



FIRST UU NEWS

We gather in community to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice.

Looking forward to returning to you all soon

by **Rev. Meg Barnhouse**



Most of you know I have been on sabbatical. I cannot tell you how much I am looking forward to being back with you.

I feel so grateful to Rev. Chris, Laine, Brent, and Irene; the office staff Shannon, Katherine, and Victoria; as well as former President Marsha Sharp and current President Jairy Grisaffe for keeping things on course while I was away.

One of the things I'm most looking forward to is having meetings with the management team: Brent Baldwin, Chris Jimmerson, and Laine Young. We have so much fun to those meetings, and we think together about issues facing the church.

I am also looking forward to board meetings. We at First UU Austin have very fine boards, and I am looking forward to getting to know the new board members and working again with those who have

been there for a few years.

Preaching is another element I am very much looking forward to doing again. Other things I am looking forward to are the things we do as we move through the seasons: Halloween, where the children come in costume; Thanksgiving, when we have a meal together at the church; and the Christmas Pageant and the Christmas Eve services. I look forward to the Burning Bowl service, where we gather at the beginning of the new year and let go of things from the previous year in a bowl of fire. The animal blessing, Valentine's crafts, the church auction, and the baby parade on Easter, as we celebrate love come to life.

I am looking forward to getting to know Cesar, and standing in solidarity with his campaign, to seeing the justice-learning and justice-making we do as a congregation, to us caring for one another through

all the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. I look forward to celebrating victories, big and small.

This is going to be a fascinating year in that we will be making adjustments to the schedule of the builders, as they accomplish the work we've asked them to do. They are making our space larger and stronger as we move into the future as a congregation. We will celebrate groundbreaking in October!

Mostly my joy has to do with being with you all again in times both ordinary and extraordinary. I'm beyond proud of the way you all have pulled together during this past fraught time of my slow healing. The congregation and its mission have moved ahead undeterred. Thank you for your strength and grace in this time, and I feel deeply the support and affection you have shown.

See you very soon.

All my best, Meg ■

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

A transformative path

by **Jairy Grisaffe**



A core part of our church community is defined in our values, ends statements, and mission. We tie our mission statement and end statements together by expressing our ends as aspirations of how we carry out our mission. As we head into fall and towards our revisiting of our ends statements, I think it is important that we look back to understand how we have evolved since we started expressing ourselves in such terms.

I'll preface this by stating that I was not around at the time our congregation adopted policy-based governance and discerned the current set of values, ends statements, and mission. However, I arrived not long after it happened. And since the fall of 2011, I have seen some very inspirational things happen in this church community that have motivated me to keep coming back and called me to serve. Before moving to Austin, I was fortunate to have a minister, Rev. Aaron White, who served this community for a short time. He had told me about the recent history of the church, but he also

mentioned how optimistic he was about it. He knew that there were dedicated and caring members who had a strong sense of community and were determined to lift it up. He also knew that having recently called Rev. Meg, the church would be in great hands.

I've seen our community grow stronger and warmer each year that I have been here. We are living out our values of community, courage, transcendence, compassion, and most certainly, transformation. The members who ushered policy-based governance into our church chose those values seven years ago. I still find them to be true about our community, and relevant to where we aspire to be. It's also remarkable to me that so many members know the mission statement by heart and can tell you what it means to them.

I've witnessed as this church has extended sanctuary to refugees, and played a key role in establishing a network of churches and organizations to support such efforts in our city. I've experienced the introspection of this community as

we learn how we affect the world around us and how each of us can improve it. I've watched youth learn who they are and seen them realize their potential. Each of these is an expression of nourishing souls, transforming lives, and doing justice.

We measure our mission by our ends statements. As we've grown and transformed as a community, our expressions of our mission and how we measure ourselves against it evolves.

I invite everyone in our congregation and greater moral authority to read through our ends statements. You can find them in Howson Hall or on the church's website. Spend some time thinking about them. Recognize what you like about them and what you would like to see be a part of them. In November, we'll be holding several breakout sessions to help us as a board determine against what we want to measure our mission. I encourage you all to make yourselves heard and be a part of this process.

Welcome Rev. Meg back to First UU!



Sunday, September 17
Howson Hall & Courtyard
11:45 a.m.–1 p.m.

Please join us for a party to celebrate the return of our senior minister, Meg Barnhouse, from her sabbatical! We will enjoy food, beverages and fellowship after the second service. All ages welcome.

Look for a big greeting card for all to sign one of the Sundays before she arrives.

Connections Fair— Save the Date!

Sunday, October 22
Church courtyard
8:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Please join us for First UU's annual Connections Fair. Learn about different groups and ministries at the church and how you can get involved! Contact: Shannon Posern, membership@austinuu.org.

“Getting to Know UU” class

Sunday, October 8
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.

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Lifespan FD highlights

by **Laine Young, Interim Director of Lifespan Faith Development**



As we enter into September, I am starting my second year as interim here. I cannot believe how quickly the last year went by! We have lots of wonderful things happening in Lifespan Faith Development right now. Fall Sunday School classes are starting up, Chalice Circles are returning, our LFD Families Lunch is on Sept. 10, we have our annual Water Communion this month—the list could go on and on! It's going to be an amazingly fun fall!

In fellowship,
Laine Young

LFD Family Day! September 10, 12:30 p.m.

All parents whose children or teens will participate in the 2017–18 faith development program are encouraged to attend this information session. We will discuss the year's curricula, have enrollment forms available, and you can get information about the different ways to help our children and youth programming. Bring your kids, your curiosity, your questions, and your appetite (we will be serving lunch). We truly want to get to know you and hear what you'd like in a Lifespan Faith Development program! RSVP to laine.young@austinuu.org. Hope to see you all there!

Classroom Helper Information Session & Orientation September 13, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Join us for fun, fellowship, and dinner while we go over the basics of being a classroom helper in the classrooms

on Sunday mornings. This information session is open to those who will be a classroom helper this year, as well as those who would like to learn more about becoming one. RSVP to laine.young@austinuu.org. Childcare will be provided.

Fall Children & Youth Religious Education

The fall semester starts Sunday, September 17! Don't forget to pick up your LFD Child & Youth Programming bookmark at the LFD table outside the sanctuary on Sunday.

Pre-K: "Chalice Children" Rm. 23

"Chalice Children" delves deep into our UU faith. It strives not just to teach about our faith, but also to provide experiences around the strength of community, the wonder and awe that transcend everyday understanding, and life issues we all share. Early childhood (between ages 2–5) is filled with curiosity and wonder. In a group setting with loving adult guides, young children can engage in spiritual seeking, develop their openness to sharing, and experience the benefit of a supportive community. Their time in Chalice Children can set a pattern for the rest of their lives and bring lasting benefits. (uua.org)

K–1st Grade: "Picture Book of World Religions" Rm. 17

"Picture Book of World Religions" is based on many different picture books related to Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. The curriculum aims to introduce children

continued on next page

to different world religions through stories, allowing them to discover the similarities and differences in their own lives.

2nd–3rd Grade: “Faithful Journeys” Rm. 15B

Participants embark on a pilgrimage of faith, exploring how UUism translates into life choices and everyday actions. In each session, they hear historic or contemporary examples of UU faith in action. Stories about real people model how participants can activate their own personal agency—their capacity to act faithfully as UUs—in their own lives, and children have regular opportunities to share and affirm their own stories of faithful action.

4th–5th Grade: “Windows and Mirrors” Rm. 15A

“Windows and Mirrors” nurtures children’s ability to identify their own experiences and perspectives and to seek out, care about, and respect those of others. The sessions unpack topics that lend themselves to diverse experiences and perspectives—for example, faith heritage, public service, anti-racism, and prayer. The program teaches that there are always multiple viewpoints, and everyone’s viewpoint matters.

Junior High Youth Group: “Heeding the Call: Qualities of a Justice Maker” Rm. 13

“Heeding the Call” is a social justice curriculum that not only explores linked oppression in our society, but also encourages youth towards personal growth in values that counteract the marginalization of others. Workshops on empathy, courage, abundance, joy, and other qualities ask participants to recognize how these standards can be tools for justice. Additionally, the program includes more concrete tools, such as suggestions on how to be a good ally and tips on the language of conflict resolution. True stories of courage, sacrifice and collaboration, roleplaying, games, and a program-long justice project will feed youth’s rising realization that as people of faith we are all called to love justice—not just with our words, but also with our deeds.

High School Youth Group: “My Name is Earl” Rm. 11

High school youth are invited to explore religious concepts through the life of Earl Hickey as he goes on a

spiritual quest to be a better person. Based on the television series “My Name is Earl,” youth will learn about our UU values and principles and define their ideas about the afterlife, sin, covenant, and many other important concepts that become part of our personal credos.

No First Sunday Seminars in September

We will not have First Sunday Seminars in September, to accommodate the long Labor Day weekend. First Sunday Seminars will resume in October. *Interested in teaching a First Sunday Seminar? Please send your class proposal to Laine Young (laine.young@austinuu.org).*

Racism Unlearning Circle, September 16

Based on Undoing White Supremacy Austin’s (UWSA) unlearning circles, this group will be 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. Please check the First UU Facebook page events section for more event info, to see the monthly topic, and to access readings and videos to prepare for the meeting. Childcare will be provided. Please RSVP to childcare@austinuu.org. If you have any questions about this group, please email racismunlearning@austinuu.org.

Register for Chalice Circles!

Time and time again, Chalice Circles are cited by our members as the best way to establish deep and meaningful connections here at First UU. Chalice Circles are primarily monthly, lay-led small groups that are dedicated to intentional, deep listening in a confidential, covenanted group of no more than a dozen adults. Each group plans and participates in a service project together. Monthly topics are predetermined, so that each group will discuss the same theme each month. Registration is ongoing through the month of September. Grab a registration form on the Lifespan Faith Development table outside the sanctuary on Sundays! Childcare available upon request. ■

HEALTHY RELATIONS MINISTRY

Sign up for 4x4 Dinners

In 4x4 meals, participants form groups of no more than eight people, either four couples or a combination of pairs and singles, who will meet four times before the end of May for a themed, home-cooked meal. The dates, times, and themes will be decided by the members of each group who will take turns hosting. The host chooses the theme (e.g., ethnic, holiday, family favorites, etc.) and suggests what others should bring. The purpose of the groups is for the same people to meet over four meals and get to know each other better. Find more details and sign-up sheets in the gallery on Sundays up until the Connections Fair, Oct. 22, and at the fair.

Advice from Covenant Corner

Dear Covenant,

Recently a member of my Chalice Circle group revealed something about himself and his family that shocked me and probably others in the group. There's nothing illegal or threatening in what he told us, but I feel a great need to talk more about it because talking usually helps me feel better. I know our group's promise of confidentiality means I cannot go to anyone outside of the group. Can I talk to others who are in the group and also upset? Or should I bring the subject up to him directly, either in private or in the group? I'm really upset!

– *Troubled*

Dear Troubled,

As you've discovered, confidentiality is not always simple! Our covenant calls us to build and sustain our community "by honoring our commitments to ourselves and one another for the sake of our own integrity and that of our congregation." Because your group has a commitment to confidentiality, you are right not to mention the issue to anyone outside of your group.

Furthermore, the promise of confidentiality extends also to discussing the issue even with other group members

outside of the group. What is shared in group stays in group. And unless this person asks for input or advice from group members, it would also be wrong for you to bring it up to him, either in group or outside of group. Your feelings are yours to handle, not burdens on your friend.

That said, our covenant's wording about your commitment to your own integrity applies as well to finding a way to take care of yourself when you're upset. It's important that you find a way to handle your feelings for the sake of your own integrity. You describe yourself as a person who processes things by talking with others, and it's good to know that about yourself. Our advice is to find someone not in the church with whom to discuss this, so long as you can remove all identifying information about your group member.

The Healthy Relations Ministry is available to you as a resource if you need help with a difficult situation here at church. Team members Margaret Borden, Ann Edwards, and Elizabeth Kubala can be reached at healthyrelations@austinuu.org.

Sincerely,
Healthy Relations Ministry

CHURCH PARTNERSHIP



Oktoberfest is
around the corner!

Saturday, September 30
Faith Lutheran Church Activity
Center, 6600 Woodrow Ave.
4-7 p.m.

Enjoy a fun, music-filled evening of German food, music, cold refreshments, and an incredible raffle. Have fun and help seniors live independently!

General admission tickets are available anytime through Eventbrite (<http://oktoberfest2017fun.eventbrite.com>), or at our office (901 W. Braker Ln) on Mon, Wed, or Fri from 9 a.m.–noon. General admission is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. This includes the food, beverages, and live music.

Raffle tickets (\$10) sold separately and are available for purchase in advance at our office or the evening of the event. Need not be present to win the raffle.

- Grand prize: Dallas Food and Fun (includes two night stay in luxury hotel and more)
- First prize: Fun in Fredericksburg (includes \$600 gift card and more)
- And thirteen other raffle prizes!

Drive a Senior – North Central Austin is a 501(c)3 nonprofit providing free transportation and related services to keep seniors independent and living in their own homes. Questions? Call (512) 453-2273.

Two ordinations coming up!

Support former First UU member Erin Walter, as well as our former ministerial intern Susan Yarbrough, for their respective ordinations into UU ministry.

Erin Walter ordination:

Friday evening, Oct. 27
(time TBA)
Wildflower UU (1314 E. Oltorf, Austin, 78704)

Susan Yarbrough ordination:

Saturday, Oct. 14, 4:30 p.m.
First UU Church of Houston, Museum District Campus (5200 Fannin St. Houston, TX, 77004)



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

Love Showed Up Today in Charlottesville

UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray gives her thoughts in the immediate aftermath

Today was a tragic day. We came to Charlottesville to bear peaceful witness but were met with hate and racist violence. My heart has been broken and I am deeply troubled by what is happening in this community and across this country.

Torches held above banners of hate are a familiar image from American history, but I had never witnessed it in person until last night on the University of Virginia campus. The racist parade marched right by St. Paul's Memorial Church, Charlottesville where an incredibly powerful standing-room-only worship service with people of all faiths and all colors came together in song, spirit, and blessing. Rev. Traci Blackmon told the story of David and Goliath, which is what it felt like on the streets of Charlottesville.

This morning, the faith leaders that were called here by Congregate C'ville went to Emancipation Park to block the entrance and prevent the Unite the Right rally from taking place. The message was clear: to stand with the community to say that hate has no place here. The white nationalist protesters we faced chanted Nazi slogans like "you will not replace us" and "blood and soil" in between anti-Semitic, sexist, and homophobic slurs. They wore Nazi emblems and carried pictures of Hitler. They wore Make America Great Again hats and held pictures of the President of the United States.

And they had automatic weapons, paramilitary uniforms, shields, and clubs.

We expected to be arrested for blocking the park because the protesters had an event permit that had been affirmed by a judge's order. But as the day began, it was clear the police were not going to intervene—that they were not prepared to keep the peace as clergy and the community bore witness to the power of love that leaves no one out. The message seemed clear—as it has been for some time. White supremacist groups are being given permission to act violently without repercussions, and this was on display in Charlottesville. They had their guns and shields. We had our songs, our faith, our love. And we had each other.

White supremacy is not new in this country, but its renewed

boldness is. Today, Charlottesville was the front line of a battle against oppression that includes American militarization at home and abroad, the criminalization of entire communities, and the belief that violent power makes righteousness. It is time for people of faith and conscience, for anyone who is committed to a vision of the Beloved Community, and especially those of us who are white, to show up—and to continue to show up—forcefully and nonviolently for love and justice. We must unite against white supremacy, neo-Nazism, and fascism.

I am so proud of Unitarian Universalist clergy and lay people for witnessing courageously on the side of love. Our faith calls us to resist violent extremism. We must liberate ourselves from the paradigms of dominance and hierarchy that

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Local pastors including UU ministers protest for peace in Charlottesville. Photo: Anna Golladay

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE**Women's Alliance returns****by Mary Overton****Every Second Tuesday
Howson Hall
6–8:30 p.m.**

Join us as we resume meetings for fall 2017. As prior, we'll have potluck dinner at 6 and a speaker at 7. All are welcome, childcare is provided.

**September 12: Valerie Sterne
"Starting with Ourselves: Addressing White Supremacy Close to Home"**

It is easy to point to white supremacists marching through southern cities with white hoods or torches and call them out as racist. It is much more difficult to see how we ourselves are perpetuating white supremacy in our churches, schools and communities. How can we live into our UU principles more fully by doing the hard work of unpacking and dismantling our own involvement in racist practices and structures?

Valerie Sterne first learned about UUism as a teenager, and immediately identified with the faith. She joined First UU in 2007 with her husband Brendan, and has been active ever since. This past June she attended her first General Assembly, arriving two days early to participate in the Undoing Racism workshop. Valerie has been an educator in Austin public schools for the past decade. She currently works as an assistant principal at a Title I elementary school in AISD, and is involved in ongoing research about segregation within our district.

The path to "undo racism" is never-ending. Valerie will share what she has learned along her journey; the challenges she sees for our denomination, our city and our schools; and some ideas on ways into the process for white progressives.

**October 10: Maxine Barkan
"Rights and Freedom"**

Lest we forget, it's been just about 100 years ago that my mother's generation of women were granted the rights of citizenship and the right to vote. To put it in more perspective, I was born the year before the 19th amendment was passed. Before that, gender roles were clearly defined. Women could only be responsible for the home and family. Few other options were open to them. The story about the struggle for women's rights goes back to the 18th century. Our foremothers endured many abuses and indignities, but never gave up the fight. As an election time nears this November, it is appropriate to look back and honor these outstanding women and their legacy.

**November 14: Gretchen Riehl
"What's New at Austin Community College?"**

Austin Community College was founded in 1972, and currently serves approximately 41,000 students in 11 campuses (soon to be 12) that range across eight counties and a service area about the size of New Jersey. Come hear an overview of ACC, including new initiatives and future plans.

Senior Luncheon**Wednesday, Sept. 13
Howson Hall
12 p.m.**

Be sure to attend the first Senior Lunch of the 2017–18 season! The Sept. program will be a favorite musical singalong with Charles Palmer, baritone, and our own Kathryn Govier at piano, remembering many classical Broadway favorites. No need to be an accomplished singer just to enjoy these old favorites.

Serving Kami's delicious soups with salad, bread and a dessert. Reserve your spot by calling Alice Cashman at (512) 837-0988.

WHITE ALLIES FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

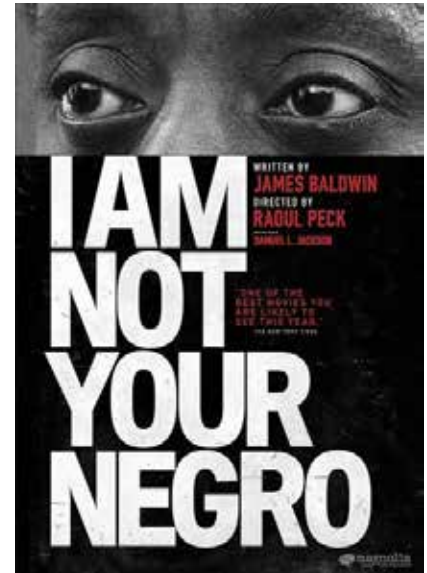
Movie screening: “I Am Not Your Negro”

Friday, September 29
Howson Hall
6:30 p.m.

White Allies for Racial Equity will host a screening and panel discussion of the documentary “I Am Not Your Negro,” on the life and writings of James Baldwin.

Scott Butki, co-facilitator of White Allies, is organizing the event and will moderate the panel discussion. There will be childcare.

As with our previous screenings, there will be a panel of four people representing different groups and viewpoints. The panel will include Lewis Conway of Grassroots Leadership, Meme Styles of Measure Austin, Gina Tillis, of Education as the Practice of Freedom Project, Virginia A. Cumberbatch, Director of the Community Engagement Center at UT Austin. Contact sbutki@gmail.com with questions.



“Love showed up,” continued

are destroying lives, communities, and the planet. Fear and hatred corrupt our humanity and cut us off from the spirit, from the holy, from goodness and beauty, and possibilities of creation. Only love can truly confront this corruption that puts our democracy, our liberty, and personal safety at risk. Love is more powerful than any weapon, even when it doesn’t feel that way. The faith and the courage of our

ancestors in movements of resistance and liberation show us this truth.

Today was a tragic day, a day that ended in the loss of life and in a city left reeling. We lift in our prayers the family of the person who lost their life, their community, all the people injured and traumatized by the events—especially my siblings of color, people of Jewish faith and ancestry, and those who identify as transgender, queer, lesbian, gay and

bisexual—and the city and community of Charlottesville. And too—we lift in our hearts a prayer that for all those whose spirits have been distorted by fear and violence—that they may come to know the capacity for love in their own hearts and spirits. As a people of faith, it is this overflowing, deep abiding love that must guide us to show up again and again for justice, for inclusion, for dignity and humanity. ■

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Wildflower UU Church Women's Retreat: Save the Date! October 13–15, 2017

The annual Wildflower Women's Retreat will be held at the gorgeous Camp Young Judaea in Wimberley, TX. This is an opportunity to recharge and reconnect with your core, your community, and your UU values. Activities will include: five meals (included with registration), fun and inspiring workshops, a bonfire, singalong, swimming, worship, and opportunities to explore the beautiful natural setting on your own. Five meals included with registration. Register now: <http://bit.ly/womensretreatregistration>. For more info, check out [facebook.com/WildflowerWomensRetreat](https://www.facebook.com/WildflowerWomensRetreat) or email the retreat team at womensretreat@wildflowerchurch.org.

Ships Ahoy! Youth Leadership Experience at UBarU Begins October 13–15

Sail to great adventure in Unitarian Universalism! Youth ages 15–18 are invited to cruise on this amazing journey into UUism which will prepare them for membership and leadership in congregations and the Association on at large. There are four modules, or "ships" in the training: leadership, scholarship, discipleship, and partnership. Join us for the adventure of a lifetime! Contact Natalie Briscoe, UUA Southern Region: nbriscoe@uua.org, or David Overton for scholarship info: denom@austinuu.org.

UBarU Fall Events

UBarU is a UU camp and retreat center in the beautiful Hill Country, just 120 miles west of Austin. Because of its distance from population centers,

it has been designated an International Dark Sky Park, perfect for stargazing. Find more information and register at UBarU website: www.ubaru.org.

• Women's Retreat, October 20–22.

Recharge your body, mind and spirit in the companionship of other UU women. Sing, dance, meditate, write, draw, read, talk, hike UBarU's gorgeous 142-acre campus, walk the UBarU labyrinth, lounge on the Meeting House porch, or do just what your spirit needs. Church member and frequent retreat attendee Betty Wood (bnwood@austin.rr.com) has offered to answer your questions about the retreat.

• Fall Men's Retreat, November 3–5.

Come and enjoy fellowship in the Texas Hill Country. Rest, relax, enjoy delicious meals and use the time as a break from your normal routines and schedules. The retreat will be facilitated by Rev. Mark Skrabacz. Mark will guide us in a thematic inquiry and processes of introspection to deepen our life's path and build community among our fellow UU men.

Southern Region Fall Conference, Nov. 10–11, First Unitarian Church of Dallas

The theme for this year's conference is "Walking Together—Covenant as the foundation of Unitarian Universalism." More info and registration at the Southern Region's site under November events: www.uua.org/southern.

Questions and Carpooling

Want to carpool to an event outside Austin? Email denom@austinuu.org and we'll try to put you together with someone to share the ride.

Peoples Community Clinic: Children's books drive

For many years First UU members have volunteered with the Patient Education Dept. at People's Community Clinic, collecting new and gently used children's books during the month of October to give to the young patients. For info about the church's volunteer efforts with PCC, please email pcc@austinuu.org or stop by the PCC table in the gallery on Sunday, Sept. 10.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Austin Presence Group

September 5 & 19
Room 13B
6:30–8 p.m.

As we reconvene Austin Presence Group meetings, we'll be starting a brand new book discussion on Michael Singer's "The Untethered Soul." For our first meeting we'll be joined by special guest speaker Stephen Summers.

A \$5 donation is requested in order to support the church. For additional details, visit us at meetup.com/AustinPresence.

Come light another candle to illuminate your understanding along the spiritual path called life. Contact: Joe Linsalata, (512) 327-5000 or Linsalata@austin.rr.com.

Opportunities abound in stewardship visiting!

If you're looking for ways to support the good work this church does, meet some new people, and enjoy some fun and fellowship, then opportunity is knocking on your door.

"Opportunity" is the theme for this year's First UU stewardship campaign, and as chairman Bill Edwards says, "What an opportunity this is." Edwards points to a change in the culture of the church. "Joining the stewardship team is no longer a glum chore that people sign up for out of a feeling of obligation; a thankless, necessary task to keep the church doors open. It's now a team task where we do good work for the congregation have the opportunity to meet more people and renew old friendships, and gain a sense of satisfaction in a job well done."

As of the first week of August, some 50 persons had signed up to be "stewardship visitors," including first timer Kathryn Govier. Govier is a familiar face and presence at First UU. Members may have heard her playing piano on Sundays or singing in the choir.

"Having never done this before and having heard from several canvassers last year that they had so much fun, I didn't want to miss out on that," she said.

She expressed what she hoped to accomplish through her participation: "I'll get to know those I go to visit on a deeper and maybe even different commitment level to this church that I am so involved with and committed to. It is amazing to me to find so many of

our members enthusiastic about asking for money."

She praised Edwards, Brendan Sterne, and others for making the process "so much more user friendly and easier."

"I will be visiting with full knowledge about what it costs to run the church, and lots of other information that we all need to know about what it takes to keep this church going on a daily basis."

Successful training sessions were held July 29 at the home of Margaret and Sam Roberts, and August 4 at the home of Betty Wood and Ron Buford.

Edwards said going to the congregants in their homes sends a message of "support and high regard to those who participate in the program, more so than them coming to meet us at the church. We value the people who give up their time to attend and participate, and want to make the experience a meaningful one."

Edwards expressed thanks to his fellow speakers at the two sessions: Chris Jimmerson, Brian Moore, Tyler Anderson, Sylvia Pope, and Sandra Ries. He also thanked the providers of food and snacks for their contribution: Susan Thompson, Betty Wood, Wendy Kuo, and Ann Edwards.

For more information on the campaign and to sign on as a stewardship visitor, contact Edwards at (210) 274-4496. He promises it will be a great opportunity to become more involved and to make new friends.

MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERING



Supporting the most vulnerable in our community

Healthcare, social services and immigration dominate our news. We hear and discuss increasing disparity between the wealthiest, the middle class and the neediest. Plans are proposed, bills are enacted, committees are convened. All the while, the healthcare needs of our community members living below the poverty level and have little or no health insurance continue to grow. Time is not on their side. Their need is NOW.

People's Community Clinic (PCC) is a nonprofit organization begun in Austin in 1970. Their mission statement: "To improve the health of medically underserved and uninsured Central Texans by delivering high quality, affordable healthcare with dignity and respect."

Last year, PCC served 13,000 persons: 22% infants and children under the age of 5; 25% children between 5 and 19 years; 51% adults between 20 and 64 years; and 2% seniors, 65 years and above. The main clinic on Camino La Costa provides comprehensive health and wellness care, pharmacy and lab services, mental health and social work services, chronic disease management, patient education and legal referrals to all populations. The Women's Health Center on North I-35 also provides prenatal care, obstetrics, lactation counseling, and family planning.

To reach vulnerable populations elsewhere in Austin, PCC partners

with and offers primary healthcare, immunizations, and preventive health services at three offsite locations: Safe Alliance, a merger of the Austin Children's Shelter and Safe Place; Austin Travis County Integral Care, a provider of behavioral healthcare; and Manor ISD.

Concerns about SB4, the sanctuary city bill, have brought new problems and anxieties to many of PCC's clients. For the present time, the clinic is considered a "sensitive site," or locations for which Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has issued guidelines that discourage immigration enforcement activities. However, patients have become wary of going to these "sensitive sites," not because they are afraid once there, but because of the potential danger in getting there. This fear has manifested itself as an increased "no show rate" for appointments at the clinic. And, fewer new prenatal patients are scheduling and coming for services—a particularly risky behavior for new mothers and infants. Long term, there is great concern for children not receiving their immunizations and preventive care, and for chronic disease patients not being regularly monitored. This lack of care carries both a health risk, and in the long run a financial burden for the whole community.

To date, there has been no issue in complying with the law. The staff

has been educated on the proper and legal procedures to be followed should the occasion arise, and they continue to welcome new patients with no regard to immigration status.

Expected reductions in federal and state funding for health programs are another concern for PCC. In 2015, about half (52%) of PCC's operating funds came from governmental sources such as Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP. The balance of the operating funds came mostly from grants and donations (44%) and from fees paid by patients (4%) who pay on a sliding scale based on their family size and income. The question facing PCC is whether grants and donations can make up the difference for expected reductions in governmental funding.

People's Community Clinic is the highlighted nonprofit organization for our September monthly service offering. At both services on September 10, church member Dr. Celia Neavel, Director of Adolescent Health at PCC, will speak on the clinic's works and mission. We hope you attend and that we can count on your generosity when the plate is passed. Thank you!

Monthly special offerings are done every second Sunday of the month at worship services. All groups supported by MSOs receive a check at the end of the year, with the total of the 12 monthly donations divided equally.

Eclectic Folk Jam**Friday, September 8****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” songbooks, and music stands. Bring other songs if you like. Bring 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.

UU/Quaker Singalong**Saturday, September 23****Friends Meeting House
(3701 E. MLK Blvd.)****7–10 p.m.**

Bring snacks and finger foods, and musical instruments. 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.

SUNDAY SERVICES

S A N C T U A R Y 9 : 1 5 A M A N D 1 0 : 4 5 A M

SEPTEMBER 3**Stepping into the Dream Together**

REV. CHRIS JIMMERSON

As First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin lives into our values and mission, what is possible? What differences will we make in whose lives? How big can we dream and what will it take us to get there?

SEPTEMBER 10**Water Communion**

LAINE YOUNG

Bring water from a place that is meaningful to you, or we'll have water available to stand in for the water that has meaning to you. For this service, we'll pour our waters together silently. There will be water songs, and a short, child-friendly sermon. This is an inter-generational service, so children can participate in Water Communion too!

SEPTEMBER 17**Gathering in Community**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

The beginning of an examination of our mission, as we've been getting our discussions about the congregation's goals, or ends, with a question in our minds: “do we need to change this mission, or does it still express who we want to be?”

SEPTEMBER 24**The Birthday of the World**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Rosh Hashanah is a celebration of the birthday of the world, and this Sunday puts us right in the middle of the high holy days of the Jewish faith. Sunday after this is Yom Kippur, a day of repentance. This is a time of contemplating new beginnings and making decisions about how we mean to go on.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 3

No forum scheduled (Labor Day)

SEPTEMBER 10

Homelessness, a Profound Catastrophic Loss of Family

ALAN GRAHAM, COMMUNITY FIRST!

For Alan Graham, it is all about his relationships—with God, his family, staff members, and certainly the homeless men and women he regularly engages on the streets of our community. Alan is the founder and CEO of Mobile Loaves & Fishes (MLF), a social outreach ministry committed to providing permanent, sustainable solutions for the chronically homeless while surrounding them with compassion, love, and dignity. Those who know Alan best know that he is a man on a mission: to relieve the struggles homeless individuals face in obtaining their basic needs of food, community, and a place to call home.

Since its founding in 1998, Mobile Loaves & Fishes volunteers have served more than 5 million meals with a side of hope to homeless men and women living on the streets of Austin. The organization has also spawned similar food truck ministries in other cities across the U.S. With the support of more than 19,000 volunteers, Mobile Loaves & Fishes is the largest prepared feeding program to the homeless and working poor in Austin, TX. Graham is also the visionary behind MLF's Community First! Village, a 27-acre master planned development that provides affordable, permanent housing and a supporting community to the chronically homeless in Central Texas.

Previously a real estate investor and developer, Alan founded Trilogy Development and the Lynxs Group, which developed Austin's airport cargo facility and similar facilities at airports around the country.

SEPTEMBER 17

A Conversation with Travis County District Attorney

MARGARET MOORE, J.D.

In an unexpected upset of a well-known opponent, Margaret Moore finished strong in the last Nov. election for the office of Travis County District Attorney. Moore is an insider in Central Texas politics and has a lifetime of public sector work experience at the county and state levels. She's also the second woman to serve as Travis County DA.

Moore will discuss what she envisions as the primary responsibilities of the DA and the steps she is taking to reorganize the office to improve its efficiency and effectiveness. She will also focus on the main issues she has encountered in the first eight months of her term. She will give an update on how the office is dealing with the Austin Police Department's DNA Lab problems, on developments surrounding the immigration policies of the sheriff, and on the creation of a civil rights unit to handle officer involved shootings and other use of force cases.

SEPTEMBER 24

Youth of Color in the Trump Era— Living, Loving, & Defending a Better Tomorrow

YOUTH RISE TEXAS

In this panel, hear from members of Youth Rise Texas (YRT), an Austin-based organization comprised of young people whose families have been impacted by the incarceration or deportation of a parent. Through popular education, mentorship, community organizing, and creative cultural production, Youth Rise is cultivating the cutting edge of leadership in the struggle

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**First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Austin**
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First UU Ministers
Rev. Meg Barnhouse
Rev. Chris Jimmerson

Director of Music
Brent Baldwin

Interim Director of Lifespan
Faith Development
Laine Young

Congregational Administrator
Shannon Posern

Communications Coordinator
Victoria M. Valadez

Financial Administrator
Katherine Patton

Board President
Marsha Sharp

THE FORUM, *continued*

against mass incarceration and immigrant criminalization while contributing to the movement for racial, economic, and gender justice. Executive Director Kandace Vallejo will join a couple of YRT youth for the discussion.

Are you, like so many of us, deeply saddened by the politics of the day? Are you motivated to take action, to stand up for people under political threat, and looking for clear direction on what you can do? Then come listen to Youth Rise Texas, because we might have some answers for you.

Since November 2016, youth and

families of color have been experiencing heightened political threats against our safety and livelihoods. The discussion will be part personal stories of who we are as individuals, and the tragedies and triumphs that brought us to this work, along with a selection of poetry and performance that will highlight our vision for how we can all defend each other and build a better tomorrow, regardless of the color of our skin or country of origin. Leave feeling energized and hopeful, with concrete action steps and ways for you to be involved in holding open the door for the future that our youth envision. ■



**First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Austin**

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