

MAY 2019

# firstUU NEWS

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



Graphic Credit: Roots of Faith, Bear W. Qolezcua, 2019

## Racism Unlearning Circle

*Saturday, May 18*  
*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).

## Path to Membership

*Saturday, Date TBD*  
*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 membership, UU history, and the history of this church, ways to connect. You might even 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, for a head count of food and childcare.

# IN THIS ISSUE

Page 3:	SUNDAY SERVICES	Page 14:	2019 BOARD ELECTED NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Page 4:	PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM		
Page 5:	PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM	Page 15:	LYING TO THE SEA WITCH Paradox Players
	READERS' THEATRE May 13	Page 16:	AUSTIN SANCTUARY NETWORK Share Your Spark with Alirio
	FELLOWSHIP	Page 17:	THE COMMCOORD BLOTTER Ending & Beginning: The Interim Processes in Our Lives - Bear W. Qolezcua
Page 6:	FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK Coming Back Home - Rev. Meg Barnhouse	Page 18:	THIS MONTH'S MSO UBarU Camp & Retreat Center - Maria Medina, Board Member
Page 7:	YOUR FIRST UU BOARD We All Have a Story to Tell - Leena Batra, Board Member	Page 19:	DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS
Page 8:	JULES' DESKTOP The Art of Teaching - Jules Jaramillo	Page 20:	STEWARDSHIP
Page 9:	ADVENTURES IN INTERNING Katrina Saptorsantos: Source of Divine Sound - Lee Legault, Ministerial Intern	Page 21:	COVENANT CORNER Caught in the Middle - Healthy Relations Ministry
Page 10:	2019 BOARD NOMINEES	Page 22:	INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT
Page 11:	2019 BOARD NOMINEES		MUSIC NOTES
Page 12:	2019 BOARD NOMINEES	Page 23:	TRANSFORMATION THROUGH SERVICE Community First! Village
Page 13:	2019 NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINEE	Page 24:	WHITE ALLIES FOR RACIAL EQUITY

# SUNDAY SERVICES

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

## MAY 5

### Curiouser and Curiouser

WITH REV. CHRIS JIMMERSON

As a people who have always been seekers of truth and askers of questions more profound than answers, following our curiosity can be a spiritual discipline for Unitarian Universalists.

## MAY 12

### Fiercely and Fearless

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Olympia Brown is one of the “mothers” of Unitarian Universalism. This morning we’ll take a look at some UU history and let it inspire us.

## MAY 19

### Playing Ball on Running Water

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Western psychotherapy has emphasized insight as a way of healing emotional pain. Dr. Shomo Morita, a Japanese doctor, created a way of treating patients’ emotional pain that draws wisdom from Buddhism.

## MAY 26

### Beautiful “Flower Girls” for Flower Communion

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Here at the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, we honor the drag performers and other courageous souls who first resisted the police harassment that was an accepted part of LGBT life. We will be joined by Miss Kitty Litter ATX, Miss Apple Kombucha Spinach (First UU’s own Tuyền Thai), and other drag performers as we celebrate the ritual of Flower Communion, created by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek, which lifts up the beauty of diversity and inclusion.

Miss Kitty Litter will be providing the Story for All Ages. She has storytelling experience with the Austin Public Library through the Austin International Drag Foundation.

Other possible drag artists are: Miss Bunni Savage, Miss Monica Monae, and Miss Pam Dulce.

## Eclectic Folk Jam

*Friday, May 10*

*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, May 25*

*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.

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

## Senior Luncheon

*Wednesday, May 8*

*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 Joyce Wilson: (512) 482-0998.

# PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM

SANCTUARY | SUNDAYS | NOON

## MAY 5

### Austin Health Commons and Karisha Community

WITH AMINA HAJI, M.D.



*"Our work is overcoming a great divide ... the hierarchy of human value"*  
- Dr. Gail Christopher

Austin Health Commons (AHC) is a non-profit organization that cultivates root cause community healing (in part) through a process called Truth, Racial Healing, Transformation developed by Dr. Gail Christopher. The Austin Health Commons shifts ownership of health back to communities and those of us who live in our communities. Our model was borrowed from the Food

Commons and Commons Health, developed by Jamie Harvie. AHC will own Karisha Community's prototype center in Central East Austin and will serve as a steward of Conscious Health Care, our new paradigm for health and healing.

Amina is a medical doctor, mother, and social justice advocate whose parents inspired her to devote herself to serving and healing her community. She founded Karisha Community and Austin Health Commons to put this mission into practice in Austin, Texas, which she has called home since 1999.

Amina has long been called to work with a purpose. She grew up in Bryan, Texas, where her parents, Karim and Asha Haji, started the first free medical clinic and served an ethnically and economically diverse community for 40 years. Both doctors themselves, KARIM and ASHA inspired Amina to create KARISHA Community, which is named for them.

After graduating from Pomona College with a BS in Psycho-biology, Amina worked as a union organizer for several years and then spent a year traveling throughout East and South Africa and India. Eventually, the healing aspects of medicine drew her to Texas A&M, where she received

her MD in 2001.

Amina has spent most of her medical career practicing family medicine. She has also trained and served in diverse communities throughout the world, examining public health and health care systems and learning how to meet the medical needs of vulnerable populations such as Romani refugees in Macedonia and Aboriginal people in Australia. Amina is Board certified in Holistic and Integrative Medicine.

In addition to her daily yoga practice, which she has maintained for 20 years, Amina co-founded a West African dance troupe, with whom she performed for five years.

While cultivating healing in community is Amina's life work, she also loves being mom to her sweet son, Ayo, as well as Zen and Omi. Together they enjoy biking around their neighborhood, playing music and dancing, and sharing food with friends and family. Amina is fluent in Spanish, Gujarati, and English.

To watch a short video or to be a part of our movement, visit:

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

To reach us, please send us an email!

[INFO@AUSTINHEALTHCOMMONS.ORG](mailto:INFO@AUSTINHEALTHCOMMONS.ORG)



## MAY 19

### TARA - Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs

TARA provides consumer protection, access to technology resources, and generates revenues to support Austin City services.

TARA and its revenues generated support such programs as:

- **Digital Empowerment Community of Austin:** a network of non-profits, educational institutions, and other stakeholders working to improve our community's ability to participate in digital society.
- **Financial Advocacy Resources:** This team enforces the Credit Access Business Ordinance, which oversees payday and auto-title lenders. The ordinance places restrictions on these businesses in order to reduce predatory lending practices within city limits.
- **Public Access Television:** Austin's Public Access Channels (10, 11, & 16) are operated by a non-profit contractor, Austin Film Society, who uses the city's state of the art television and community media center to provide training, production, and distribution of content created by Austin residents.

Come hear about this crucial service in the life of the City of Austin.

## READER'S THEATRE

### Readers' Theatre

*Monday, May 13*  
*Gallery*  
*7:30 p.m.*

Come join the final meeting of our theatre season in the Gallery (after May, we recess until Sept 9). We'll be taking turns reading aloud from an assortment of one-act plays. All are welcome, no previous experience necessary.



## FELLOWSHIP

### FIRST UU'S HOMECOMING POTLUCK

Let's Gather Together  
in Celebration

Looking back over the last twelve months, it's hard to imagine that the construction projects around the church will finally be coming to a close. We have championed months of planning, stewardship drives for the Capital Campaign, crowded Sunday services in Howson Hall, conversations about our church mission, and so much more. Despite the mess, cramped spaces, inconvenient relocations, and general chaos, we have come out on the other side stronger and more connected. We are bigger, more beautiful, and ready to welcome dedicated church members as well as visitors and newcomers with our best face forward. We have survived church renovation, a very stressful period in the life of a church, and have done so while maintaining our love and covenant for one another. Let's celebrate!

Join us on Sunday, June 2, after second service (approximately 11:45am) for a classic church potluck. Bring your favorite dish to share and plan to stay a while after service. The Fellowship Committee will provide a full ice cream sundae bar. Vegan, vegetarian, and gluten free dishes are always appreciated to ensure we include all of our church members in the feast.

Volunteers are always appreciated, so if you want to lend a hand throwing this awesome party, please email [fellowship@austinuu.org](mailto:fellowship@austinuu.org). If it wasn't obvious, this church potluck is an all ages event, and we will have activities for the kids in the courtyard (weather provided) to allow families to continue conversations after the little ones have lost interest! Please join us!

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

## Coming Back Home

Rev. Meg Barnhouse  
Senior Minister



Some of us have been to a church “homecoming.” A pile of aluminum foil in the kitchen from where casseroles have been unwrapped, a long table with cooks’ favorite dishes labeled, the vegetarian ones together, the vegan ones, everything labeled, chicken dishes of every kind, Jello salads in molds. One of them has pretzels in it. Someone has been kind enough to make tamales, someone else has brought mutter paneer. Sliced watermelon, zucchini salad.

You see people you haven’t seen in a long time, because everyone who has ever been to this church

has returned just to see everyone, to let folks exclaim about their children and how they’ve grown. There’s been a special sermon, great music, and the ice machine and coffee urns have gotten a workout.

June 2nd is the date for the First UU Austin Homecoming. If you have ever been a part of this community, please come back to see us. We have lived through dust and noise and displacement and now we can see what our effort and Capital Campaign contributions have wrought! It’s beautiful, and we can now welcome more people in. I

hope you will be able to be here. Bring some good food, maybe food from your cultural background, or just pick up something at HEB. It’s your face we want to see.

---

**THURSDAY LUNCHES WITH MEG**

We will be meeting on Thursdays at noon in howson Hall from May 16th through June 6th. The topic of discussion will be **Understanding the Bible**, using the book by John Beuhrens. If you would like for me to order you a copy, please let me know by email. [Meg.Barnhouse@AustinUU.Org](mailto:Meg.Barnhouse@AustinUU.Org).

## SAVE THE DATE!

# Sunday, June 2, 2019

(more details to follow)

First UU will be holding a “homecoming” service where we will dedicate the new spaces, see some old friends and some new acquaintances, and share in a meal that expresses our hearts, our hearths, and our homelands.

We are brightly diverse, let us celebrate that as we begin our journey into the future in our finished space! Also, make your decisions about whether you would like to take advantage of the naming opportunities. Putting a beloved name or value on a part of the church building is a good way to honor someone or something. Have fun thinking about it. For a “naming donation” of fifteen thousand dollars, you can name a classroom or with thirty-five thousand you can name the new kitchen. If you have other ideas about a place you’d like to name, (Faith Development supply closet, anyone?) Please let Meg know, Meg. [Barnhouse@AustinUU.Org](mailto:Barnhouse@AustinUU.Org).

## YOUR FIRST UU BOARD



## We All Have a Story to Tell

**Leena Batra**

Member  
Board of Trustees

The worst thing to struggle with is a secret. Secrets are hard work. It involves remembering, storing, and continually hiding. It involves partial self-disclosure to those we love.

As a private practice Psychologist, my work is about helping people give voice to long-held secrets and to tell their stories. Sometimes stories involve identity, family, culture and history. Sometimes stories of loss and trauma are pieced together painfully and slowly, allowing a person to finally let go of a secret and to heal. Narrative therapy is a way to help someone gain some distance from a painful story rather than keeping the story inside. This allows people to find meaning in their experiences.

UT Austin social psychologist Dr. James Pennebaker is often considered the pioneer of expressive writing therapy. He found that writing about secrets or stressful experiences—even writing text that is immediately destroyed—has deeply beneficial effects on the writer's emotional and physical health. He noted that those who write about their deepest experiences and feelings tend to go to the doctor less, show improved immune function, and improved college grades.\*1

We have been sharing our

stories throughout with one another through history. Family stories of immigration, survival, loss, triumph serve to connect generations, and teach us of our histories and cultural roots. Narrating a story of trauma can allow a survivor to begin putting together an old memory box of fragmented pieces. Sharing our stories in circles or community breaks our silence and isolation, builds solidarity and alliance.

Everybody has a story to tell, whether of pain or transformation or both. We all deserve the chance to give it a voice. Consider ways to narrate your story, even if you choose not to share it with anyone but yourself. Here are some ideas to get started:

- Construct a life line. Draw a line across a sheet of paper. This signifies your life from birth to death. What have been the significant relationships, events and experiences in your life so far? Where on the lifeline are you currently? What are some things you hope to do or achieve in your future? What are the stories of your life you wish to remember, to let go of, or to share?

- Write a letter to yourself from your future self. Imagine yourself 20, 30, 50 years in the future. You're older,

wiser, and have seen a larger piece of your life story. What does your wiser and older self want your present self to know about your story? This is a great way to access your inner wisdom and to deeply listen to yourself.

- Practice mindful journaling. Find a quiet and private space to practice meditation, perhaps focusing on a question within your story and allowing yourself to release self-judgment. When you are ready, begin to write without concern for grammar, style, or whether you think it “makes any sense.” Just allow yourself to write from deep within yourself. This too can help you to access your own inner wisdom.

- Consider joining or starting a story telling circle. This is a place where people can come together, either in person or online, to share stories with the intention of breaking isolation in a common experience. It is also a wonderful means of forming alliances towards social change.

What is your story?

Reference \*1:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/brain-babble/201208/turning-trauma-story-the-benefits-journaling>

## JULES' DESKTOP

# The Art of Teaching

**Jules Jaramillo**  
Director  
Lifespan Faith Development



One of my greatest passions in my personal life is art, mainly painting. When I create a painting, I begin by taking a raw piece of canvas and carefully coat it with layers of gesso. When it is dry, I sand down all the bumps and ridges; angling and turning the canvas in all directions examining it carefully to be sure I have an excellent foundation to paint on. I usually paint with oil, and there is no room for impatience when using this medium. I begin by laying down a thin, loose base coat. Then layer by layer, I start creating. Oil is my favorite medium because of its fluidity and how slowly it dries. I rarely feel like I have made a mistake that cannot be corrected. If my proportions are off, I still have time to work with the paint I've put down. I can wipe it away-move it around the canvas until I have everything where I want it to be. Oil paintings are typically created in layers; each building on the one before until finally depth and vibrancy are created. Then, just when you think you are done, the most difficult part begins — the wait. Oil paint dries to the touch in about 1-2 weeks. That's just to the touch. It can take months for all the layers to settle and dry.

Every week our faith development children's and youth advisor teams generously share their knowledge, passions, creativity, and inspiration with our young people. Yes, we are fortunate that our faith development program has a wing to meet in, lessons to teach from and materials to create the lessons with- but these alone do not form a foundation of faith. It is our teachers' loving and generous hearts that make our rooms temples for the soul, their insight that brings words alive on a page, their unique vision to craft meaning from supplies that create the lasting connection to our faith.

I believe teaching is an art form and teachers are the artists. Much like my description of the creation of an oil painting; teaching follows a similar process. The first layer they put down is love. Along the way, they may need to gently smooth out a few bumps to build layers upon layers of faith formation. Teachers move with

fluidity, flowing back and forth with the rhythm of each beating heart in our classrooms. Sometimes they need to step back and wait for things to settle in, and when it is time, begin creating the next layer.

John Steinbeck wrote, "I have come to believe that a great teacher is a great artist... Teaching might even be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit." To him and to our teachers I say, "AMEN!"

This year the teachers and advisors have been a blessing and joy to work with. You have been a gift to this community and our children and youth. Thank you for the blessings you have shared with First UU's families.

First UU's faith development program will be taking some time to embark on a journey that will focus on interim work, visioning, and discovering First UU's faith development's unique identity. Before you begin, there are a couple of ways you can support faith development as we prepare for the work ahead.

If you are on a teaching or advisor team this year, please consider continue next year by signing up here: <http://bit.ly/2019teacherteams>

If you weren't part of a team- there is a space to sign up for new teachers and substitutes as well!

Support the summer World Religions Children's program by signing up to teach. You will need to have a background check and meet with Jules if you have not taught before. <http://bit.ly/2019summerteacher>

Thank you for your support.

With much love

-jules

Please contact Jules at [FaithDevelopment@AustinUU.org](mailto:FaithDevelopment@AustinUU.org) if you have any questions.





## ADVENTURES IN INTERNING



## Katrina Saptorsantos: Source of Divine Sound

Lee Legault

Ministerial Intern

When Katrina Saptorsantos blows you away with her singing, tell her how she made you feel. So often, people remark on her voice, but she sees herself as a channel for the message of the music. When she does her job right, you notice your internal emotional shifts more than her voice.

Katrina spent years preparing herself to carry musical messages. Born and raised in the Philippines, she studied classical voice there in undergraduate school, and then in New York for her graduate studies. She always knew that she wanted to become a musician but her parents wanted her to pursue another career. In an attempt to honor their wishes, she started out in another major at a liberal arts college, but glee club helped her realize she couldn't ignore her calling to be a musician any longer. While her parents were out of the country on a trip, she auditioned for a slot in another university's music program, and had been accepted there with a scholarship by the time they got back from their trip. She's smooth.

She met her husband, Benjie Dia, in college in the Philippines. I discovered during our interview that Benjie is also part of our church community. He plays piano for us on most Sundays. They practice pieces for the upcoming week at home together. Isn't that romantic? I feel like worship will be richer for me now, knowing that the mingling of voice and piano embody a real union.

Off the clock, Katrina listens to classical music, musical theater, standards, and also loves Carole King and Joni Mitchell. Working with Brent Baldwin expands her horizons because Brent's taste is more eclectic than hers. Raised as a Catholic, then converting to Protestant, she did not expect to ever sing Lady Gaga in church.

I've only heard Katrina sing in English, but she has six other languages she sings in: Filipino, Italian, French, German, Spanish and Japanese. She learned Japanese for a collaborative work between another university in the Philippines and the Tokyo Opera Association.

We have not had a chance to hear Katrina sing opera during service. Happily, her role as the sea witch in Paradox Players' production of Kiya Heartwood's operetta "Lying to the Sea Witch" gives us all a chance to hear Katrina in her element. Buy your tickets!

I feel lucky we have Katrina as our Assistant Director of Music because she has a heart for teaching, wisdom to offer in spades, and an appreciation for music lovers of all abilities. She lights up when she talks about our choir. She celebrates their growth and improvement and admires how courageously they embrace the wide variety of music Brent throws at them. She wishes all of you would consider joining choir, emphasizing that they require no audition, and that they particularly need altos and tenors (but will gladly take in any soprano and bass who wants to join them). No matter your musical skill level, you'll feel right at home with Katrina in the room!

## 2019 Board Member Nominees



### **ELIAS PONVERT PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Elias and his family -- his spouse Candace and children Katharine, Jasper, Chester and most recently Duncan -- joined First UU in 2013 and have been active in the community since. Elias has helped with the 3rd Monday sack lunch crew since joining First UU, and is in his fourth year of leading the first service 1st-5th grade section of our Religious Education program. Elias has served as an organizer for TX-10 Indivisible (covering Texas' 10th Congressional district, which includes the First Unitarian Universalist grounds and sanctuary) and Indivisible Austin, he is a current member of the Democratic Socialists of America, and since 2017 he has volunteered for the Austin Sanctuary Network.

Elias grew up in Rhode Island and attended university at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. After university Elias moved to Austin in 2000 and has lived here since. In 2005 Elias started the graduate program in Linguistics at the University of Texas, earning a PhD in 2011 with a specialization in computational linguistics. Elias joined Indeed in 2017 as a data scientist. In addition to the four kids, Elias and Candace are the proud caretakers of Moonshine, a cat, and Marvin, a purebred American mutt.

Elias was baptized and confirmed Episcopalian Christian, then attended the Benedictine Catholic Portsmouth Abbey School for high school. He is a happy and proud Unitarian Universalist, and draws inspiration daily from the sources of the UU faith, most especially the first, "the sense of wonder we all share".



### **NESAN LAWRENCE NOMINEE: BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Nesan has been a Unitarian Universalist since 2013 when he started attending the First Unitarian Church of Dallas. Born and raised in India as a Roman Catholic, Nesan found a new source of spiritual happiness at UU and a faith that was more aligned to his social values. Nesan and his wife, K.C., along with their two kids (Rohan, age 5, and Rekha, age 2) moved back to Austin in 2014. It did not take long for Nesan to find his spiritual home at the First UU of Austin. On Sundays, he can often be seen in Howson Hall listening to the sermon, enjoying the music and the company of the UU community along with his kids.

Nesan very recently joined Charles Schwab as Managing Director within the Technology Strategy and Transformation group. After a prolonged career as a traveling management consultant, Nesan is excited about a job with better work life balance including the opportunity to be more involved with his community. Aside from spending time with his family as much as he can, Nesan enjoys watching soccer and supporting his favorite team - the Arsenal Football Club - in the English Premier League, playing golf when he can, and practicing drums as an amateur.

Nesan is honored to join the Board of Trustees and excited about the opportunity to serve the church. He is enthusiastic about the opportunity to learn more about the church, grow through this experience and raise his kids in the UU faith.

## 2019 Board Member Nominees

### **SARAH MATT, M.D.**

#### **NOMINEE: BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Sarah began to attend First UU in the Spring of 2015 when she and her husband were looking for a faith community. After attending a number of churches including other UUs they felt that First UU was the right place to make a foundation for their family and it would be a place where their kids could ask big questions. After growing up Catholic, Sarah had searched for an inclusive community that she could feel good about supporting, and has been doing so at First UU ever since. Sarah currently acts as assistant teacher in the 1st-5th grade RE classes during the morning service. A number of years ago she trained in K-1 and 4-6 grade OWL. She has also enjoyed being a part of 4x4 dinners as well as the various events put on by the parents/families group.

Sarah is a physician and moved into the health IT sector a number of years ago. She now works for Nextgen Healthcare and runs strategy and operations for their product management functions. She also volunteers her time at the Sacred Heart Community Clinic in Round Rock where she provides chronic care services to patients without insurance, most being non-English speakers, previously homeless individuals and non-citizens.

Sarah brings a business and process oriented mind set to the group, as the church continuously improves and evolves. As a mother of 4 sons she is dedicated to ensuring the church can grow through retention and expansion. Sarah hopes to help make our church a great place for families and a place where children and adults alike can learn how to do good in our community by living out the UU principles.



### **LEO COLLAS**

#### **NOMINEE: BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Leo Collas became a member of First UU in 2003. He has worked as a stock broker, corporate controller, and as a systems security analyst. Leo has been involved with various causes including a suicide/crisis help line, organizing challenges to Colorado's Amendment 2, volunteering for various service organizations, and moderating the monthly LGBTQ Spirituality events here at First UU. Leo was raised in his family's restaurant business in Colorado and also in Hawaii. He moved to Austin in 1993.



## 2019 Board Member Nominees



**SADIE LAMBERT**  
**NOMINEE: BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Sadie Lambert is a recovering Irish Catholic and, consequently, the fifth of seven children. As a middle child and a world-traveling Army kid, she learned to be flexible from an early age. As an adult, it's Sadie's personal mission to Learn, Play, and Make Someone's Day. She has been a teacher at First UU for the past five years, and recently raised money for new playground equipment for the kids. She also volunteers at the Seedling Foundation, Austin Animal Center and Eeyore's Birthday. She's a proud member of the IT team at Austin Energy - but no, she doesn't get a discount.



**KELLY RALEY, PH.D.**  
**NOMINEE: BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Kelly Raley has been a member of our church for just over two years and a resident of Austin for over 20 years. She came to Austin the first time in 1985 to enroll at the University of Texas and the second time in 1997 to begin a faculty position in the sociology department where she is now a full professor. She has served on the stewardship committee and with transformation through service committee. Recognizing that the nurturing each other sustains the service mission of our church, she and her husband Robert Reynolds co-organize the Game Night every Friday evening.



## 2019 Nominating Committee Nominee

### MARIA PERSON

#### NOMINEE: NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Maria Person was raised United Church of Christ, a similarly liberal minded white church in the Christian tradition. Her spiritual gurus are Pema Chodron and the extraordinary people she has been blessed to know who embody the bodhisattva ideal.

Maria has been a member of First UU for about ten years, first attending the book groups and enjoying great intellectual stimulation, then going to service, classes and social justice related events held at the church. She took the 2 year anti-racism course Building the World We Dream About led by Rev. Marisol Caballero and Vic Cornell and appreciated the way the work expanded her thinking. She was also part of the Care team contacting members. Maria joined the People of Color group and went on to become the group's leader, a small group of awesome and fun UUs. Last fall, she attended the Diverse and Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries annual meeting, again inspired by the creative programming and opportunity to meet other POGM UUs and hold courageous conversations.

Outside of church, she works as a scientist at UT Austin, running the Proteomics Facility. She is also passionate about living healthy, hiking, and politics. She has 2 daughters in college, and her husband, Vishy, occasionally joins in church activities. She loves animals and has 3 cats and a dog. She is active in other civic and political organizations to advance the same ideal of building the Beloved Community. She is grateful for the community here at First UU and the many ways we are able to explore and live out our values.



Remember that we will have our Spring 2019 Congregational Meeting on May 19, 2019 in the Sanctuary, 1:30 p.m. We will be voting on nominations for the Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee as well as discussing other church business and future plans.

## 2019 Board Elected Nominating Committee Members

**SEAN RAMSEY****BOARD ELECTED: NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Sean is a lifelong UU. Raised in the Church of the River in Memphis, TN, Sean became an active member and a leader in their Youth Group as well as serving on the National Youth Council and Steering Committee. In 1992, Sean was selected as a YRUU Programs Specialist and served at the UUA Headquarters in Boston. After completing an undergraduate at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Sean relocated to Austin in 1996.

Sean has been a member at First UU for over 17 years, has served in Stewardship, participated in Chalice Circles, and served as Board Secretary, Treasurer, and President. In this time, Sean met and married his wife, Carol. Together they have three children.

Sean brings a unique perspective to the church, having grown up in the Austin “startup” environment as a technical project and product manager. He has been a founder and partner in a small startup, giving him a background of sales, marketing, and application development experience. He is currently the director of digital solutions at the LIVESTRONG Foundation, working on building out a platform of tools and services to help people affected by cancer.

Sean is very excited about the opportunity to continue to serve First UU in the new capacity of Nominating Committee member as we continue our era of change and face new opportunities of growth.

**KEN PFLUGER****BOARD ELECTED: NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Ken grew up in Austin. He moved to Seattle for graduate school at the University of Washington, where he earned a masters degree in Urban Planning. After 20 years in Seattle, Ken, his wife, Kay, and their two daughters returned to Austin. They have been members of First UU for twelve years.

**Inside****Music**

A piano recital featuring works based on written literature  
by Liszt, Brahms , Debussy, Mishel and more

by Emma Galbraith

June 8, 2019 at 12:30 pm

First Unitarian Universalist Church  
4700 Grover Avenue, Austin, TX

Emma is a junior at The Academy for Global Studies at Stephen F. Austin High School, activist and musician. Emma dedicates this concert to the cause of *Inside Books Project* (IBP), the only non-profit organization in Texas that provides free literature and educational materials to prisoners and raises awareness about their rights. The concert is free and Emma invites voluntary donations of funds and books to support IBP.

[www.insidebooksproject.org](http://www.insidebooksproject.org). Questions: 512-797-8374



## AUSTIN SANCTUARY NETWORK

## Share Your Spark with Alirio: Our Solidarity with Him is a Sacred Duty and Lifeline as His Solitude in Sanctuary Continues

Our First UU Austin family has gone from feeling the light and joy of working in solidarity with an immigrant friend who won her freedom from an unjust deportation order by taking sanctuary for two and half months in 2015 to feeling a little light but also darkness and concerns with another friend who has taken sanctuary 24-7 at First UU for the last 21 months

Both friends came from similar circumstances needing to escape violence in their Central American homes, much of it caused by failed U.S. economic and military systems, and their cases have been brought to light in different political climates.

At First UU it's one thing to say our mission every Sunday: "Together we nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice to build the Beloved Community" and another to live it.

We all step into this work at whatever level works for us, considering our variety of individual and/or family capabilities. For some it's major to simply know this work is happening and feel good about being part of this community, while others have circumstances that allow them to contribute time, talent, and/or treasure.

Here are a few specific ideas so folks can step in a little deeper, if so moved. If interested, email George Garcia or Peggy Morton to schedule and avoid overlap:

### For those with Time:

- Introduce yourself to Alirio any Sunday after both Worship Services in Howson Hall during fellowship. An interpreter usually joins him and can interpret if needed.
- Plan a time to visit him during the week to play Dominoes or Jenga Blocks or come up with other fun and simple games he may enjoy.

### For those with Talent:

- Share your Spanish speaking skills to either visit or interpret for others.
- Cook a meal for him.
- Share your idea about something you as an individual or a small group of folks could do for or with Alirio in solidarity such as a guided painting class, watching a film or anything you could do where he is helping you as much as you're helping him.

### For those with Treasure:

- Buy him DVDs of Spanish comedies. A few on his current wish include: Chespirito, El Chavo del 8 or El Chapulín Colorado
- Buy him uplifting aroma therapy candles.
- Drop a little cash in the vases we provide on some Sundays at the Social Action table to fund his phone and/or medical bills.
- Join the team of 25 UUs, who alternate weeks to shop for, buy,

and deliver groceries from the weekly list he provides. (costing between \$75-100 each week)

If you want to volunteer in anyway, help us keep our effort coordinated by emailing his care team coordinator George Garcia at [geo.garcia.09@gmail.com](mailto:geo.garcia.09@gmail.com). If you specifically want to get on the grocery shopping list, email Peggy Morton at [insideamigos@austinuu.org](mailto:insideamigos@austinuu.org).

Please share other ideas you may have and also recognize how uplifting it can feel to receive a warm smile, hello, or handshake anytime you see Alirio on church grounds.

While First UU works in solidarity with El Salvadoran Alirio Gamez, a partner church community at St. Andrews Presbyterian works alongside Indigenous Guatemalan mom Hilda Ramirez and her son, Ivan, who have taken sanctuary for 38 months. Both congregations work in solidarity to stop their unjust deportations and consider the two cases as one campaign.

We find support with community by way of the Austin Sanctuary Network, a coalition of about 25 congregations and social justice non-profits. ASN will meet Tuesday, May 7 at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church at 7 p.m. and volunteers wanting to get more involved are welcome. The following month ASN will meet at First UU, Tuesday, June 4 at 7 p.m.



## THE COMMCOORD BLOTTER



## the greatest of these

from 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

**Bear W. Qolezcua**

Director of Communications

My tongue can raise rhapsodies, sonatas of speech and delight,  
it can dance tangoes, speak melodically in lilting words, bright bravado,  
deepest caverns of mystery, the winged and the fleshly may hear my voice  
and yet, noise is all I produce. Nothing but broken bows and sunken bells  
for without love, my words mean naught but the breath they occupy.

I can gaze fortunes from the unknown, entertain angels and speak truths,  
all can be revealed, the great mysteries resolved in my mind's eye.  
I could step to the loftiest mountain, gather my faith into my bullish shoulders  
and heave the firmament from its home, leave broken stone upon stone,  
but without love, these things, my strengths, are worthless for I would be nothing.

I could give my wealth to the poor, join their rank and sing their need, a fellow  
in the midst of anguish. I could forsake my own clothing, shroud those with less,  
feed the hungry with every morsel I own, leaving none for my own shivering belly  
and die at my work, tending unendingly to those who are truly without, but  
so much could I do and yet it would fulfill me little without love to sustain me.

Love. The gift of broken bodies and bread and the comfort of cotton clothing.  
Love. The work that drives the wounded to the broken and lifts them up.  
Love. It lives beyond our paltry human understanding. It waits. Primed for duty.  
First, patient, it paws at our hearts, the smoky cat of our humanity, but gently.  
Love. In its sooty traces visits heart upon heart, with no envy, no boast, no pride.

Love plays fair as the sun on wheat-fields, it is even handed, equal, just.  
It finds within itself no jealousy of other's love, its composition is compassion.  
Love traces the outline of justice in hearts, moves minds to reason, it seeks right,  
it celebrates the good true whole of humanity. Its mighty hands strengthen us,  
its immutable faith teaches our doubter's hearts belief. It hopes, it survives. It thrives.

Love perseveres, endures. It knows no final breath, it knows no taste of mortality.  
The fortunes spoken will rust on our tongues, drying the bones of their own existence.  
Songs will fade to silence, our stories will cease, dust will settle upon prattling words,  
the known will be forgotten, and fact will dissolve in the mires of time and existence.  
Our human minds knew only a piece, a part, so too as we spoke our futures. Visions.

At the turning of eternity, the hourglass removed to pour the sands into the universe,  
when all that is and will be and can be and ever was has been, these broken knowns shall end.  
In our youth our tongues spoke youthful dreams, our minds formulated youthful speak.  
In our age we settled our youth to the past, stepped beyond the elastic into the borne.  
In our blind recognition we see reflections of it all, under candle and smoke.

At the genesis of the next world we will have the revelation of each other's face.  
Our minds, mortal and incapable here upon this plane of existence, will understand,  
all shall be truly revealed, the unknown will desist. We will be known, fully, unailing.  
Inside this life we have but little. Promises and gifts given us to sustain until the eternal:  
faith. hope. love. They each abide, guide us, fulfill us, but none so great as Love.

## MONTHLY SERVICE OFFERING

# This Month's MSO:

**Maria Medina**  
Member, Board of Trustees



## UBarU Camp & Retreat Center

The following is a reprint of the 2018 UBarU Camp & Retreat Center's contribution to the newsletter. Information has been updated as much as possible.

- Bear

UBarU is a Unitarian Universalist Camp & Retreat Center located on 142 rugged acres in what is again this year a peaceful, green, and wildflower-strewn patch of the Texas Hill Country near Kerrville.

Since the property was passed on to us by the Quakers, we have sought to fulfill our UBarU mission: "to provide a welcoming, peaceful place to gather for spiritual, educational, and recreational purposes in harmony with our Unitarian Universalist Principles and the Land." Scores of members of this church have joined in spring and summer youth camps, Deep in the Heart of Texas Women's Retreat, Heart of Texas Men's Retreat, Texas Wine-Texas Stars Celebrations, the new Dark Sky astronomy weekends, contemplative retreats, and even personal family reunions. This

past year has been incredibly exciting for all. The new Youth Astronomy Observatory was dedicated, and a new ham radio instructional building and tower are completing construction. A second grant from H-E-B Environmental has again expanded our solar power capabilities across the campus. The areas opened by last year's cedar clearing improved fire security and opened new meadow area for wildflowers, butterflies, bees and birds. The solar panels on the Rev. Dwight and Marie Brown Center, the Art Barn, and Sojourner and Hermitage houses are all in full operation, significantly reducing our overall carbon footprint. In addition to regular hosting of the Alamo Area and Hill Country Astronomer Associations and numerous amateur and professional astronomers at the UBarU Star Party Labor Day weekend (Aug 30–Sept 2). This event is open for registration and is a significant expansion for us as an International Dark Sky Park. Registrations are also open for our fifth year of expanded summer youth camps in the new Rev.

Dwight and Marie Brown Center, featuring its climate-controlled four-room suites with double, queen, and even extra-long bunk beds; and both gender-specific and gender-neutral bathroom facilities. This year our calendar of events offers more camps and retreats including Meaning Makers, a lifechanging, year-long program for 18–24 year olds; and a full summer of youth camps for all ages, plus a family camp. All activities revolve around the traditional Quaker-style meeting house and radiate to the decks, the limestone rock pool by the windmill, the Meditation Oak, the two meditative labyrinths, and the evening fire circle. This month, UBarU is proud to have been chosen by you, the members of First UU Austin to receive the monthly special offering. Thank you for your continuing support! If you'd like more information on UBarU or the camps and retreats hosted there, check out our website at [www.ubaru.org](http://www.ubaru.org), or check out the many photos on the UBarU Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/UBarURetreat](https://www.facebook.com/UBarURetreat).

## DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

### UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 19–23

SPOKANE, WA

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Registration is now open at <https://www.uua.org/ga>. If you can't go in person, it is also possible to attend GA virtually as an off-site delegate.

If you have any questions about GA, or if you are planning to go, please contact David Overton at [denom@austinuu.org](mailto:denom@austinuu.org). He is keeping a list of attendees so that we will be able to be in contact while we are there. Also contact David to find out about scholarships for General Assembly.

### UUSC CLIMATE PLEDGE

The UU Service Committee has developed a pledge and action ideas for addressing climate change. Sign the pledge and learn more at <https://www.uusc.org/>.



**UBarU Camp & Retreat Center**

### UBARU FAMILY CAMP

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

MAY 24 – 27

UBarU is a UU camp and retreat center in the beautiful Hill Country, just 120 miles west of Austin, and is recognized as an International Dark Sky Park. Activities will include cookouts, campfires, sing-alongs, worship, swimming, games, nature walks and a star party if the sky is clear. Registration and more information at <https://ubaru.org/home>.

### UBARU SUMMER CAMPS

Fun and faith for youth in the Texas Hill Country. Programs tailored to each age group. More information and registration at <http://ubaru.org/home/SummerCamp>.

- Primary camp for kids ages 9-11 or rising grades 4-6th - June 9-15
- Intermediate camp for kids age 12-14 or rising grades 7-9th - June 16-22
- Senior camp/ Reeb camp for kids age 15-18 or rising grades 10th-2019 high school graduates - June 23-29

Scholarships are available for Summer Camp. Contact David Overton at [denom@austinuu.org](mailto:denom@austinuu.org) for more information and a request form.

### THE POINT 2019

JULY 21-26

LAKE MURRAY STATE PARK, OK

Spiritual deepening, fellowship and fun in a beautiful setting. The Point offers personal growth, faith renewal, learning opportunities, spiritual practices, community worship, music, excellent cuisine, sustainable practices, social events, outdoor activities, programming for all ages and interests, and an engaging theme speaker. Information and registration at <https://www.thepointuu.org/>

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For questions about denominational activities, to find out about available scholarships, or for carpooling to events, please email David Overton at [denom@austinuu.org](mailto:denom@austinuu.org).

## STEWARDSHIP

**THE AUCTION IS HERE!**

The first three Sundays in May are a different way for you to support our church and be more involved in our church community at the same time. There will be a myriad of events and activities to choose from. Be generous and win an opportunity to get to know more members and friends of our congregation!

**FUN FINANCE FACTS**

American stock markets have been volatile recently, which gives some generous friends of our church an extra reason to make their gifts go further when supporting us. Instead of writing a check, two great things happen when you transfer shares of publicly traded securities to First UU (provided they have gone up in value and have been owned for more than one year).

First, your stock gift qualifies for a charitable deduction for the full fair market value on the date it is received by the church. Then, because the shares were given instead of sold, you avoid recognizing the capital gain on the transfer (First UU pays no tax either). Know also that the 2019 capital gains tax rates are 15 percent for many taxpayers (20 percent for top-bracket earners) plus an additional Medicare tax of 3.8 percent on net investment income for individuals earning more than \$200,000 (\$250,000 if married and filing a joint return).

Please consider giving appreciated securities to help fund the important work of liberal religion in our community and around the world through Facebook Live. As always, we recommend you talk to your financial advisor or attorney about taking full advantage of this timely opportunity.

Please contact Chris Jimmerson, Minister for Program Development at the church (512-452-6168) for details on how to proceed.

**VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS OF  
THE ANIMAL BLESSING SERVICE**

Were you able to attend the Animal Blessing Service on February 3rd? Follow the link below to see highlights from that awesomely fun service and some of the creatures young, old, great and small, furry and cuddly, who participated. See if you can spot your best friend! Special thanks to Kiya Heartwood (KiyaHeartwood.com) for providing the music track and to Leo Collas for creating the video.

<https://youtu.be/CpwrtNkOnbk>

**LEGACY LEADERS LUNCH****SAVE THE DATE!**

First UU is starting a new tradition of honoring the generous individuals who include our church in their planned giving. If you took part in Wake Now Our Vision or have named our church as recipient of your generosity, thank you. And please join Reverend Meg for lunch on Saturday, June 29th (corrected date) for a lunch honoring you! Stay tuned for details.

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN  
CELEBRATION AND CONTINUATION**

Over the last few years, our church has been involved in a capital campaign to increase the size of our sanctuary, renovate Howson Hall, build a new kitchen, and improve many other aspects of our church campus. Our congregation, members and friends alike, have generously funded these amazing improvements which we will celebrate on Sunday, June 2nd!

While the construction is almost complete, our mortgage will be around for a while yet. Rev Meg and her capital campaign cohort will be reaching out to new members with an opportunity to help our church pay down the mortgage that allowed our church's renovations. Thank you for your generosity! ·



## COVENANT CORNER

## Caught in the Middle

### Healthy Relations Ministry

Dear Covenant,

I am a long-time member of our church. Many people know me as someone who knows how to get things done. Lately two or three people have come to me asking me to do something about an issue with construction. I think our Healthy Relations Covenant says they should talk to Rev. Meg, but they want me to do it. What should I do?

Uncomfortable

Dear Uncomfortable,

Thank you for your question and for doing your best to live up to the aspirations in our Healthy Relations Covenant. You are correct that we promise in our covenant to “communicate with one another directly in a spirit of compassion and good will.” What you are being asked to do is called triangulation. It is inserting a third person into a conversation or discussion between two people. Not only is the third person not a party to the issue, adding an unnecessary person to the chain of communications makes miscommunication or misunderstanding more likely.

You are also correct in thinking that talking to Rev. Meg is the place to start. She is a good first person to go to for issues of any kind simply because she is “in the know” about church issues. She redirects people to others when appropriate and may even accompany them if the issue is contentious.

What you can do when asked to speak for someone is encourage them to go directly to Rev. Meg. You can also offer to accompany them if it will help overcome their reluctance to broach the subject alone. Suggest they make an appointment by phone or email and include a statement something like, “I’m a little nervous about our meeting. Is it OK if I bring a courage buddy?”

An offer of such assistance not only encourages direct communication but also helps us all practice and build experience living our covenant in our church community and in our communities outside church.

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



## INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT

Your thoughtful donation to Inside Books is life changing. Listed below are few of the comments from Texas Inmates who have received the benefit of contributions like yours. Postage is our biggest expense as there are no paid staff. These books are the passports to new opportunities, learning alternatives and a brief, healthy escape from the daily horror. At First UU, our Green Sanctuary Ministry sponsors this worthy, vital effort. Thank you.

“ I am so very glad that scrap of paper with your address on it came to me. You brought light into a desperately dim and dingy world. Thank you and God bless you and your works.”  
— Kenneth J, inmate in Texas



“ With no funds, no mail from the outside world and a long wait for educational classes, I requested educational books from Inside Books Project. They were useful, helpful, as well as educational. I thank Inside Books Project for helping me to become a better person through self-learning.”  
— Miguel A, inmate in Texas



“ I'm locked in a maximum security prison and confined to my cell 23 hours a day. Inside Books Project makes it possible for me to read books I can't get from my prison library.”  
— James W, inmate in Texas



### MUSICIANS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

**MAY 5**

The First UU Adult Choir under the direction of Brent Baldwin is joined by The Longhorn Men's Chorus of UT and their conductor (and Adult Choir bass section leader) Vinay Thomas.

**MAY 12**

Director of Music Brent Baldwin leads the First UU Adult Choir as they present their final 'major works' of the season: Benjamin Britten's *Missa Brevis*, Arvo Pärt's *De Profundis*, and William Grant Still's *We Sang Our Songs*. Also providing music for the services are the brilliant organist Austin Haller and the First UU Youth and Children's Choirs.

*Missa Brevis* is one of Britten's most-loved and performed choral works for upper voices. The inclusion of an organ part as an equal player in bringing out the text in the music, rather than 'accompaniment', adds another layer of interest and freshness to this beautiful piece.

### MUSIC NOTES

Pärt's *De Profundis* (Out of the deep) is scored for four-part lower voices and organ. Pärt wrote this setting of Psalm 130 using his signature tintinnabuli style, influenced by his mystical experiences in chant.

*We Sang Our Songs* was written by William Grant Still, the first widely recognized African American classical composer, and it was first performed for the centennial celebration of Fisk University in Tennessee in 1971. The song, a setting of inspirational text by his wife Verna Arvey, who was also a pianist and journalist, is about how the fight for equality never ends, and the need to keep telling stories.

**MAY 19**

A chamber group from the First UU Adult Choir will be singing for the services.

**MAY 26**

Service music will be provided by the First UU Adult, Youth, and Children's Choirs and the First UU band.

## TRANSFORMATION THROUGH SERVICE



**Mobile Loaves & Fishes**  
Serving Goodness.™  
**Community First! Village**

**Community First! Village is a 51-acre master planned community that provides affordable, permanent housing and a supportive community for disabled, chronically homeless people in Central Texas. A development of Mobile Loaves & Fishes, this transformative residential program exists to love and serve our neighbors who have been living on the streets, while also empowering the surrounding community into a lifestyle of service with the homeless.**

On May 11, you will have the opportunity to join other First UU members and friends for a service event at the Village. We will depart from First UU at 8:00 that day and return to the church by 1 PM. (You can also meet us at the Village if you like.)

This service event may include laying pathways, harvesting gardens, tending the chicken coop or dry landscaping yards of micro-homes. All volunteer events are led by a current or future resident of the Village. Hosting groups like ours is one of the ways residents are able to earn a dignified income, which in

turn enables them to pay rent and buy groceries. This support also helps to pay for materials necessary for ongoing projects at the Village. A minimum gift of \$10 a person is recommended. (If volunteers cannot pay this support amount, funds are available from the budget at First UU).

We ask that everyone come wearing the proper clothing to ensure a safe day at work and require that each volunteer wear long pants, a short sleeve shirt, closed-toe shoes (boots HIGHLY recommended). Also a hat, bug spray, and/or sunscreen for the outdoors is a good idea. You are more than welcome to bring your

own pair of work/gardening gloves as well. Also, everyone needs to bring their own water bottle as they are not provided.

All volunteers under 18 MUST be accompanied by a parent/guardian while serving at the village.

If you want to take part in the effort, you will need to sign up on the Community First Village Website ahead of time for that day. You can find the website at <http://mlf.org/communityfirst>

If you have any questions or want more information, contact Carolyn Gremminger at [cargrem@yahoo.com](mailto:cargrem@yahoo.com)

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**

KITCHEN COORDINATOR/SEXTON  
**KAMI CORNELL**

## WHITE ALLIES FOR RACIAL EQUITY

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

What do the Blind Side, To Kill a Mockingbird, and The Help have in common? Each features a white character “saving,” or helping, folks of color. These are examples of the white savior complex, which will be the theme for the May meeting. We will discuss what this is and why it is problematic.

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](mailto:sbutki@gmail.com).

FIRST  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH of Austin



4700 Grover Ave.  
Austin, TX 78756