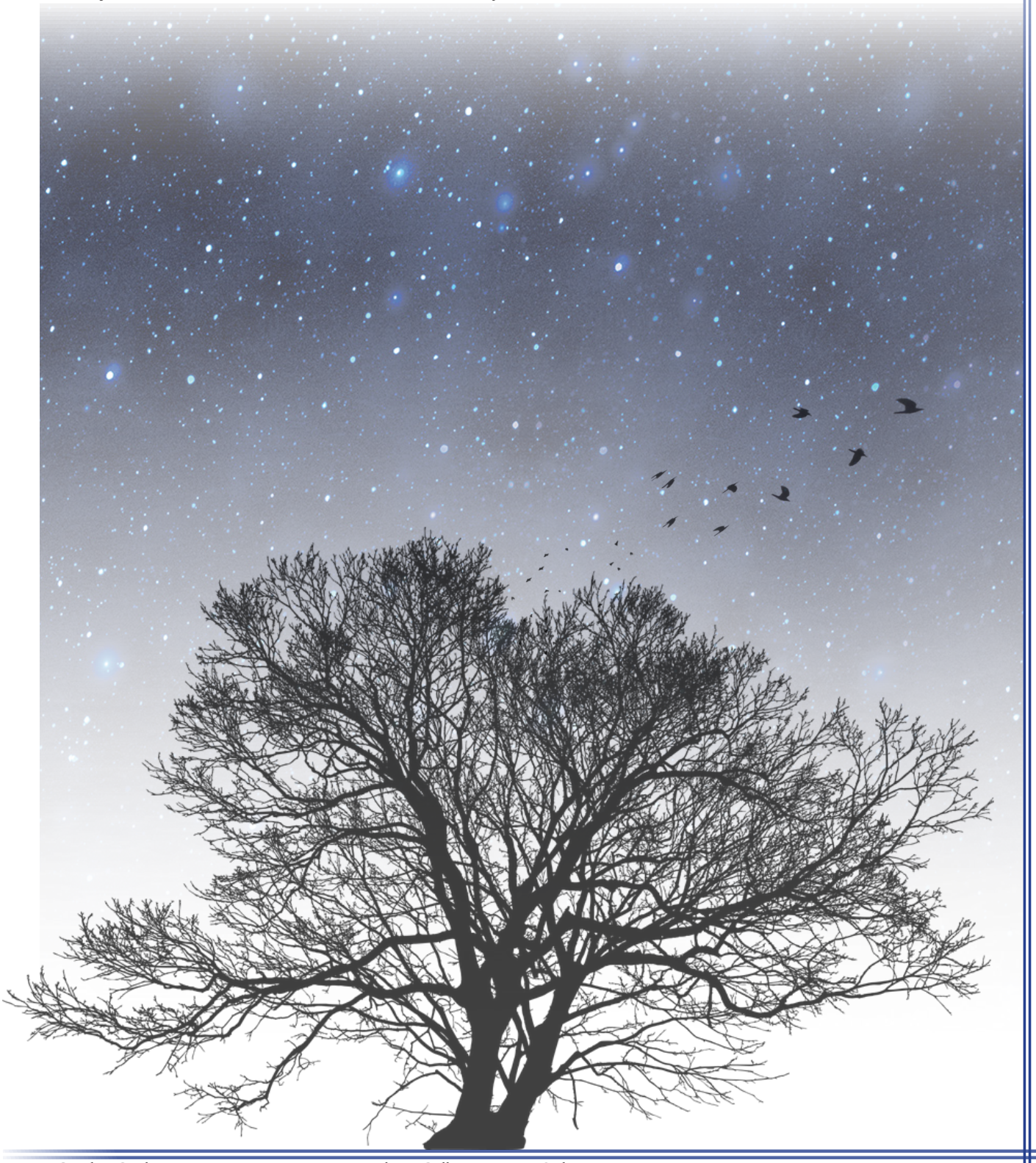


DECEMBER 2018

first UU NEWS

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



Graphic Credit: Hieme Magnum Mysterium - Photo Collage, Bear W. Qolezcua, 2018.

Racism Unlearning Circle

Saturday, December 15
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. Info: racismunlearning@austinuu.org.

“Getting to Know UU” Class

Sunday, December 9
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. Childcare is provided.

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2:	IN THIS ISSUE	Page 11:	THIS MONTH'S MSO SAFE: Stop Abuse for Everyone - Lynda West
Page 3:	SUNDAY SERVICES		
Page 4:	PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM	Page 12:	DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS UBARU SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
	MONTHLY SERVICE OFFERING Time to Vote for 2019 Recipients		
Page 5:	AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Award Ceremony for ASN	Page 13:	STEWARDSHIP Thank You All and Information
	SAVE THE DATE: Fall Congregational Meeting	Page 14:	COVENANT CORNER Outnumbered? - <i>Healthy Relations Covenant</i>
Page 6:	FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK Waiting - <i>Rev. Meg Barnhouse</i>		FELLOWSHIP December Events
Page 7:	YOUR FIRST UU BOARD Our Values of Transcendence - <i>Gay Phillips, Board Member</i>		FIRST SUNDAY SEMINAR "The Immune System and Its Connection to Religion" - <i>Bruce Naylor</i>
Page 8:	JULES' DESKTOP What If... - <i>Jules Jaramillo</i>	Page 15:	FIRST UU IN PHOTOS Construction Marches On
Page 9:	FIRST UU ALIVE Winter Activities	Page 16:	WHITE ALLIES FOR RACIAL EQUITY Joint Group Potluck
Page 10:	THE COMMCOORD BLOTTER the blessed hours - <i>Bear W. Qolezcua</i>		



Yule Circle

Keep an eye on the announcements for information about our new Pagan group's Yule Circle to celebrate Solstice. Watch your email, announcements page on AustinUU.Org, and the order of service for more!



SUNDAY SERVICES

SANCTUARY | 9 : 1 5 A M A N D 1 0 : 4 5 A M

DECEMBER 2

Live from Pflugerville!
One Service: 10:45 a.m.
Facebook Livestream

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Meg, Chris, Jules, and Brent will be live-streaming from Meg's house in front of the fire, since the building is closed. We will be talking about mystery, family, and whatever else comes up as you call in or ask/comment in the comments column on the live-stream page: www.facebook.com/fuuca.

There will be cats and coffee and good conversation. Please join us!

DECEMBER 9

Glowing Embers

WITH REV. CHRIS JIMMERSON

As we celebrate the holiday season, it is good to remember the origin of these traditions and rituals, why they still matter to us and how they may ground us in wonder, awe and mystery.

DECEMBER 16

Spray it Gold and Post it on Instagram!

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Everybody else's life looks glowy and great. How do they do it? Perfectionism can really get its claws into us at this time of year. We compare our insides with other people's outsides and it makes us feel bad. How can we see beneath the surface, grow our roots and strengthen our core?

DECEMBER 23

Christmas Pageant

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE & JULES JARAMILLO, DLFD

We will have our annual no-rehearsal pageant. Come choose a costume and participate in re-enacting an ancient story of faith and hospitality.

MONDAY DECEMBER 24

Lessons and Carols

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

5:30 p.m. Family Centered Service
7 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols

Readings and carols, candlelight and refreshments. One of the church community's favorite services of the year.

DECEMBER 30

Gathered Here in the Mystery of the Hour

WITH REV. CHRIS JIMMERSON

As we close out this year and look forward to the new year, the mystery and uncertainty of what is to come also opens up almost unlimited possibilities and creative potential.

Eclectic Folk Jam

Friday, December 14

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. We can do Christmas songs if folks are so inclined.

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

UU/Quaker Singalong

Saturday, December 29

*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.

Monthly Service
Offering: Time to Vote!

Sunday, December 16

First UU members will have one day, Sunday, Dec. 16, to vote for their top ten among the worthy non-profits that have been nominated this year. Voting will be in person only and will take place after both Worship Services at the Social Action table in the Gallery as well as before and after the Congregational Meeting that afternoon. This is your chance to have a say in which social justice non-profits receive part of our 2019 monthly special offerings!

For more information, contact Social Action Outreach Coordinator Maria Milner at actionoutreach@austinuu.org.

Senior Luncheon
- Cancellation

The December Senior Luncheon has been canceled for the month of December. For more information, please contact Joyce Wilson: (512) 482-0998.

Green Sanctuary &
350 Austin

Tuesday, December 18
7 p.m.
Howson Hall

Give the planet a holiday gift and join us to take action on climate change. Come at 6:30 for snack, visiting, and holiday cheer!

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM

SANCTUARY | SUNDAYS | NOON

DECEMBER 16

The Latino Comedy Project

WITH ADRIAN VILLEGAS



Adrian Villegas is a writer, performer, Artistic Director and a founding member of the Austin-based, Emmy-nominated sketch group 'The Latino Comedy Project' (LCP), currently celebrating its 20th anniversary. He is also the creator of critically-acclaimed solo comedies "Six Mexicans Named Gonzalez" and "Barrio Daze."

Villegas' rollicking one-man shows deal with barrio life, racial politics, and pop culture from a distinctly Latino point of view.

Austin theater critic Wayne Alan Brenner recently wrote, "Villegas' array

of characters and the level of craft with which he portrays them could leave you breathless."

Villegas' performance in his solo show "Barrio Daze" was nominated by the B. Iden Payne Award Committee for "Outstanding Lead Actor In A Comedy."

The San Francisco Chronicle hailed the LCP as "hilarious" and "murderously funny." The LCP's 2017 sketch show "Gentrif*cked" enjoyed sold-out runs from Texas to California and "Best Of Austin" recognition from Austin Chronicle critics.

The LCP's YouTube comedy videos of political and pop culture satire have amassed over 14 million views worldwide. The LCP cast also developed, wrote and starred in an MTV3 comedy branding campaign for which the group received an Emmy nomination.

The LCP was founded as a platform for Latino writing and performing talent. As such, it has served as an outlet to hear the voices of a community often neglected in the national dialogue and in mainstream entertainment.

Villegas is currently in pre-production for the LCP's next show in spring 2019 titled "Estar Guars!: A May The Fourth/Cinco De Mayo Comedy Fiesta."

As solo performer and LCP Artistic Director, Villegas strives to create work that entertains, bridges cultures, and feeds the hunger of under-served Latino audiences.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CEREMONY HONORING ASN & 3 LOCAL IMMIGRANTS TAKING SANCTUARY

Leading the work to stop unjust deportations, the Austin Sanctuary Network will receive this year's Human Rights Defender Award from the Austin-local chapter of Amnesty International.

First UU resident, El Salvadoran Alirio Gamez, St. Andrews Presbyterian residents, Indigenous Guatemalan mom and son Hilda and Ivan Ramirez, along with former First UU resident, Guatemalan Sulma Franco, will accept the award Sunday, Dec. 9. They will receive it at a 'Write for Rights' event from 5-8 p.m. at Batch Craft Beer & Kolaches, 3220 Manor Road.

First UU was a founder of ASN when Sulma took sanctuary here in 2015 before earning her U.S. resident card after Immigration Customs Enforcement was moved to use prosecutorial discretion, and ASN has grown to a group of 30 congregations and social justice non-profits continuing to fight to stop Alirio, Hilda, and Ivan's deportations. The award will be presented about half an hour into the event around 6:30 or 7 p.m. UUs and all ASN members are encouraged to attend this event and help write letters on behalf of prisoners supported by Amnesty International.

Amnesty groups all over the world will be writing letters on the same cases so that government leaders are flooded with letters on behalf of prisoners of conscience and directly to prisoners, letting them know they are not forgotten. Often, as a result of this concerted effort, prisoners are freed.

"We feel the Austin Sanctuary Network is a most worthy recipient, and we want to show our appreciation for your work on behalf of human rights by presenting you this award," Amnesty member Kam Magor said, "especially with what's happening at the border and what's happening in general with the current president, we feel that the issues of immigration, refugees and sanctuary are especially critical right now."



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 16

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Howson Hall

This is your official notice for our fall congregational meeting:

Sunday, December 16, 2018

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Howson Hall.

Copies of the meeting packet are available in the copy room at the church and online at AustinUU.Org.

The list of eligible voters has been posted in the copy room at the church. Please check the list and let Rev. Chris Jimmerson know if you have any questions or believe you have incorrectly been omitted from the list. Chris may be reached by [email](#) and at 512-452-6168. After December 2, you may contact Shannon Posern via [email](#) or at 512-452-6168.

The church bylaws specify the following regarding voting eligibility: "Individuals who have been members of the church for 30 days or more and who have (as an individual or part of a family unit) made a recorded financial contribution during the last 12 months and at least 30 days prior to the meeting, have the right to vote at all official church meetings."

Thus to be eligible to vote, you must have made a contribution between December 16, 2017 and November 15, 2018.

We will be providing childcare during the meeting. Please RSVP to childcare@austinuu.org. We look forward to seeing you there.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Waiting
Rev. Meg Barnhouse
Senior Minister



December 2 is the first Sunday in Advent, which is the season in the Christian calendar in which the faithful anticipate and prepare for the birth of the baby Jesus. There are advent calendars, where you get to open a little door every day to see a picture from the Bible story, or there is a little toy or a chocolate. Waiting is made easier through chocolate, for the children. There are many celebrations of light's return in the Northern Hemisphere in this season: Diwali, Hanukah, Yule and others.

We wait for the birth of the light. The dark season, where the days are short and the nights are long, is welcome, and as sacred as the light. Darkness is for the strengthening of roots under the ground.

I hope that, in this time of waiting for our church to "get back to normal," we can feed and grow the roots of our community. It's hard when we feel disrupted, when we feel that our church home has made things difficult for us to attend, to park, to have events. We knew it would be inconvenient, but this is really hard. We had Thanksgiving with no kitchen. We've been squished

together in the fellowship hall and the gallery, and there is no place to light, to hang out, to chat. I need that time of connection and I imagine you do too.

Change raises anxiety, and these are big changes. Some people respond to anxiety by withdrawing, by getting out of the maelstrom and planning to return when things have settled. I encourage you to stay engaged with your church home during this time. Please do come to worship, please bring your children, and please do join worship on your computer if you need to stay home. The service is live-streamed on the church's Facebook page. It's a public page, so you don't need to be on Facebook to go there. Just search First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin Facebook and you'll get there. Prior services are there as well. When we get back into the sanctuary the live-stream will take a leap in quality, as, through a generous grant from a long-time member, we have two HD cameras and a stronger broadband connection to deliver the music and the spoken words as well as technology will allow.

The building will be closed until Dec. 7. On Sunday, Dec. 2, worship will be live-streamed on the FB page, "LIVE FROM PFLUGERVILLE!" Chris, Jules, Brent and I are creating an interview-style call-in service for you. Bear will be hosting the page, and you can ask us questions in the comments column which he will relay to us. Kiya will be answering the phone (number provided as the service begins) if you'd like to call in. If we can't have worship in a closed building, we will bring it to you live from the northern wilds of Austin. Cats, coffee, a fireplace.... We'll remember this as part of the story of the church's life.

I wish you warm and sunny holidays, rich family feasts and conversations, breathing room, more pleasure than pressure, if that's possible. May you feel the love that surrounds you.

- Meg.

YOUR FIRST UU BOARD



Our Values of Transcendence

Gay Phillips

Member

Board of Trustees

Our values of transcendence, community, compassion, courage and transformation are what guide us in building a beloved community.

We welcome and serve our community by teaching, supporting, and challenging one another to practice a rich spiritual life and care for the earth while connecting in fun and fellowship with intergenerational activities. White Supremacy and other systems of oppression are constantly being dismantled within and beyond our walls. Our greater UU community expands the reach of this movement. We work hard at being generous with our time, talent, and treasures in order to realize our mission.

Having a healthy church family means we must promise to be intentionally hospitable to all people of good will and being present with one another through life transitions like our current remodeling project. We must nurture and protect each other by communicating directly in a spirit of compassion and good will. This disruption will continue for some months but it will be so much easier on everyone if we all communicate our curiosity respectfully and affirming our gratitude to those who worked

so diligently to make this project happen. Honoring our commitment, to ourselves and one another, to be forgiving when we fall short of expectations. Showing good humor and optimism is required to move forward. Seeing change happen and a dream realized is the ultimate. Each of us are part of this success while being courageous and patient during this long awaited transformation.

As we see change occurring in the sanctuary, Howson Hall, the gallery, and in the new kitchen we can reach out to those in the building committee and the staff and offer our help to make the load a lot easier.

Transformation is hard whether it is personal or in beloved community. Improving our spiritual home to welcome more to be a part of our own Beloved Community, while sharing our values and fulfilling our mission, is transforming each of us. Building a more inclusive, beautiful spiritual home we can do more to transform our community within and beyond. Taking something old and making it new again is a spiritual act.

This will be worth all the inconveniences and changes we are

experiencing. They require patience and loving respect from each of us to accomplish this end. Seeing the community activities happening again and the Paradox Players performing again will be worth all the trials and tribulations.

Our church family is growing, the time, talents, and treasures it takes to make this happen is no small endeavor. The logistics involved in maintaining operations while construction is ongoing is difficult at best. So being aware of how much effort has gone into getting us to this place in time with minimal disruption. It is huge! Do your part and be aware of your surroundings when you come inside your church home and be sure to follow signage for safety.

Rejoice each Sunday when you are able to attend services for the progress attained. As each phase is completed the excitement will build and being a part of this will sustain us until the end.

What better gift can we give to each other during this time of the year when we celebrate all that is wonderful in our lives. Have a very happy holiday season and a great 2019! ·

JULES' DESKTOP

What If...
Jules Jaramillo
 Director
 Lifespan Faith Development



Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand.

-Albert Einstein

As an educator and an artist, imagination exists at the beginning of all my creative processes. And even with imagination being such a large part of my life, I paused when I first read this opening quote. Is imagination more important than knowledge? I almost started an argument with the author until I saw who the author was. Of all people, Albert "Smartest Guy in the Room" Einstein said this - so maybe imagination truly can lead us to into vision - knowing - understanding.

When I let my imagination lead me regarding some of the question you have asked me about faith development for our children and youth, these are the "What ifs" my imagination creates.

What if...

We had an Our Whole Lives (OWL) program running consistently every year? Unitarian Universalists have a program like none other around educating our young people in regards to comprehensive sexuality education. What if, we were able to offer it all - every year?

What if...

We had a Coming of Age program that ran every other year that was a meaningful rite of passage for middle schoolers. What if this program connected them to Unitarian Universalism, our church community, and gave them essential resources as they begin their early teens?

What if...

We had a Family Ministry where opportunities were created that children not only learned together on Sunday morning but families could support one another to discover and rediscover a seeking, active faith in the context of family lives. The kind of family ministry that encourages families to be engaged on a faith journey as a family, where they care for and tend to of one another's souls- together as a faith community.

These are just a few areas of First UU's faith development that I have found myself using my imagination with. I can see all of these happening in time, and it is exciting, beautiful, and fulfilling. And it will take time, patience, and loving people working together to get there. So, if OWL, Coming of Age or Family Ministry creates a spark in your imagination- lets put our imaginations together! I would love to journey with you and discover how these can become a reality for First UU.

Contact me at Jules.Jaramillo@austinuu.org.

Love, love and more love,

~jules

FIRST UU ALIVE



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DECEMBER 23RD

Parent Helpers Needed~

The pageant is being led by Rev. Meg Barnhouse & Jules Jaramillo, DLFD. Come as you are, grab a costume, and let's celebrate! No rehearsal needed!

Please Contact Jules at Jules.Jaramillo@austinuu.org to volunteer.

NURSERY NEWS

Parents of infants and toddlers~

We have a new addition to our nursery care staff. Please come by and introduce yourself to our new Nursery Care Coordinator, Yolanda Wilson, and new childcare provider, Monica Rodriguez.

While you are there, I invite you to look around and see the changes we have made. We have been working hard to create more space for our growing little ones, and now our nursery has two rooms. You will still check your child in room 19 which is now the infant room. Toddlers have their own room which is connected to the infant room. Now that toddlers will have their own space, there will be more room to play and enjoy a story center, music, and simple crafts. This will also give them an opportunity to be gently introduced to some of our preschool practices throughout the year in hopes of creating smooth transitions as they grow.

We also have:

- Retrained all childcare staff
- Sorted and inspected toys for safety
- Decluttered play areas
- Sanitized toys
- Hired a cleaning crew to deep clean both infant and toddler rooms

Your infants and toddlers are a joy in this community and I look forward to welcoming them to their "new" space. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at Jules.Jaramillo@austinuu.org

first UU ALIVE's WELCOMING CIRCLES

Are you a New Member? Have you been coming to First UU for a while and would like to know more about Unitarian Universalism? Would you like to become connected with other people that are new or feeling new at First UU of Austin? If so, join us for First UU Alive's Welcoming Circles - a four-session introduction to Unitarian Universalism, our common history, our affirmation of each person's spiritual quest, and the promises we make to one another about the spiritual values we hold. Please RSVP by emailing Jules.Jaramillo@austinuu.org.



THE COMMCOORD BLOTTER



the blessed hours

Bear W. Qolezcua

Director of Communications

I beg your forgiveness now (tongue in cheek) for what I'm about to share with you all. It's overtly Christo-centric religious writing but, of course, has a double reading. I feel it is fairly appropriate for our congregation, given our current political and economic climate. I wrote this in seminary in 2015, a challenge to some who were finding it a struggle to understand the irony of disdaining middle eastern refugees who only seek shelter.

First, though, I want to give some wishes to you all.

I hope you are given no more than you can carry. I hope you are given strength to carry what you are given. I hope your heart finds light, even as the darkness lengthens. I hope your light shines brightly into this world as darkness seems too easy a choice to make. I hope that when tears flow they are of joy, of happy memories, and of gratitude. I hope your joy, memories, and gratitude paint your days so that others feel the warmth that radiates from them as strongly as you do. I hope for your heart to be soft, your words to be kind, and your deeds to be genuine, selfless, and free. I hope that each heart you encounter these coming days is one of humanity, virtue, and peace.

חנוכה שמח

SOLSTICE GREETINGS

MERRY CHRISTMAS

HAPPY KWANZAA

JOYOUS NEW YEAR

to welcome all lost in the night - bwq

plumes of breath hang in the air,
uprising to cathedral spires,
joining with those still hanging there,
all voices, raised in common choir.

the advent wreath glows soft, anew,
with candles lit 'mid glorious prose,
in holly circlets, fresh with dew,
and ivy wove with Christmas rose.

midnight strikes the twenty-fifth,
the blessed hours are quick at hand,
from belfries come the ringing lift,
as churches wait across the land.

upon this night, with starry host,
her foreign knock, there is no room.
she, in the darkness, tired and lost,
begs simple rest for seeded womb.

this immigrant, bronzed skin - black hair,
who looks so strange, is not our kin.
her birthing pains she now must bear
upon the streets, turned from the inns.

from those who murder for their faith
their fear - she flees, her fear - she tastes.
her home a land, a wailing state,
where her own kindred lay in waste.

upon this starry eve of grace,
in churches full and hearts alight,
we 'wait the one who, to this place,
would welcome all lost in the night.

MONTHLY SERVICE OFFERING

This Month's MSO:

Lynda West

SAFE | stop abuse for everyone

A merger of Austin Children's Shelter and SafePlace

#metoo

One of the many things that has rocked the news and shocked our sensibilities in 2018 has been the #ME TOO movement. We're recoiled from the personalities brought down and applauded the courage of those speaking out. One organization, however, was not surprised; they are SAFE.

SAFE, the organization chosen by this congregation for the December Monthly Special Offering has been working with victims of sexual and domestic violence for more than 40 years. The current organization combines the efforts of the Center for Battered Women, Rape Crisis, and Austin Children's Center "to lead in ending sexual assault and exploitation, child abuse, and domestic violence through prevention and advocacy for change."

Their mission is far reaching and the needs are many. With your donations, your time, your hearts, and your voices let us reach with them to transform the lives of those affected by assault, exploitation, and abuse.

For more information or to donate directly to SAFE and help further support their life saving work, you can visit www.safeaustin.org.

If you need help you can call (512) 267-7233, text (737) 888-7233, or chat with a SAFE advocate live online at www.safeaustin.org/chat. For Deaf people of all identities, please use relay/VRS. If it is unsafe to call/chat, advocates are available to provide up to 30 minutes of face-to-face support at 1515 Grove Blvd, Building A,

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. SAFE also reminds you that if you or someone you know is in danger or hurt to please call 9-1-1 immediately.

Necesito ayuda ahora? Llamar SAFeline: (512) 267-7233, texto (737) 888-7233, y chat: www.safeaustin.org/chat. Para las personas sordas de todas las identidades, por favor utilice relé/VRS.

SAFE también le recuerda que si usted o alguien que conoce está en peligro o herido, llame 9-1-1 inmediatamente.

No es seguro llamar / chat? Defensores Safeline están disponibles para proporcionar hasta 30 minutos de apoyo cara a cara en el 1515 Grove Blvd, Edificio A, durante las horas sin cita previa de 8 am a 4 pm de lunes a viernes.

La decisión de extender la mano es el primer paso en la búsqueda de ayuda con la violencia sexual o doméstica, abuso infantil, trata de personas, o el apoyo a los parentes. La llamada es totalmente gratuita, y se puede proporcionar tanto o tan poco, la información acerca de usted como quiera - incluso se puede llamar de forma anónima.

Safeline especialistas en intervención en crisis están capacitados para manejar las llamadas de los sobrevivientes, familias y aliados que necesitan apoyo con situaciones de abuso sexual, el acoso sexual, la violencia doméstica, el abuso infantil y la trata de personas. Nuestros especialistas también pueden proporcionar consejos sobre relaciones saludables y paternidad.

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

**SOUTHWEST UU
WOMEN CONFERENCE**

Feb. 22 – 24, 2019, Hot Springs, Arkansas
Many women from our church attended the 2018 SWUWUW Conference in Austin. Please put the 2019 Conference on your calendar and join UU women from around our region for fellowship, celebration and learning. The keynote speaker is Kathy Webb, Vice-Mayor of the city of Little Rock. Registration opens soon. More information at the SWUWUW website, at <https://www.swuuw.org/>.

**UUA ESTABLISHES DISASTER RELIEF
FUND FOR CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES**

The Unitarian Universalist Association has established an emergency fund to respond to the wildfires affecting much of California. Funds will help area congregations and their members with the long process of recovery. <https://giving.uua.org/disaster-aid>

**UU SERVICE COMMITTEE RESPONDS
TO CENTRAL AMERICAN MIGRANT CRISIS**

The UUSC is working with front-line partner organizations to protect the rights and safety of migrants from Central America. Learn more about UUSC immigration policy and how you can help at the UUSC home page, <https://www.uusc.org/>.

**SOUTHERN REGION ANNOUNCES
NEW CHALICE LIGHTERS EFFORTS**

Chalice Lighters is a UU program that allows individual UU's to further our faith in specific ways. The Chalice Lighters program just announced two new efforts: to help the UU Church in the Pines (Florida) buy their first permanent building, and to help Horizon UU Church in Carrollton, Texas build a community garden. More information at <https://www.uua.org/southern/chalice-lighters>.

CARPPOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Want to carpool to an event outside Austin? Email David Overton at denom@austinuu.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!

Winter Family Camp - Dec. 18-31, 2018

Murder Mystery Weekend - Jan. 25-27, 2019

Fiber Arts Weekend - Feb. 15-18, 2019

Astronomy Weekend - Mar. 1-3, 2019

Women's Retreat - Mar. 29-31, 2019

Summer Youth Camp:

Primary (Ages 9-11) - Jun. 9-15, 2019

Intermediate (Ages 12-14) - Jun. 16-22, 2019

Senior/Reeb (Ages 15-18) - Jun. 23-29, 2019

For more details and to register please go to www.ubaru.org.

If you want to rent a cottage for a quiet weekend not during a retreat, email Robyn at director@ubaru.org.

STEWARDSHIP

THANK YOU TO OUR STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEERS!

Many thanks to the people who made this year's stewardship drive happen and for their patience as we tried (and revised) many things this year!

Thank you to our stewardship council who started planning many months ago: Toni Wegner, Mary Overton, Gillian Redfearn, Leo Collas, David Overton, Karen Neeley, Wendy Erisman, Liz Nielsen, Brendan Sterne, Carolyn Gremminger, Sandra Ries, and Rev. Chris Jimmerson.

And special thanks to our volunteers who reached out to our congregation's members and friends: Mary Jane Ford, Beth Frost, Ron Buford, Tomas Medina, Gay Phillips, David Overton, Brendan Sterne, Gary Bennet, Toni Wegner, Wendy Kuo, Peggy Morton, Liz Nielsen, Margaret Borden, David Riehl, Amy Bennett, Judy Parken, Sally Maddox, Bruce Naylor, Max Stout, Joe Milam-Kast... and apologies to anyone I missed!

HOW DO UU CHURCHES DO MONEY?

Unitarian Universalist churches are Congregationalist, meaning they are ultimately governed and sustained by their members: We, the members of our congregation, are responsible for the wellbeing of our church. In our bylaws, we delegate most broad policy over site to our board of trustees. We maintain the responsibility of calling a minister and approving our annual budget.

UU churches are also self-funded and have a budget just like a family, a non-profit organization,

or a for-profit business. Believe it or not, it costs almost a million dollars a year (\$2,662 a day) to run our church so that we can gather in community to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice to build the Beloved Community.

All UU churches are self-funded and our church is primarily supported by our annual pledge drive which makes up 78% of our budget. Based on our church's mission and ends, previous years' budgets, anticipated expenses and income, and requests from various ministries, Rev. Chris creates a budget (approved by Rev Meg) that is presented at the pre-congregational meeting. At our congregational meeting (December 16th at 1:30 pm), a quorum of voting members exercises our fiduciary responsibility and votes on whether or not to accept this budget.

Our church's fiscal year lines up with the calendar year, so our new budget goes into effect on January 1.

WHO CAN VOTE IN A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING?

According to our bylaws, a member is any person 14 years or older who signs our membership book, makes a contribution of record (which can be any amount, even \$1), and whose membership has been acknowledged by the Board of Trustees.

Also, according to our bylaws, a member can vote in a congregational meeting if they meet two requirements: they must have been a member for 30 days or more, and they must have (as an individual or

part of a family unit) made a recorded financial contribution during the last 12 months and at least 30 days prior to the meeting at which they wish to vote.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The latest information about our ongoing construction/ renovation/ rejuvenation is available on the digital signboard in the gallery. If you're concerned about booking a room at church, follow the standard process of contacting Shannon Posern (Shannon.Posern@austinuu.org) and she'll be able to address your needs.

PLEDGING TOWARD THE DREAM

The dream of a stronger presence for Unitarian Universalism in Central Texas and liberal religion, in general, is becoming a reality, thanks to your financial support. Pledges that support the day-to-day operations of the church and the funds pledged to the Capital Campaign ensure the welcoming table at First UU Austin will be available to more and more people searching for a spiritual home where questions are as welcome as answers, where doubts are as respected as beliefs. Our stewardship doesn't end with the annual campaign; the effects of our support are ongoing and far-reaching. Giving to our church enables us to tell and spread our story to the community. Your support makes it possible to live and carry out our mission on a day-to-day basis. Stewardship is the way we make it happen.

COVENANT CORNER

Outnumbered? Healthy Relations Covenant

THE FOLLOWING IS A REPRINT FROM THE
MAY 2014 NEWSLETTER

Dear Covenant,

There's a person on my committee who's very knowledgeable and self-confident. At our last meeting he convinced everyone else that we should adopt a certain course of action. I'm convinced this is a bad idea and will backfire, but I felt too outnumbered to say anything. Now I don't know what to do; can you help?

--- Distressed committee member

Dear Distressed,

It's understandable to hesitate about speaking your mind when you feel in a minority. But just think - it could be that others share your reservations, or that nobody else has thought of them! Our covenant calls us to speak "when silence would inhibit progress." Your situation is a prime example of why this promise is so important! Speaking up could prevent bad consequences. If your committee is meeting again before they take action, you can still voice your concerns. If not, you could talk directly to the leader of your committee as soon as possible. It's best to talk in person, second best to talk by phone. Please avoid email, however.

Remember, 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.

Sincerely,

Healthy Relations Covenant

FELLOWSHIP

DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

Tea and holiday treats. Bring your teapots and cups for a formal tea and biscuits after both services. We will provide the hot water and tea. Bring your favorite holiday treat to share!

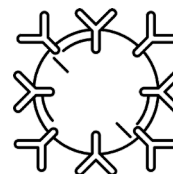
MONDAY, DECEMBER 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE

Refreshments will be served after both Christmas Eve services.

DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP MEETING: CANCELLED.



FIRST SUNDAY SEMINAR



SCIENCE AND RELIGION SEMINAR

JAN. 6, 2019

LED BY BRUCE NAYLOR

"THE IMMUNE SYSTEM AND ITS
CONNECTION TO RELIGION."

We will be exploring some of the ideas articulated by Pat Bennet at our seminar in October on the influence of Religion on the human immune system. The experience of relationships and connectedness can have a strong impact, including on the most important factor: morbidity. There is good reasons to believe that the immune system plays a role in this. Indeed, the immune system is partially regulated by the Sympathetic Nervous System, and thus can be influenced by higher level cognition.

FIRST UU IN PHOTOS

Construction Marches On



...and so does
Thanksgiving!



**FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF AUSTIN**
(512) 452-6168
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, December 9
Rm 13
12:30–2 p.m.

Come join us for our annual potluck social hosted jointly by White Allies for Racial Equity, People of Color, and the Alphabet Soup Group. Bring a dish to share.

The 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 good 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. To be added to the email list, contact Elizabeth Kubala at elizkubala@gmail.com.

FIRST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH of Austin



4700 Grover Ave.
Austin, TX 78756