



# FIRST UU NEWS

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

## Intersecting identities

by **Rev. Meg Barnhouse**



I've recently been using a walker. My locomotion, my "walkering" is of the push, touch right toe to the floor, then hop forward with the left, holding my weight on my arms variety. I was making my slow and painful way into the medical tower building, and on one of the benches by the door sat a man with sinewy arms and white curly hair. Blue tattoos stood out on his pale skin. He had a walker too. I nodded at him, my brother with a walker. He lifted his chin at me in acknowledgment and greeting. We didn't know each other, but we knew each other.

We didn't know each other but we knew each other. I know that he has experienced pain. I know that he's been embarrassed because he used to be strong. Now there is loss of balance and loss of strength. There has been a change in how other people see him and how he sees himself. I know he has to think about how slow he is now and how he needs to add time on to any plan because of the limitations of his body.

I don't know all of these things about him for sure and certain, but I know them about myself.

It's been so interesting, this time of being disabled so visibly and constantly. The people who can see you when you move through the world this way are people who have been there themselves, who have loved someone who's been there, or who help for a living. I'd made the mistake of trying to "walker" to the theater in the Cineplex.

I'd hopped and hobbled down long hallways, and by the time I'd reached the door of the theater I was hurting, bowed down, near tears. I moved aside to let the people behind me pass. A tall young man in a ball cap with his arm around his sweetheart turned to look back at me. "You've got this," he said, with a smile. I will, from now on, see people who are having mobility problems as one of the tribe to which I have belonged.

I think about how much it has meant to gay folks in our churches

to see a gay person in the pulpit, and how much it can mean to women to see a woman in the pulpit. I know how much it meant to the people of color in the church to see a person of color in the pulpit. When you see someone else who is gay as you are, a woman like you are, a person of color as you are, there are things you know about them without even knowing them. You know some of the ways they have not fit into the dominant culture. You know obstacles have been placed in their way. You know people have asked them ridiculous questions and made ridiculous assumptions about them. You know they have held their tongue when they might rather have spoken. You know that people have felt entitled to ask rude questions, questions about what happened, questions about where you come from, questions about what languages you speak, questions about your hair, assumptions about your sex life. You know they have been asked these questions as if they owe the answers, as if the

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**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS****“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](mailto:membership@austinuu.org). Childcare is provided.

## What this church means to us

**by Jairy Grisaffe**



Growing up, I attended a Catholic school. On Sundays, we would attend church that was a part of that school. My parents paid my tuition each month and contributed financially to the church. The church and the school always seemed well funded to me. But to be honest, it was never something I thought much about. I never remember active stewardship campaigns being held. I never remember our family having conversations with other families at the church about what the church meant to them, or how it was making a difference in their lives or the lives of others. Financial support seemed like something we just did without being asked or talking much about it. As I am coming to realize, we really missed out on something special by not doing that.

During this time of year, I sometimes think about the vast difference between the experiences I had at church growing up, and at First UU. One of my favorite things about being involved in the Stewardship Ministry is talking to people about what brought them to this church and what keeps them coming back. Each year I choose people and families who I don't know well—or at all—to canvass, in effort to get to know them better. I've been so lucky to get to know so many of you over

the years. The more stories I hear, the closer I feel to this community and the more important it becomes to me. I know that giving my time, talent, and treasure to our church is a gift to all of you as well.

We Unitarian Universalists take enormous pride in our independently-run churches. Unlike the church I grew up in, we are allowed to set our mission, decide our values, and define ourselves through our aspirations using end statements. This is very powerful. As it has been said, with great power comes great responsibility. We recognize that this place we call our church home exists in the form that it does because we contribute our time and money to it. When we take time each year to talk about it, we feel a special closeness to it.

Out of all the organizations I share time and money with, this one is the most important to me. I'm excited about the things this year's canvass will allow us to do next year. The money you contribute helps us to fulfill our mission of gathering in community to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice. I hope that when you have your meetings with your canvassers, your reflection on your involvement in the church is an enriching one. And I hope it inspires you to give generously. ■

*“Identities,” continued*

sometimes-invasive curiosity should be taken as a gift.

We all have multiple groups with whom we identify.

I’m more than someone who uses a walker to hop in and out of buildings. I’m a woman of a certain age, mixed southern and northeastern culture. I identify as white, Scots-Irish. I’m married to a woman, I’m a writer, I am

the mother of two sons, nana of two grandchildren.

You have many intersecting identities too. My dream is that this congregation can be a safe and welcoming place where people can find those like them represented in worship and in the leadership of the congregation, that we all find someone with whom we can exchange that subtle but knowing nod that says “You know how it is, don’t you?” ■

**“Path to Membership” class**

**Saturday, November 18  
9 a.m.–12 p.m.  
Howson Hall**

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

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

**Plans for revisiting our church mission**

The board will be holding congregational conversations about reexamining our church’s goals in November. Watch upcoming publications for schedule.



## LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT

# Lifespan FD highlights

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



A few weeks ago Kaitlyn was showing me a goofy meme video they had found on YouTube. It was a silly little video that featured some birds, but about halfway through I gasped then exclaimed, “Wait a minute—those are bowerbirds! I learned about them in the World of Wonder class at church this summer!” I then excitedly told Kaitlyn all the things I had learned about bowerbirds, how neat I think they are, and mentioned the seventh principle (my impromptu bowerbird speech/presentation produced an eye roll from the teenager at this point).

Later that evening, I couldn’t help but think about how much I love that at this church you can learn new things everywhere. I learned about bowerbirds in a Pre-K through 1<sup>st</sup> grade class alongside them. If you haven’t, you should consider being a classroom helper here at First UU Austin! You do not need to be a teacher or a parent to be a classroom helper, teacher, or youth adviser and it is truly a fun and spiritually-fulfilling experience. And you will be learning new and wonderful things, too.

In fellowship,  
*Laine Young*

## First Sunday Seminars, Oct. 1

First Sunday Seminars take place on the first Sunday of the month. This multi-track, adult religious education experience has options in areas such as leadership development, spiritual identity, UU identity development, and spiritual practices. No prior registration is required for any of the First Sunday Seminars, and childcare is

available. A simple lunch will be provided in Howson Hall from 12–1 p.m. for \$5 (available to-go for Forum attendees). The seminars take place from 1–2:30 p.m.

*Interested in teaching a First Sunday Seminar? Please send your class proposal to [laine.young@austinuu.org](mailto:laine.young@austinuu.org).*

### Church Matters Track: “Fall into the Gardening Fun!” with First UU Austin’s Garden Club

Join the Garden Club as we work on getting the church gardens ready for fall! Projects will include spreading native wildflower seeds, making plant tags, planting fall vegetables at the big kid vegetable garden, and working on installing a garden for Alirio. All ages are welcome at this seminar!

### Faith Formation Track: Science and Religion Series—A Scientific Perspective on the Roots of Racism

Underpinning racism in the U.S. is the assumption that differences in economic prowess between races is due to inherent (i.e. genetic) superiority and/or inferiority of the various races. Certainly up to and into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this seemed manifestly obvious to many as the Western Europeans completed their conquest and subjugation of much of the rest of the globe. But progress in scientific understanding of the evolution of human cultures leads to an alternative conclusion: differences in races have their roots in accidents of geography, not genetics. We’ll be exploring this thesis, first articulated by Jared Diamond, and what it tells us about how to frame our understanding of our common humanity.

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### **One Room Sunday School October 8 & 15**

Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be having One Room Sunday School for their classes on October 8 & 15. The class meets in Rm. 17. If you have any questions about One Room Sunday School or would like to join in on the fun, contact [laine.young@austinuu.org](mailto:laine.young@austinuu.org).

### **Bring a Friend to Breakfast & Service: Sunday, Oct. 22**

Invite your friends to join us for first service on Sunday, October 22! We will have extra breakfast tacos and bagels, and there will be crafts at the Lifespan Faith Development table in the gallery! First service starts at 9:15 a.m. but get to the church early so you and your friends can enjoy breakfast before service starts.

### **Costume Sunday! Sunday, Oct. 29**

Everyone is welcome to wear their Halloween costume to church for this intergenerational service on Sunday, October 29! Please make sure that your costume is church appropriate (no masks that cover your entire face, no kind of weapons). The Halloween festivities will extend to Howson Hall after each service. Don't forget to stop by the LFD table outside the sanctuary to start your trick-or-treating a little early!

### **Racism Unlearning Circle, Oct. 21**

Based on Undoing White Supremacy Austin's 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](mailto:childcare@austinuu.org). If you have any questions about this group, please email [racismunlearning@austinuu.org](mailto: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. Grab a registration form on the Lifespan Faith Development table outside the sanctuary on Sundays! Childcare available upon request. ■

## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

### 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 Oct. 27, 7 p.m.  
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)

## Promising updates from the stewardship team!

Stewardship Ministry Chairman Bill Edwards is pleased to report nearly 50 percent of pledges for this year's stewardship pledge campaign, with its goal of \$800,000, had been raised as of mid-September.

Edwards said he was feeling "cautiously optimistic," considering what has been accomplished at this point in the campaign. "We have never been this far along in our stewardship effort this early in the annual drive," he said.

He commended the 40 active canvassers, or "stewardship visitors" for their efforts, calling them a "team like no other." He said at least a dozen of the canvassers have never canvassed before, and five of them are new members of the church.

Also inspiring the pledges are the stewardship moments during Sunday services, in which members of the congregation share the reasons First UU is important to them.

In addition to stewardship visitors making personal contacts to talk about the church and opportunities before us, individuals can stop by the stewardship table in the gallery each week until the campaign ends on Sunday, Oct. 29.

Edwards said he was confident enough in the stewardship underpinning—the infrastructure—that he felt he could take a two-week vacation to Europe. He joked, "In Italy, there seems to be a church on every corner, many of which are hundreds of years old. I am relieved that I am not on the building maintenance committee of any of them."

**WOMEN'S ALLIANCE****Women's Alliance returns****by Mary Overton**

**Second Tuesday of the month  
Howson Hall  
6–8:30 p.m.**

Join us for potluck dinner at 6 p.m. and a speaker at 7. All are welcome, childcare is provided.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 (ACC) 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.

**Austin Presence Group**

**October 3 & 17  
Room 17  
6:30–8 p.m.**

We continue our book discussion on Michael Singer's "The Untethered Soul." A \$5 donation is requested in order to support the church. For additional details, visit us at [meetup.com/AustinPresence](http://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](mailto:Linsalata@austin.rr.com).

## WHITE ALLIES FOR RACIAL EQUITY

### This month's meeting: "Beyond Equity and Diversity"

**Sunday, October 15**  
**Room 13**  
**12:30–2 p.m.**



Lisa Brown and Jennifer Knudsen will present and lead a discussion on "Beyond Equity and Diversity: A Framework for Understanding

Anti-Racism Work in Education." As a group, we will explore different rationales and approaches to equity in education, discuss the limits of such approaches, and present current approaches to anti-racism work.

The focus will be a framework for understanding the big picture, as well as reports on some promising projects. Because Lisa and Jennifer both work in mathematics education and see it as an important site for anti-racism work, the presentation will emphasize this subject but

the framework is applicable more broadly.

The UU White Allies for Racial Equity is a group of self-identified white Austin area UUs and friends. 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 info or to be added to our email list, please contact Scott at [sbutki@gmail.com](mailto:sbutki@gmail.com). *Photos courtesy of Lisa Brown and Jennifer Knudsen.*

## Next Fall UU Campout coming up soon

**Fri, Sept. 29–Sun, Oct. 1**  
**Near Spicewood, TX**

Please join us for a weekend of camping with UUs at a privately-held campground, just 35 miles from Austin.

You can arrive Friday around 4 p.m., or on Saturday. No need to make a reservation, one's already been made for the group. Bring food for Friday and Saturday nights, plus breakfast and lunches. There's a swimming hole and a waterfall, and you can hike to Lake Travis. Restroom and shower facilities nearby.

A group potluck meal will be around 6 p.m. on Saturday, then a campfire and musical jam. Camp overnight or just spend the day. On Sunday morning will be a communal breakfast.

Bring musical instruments, food and drinks to share, lawn chairs, flashlight, and water for cooking, washing up and drinking. No dogs are allowed. Bring tents, bedding, camping equipment and flashlights if you are spending the night.

Directions: Go west on Hwy. 71 through Bee Caves, go 5 miles past the Pedernales River, and then take a right at the Exxon station to

Spicewood. Take the second right at the county road 404 sign. The road into Krause Springs will be on the left, slightly upgrade, after crossing a creek. Drive to the house where you pay.

Entry fees are \$14 for adults, \$6 for children (4–11) per night, or adults \$7 and children \$5 for just the day. Tell them that you're with the Unitarians. We usually camp close by the house.

For more info, call Lynn Vaughan: (512) 587-8221 or [Lynn@Lynnpetsitting.com](mailto:Lynn@Lynnpetsitting.com), or Krause Springs: (830) 693-4181.



**PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CLINIC**

It's time for the October children's book drive!



The People's Community Clinic needs new or gently used children's books for young children through young adult for their Storytime and Reach Out and Read programs. The primary goal is to enrich the parent-provider-patient relationship, and increase reading time in the home. The program helps support low-income parents' ability to nurture their child intellectually.

During each well-child visit a developmental assessment is conducted, affording an opportunity for the medical care provider to discuss ways the parent can incorporate reading,

The more that you read,  
The more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
The more places you'll go.

– Dr. Seuss

language, and word games into daily routines. Children are given a free book to take home afterward.

If you are making room for new school year books, or cleaning out for the holidays, we will be collecting books each Sunday morning during October. A collection box will be waiting for you in the gallery. Ask your family members, ask your neighbors—the more we collect, the better! Thank you in advance.

For more information about First UU's volunteer efforts with People's Community Clinic, email [pcc@austinuu.org](mailto:pcc@austinuu.org).

**Senior Luncheon**

**Wednesday, Oct. 11**  
**Howson Hall**  
**12 p.m.**

This month our guest will be Nancy Walker, Executive Director of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Texas, formerly known as AMBIS. She will be speaking about end of life options. She will also discuss other organizations that educate the public about these concerns. If you want to contact her for any reason, her number is (512) 480-0251.

Soup, salad and dessert will be served for \$5. Please RSVP to Alice Cashman: (512) 837-0988.

**FOR MEMBERS AND VISITORS****Save the Dates!****Pre-congregational meeting**

Sunday, November 19  
Sanctuary  
1:30–2:30 p.m.

**Congregational meeting**

Sunday, December 17  
Sanctuary  
1:30–2:30 p.m.

**Hands on Housing Fall Project Day**

**Saturday, October 28**

Mark your calendars for the fall Hands on Housing project! HoH is a program through iACT to paint, do small repairs, and beautify the home of a low-income elderly or disabled household. The agency uses other funding to do major repairs before the volunteer events, and we finish the job! Volunteers must be 14 years and older. We need both skilled and unskilled volunteers for painting (unskilled) and special repair projects (skilled).

Sign up at the Social Action table in the gallery any Sunday before the event, or contact Jill Smith & Luther Elmore: [handsonhousing@austinuu.org](mailto:handsonhousing@austinuu.org).

**Time for the Connections Fair!**

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

It's nearly here! Connections Fair is a great opportunity to learn more about active First UU groups and ministries. If you're feeling disconnected or looking for more options for activities, this is the best way to discover the myriad

ways you can get involved at the church. There will be snacks and beverages, plus some groups may be offering free goodies! If you are a church group leader, please check your email to save your table spot with Shannon if you haven't already done so. Email Shannon Posern at [membership@austinuu.org](mailto:membership@austinuu.org) to learn more about this event.

## MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERING



## Youth Rise Texas

*Austin teens take the lead on criminal justice and immigration reform*

by Claire Morel, Youth Rise member

The teens of Youth Rise Texas (YRTX) have entertained and informed First UU with their prose, chants, songs and unwavering commitment to justice. To honor their dedication and achievements, our congregation voted to award them the monthly special offering for Sunday, Oct. 8.

Launched by longtime youth educator and community organizer Kandace Vallejo, YRTX is an Austin-based advocacy organization led by young women and queer youth of color ages 15–20. Through education, cultural production, and community organizing, the grassroots group empowers directly impacted teens to lead the struggle against mass incarceration and immigrant criminalization, and contribute to the broader movement for racial, economic and gender justice.

Youth Rise is on an impressive upward trajectory from policy advocacy to impact litigation, community and student organizing, leadership education, mentorship, restorative justice programming, and ongoing support to its members and their families. They stay true to their grassroots mission while growing and expanding their offerings.

In the last year alone, YRTX helped win the campaign to protect

Fair Chance Hiring, hosted its own Advocacy Day, organized two walkouts, and co-hosted the Youth Day of Action Against Senate Bill 4 at the Texas State Capitol. YRTX member Jordy Balderas, a senior at Cedars International High School, added his testimony to the Austin City Council lawsuit enjoining and halting SB4 in court.

“Participating in Youth Rise has helped me to know that even though Texas lawmakers have passed harmful laws that can hurt my family, together we can still fight back and win,” Balderas said. “Being able to submit testimony as part of our city’s lawsuit against SB4 helped me to know that my actions and my voice still matter, and that I can protect my family.”

While hitting milestone after milestone on the advocacy front, YRTX has been busy behind the scenes preparing a generation of community leaders. This summer the group trained two restorative justice youth leaders, who successfully designed and ran a restorative justice circle program, and launched a new mentorship program connecting caring adults from all over the community with YRTX members. Every week, no matter what is going on in the world or how many fights they

are taking on, YRTX brings together their young activists to provide training, guidance and support for their community organizing actions.

YRTX’s Executive Director Kandace Vallejo understands all too well the direct and collateral consequences that put her young leaders on a slippery slope towards a statistically bleak future.

“But the families and children that make up these numbers are not just unfortunate statistics,” Vallejo said. “They are resilient, resourceful and powerful. With their voices at the center of organizing and policy-making efforts, we know we can do better. Join us to stand on the side of justice. Together, we can end family separation.”

As a recent addition to the prestigious 2017 Soros Justice Fellows, Vallejo and her team are well on their way to expanding YRTX’s network across Texas to mobilize and organize for a future free of incarceration and deportation.

*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.*

## HEALTHY RELATIONS MINISTRY

**Advice from Covenant Corner:****“I am not a white supremacist”**

Dear Covenant,

I'm angry and deeply offended. I am a longtime UU and supporter of our values and principles. I'm white and now find myself being unjustly accused of participating in and benefiting from a “white supremacist culture.” How can anyone try and compare UUs to those hate groups using terms like “white supremacists?” Why should I continue to support a church community that is telling me this? I'm seriously considering leaving.

– *Feeling Insulted and Unvalued*

Dear Insulted,

Thank you for asking a question that others might also be wondering about. We are glad you are willing to ask instead of walking away.

To begin with, please know that as an individual, you are accused of nothing. Although many white people find this and other current phrases about racism (black lives matter, white privilege) not just uncomfortable, but offensive, “white supremacist culture” does not describe individual behavior. It describes the dominant culture in

the United States where white ways of thinking and seeing the world are favored (supreme, valued more highly) when compared with non-white cultures.

Culture is not something one chooses. It surrounds us, and we are socialized to accept our culture as the “right and normal” way of doing things. It is often difficult for white people, immersed in a culture shaped by and for white people, to see the ways they benefit and the ways people of color are dehumanized. It is the water we swim in and do not see.

In thinking about the phrase “white supremacist culture,” we must understand how our history of racism has left a residual mark on our country and society in the form of systems of institutional policies that explicitly and implicitly encourage acts of prejudice and violence every day, every hour, every minute, in our courts, in our prisons, in our schools, in our businesses, in our country. These biases can be found even in our places of worship. So, although we inherited our system, we must educate ourselves about it, learn to see it in action, and work for

change. Ultimately, it is up to each one of us to decide whether to be complicit in the system or to actively resist the white supremacist culture we live in. (We strongly encourage you to google “invisible knapsack pdf” for clear and concise examples.)

Our covenant is about the promises we make to one another as a community. We must engage with each other over difficult issues, understand diverse viewpoints, discuss questions that are not easily answered, and disagree with curiosity and respect. Our covenantal promises call us to sit together within the discomfort of this work so we can learn and grow and build a beloved community and act for racial justice. We believe our covenant calls each of us to stay engaged in the conversation. We encourage you to do so.

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](mailto:healthyrelations@austinuu.org).

Sincerely,  
*Healthy Relations Ministry*

## 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](mailto: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! Scholarships are available. Contact Natalie Briscoe, UUA Southern Region: [nbriscoe@uua.org](mailto:nbriscoe@uua.org), or David Overton for scholarship info: [denom@austinuu.org](mailto: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.

- **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](mailto: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.

Find out more information and register at the UBarU website, [www.ubaru.org](http://www.ubaru.org).

### **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](http://www.uua.org/southern).

### **Questions and Carpooling**

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

### **First UU Member art show!**

**Saturday, Oct. 14  
Gallery  
6–8 p.m.**

Bring 1–2 pieces to the church gallery the first week of October to be installed Thurs, Oct. 5. They must be ready to hang. At the front desk in the church welcome center, there will be copies of a form that needs to accompany your work. Please fill out the form and attach it to back of your piece with tape.

Reception will be Oct. 14. All participating artists are encouraged to come and bring a snack to share. Info: [gallery@austinuu.org](mailto:gallery@austinuu.org).

**Eclectic Folk Jam**

**Friday, October 13**  
**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](mailto:singalong@austinuu.org).

**UU/Quaker Singalong**

**Saturday, October 28**  
**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](mailto:singalong@austinuu.org).

# SUNDAY SERVICES

SANCTUARY 9:15 AM AND 10:45 AM

## OCTOBER 1

### Leap of Faith

WITH REV. CHRIS JIMMERSON

Often in life, we must make decisions and face challenges with incomplete information and limited options. Yet, sometimes, if we move into these situations with an open mind and heart, doing so can be transformative—whether we succeed beyond our wildest expectations, or whether we experience and learn from a difficult setback. Sometimes, we even experience both outcomes eventually.

## OCTOBER 8

### How Will You Use Your Gifts?

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE AND LEADERSHIP TEAM

We all have gifts. Some are obvious; some might take some exploration to be revealed. What if we were able to use our gifts to their full potential, and purposefully encourage others around us to do the same? In this service, Rev. Meg and the Leadership team will be offering meditations and stories regarding unearthing and discerning how our gifts can serve our community. The Transformation through Service program will also be introduced, as a systematic and purposeful process to make this pursuit a reality.

## OCTOBER 15

### Groundbreaking

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

We will celebrate our impending renovation with a symbolic groundbreaking, and we will talk about other life situations which are a paradox of the already and the not yet, the comforting and the discomfiting, preparing the way for the new.

## OCTOBER 22

### Doing Justice

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

How does this part of our mission fit with the others? In preparation for our November congregational conversations about the mission, a few thoughts about justice and transformation.

## OCTOBER 29

### Those Who Have Gone Before

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Using an Appalachian practice brought from Cornwall, we will have a cloutie tree. People will be able to breathe the names of their beloved departed into pieces of cloth, which will then be tied to the branches and laid at the feet of a symbolic tree.

# PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

## OCTOBER 1

### Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education Panel

WITH VARIOUS PANELISTS

This forum panel will present the status of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, ongoing projects to increase STEM education and its effectiveness, and the implications of increasing STEM education. The five panelists include Tricia Berry, Lisa Brown, Michele Mann, Rucha Joshi, and Angela Piñeyro De Hoyos Hart, with panel moderator Dennis Tardan.

Tricia Berry is the director at the Women in Engineering Program at the UT Austin's Cockrell School of Engineering. Lisa Brown leads the academic youth development work at the Charles A. Dana Center at UT Austin. Michele Mann serves on the board of the Austin Science Education Foundation. Rucha Joshi is an accomplished senior in the International Baccalaureate program at Westwood High School, with five publications in international conferences in the areas of discrete mathematics and computer networks. Angela Piñeyro De Hoyos Hart is the innovation project manager at General Motors. Moderator Dennis Tardan is a professional interviewer and speaker.

## OCTOBER 8

### Government in the Time of Trump

WITH JAMES K. GALBRAITH, PH.D.

Dr. Galbraith will share his perspectives on the workings of government in the Trump era and the challenges, threats, and opportunities posed by growing economic inequality and changes in our labor markets. Dr. Galbraith holds the Lloyd M. Bentsen Jr. chair in government/business relations and a professorship in government at the LBJ School of Public Affairs.

He holds degrees from Harvard and Yale University and studied as a Marshall Scholar at King's College, Cambridge in 1974–1975, and then served in several staff positions in the U.S. Congress. He directed the LBJ School's Public Policy program from 1995–1997. He currently directs the UT Inequality Project, an informal research group based at the LBJ School. Continuing in the tradition of his father, John Kenneth Galbraith Ph.D., also a distinguished economist, Dr. Galbraith is a passionate researcher and political commentator of social and economic inequality issues and their implications for our country. His most recent book is "Inequality and Instability: A Study of the World Economy Just Before the Great Crisis" (Oxford University Press, 2012).

## OCTOBER 15

### Foundation Beyond Belief

WITH CLARE WUELLNER

Foundation Beyond Belief is a humanist charity that promotes secular volunteering and responsible charitable giving. Guided by the principles of secular humanism, its mission is to unite the humanist community in volunteering and charitable efforts, and advocate for compassionate action throughout the world.

Clare Wuellner received her Ph.D. in entomology from the University of Kansas. Since that time, she has been active in the secular community. She was the executive director for the Center for Inquiry for four years, and is currently on the boards of the Atheist Community of Austin and the international charitable organization, Foundation Beyond Belief. She has been active in fighting the State Board of Education to ensure a solid science education for the next generation.

## OCTOBER 22

**No forum this week**

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**First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Austin**  
(512) 452-6168  
[www.austinuu.org](http://www.austinuu.org)

First UU Ministers  
**Rev. Meg Barnhouse**  
**Rev. Chris Jimmerson**

Director of Music  
**Brent Baldwin**

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

Congregational Administrator  
**Shannon Posern**

Communications Coordinator  
**Victoria M. Valadez**

Financial Administrator  
**Katherine Patton**

Board President  
**Jairy Grisaffe**

## THE FORUM, *continued*

### OCTOBER 29

#### **CodeNEXT: How will it shape Austin's Future?**

WITH DAVID KING

CodeNEXT is probably the most important initiative in Austin's 178-year history. Before we adopt CodeNEXT, we must take time to reflect on the city we are becoming, and consider what kind we want to be. Over the past decade, Austin has embraced creative-class urbanism and market-based land development policies that have facilitated the displacement of low and middle-income families from Central Austin neighborhoods by new high-income residents. Will Austin become

an imperial city dominated by affluent white families, or an egalitarian city where families of all income levels and all colors can live and thrive together?

David King served as former president of the Austin Neighborhoods Council and Zilker Neighborhood Association. He also served as co-chair of the Parkland Events Task Force and member of the Mayor's Task Force on Institutional Racism and Systemic Inequities. He is a recipient of the PODER 2017 Cesar E. Chavez "Sí Se Puede" Award. He is currently serving as vice-chair of the Small Area Planning Joint Committee and a commissioner on the Zoning and Platting Commission. ■



**First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Austin**

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