Relations Ministry</i>
Page <a href="#">11</a> :	CHALICE CIRCLES Openings for New Participants	Page <a href="#">22</a> :	NOTICES & NOTES
	SUBSTITUTES NEEDED FOR LFD		PARADOX PLAYERS AUDITIONS & FALL SHOW 'A Christmas Carol'
Page <a href="#">12</a> :	FIRST UU IN PHOTOS Celebration of a Century: Nora Reese's 100th Birthday - <i>Jon Montgomery &amp; Kathleen Ellis</i>		HANDS ON HOUSING
Page <a href="#">13</a> :	FIRST UU IN PHOTOS Celebration of a Century: Continued from Page 12	Page <a href="#">23</a> :	PERSONAL PREFERENCES FOR MEMORIALS
Page <a href="#">14</a> :	THIS MONTH'S MSO Planned Parenthood - <i>Peter Durkin</i>		THE BLOTTER <b>The Art of Relearning</b> - <i>Bear W. Qolezcua</i>
		Page <a href="#">24</a> :	WHITE ALLIES FOR RACIAL EQUITY October Meeting

# SUNDAY SERVICES

SANCTUARY	9 : 1 5 A M A N D 1 0 : 4 5 A M
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## OCTOBER 7

### Love is the Spirit of this Church, and Service is its Law

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Most people look for ways to feel useful, to find good meaning in their lives, and to connect with others as they seek to leave the world a better place than they found it.

## OCTOBER 14

### Love's Sanctuary

WITH REV. CHRIS JIMMERSON

We have talked about the ancient history of offering sanctuary as we have with Sulma and Alirio. In the broader context, we all need sanctuary, a respite, a sacred place to get re-centered. We will discuss what it means to be a people of sanctuary.

## OCTOBER 21

### Safe Space/Brave Space

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Our second End (goal) as a congregation is "We support and challenge one another in worship, spiritual growth and lifelong learning to practice a rich spiritual life" What forms can a spiritual life take? The job of a church is often described as "to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable."

## OCTOBER 28

### Those Who Have Gone Before Us

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

We will have a Cloutie Tree again, from the Scottish/Irish/Appalachian tradition. We will put our wishes and our remembrances on pieces of cloth and drape them on the "tree." Where so we go when we die? What happens to our beloved ancestors, pets and friends? People are encouraged to bring photos of those they are remembering today.

## Eclectic Folk Jam

*Friday, October 12*

*Rm. 17*

*7-10 p.m.*

An open jam session for singers and instrumentalists, held on the second Friday of every month. We have "Rise Up Singing" and "Rise Again" and music stands. Bring other songs if you like, as well as drinks and snacks to share.

Contact Pete and Kim Akenhead at (512) 834-0188, or Mary Jane Ford at (512) 926-4122 or [singalong@austinuu.org](mailto:singalong@austinuu.org).

## UU/Quaker Singalong

*Saturday, October 27*

*Friends Meeting House  
(3701 E. MLK Blvd.)*

*7-10 p.m.*

Please bring snacks and finger foods, musical instruments, and copies of songs you want to sing. Copies of "Rise Up Singing" and "Rise Again" are provided, but you may bring other songs. This is an alcohol-free event, round-robin format, held on the fourth Saturday of every month.

Contact Larry Vaughn at (512) 469-0029 or Mary Jane Ford at (512) 926-4122 or [singalong@austinuu.org](mailto:singalong@austinuu.org).

**Path to Membership**

*Saturday, November 10  
9 a.m.–12 p.m.  
Howson Hall*

Breakfast and childcare are provided for this quarterly class designed for those interested in becoming members. Learn about the responsibilities of membership; learn about UU history and the history of this church; share faith stories with other prospective members (optional); hear about ways to connect in the church, sign the membership book, and fill out new member paperwork, if you feel ready!

Please, be sure to RSVP at [membership@austinuu.org](mailto:membership@austinuu.org) as soon as possible or directly with [Shannon](#) at the visitor table, so we can get an accurate head count for food and childcare.

**Senior Luncheon**

*Wednesday, October 10  
Howson Hall  
12 p.m.*

Soup, salad and dessert will be served for \$5 and there is always an engaging program planned to bring community information. Please RSVP to Alice Cashman: (512) 217-2615.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM**

SANCTUARY | SUNDAYS | NOON

**OCTOBER 7****Race and Motherhood**

WITH DR. COURTNEY ROBINSON  
AND LAURA ELMORE-SOVINE

Dr. Courtney Robinson and Laura Elmore-Sovine, LMSW-AP will present on Race and Motherhood. These two women have been examining issues of race and the criminal justice system both professionally and personally for more than a decade. They have learned the most about each other and about themselves as mothers first, and then as professionals and community leaders. Through formal presentation, and a light hearted and informal conversation, the session will explore the nature of race, how we understand race and privilege, and their personal experiences of race and parenting. The presentation will also seek to assist participants in becoming more comfortable talking about these issues, and provide them with tools with which to become advocates for change.

**OCTOBER 14****Texas Music Man**

WITH STUART SULLIVAN

Veteran recording engineer and producer Stuart Sullivan, owner of [Wire Recording Studio](#) at the [Mosaic Sound Collective](#), will speak on a broad range of subjects in the professional recording world.

A fixture in Austin nonprofit music incubators such as the Austin Music Foundation, Black Fret, and the Mosaic Sound Collective, his long professional career includes producing Gold and Grammy-winning albums and for nearly thirty years was chief engineer of Arlyn Studio and Pedernales Records, both associated with Willie Nelson. He has produced and recorded hundreds of artists, a virtual who's who of Austin music.

Building on his success, Stuart brings a passion for encouraging and nurturing young talent in what can be a difficult career to begin.

**PARADOX****Reader's Theater**

*Monday, October 8  
Gallery  
7:30 p.m.*

Reader's Theater continues to meet throughout construction! Find them in the Gallery at 7:30 p.m.. Newcomers are always welcome! Want more info? Contact: [readers@austinuu.org](mailto:readers@austinuu.org).

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM

S A N C T U A R Y | S U N D A Y S | N O O N

## OCTOBER 21

**Being Mortal - Essential  
Planning for our own Incapacity  
or Death**

WITH CLYDE FARRELL

Clyde Farrell is one of the first attorneys to specialize in Elder Law in Texas. Most every day for the last 25 years, he has been called upon to help families struggling to manage the affairs of a loved one or picking up the pieces after a death. More often than not, the legal documents available are inadequate, leading to frustration, conflict within the family, and unnecessary expense. He will identify the documents everyone needs, warn against some trust schemes that are obsolete or dangerous, and advise as to who may need some types of documents such as Transfer on Death Deeds, Lady Bird Deeds, and Transfer on Death Beneficiary Designations.

Mr. Farrell will simplify these issues and make them accessible to a general audience.

Mr. Farrell serves as a volunteer attorney and consultant with Family Eldercare of Austin and is a past president of that organization. Texas Monthly Magazine has recognized him as a "Texas Super Lawyer" in the Elder Law field every year since that honor was established in 2003. He is included in the 2008 through the 2019 editions of the "Best Lawyers in America." He is a co-author of West's Texas Elder Law. He is a founding partner with the law firm of [Farrell, Pak PLLC](#) in Austin, which has been selected as one of the Best Law Firms in Texas in Elder Law for 2013 through 2019.

## OCTOBER 28

**Austin Bat Refuge**

WITH DIANNE ODEGARD

Austin Bat Refuge promotes respect for bats and their place in the natural world through education, conflict resolution, rehabilitation, and release. Dianne Odegard from Austin Bat Refuge will tell us about the mysterious and wonderful world of bats and their unique presence in Austin.

**Persistence Service**

*Wednesday, November 7  
Howson Hall (Or the Sanctuary, if  
available)  
7 p.m.*

The night after the mid-term elections we will be meeting to be together, support one another, celebrate and review our limitations, and begin to understand next steps in our work toward nourishing souls, transforming lives, and doing justice to continue building the Beloved Community.

WOMEN'S  
ALLIANCE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9  
POTLUCK DINNER, 6 PM

SPEAKER, 7 PM

HOWSON HALL

**"HOW THE ARTS  
ENHANCE STEM  
EDUCATION"**

with Kenny Felton  
Executive Director  
[Texas Music Partners](#)

- How will the demands of employers affect students when they reach the workforce?
- History of STEM in the U.S.
- How the arts, when incorporated into STEM education, enhance creative thinking.
- How outside organizations help enhance school programs.

Contact: Mary Overton  
to reserve childcare by  
October 2,  
[women@austinuu.org](mailto:women@austinuu.org).

**NOVEMBER 13:**

Sally Scott,  
"Friendship Force"



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

## Doing Mighty Things

**Rev. Meg Barnhouse**  
Senior Minister



This is a month for inconvenience --- er ---- adventure! That's what my mother would call it when we were camping where the showers used water straight from glacier-melt, where we slept under the sky because we were thrilled with the whole midnight-sun thing and woke up lobster-red with sun burn. "We're having an adventure!" she would say, cheerily.

We are going to be holding worship in Howson Hall for the next six weeks or so. The construction company estimates that we will be back in the sanctuary in mid-November, but you know how construction schedules are. So many elements conspire to make it smooth or kick up obstacles which affect the time line. We will stay with our regular two services but the children will go straight to their classes instead of being in worship for the first fifteen minutes. Chairs will be set up in the Gallery with a big screen TV for overflow space. Tables for ministry teams will be set up outside,

weather permitting. Coffee will probably be served in the foyer where the Visitors' Table is set up.

If you like, we are working hard to have our live-streaming working smoothly as soon as possible so you will be able to join a service from home if you can't get here or if the crowded conditions bother your introversion! We understand, and we're trying to take care of you, too.

In a way, we will be coming full circle back to where worship was held at First UU before the current sanctuary was dedicated in the mid-eighties. Some of our long time members have photos from when the fellowship hall was the original sanctuary. Some of our members were married there!

Meanwhile, we will keep our eyes on our mission! Service is part of how we nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice to build the Beloved Community. During the month of October our Transformation Through

Service team will be presenting us with testimonials from other ministry teams, and with information and connection opportunities for those among us who want to be part of the work of this community. Please see the Transformation Through Service article in this newsletter for more details.

For example, on the first Sunday in October (the 7th) we each have a chance to supply Marina Vasquez, a friend of First UU, as she travels to the border with snacks, clothing, shoes, backpacks, etc. for families as they are released from detention. A full list is in the TTS article.

We are doing a mighty thing, making our spaces more welcoming while also moving forward with our mission. In order to do this well, we need the strength of all of us. Don't hang back until the growth pains are over – lean in and be part of this big story. ·

## YOUR FIRST UU BOARD



## Becoming Our 6th End

**Maria Medina-Milner**

Member

Board of Trustees

Hello! We need to talk about our 6th end.

Before that, let me start by re-introducing myself. My name is María Medina Milner, and I'm one of the new board members here at First UU. When I was first approached to be on the board I was excited to join. I was excited because First UU is a wonderful home that needs some loving work. You see, I often face a lot of racial discrimination here.

During the summer, I was approached by an older gentleman of the congregation. He started the conversation by asking the usual questions—"How are you? When did you start coming to church here?"—and I answered, "For about a year." He made a comment of surprise about how I was already very involved. It's one I hear all the time, and I often think, "*Well, of course! I wonder why more people aren't.*" I proceeded to tell him with great pride about my involvement in our church groups, "I also help with the Change Team, and I'm a new board member."

Being new to the board fills me

with a bit of nerves and a lot of pride. Being here among many of our regular faces reminds me that there was always a spiritual home waiting for me in the world. I just needed time to find it. But the comment that followed from our fellow congregant reminded me that as much as I love my new spiritual home, there are cracks in this home that prove dangerous to my emotional well-being.

His reply to me was, "My! It must have helped that you are a woman of color?"

And there it was. The last year of all of the work I've done here at First UU that could, would, or did earn me any recognition for a spot on the board was reduced to an idea that I was given my place simply because I am a woman of color. And that's just one instance. In the last two Sundays before I submitted this article, I have had experiences of racial dominance of a similar nature.

And that's why, we need to talk about our new 6th end. According to our literature our new 6th end is as follows:

"We partner with other organizations and faith communities to dismantle a culture of white supremacy and other systems of oppression, within ourselves, within our church community, and beyond our walls."

Being a part of a lot of different groups in the church and on the Board has given me a perspective on the gravity of our 6th end from the lens of a congregant. We as a congregation are jumping at the chance to become multicultural, but my experiences here have shown me time and time again, that we must be even more fervent to "dismantle a culture of white supremacy and other systems of oppression, within ourselves" first.

We need to talk about the 6th end more openly. We need to be more candid with ourselves and with each other about what it will take to be multicultural, to not reduce our people of the Global Majority (people of color) and their work to them being a "cultural contribution" by simply existing within our walls. If we are going to move forward together, we need to *become* our 6th end.

## FROM JULES' DESKTOP

## Today, Yesterday, Tomorrow

Jules Jaramillo

Director  
Lifespan Faith Development

A few weeks ago, I stood with Rev Meg, parents, guardians, and children and supported by all of you, the congregation, we dedicated 30 teachers and advisors to do some holy work with our children and youth. You may have noticed I was down to my toes excited. And yes, I am known to be enthusiastic about a lot of things but it usually is something pretty darn special if I am down to my toes excited. I have held numerous teacher dedications in my years as a religious educator but this year's dedication - here at First UU - was an extra special moment because so many of you, whether it was by volunteering or by your encouragement, said "YES!"

I asked that we might want to approach teaching differently- that we create teaching teams to build community and support among teachers and develop a healthy adult relationship with our children and youth. You said, "YES!" I asked that we change the classroom structure to include centers and that we move away from traditional classrooms. You said, "YES." I asked for a commitment to our youth ministries for both middle school and senior high advisor teams. You said, "YES." I asked you to trust me in things that might feel unfamiliar and new, and you said, "YES." Thank you - down to my toes - thank you!

I am honored that you have trusted me by saying, "YES." I know it may not have been easy for

everyone as you have freely shared your stories and history of the faith development program at First UU. I have heard many perspectives and have felt the resilient spirit and hope that lives in all of you. I believe in this hope and what it means for the future of faith development at First UU. Future is tricky because it seems to rely so much on our past, which is my understanding of Sankofa (the African word from the Akan tribe in Ghana). SAN (return), KO (go), FA (look, seek and take). There is always something for us to learn from our history; things that we may need to return to in order for us to move forward. Whether it be to heal, maintain historical knowledge, or keep the fire burning - in doing so we can create a pathway to our future.

In order to do that, Rev Meg and I will be creating a time and space where people can gather, that holds the history of First UU's Lifespan Faith Development. A place where we can be in community and gain clarity of our history, if needed. We can share our stories, celebrate moments of the past or heartbreaks that need mending, ask unspoken questions, or set a burden down. In creating this opportunity, we hope we will take what we need from the past and carry it forward in building a vibrant future - together.

love, love and more love~  
jules .





## FIRST SUNDAY SEMINARS



First Sunday Seminars begin October 7 and will take place on the first Sunday of every month. We will begin our First Sunday Seminars with Science and Religion and hope to be offering a multi-track, adult religious education experience with options in areas such as leadership development, spiritual identity, UU identity development, and spiritual practices. No prior registration is required for any of the First Sunday Seminars, and child-care is available.

Please be patient with us as we find ways to create space for lunches, and may need to move or postpone seminars depending on construction. We will keep you updated with changes.

A simple lunch with vegetarian options is provided 12:00 – 1:00 PM for \$5 (available to-go for Forum attendees), and the seminars take place from 1:00 – 2:30 PM.

**INTERESTED IN TEACHING A FIRST SUNDAY SEMINAR?**

Please send your class proposal to Jules Jaramillo,  
[FAITHDEVELOPMENT@AUSTINUU.ORG](mailto:FAITHDEVELOPMENT@AUSTINUU.ORG).

This week in Science and Religion:

1st Sunday Seminars 10-7-18 : Science and Religion

Another Way of Seeing

by Pat Bennett, M.D., Ph.D

Science and religion are typically thought of as being in conflict with each other and/or having no common ground on which to base a dialogue - but is this true? Dr. Bennett explores whether and how there could be a more fruitful way of bringing the two world views into a meaningful conversation. Her approach is grounded in the integration of Neuroscience and Neuroimmunology with Theology.

Pat has been a practicing medical doctor in England, as well as receiving an undergraduate and Ph.D. in Theology from Oxford and Oxford Brookes, respectively.

## FAITH IN ACTION

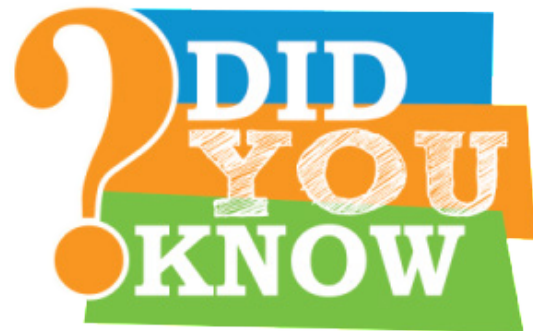


Every 2nd Sunday our young people will be focusing on ways to put their beliefs into action. This program is open to all Kindergarten-8th grade students. Each FIA Sunday our children and youth faith development program will embrace learning about how Unitarian Universalism calls us, no matter how old we are, to be the helping hands in creating a more just and fair world. The goals of Faith in Action are to:

- Provide opportunities for young people to experience their power to make a positive difference in the world
- Experience learning and service as an integral part of our UU beliefs and practices
- Cultivate young people's natural sense of justice, empathy, and compassion

This month we will be supporting the People's Community Clinic to help promote literacy and instill a love of reading in the community they serve. We will be collecting and sorting books in Faith Development on October 14 while we learn about the important of health care and literacy. All books donated will be delivered to the clinic and made available to patients in the Pediatric and Adolescent Waiting Rooms.

Please support our young people's social action efforts and People's Community Clinic by bringing your books to First UU's Faith Development Program to add to the donation box in the education wing of the church.



FAITH IN ACTION  
has a blog!

Go to

[WWW.FIRSTUUALIVE.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTUUALIVE.ORG)

That's where we will have photos, videos, letters, and messages about the different service projects that our young people complete through Faith in Action here at First UU Austin!

Check it out today!

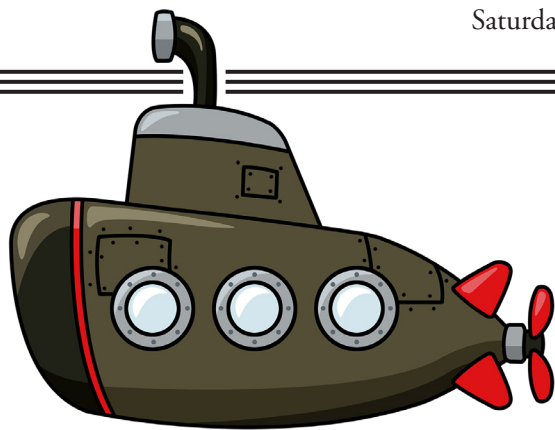


Chalice Circles provide participants the opportunity to share their personal experiences and explore connections to the self and the world. They are led by two trained facilitators, and each session centers on a different topic with a focus on a monthly theme from Soul Matters Themed Ministry. Chalice Circles offer a wonderful opportunity to deepen connections to each other while expanding individual personal and spiritual growth.

*First UU Chalice Circles currently have openings in the following groups:*

Tuesday Evening: 2 Openings

Saturday Evenings: 2 Openings



# LFD STILL NEEDS SUBS!

We are still looking for some substitute teachers! Want to help out but don't know where you can put your talents to work? Substitute teach for our classes. You'll be trained, given support, and have a blast teaching the coolest kids we know! Children and Youth substitute teaching team sign up here: <http://bit.ly/substitutesignup>.

FIRST UU IN PHOTOS

# Celebration of a Century: Nora Reese's 100th Birthday

Jon Montgomery & Kathleen Ellis





## FIRST UU IN PHOTOS





## MONTHLY SERVICE OFFERING

## This Month's MSO:

**Peter Durkin**  
CEO, Houston Affiliate



I was often asked what was my motivation for getting involved with [Planned Parenthood](#) as a volunteer, Board member, and finally as CEO (for 27 years with the Houston affiliate)? We all have our family of origin stories and I vividly remember my mother describing her feeling on how to cope with five children and bracing for the next 24 hours.

Before widespread access to birth control (the pill had not been invented) and labor saving devices (think - washing machine, dryer, dishwasher) were available - life for the typical Catholic, stay-at-home mother could be a real grind. As my mother observed (later in life) as she put her feet on the floor and greeted the dawn with this resignation: "Dear God, not another day". She took motherhood way too seriously - for which I am grateful.

Ironically, "Planned Parenthood" became a household name in our family. It was a national mindset that people could manage their fertility, learn about sexuality, have access to birth control methods and slow worldwide population growth. Delaying child bearing and getting an education was the recipe for an improved standard of living.

Unfortunately, our current toxic stew of mixing sex, religion and politics has made advocacy for and the provision of services even more difficult. As UUs we are addressing the institutional racism of white supremacy.

I would contend that male supremacy is an equal

challenge. If you look at the organizations that are most opposed to the birth control movement, it is the male dominated organizations (US Congress, Texas legislature, and male dominated churches) that are determined to roll back the 100 year advances of Margaret Sanger, the American Birth Control League, and Planned Parenthood.

As a sidenote, it would be useful for commentators to ask about the current rash of sex scandals to apply what we learned in Planned Parenthood sexuality education about any sexual situation: is it Honest, is it Equal, is it Responsible? By applying this HER criteria we could establish a common sense norm to sexuality that could be applied to ALL situations.

We need more Planned Parenthood, not less. More sex education, more health centers and more public advocacy. Sadly, like washing our socks - we have to advocate for this over, and over and over again.

Last, and most important, thank you to this church and the Unitarian Universalist Association for embracing healthy and sex positive attitudes through our value statements, the Our Whole Lives (OWL) sex education curriculum, public affairs advocacy, and financial support. It is comforting to attend a church whose values and priorities are in alignment with my workplace values, attitudes and beliefs.

As always, thank you to the members of First UU Austin for your generous and loyal support.

## DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

### SHIPS AHOY! YOUTH TRAINING – BEGINS OCTOBER 12

Youth ages 15 – 18 are invited to participate in this amazing journey into Unitarian Universalism which will prepare them for membership and leadership in congregations and the Association at large. The training consists of four modules, including on-line and in person experiences, held between October 12, 2018 and March 10, 2019. More information and registration at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ships-ahoy-registration-36888626876> Scholarships are available – contact David Overton at [denom@austinuuu.org](mailto:denom@austinuuu.org)

### U-BAR-U FALL EVENTS

UBarU is a UU camp and retreat center in the beautiful Hill Country, just 120 miles west of Austin. Because of its distance from population centers, it has been designated an International Dark Sky Park, perfect for star gazing.

- Women's Retreat – October 5 - 7. Recharge your body, mind and spirit in the companionship of other UU women. Sing, dance, meditate, write, draw, read, talk, hike UBarU's gorgeous 142 acre campus, walk the UBarU labyrinth, lounge on the Meeting House porch or do just what your spirit needs. Registration and more details at <http://ubaru.org/home/Womens-Retreat>

- Fall Men's Retreat – October 19 - 21. Come and enjoy fellowship in the Texas Hill Country. Rest, relax, enjoy delicious meals and use the time as a break from your normal routines and schedules. Information and registration at <http://ubaru.org/home/Mens-Retreat>

### POLITICAL ACTIVISM – GUIDELINES FROM THE UUA

In keeping with our long and rich tradition of activism, the Unitarian Universalist Association has provided

clear guidelines on permissible political activities of congregations and their representatives - <https://www.uua.org/pressroom/stories/religious-activism-political-not-partisan>

### UUSC INITIATIVES TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS

The UU Service Committee provides information and action opportunities on the most pressing human rights issues of the day. The list changes in response to needs, and currently includes Central American immigrant rights and partnership with communities affected by climate change - <https://www.uusc.org/initiatives/>

### CARPOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Want to carpool to an event outside Austin? Email David Overton at [denom@austinuuu.org](mailto:denom@austinuuu.org) and we will work to put you together with someone to share the ride. ·



## UBarU Camp & Retreat Center

There are some fun events coming up at UBarU Camp & Retreat Center!

**Women's Retreat - Oct 5-7.**

**Men's Retreat - Oct 19-21.**

For more details and to register please go to [www.ubaru.org](http://www.ubaru.org).

If you want to rent a cottage for a quiet weekend not during a retreat, email Robyn at [director@ubaru.org](mailto:director@ubaru.org).

## STEWARDSHIP

### It's Not Too Late to Pledge!

If you haven't pledged already, our stewardship volunteers are ready to assist you! You can find us at the Stewardship table (watch for the gold table cloths) after Sunday services through October. After you've pledged, you can set up your payment at your leisure! We recommend using [myFirstUU](http://myFirstUU) because it is the most cost effective method for our church. If you can't make it to church, contact us at [stewardship@austinuu.org](mailto:stewardship@austinuu.org) and we'll come to you!

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### Why Should I Pledge?

- **Spiritual:** Pledging is an expression of our spiritual lives. Generosity is a key component of all major religions and pledging is a concrete way to express that generosity.
- **Practical:** UU churches are completely self-funded and 78% of our church's income comes from pledges. We pledge to support the community that is here for us when we need it.
- **Aspirational:** We support our church's efforts to build the Beloved community.

## CELEBRATION SUNDAY!

### A CELEBRATION OF GENEROSITY

Sunday, September 23rd, was a first for First UU – a service and church-wide event designed to celebrate our community, commitment, generosity, and hopes for the future. Celebration Sunday was the first time we dedicated one day to focus on pledging.

It was a special service all around. Rev. Meg delighted us by singing songs she wrote, including “Mango Thoughts in a Meatloaf Town,” “Born Just Fine the First Time,” and “House of Love,” to tell her version of UU101, UU201 and UU301 (as only Rev. Meg can!). The congregation later joined in singing another of Rev. Meg's songs, “All Will Be Well.”

Music was the inspiration for the day as our church's intergenerational choir accompanied Austin blues singer, Nakia, to rock the house with an anthem of “Everyday People.” “Thank U” was sung for the meditation, and the adult choir provided a chorus for Rev. Meg's musical sermon.

The Story for All Ages featured “The Magic Bouquets,” with the congregation displaying a field of flowers to finish the story.

Members picked up pledge cards before the service and were invited to come forward to place their completed cards in a large basket, showing the power of comingling funds, much like the comingling of water for water communion. It was a moving and powerful ceremony to demonstrate the importance of each of us in creating our community. We received 163 pledges for a total of \$433,000, which puts us more than a third of our way to our dream goal of 450 pledging families and half way to our dream goal of \$850,000.

The post-service celebration kicked off at 11:30 a.m., with a party on the patio and food trucks lining our parking lot to share their treats. Texas Chili Queens, Torchy's Tacos, and Good Times Ice Cream handed out food as people helped themselves to drinks and settled in for fun and fellowship with colorful tablecloths and balloons. The weather cooperated nicely, with moderate temperatures and just a few sprinkles.

This was truly a celebration of our community, with high hopes for what we can do together... Beyond Tomorrow! ·





## STEWARDSHIP

# BEYOND TOMORROW

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



Three Generations of UU's!

Frozen Treats were provided by the [Good Times Ice Cream Truck!](#)

## How Much Should I Pledge?

There are no hard and fast rules about how much to pledge. We encourage you to be generous within your means. If you've never pledged before, the UUA fair share guide is a great place to start. Find them at [bit.ly/fairshareguide](http://bit.ly/fairshareguide)

## Faith-Full Pledging

Celebration Sunday models the idea that stewardship is a part of our faith, not just fundraising. To that end, our church has set a goal to increase the number of families that pledge! Last year 373 families pledged. This year we hope to increase that number to 450 families. That's an aggressive 20% increase, but we're already on our way, with 17 new families pledging on Celebration Sunday! Pledging is so important that if you can't afford to make a pledge Rev. Meg will make a \$1/month pledge in your name.

## Our Dream Goals

On Celebration Sunday, we tapped into our generosity! Not only are many of us paying capital campaign pledges, on average those who renewed their pledge this year increased their giving by 9%! In one day we raised \$433k! That puts us more than half way to our dream goal of \$850k.



### Did You Know?

As of August, we have 658 voting members in our church.

- It costs ~\$1,500 per person to run our church.
- It costs ~\$2,660 per day to run our church.
- To maintain our current commitments in 2019 requires \$740K in pledges.
- Our church's maintenance budget for 2019 is ~\$940K.

If we achieve our dream goal of \$850K in pledges, our church's budget will be over a million dollars!

### Meg's Dream for Our Congregation

Rev. Meg's dream for our church goes above and beyond what is in our maintenance budget.

- A part-time Pastoral Visitor whose job it is to visit and stay in touch with those among us who are elderly or ill.
- A part-time Social Justice Coordinator who would organize, advertise, encourage, and inspire us to move outside the walls of the church and be advocates and helpers in the community on behalf of First UU.
- ASL interpreters at our worship services.
- A civics curriculum for UU youth written and beta-tested in our congregation.

### STEWARDSHIP





## STEWARDSHIP



Great Food. Great People. Great Cause.

Lunch was provided by  
[Torchy's Tacos](#)  
 and  
[The Texas Chili Queens!](#)

## 4x4 Dinners

WHAT ARE 4x4 DINNERS?

The concept of these meals is to form groups of 6- 8 people, either 3 or 4 couples, or a combination of pairs and singles, who would meet 3 or 4 times throughout the church year to plan and prepare a themed, home-cooked meal.

The dates, times, and themes would be decided by the members of each group who would take turns in hosting. The host chooses the theme (e.g. ethnic, holiday, family favorites...) and suggests what the others should bring.

The purpose of these groups is for the same people to meet over 3 or 4 meals and get to know each other better.

HOW TO JOIN

There will be sign up sheets on Sundays in the Gallery or on the patio with more details, including on the Fellowship Ministry Interest Sunday, October 14th.

## Young Adults Brunch

Meet in the foyer outside the sanctuary after the 2nd service & we will walk to a local brunch place for some fellowship! For more info contact Minda Anderson at [youngadults@austinuu.org](mailto:youngadults@austinuu.org) or join our Facebook page: First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin Young Adults (FUUCAYA).

Sunday, October 21

Sunday, November 18

More dates to be announced at a later time!

## TRANSFORMATION THROUGH SERVICE

At First UU, we have committed ourselves to the mission of building the Beloved Community. We do that in many ways including by being “generous with time, talent, and treasure.” It can be easy to think of stewardship as being only about raising money to keep the church doors open -- and that is certainly a very important task—but a church community also needs the work of dedicated volunteers to keep its programs running. Whether you teach a Lifespan Faith Development class, sing in the choir, usher at Sunday services, or take part in a Social Action project, you are helping our church realize its mission.

With this in mind, we are dedicating the month of October to celebrating and highlighting all of the service work that keeps our congregation the vibrant and caring community it is. If you are already serving the church, thank you! If you would like to find a way to serve, we have a place for you. Join us for one or all of the following activities and learn more about what we can do together to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

#### HELPING IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

As a congregational service project, we will be collecting items to give to Immigrant families as they are released from detention. Remember, families coming out of detention have nothing but the clothes they are wearing. Here is the list of what they will need:

- Gently used clothing - all sizes, from babies to adult men & women.
- Shoes/tennis shoes.
- Gently used sweaters/sweat shirts/light blankets for babies & children as they travel on “cold” Greyhound buses.
- Backpacks - gently used OK.
- Packages of snacks - put into backpacks for travel from detention centers to their destinations on Greyhound.
- Gift cards to places like HEB/Costco for organizations in the Valley to buy snacks/water/juice packs.
- Small tubes of toothpaste/toothbrushes to put in backpacks.

Please bring these items to church on that Sunday only, and put them in Meg’s office. If you bring things early, because of the construction, they may get thrown away by accident.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 21, & 28 CONNECTIONS FAIR

After both services, come to the courtyard to visit with leaders from ministries and groups to learn more about activities, and find out how you can get involved.

- Congregational Life - October 14
- Social Justice - October 21
- Arts, Education, & Spirituality - October 28

### THROUGHOUT OCTOBER & BEYOND TRANSFORMATION THROUGH SERVICE

The Transformation Through Service team helps connect First UU congregants with the many meaningful service opportunities available through our church. If you would like to get more involved at First UU, you can talk with one of our team who can help you find service opportunities that match your interests, skills, and time availability. Look for us in the courtyard during the Connections Fair each Sunday in October or email us at [transform@austinuu.org](mailto:transform@austinuu.org) to schedule a conversation.

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### TXUUMJ ANNOUNCES THE ALAN LUMMUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND 2019 LEGISLATIVE TRAINING!

Would you like to learn more about the next legislative session and how to engage with your state legislators? If so, join the Texas UU Justice Ministry for our statewide General Assembly and 2019 legislative training. This event brings together UU activists from across Texas to:

- discuss key issues in our state
- learn about what to expect from the upcoming legislative session
- find out how to effectively represent UU values to state legislators

The event is Saturday, October 13, 2018, from 10 AM to 4 PM at Wildflower Church (1314 E. Oltorf St, Austin 78704). Lunch will be provided and a \$10 donation to help cover the cost of food is requested.

Additional information and a registration link can be found at: <http://bit.ly/TXUUMJ>.



## PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CLINIC



## PCC Children's Book Drive

If you like to tell a story, hear a story, or read a story, then you know how important the ability to read and the love of reading are to a full and informed life. Books educate, entertain, inspire and open one's eyes to the world. Thus, one of the goals of PCC is to encourage and instill a love of reading in the children they serve.

*Children who go there are sick I am told,  
And they need something special  
like a book they can hold.*

*A book is a gift that is special indeed,  
For it's one every child can take home and read.*

*So look in your closet, your desk and your drawer,  
And even those boxes for toys that you store.*

*Ask all of your family and every friend,  
For the clinic can use every book we can send.*

Throughout October, members of First UU who volunteer with People's Community Clinic will be in the gallery, or on the patio, each Sunday to collect new and gently used books for the children served by the clinic. The children and youth of the church are participating in this effort and will also host their own book drive for these children. So, if you are a parent or grandparent, an uncle or aunt, or older sibling, we ask that you support our young folks as they work to grow their faith and do justice.

Last year, the Clinic recorded 19,319 visits by pediatric patients and 6,329 visits by adolescent patients. And the numbers continue to grow. We know that many of these children do not have books in their home. So, many, many new and gently used books for children of all ages – from tots to teens – are needed.

The books we donate are kept in the waiting rooms. Parents are encouraged to read to their children, and children are encouraged to take home any book they pick up and find interesting.

If you have questions about the book drive, or have a large number of books to donate and need some assistance, please e-mail [pcc@austinuu.org](mailto:pcc@austinuu.org).

## COVENANT CORNER

## If I Think the Church is Wrong

Dear Covenant,

Our church is doing a lot of great social justice work. In one area, though, I think we're going down a wrong path. I talked to the leader of that project and they didn't listen to me! I told my friend that I was going to lower my pledge to show my displeasure and she said that was inappropriate. Why shouldn't I express my displeasure financially as I do with other organizations whose actions I don't support?

Justly Peeved

Dear Peeved,

Your friend has a valid point. In our church's covenant, we promise to communicate with each other directly in a respectful manner. Lowering your pledge to communicate displeasure is not covenantal behavior. We also covenant to affirm our gratitude with generous gifts of time, talent and money for our beloved community.

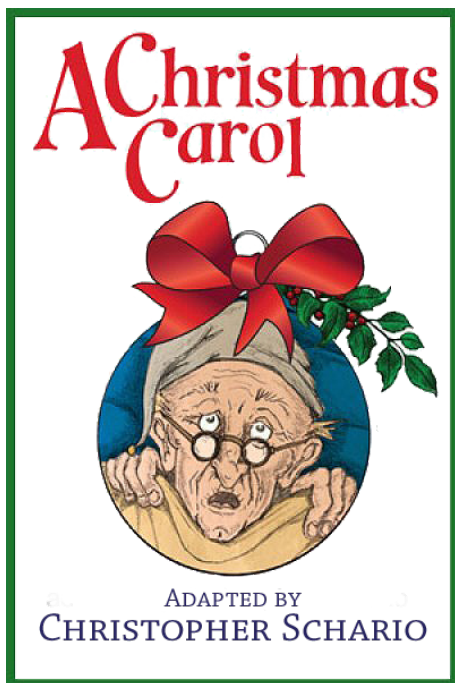
Since you've expressed your concerns directly to those involved, could it be that they did hear you but disagreed with you? Our church has a clear mission and values. It also promises to promote the Seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The activity you object to may not violate these but still be something you personally disagree with. The reality is that in any community there will never be agreement 100% of the time.

Pledging is a high anxiety time. By lowering your pledge, you're withholding support from a community that gives back to you in so many ways. Instead of focusing on the work of the church you disagree with, please try to focus on the reason you are part of this beloved community.

The Healthy Relations Ministry is available to you as a resource if you need help with a difficult situation here at church. It is comprised of Margaret Borden and Elizabeth Kubala and can be reached at [healthyrelations@austinuu.org](mailto:healthyrelations@austinuu.org).

Sincerely,

Healthy Relations Covenant



### Paradox Players

Paradox Players is excited to be producing a show this fall. We have chosen 'A Christmas Carol', the personal transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge from a mean old curmudgeon to a man filled with joy and light.

This show, an adaptation of Charles Dickens' original story, is filled with the singing of familiar carols and the playing of a fiddler. It is a wonderful holiday treat for an audience as well as a performer with a cast of eight actors, seven of whom will play a variety of roles and narration primarily by two young actors. For those younger members interested in appearing in 'A Christmas Carol', a preliminary acting/theatre workshop will be offered on Saturday, October 6th from 10:00 to noon. Auditions for the children's parts will take place at that time.

Paradox Players will resume performing in late November with this production of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol as adapted by Christopher Schiaro and directed by Barbara Abbate. The first two performances will be on Saturday, November 24th and Sunday, November 25th in the Sanctuary. The opening Gala will be on the last Friday in November, the 30th, with continued performances on December 1st, 2nd & 7th -9th.

Please check our website, <https://paradoxplayers.org> for information about the theater workshop for youth interested in being cast and dates and times for other auditions. ·

## NOTICES AND NOTES

### Hands on Housing

*Saturday, October 20*

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 20th. That's the date for the fall Hands on Housing project. HoH is a program through iACT to paint, do small repairs, and beautify the home of a low-income elderly or disabled household. The agency uses other funding to do major repairs before the volunteer events, and we finish the job!

We had a great group in the spring. The UU group replaced the made minor repairs and painted the exterior of the house for a family in south Austin. Let's have another big group of UU volunteers and transform a house and lives! We need both skilled and unskilled volunteers for painting (unskilled) and special repair projects (skilled). Come to the Social Action table in the gallery on Sundays before the event to sign up or contact Jill Smith and Dennis Conine at [handsonhousing@austinuu.org](mailto:handsonhousing@austinuu.org). ·

### Personal Preferences for Memorials

It is important to relay your wishes to your family about your final preferences. Having these sometimes tough discussions helps relieve a lot of the pressure placed on families at the time of a loved one's death. There is much to consider and having the details lined up and decided upon removes much of the emotional and mental struggle at a time when a family is trying to grieve and make sense of their world without their loved one in it.

On our website we have a personal wishes form that you can fill out, save, and email to Rev. Meg, [Meg.Barnhouse@AustinUU.Org](mailto:Meg.Barnhouse@AustinUU.Org), to put into a confidential personal wishes file. You can find the form at [bit.ly/PersonalWishes](http://bit.ly/PersonalWishes) (case sensitive web address), or directly on [AustinUU.Org](http://AustinUU.Org) under Community you will see Personal Wishes. Click there and help bring some peace of mind to you and your family.

\*If you require a hard copy be mailed for you to fill by hand, please contact Bear, [News@AustinUU.Org](mailto:News@AustinUU.Org), and he will get one in the mail for you. ·

## THE BLOTTER



## The Art of Relearning

**Bear W. Qolezcua**

Director of Communications

When I was nine I survived a traumatic brain injury that caused me to have a stroke. One lingering side effect is... I do not see in colour.

Shortly after the incident happened I noticed that everything seemed off in the world. Like someone was leeching the colour out of life itself. Trees were bland and the grass looked sick. My skin looked ashen. It worsened quickly. Seeing an optometrist didn't help my case. The cones in my eyes were intact and I was told to stop attention seeking. It became apparent though, quickly, that there truly was something wrong when I couldn't find things in front of me and had difficulty discerning faces when I was in bright rooms or outside. My mother took me to a neurologist and between them and an ophthalmologist it was determined that I had developed cerebral achromatopsia.

I am 100% colourblind, but...

My mother was a talented artist. She sculpted, drew, and painted. One of her favourite media were pastels, pigmented chalks, and using them she set herself to a fairly big task: teaching her newly colourblind child to see colour... without seeing colour. She sat with me for months and, using her pastels, would place different colour combinations beside each other and have me learn to tell the difference and recognize colours from their place on a grey scale. With much time, attention, and concentration I slowly learned to "see" colour... Childhood

101 revisited - with my own signature twist.

What does that have to do with First UU? Not a whole lot and a whole heck of a lot, all at the same time.

My colour blindness is inconvenient at best. Sometimes my choices in decor don't exactly mesh well (but trust me, they look amazing in grey scale) and sometimes I have to stop people and ask them what colour something is but normally the only difficult issues I have aren't associated with my vision (clinical OCD, however...).

Since I began as a member of the staff in June, I have watched our church begin its own relearning process. We are going through UU 101, in a way, as we evaluate, relearn, and reabsorb our values, ends, mission, moral compass, and vision of what this church will be into the future. It's a scary, huge, sometimes burdensome undertaking. It requires us all to bear down, lend a shoulder, and push ourselves beyond our comfort zone into a place of new investment, new ideas, and seeing that we have a strength that gives us a hopeful future.

I'm not here to challenge and change things for the sake of change. When I interviewed for this position I was honest in saying that I want to see the beautiful future of this church in how it connects with the world, the mark it makes, and the voice it uses to connect to our community. I want only to give it a tangible place to exist

and be expressed. That job sometimes involves radical change, sometimes easy trade offs.

In order for us to see "Beyond Tomorrow" we have to do precisely the work we have begun. Sometimes it is as simple as knocking down a few cobwebs in a corner and other times it is your communications guy nearly destroying the website and rebuilding it to work for our needs well into the future.

We are stepping beyond our horizon, looking beyond tomorrow, and finding how we will not only connect ourselves with the past and the history we carry on our shoulders but also how that history speaks to coming generations who will inherit this place long after any of us are gone.

We are taking what has already been established and marrying it with dreams of growth; uniting who we were with who we hope to be. This is the undertaking of a big church with a big vision of community and faith.

I am so grateful to all of you as we stretch ourselves a bit, move out of our comfort zone (literally, right now, with Howson being our worship home) and lean in to put all we have into this investment whose dividends we may not collect in our lifetimes. It is a heritage and inheritance we are leaving... a legacy and a dream. Have courage, dear UUs! We are a people of vision and we are learning to see a clear, colourful future through the greyscale blur of change. ·



## FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

## CHURCH OF AUSTIN

(512) 452-6168

[WWW.AUSTINUU.ORG](http://WWW.AUSTINUU.ORG)

## FIRST UU MINISTERS

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

REV. CHRIS JIMMERSON

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

BRENT BALDWIN

## DIRECTOR OF LIFESPAN

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

JULES JARAMILLO

## CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

SHANNON POSERN

## DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

BEAR W. QOLEZCUA

## BOARD PRESIDENT

SEAN RAMSEY

## WHITE ALLIES FOR RACIAL EQUITY

*Sunday, October 14**Rm 13**12:30–2 p.m.*

White Allies for Racial Equity will meet on October 14th from 12:30 - 2:00. We will be discussing White Savior Complex. If we want to be truly helpful we must hold on to our enthusiasm, but at the same time be willing to examine our intentions and the impact of our actions with an open mind and a critical eye to make sure we are not doing more harm than good.

UU White Allies for Racial Equity is a group of self-identified white Austin area UUs. Through training and self-examination, we educate ourselves about racism and whiteness in order to be effective allies as we go out and do anti-racism work in our church and our communities.

For more information, contact Scott Butki at [sbutki@gmail.com](mailto:sbutki@gmail.com). To be added to the email list, contact Elizabeth Kubala at [elizkubala@gmail.com](mailto:elizkubala@gmail.com).

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