



FIRST UU NEWS

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

We will make mistakes

by Rev. Meg Barnhouse



For a lot of us, knowing that we've made a mistake is a terrible feeling. It is actually painful, as if one of your limbs had just been knocked out of joint. In many instances, you feel the pain of the others hurt by your mistake to as if you have knocked their limbs out of joint. I use the phrase "out of joint" because this is the literal translation of the word the Buddha used to talk about the suffering that comes with life, and the suffering we cause ourselves.

I have made mistakes before that felt awful, and that I was in a great rush to fix. Before sitting with the pain, before feeling the situation inside myself that led to this mistake, before listening deeply to the people who were hurt, I want to defend what I did, explain what I did, and try to make quick amends. Sometimes this just made more of a mess.

Some of us recently made a mistake here at the church. A filmmaker called to ask if we would be interested in screening his film about

the Standing Rock Water Protectors here. He was not Lakota Sioux or Navaho, he said, but he had friends with him who were, and part of the presentation would be music from the Navaho musicians. I sent an email to a group at church to ask if they might want to organize this, as I didn't have the time and I'd be out of town the week he wanted to come. They agreed. I forgot about it.

The event was not as advertised. His friends weren't with him, and he went ahead and did something he called a sacred ceremony anyway. People from our congregation and people from the community felt deeply uncomfortable with what they saw as cringe-worthy cultural misappropriation. What was he doing, performing other people's sacred ceremonies? Some who came to see the presentation identify as Native American, and they have expressed pain, outrage and anger at this "culture vulture" program being sponsored by our congregation. We and/or the filmmaker should have reached out to the Native American

community in Austin to invite them to come, and to invite them to give us any information they had on this man's bona fides. He didn't reach out to them, and neither did we. We just didn't think about it. Blind spots? Moving too quickly? Not paying attention to our inner misgivings? We made a mistake, and we did damage in the community, to other people's hearts and spirits, to our own hearts and spirits, and to the church's reputation.

We are making what amends we can, trying to feel and think our way into figuring out what more can be done, and we are trying to learn.

When you make a mistake it feels awful, but we are in danger of folding, or succumbing to shame and fear, of flailing around and doing more damage if we don't work on our own resilience. We must grieve our mistakes. We must ask for forgiveness. We must sit with the pain and learn what can be learned. If we are too fragile to risk making mistakes we will not try to do things that are challenging. Anti-racism

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Living lives of honesty,
vulnerability, and beauty

by Jairy Grisaffe



Last month, I wrote about each of our values. This month, I want to draw attention to my favorite value of ours: courage. The definition of courage we have adopted is to “live lives of honesty, vulnerability, and beauty.” It was with this in mind that we, as a board, rose to the task of revising our mission statement and end statements this year. I’ve been incredibly proud of the seriousness and care that all trustees demonstrated during this most honorable task.

I know many in our congregation have strong feelings about the mission statement we’ve lived out together for the last seven years. I, too, have had a deep love and appreciation for it. But I also know that growing means to look for ways to improve ourselves. Instead of redefining our mission, we thought that a furthering of the existing mission to push ourselves beyond where we are now was the right direction.

Two themes that were evident from the Courage and Wonder workshops were that our congregation wants to engage in outreach and wants a more diverse community. The types of diversity that was brought up included age, race,

culture, sexual orientation, and ability. Inclusion of this nature calls us to take on a new paradigm of what community means.

***Our new mission is:
“Together we nourish
souls, transform lives,
and do justice to grow
the Beloved Community.”***

The most obvious addition is the inclusion of Beloved Community. I admit that I was not familiar with Beloved Community prior to our discussion of it as part of the mission. But as I’ve learned more about it, I am thrilled that we chose this as an aspiration. Beloved Community is an idea envisioned by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that works to achieve an inclusive society that is based on justice, equal opportunity, and love for one another. Rev. Shirley Strong, who has worked for over 30 years on “re-visioning” society to match Dr. King’s dream for it, describes beloved community as “an inclusive, interdependent space based on love, justice, compassion,

responsibility, shared power, and a deep and abiding respect for all people, places and things that radically transforms individuals and restructures institutions.”

A mission statement asks, “What overarching difference are we here to make in the world, and for whom?” Our most recent one mentioned community, with the implication that it was our community. Our new mission calls us to do what we’ve been doing, but with the purpose of growing our community and community around us. Beloved Community is inclusive of us and the world community. This nicely complements the 8th Principle that is currently being proposed within the UUA. To learn more about it, I encourage you to visit www.8thprincipleuu.org.

In the six years I’ve been a member of this church, I’ve seen us embody courage on several occasions, most notably in leading the efforts in extending sanctuary and working for immigration reform. This next challenge to grow ourselves beyond those ideals, and who we are now will require a different kind of courage. I look forward to living out our new mission with you all. ■

"Mistakes," continued

work, resistance, becoming more broadly sensitive and compassionate, really seeing those among us who are living with disabilities and illness, really seeing those among us who are in marginalized groups, really seeing ourselves and our privileges (health, education, ability, class, skin color,

sexual orientation, gender identification), having the patience to get to know one another—this is all hard work.

We will make mistakes. We will make mistakes. We must make room in our lives for mistakes. We must

have the soul-strength to grieve, make amends, learn, rest, and keep going. Soul work is long-term. We must find ways to take care of ourselves and one another so that we can keep our patience and kindness and navigate justice work in a sustainable way. Bless us, every one. ■



Music Matters

by Katrina Saptorsantos, Assistant Director of Music

Fauré's *Messe Basse*, Easter Sunday, April 1 during Sunday services

The First UU of Austin Adult Choir and Orchestra led by Director of Music Brent Baldwin will feature Gabriel Fauré's *Messe Basse* on Easter Sunday. Frequently paired with Fauré's more popular Requiem and other sacred pieces, *Messe Basse* was originally written for female voices with soloists and has a Kyrie, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei but does not include a Gloria. This version to be sung by the choir is an arrangement for four-part mixed voices by Anders Öhrwall in 1981, and is orchestrated by Brent Baldwin.

Harpist Elaine Barber will also be playing for us Handel's Harp concerto while our Children's and Youth Choirs, under directors Chantel Mead and Caroline Moore, will be sharing with us their beautiful voices.

Adult Community Singing & Music Fundamentals: every Monday, Rm 13, 7:15–8:15 p.m.

Our Children's Choir Director Caroline Moore will be holding these sessions at First UU every Monday. This is a great, free learning opportunity if you're looking to improve your musicianship skills. In

our weekly meetings we'll cover the basics of choral singing including music reading, following the conductor, vocal technique and support, diction, and singing in unison and in parts. No previous experience required, for beginners through those with experience in need of choral tune-up. ■

Gabriel Fauré

MESSE BASSE

The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin
Adult Choir & Orchestra
Brent Baldwin, Director of Music

April 1, 2018
(both morning services)



LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Lifespan FD highlights

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



Easter Festivities! Sunday, April 1

Easter Sunday is April 1 (no foolin'), and we'll have a great morning with games and Easter goody bags for all who participate in our annual Easter hunt!

Easter Treats Potluck

We will have a treats potluck on Easter Sunday. Please bring some treats to share to Howson Hall!

Easter Egg Hunt & Field Day

We will be having our Easter egg hunt and field day during Sunday School classes at 9:15 and 10:45 a.m. on Easter Sunday. Please bring your kiddo(s) with a basket/bag they can use for the egg hunt. We will be outside for most of the Sunday School hour, so please dress your kid accordingly, and apply sunscreen and/or bug spray beforehand.

First Sunday Seminars, April 8

Please note: This month the First Sunday Seminars will happen the second Sunday, April 8, to accommodate Easter. 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 seminars, and childcare is

available. A simple lunch is provided in Howson Hall from 12–1 p.m. for \$5 (available to-go for forum attendees). 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.

Leadership Development Track: “Let’s Practice: What to Do if ICE Shows Up at First UU to Take Alirio”

Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) has a history of not entering “sensitive locations” that includes congregations, but we’re living in a different political climate and want to be prepared. Attend this two-hour seminar to learn about the history of non-violent civil disobedience and to practice direct action steps we can take if ICE shows up. We’ll also update you on what’s happening with our campaign to move ICE to exercise its prosecutorial discretion to give Alirio a stay of removal. For more info, email Peggy at insideamigos@austinuu.org.

Faith Formation Track: “Science & Religion” Facilitated by Bruce Naylor

The last three S&L seminars at First UU have explored the process of Building-Your-Own-Theology (BYOT) in the context of science, and in the context of far-eastern cultures. Peter Roll’s talk will be about his need for a story (a BYOT) that spoke to the right side of his brain. The latter part of the talk will interpret this story in terms of science and human values, including those of our church.

continued on next page

Surprise Pals 2018 Follow-up

What a magical year for Surprise Pals this year, especially since this year's theme was "The Magic of Friendship!" Our child and adult pals had a wonderful time leaving letters to each other throughout January



*The Surprise Pals make magic together at the reveal party in March.
Photo by Vicki Almstrum*

and February, and we had a magic-themed reveal party on March 4, complete with snacks like dragon claws, unicorn dip, and phoenix eggs. This year, Vicki Almstrum joined the Surprise Pals fun as our Surprise Pals Coordinator and she did a fabulous job! If you are interested in participating in Surprise Pals next year, keep an eye out for enrollment forms this December.

Mark Your Calendars! Classroom Spruce-up, May 20, 12:30 p.m.

Let's get the LFD office and classrooms cleaned and organized! We need helpers of all kinds: cleaners, organizers, people who have a truck and can take some items to Goodwill, painters, gardeners to check on classroom plants, and fish enthusiasts to check on the fish tanks. Lunch, treats, and tunes will be provided. Kiddos and youth also welcome to join in and help out!

Contact Laine to RSVP (faithdevelopment@austinuuu.org), and if there is a specific thing you would like to help out with, please let her know. ■

May is Silent Auction Time!

May 6–27

Our annual silent auction focuses on experiences offered by church members rather than things. Bidding on experiences not only contributes to the financial well-being of the church, but creates an opportunity to build community with other church members. With this in mind, it is time to consider what "experience" you might be able to donate to this year's silent auction. (Very occasionally a few tangible items are included in the auction, but those are selectively chosen and usually carry a high value.)

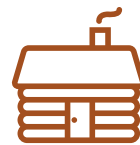
More details to come. In the meantime, please send donations to Gillian Redfearn: gilliankredfearn@gmail.com.

Noun Project icons: Cuteicon, retinaicon, Ayub Irawan, BomSymbols

Examples of offerings in previous years:



Home concert with
Kiya Heartwood



One-week vacation home
rental in Breckenridge, CO



Babysitting services



Gardening lessons

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Upcoming UBarU events

UBarU is a UU camp and retreat center in the beautiful Hill Country, just 120 miles west of Austin. In 2015, UBarU was designated an International Dark Sky Park. All the following events and more found at www.ubaru.org, under 'Events.'

- **Heart of Texas Men's Retreat, April 6–8.** 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. Josh Snyder from First UU Church of San Antonio.

- **Women's Retreat, April 13–15.** This is a weekend to recharge your body, mind and spirit in the companionship of other Unitarian Universalist women.

- **Family Camp, May 25–28.** Cookouts, campfires, nature, swimming, worship and star parties.

- **Summer Camp at UBarU.** Fun and faith for youth in the Texas Hill Country. Programs tailored to each age group. More info and registration at www.ubaru.org/home/SummerCamp. Dates:

- Grades 3–5: June 17–23
- Grades 6–7: June 24–30
- Grades 8–9: July 1–7
- Grades 10–HS grads as of 2018: July 8–14

(Grades are as of Sept 1, 2018)

General Assembly Kansas City, June 20–24

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. General Assembly 2018 will take place in Kansas City, MO, and online. More details at www.uua.org/ga.

If you are planning to attend GA 2018, in person or virtually, please let David Overton know at denom@austinuu.org. Also contact David to find out about scholarship opportunities for GA.



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.

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

This month: María Milner on feminism

Tuesday, April 10
Howson Hall
6–9 p.m.

Please join us at 6 p.m. for our very special potluck dinner and at 7 for our featured speaker. Everyone is welcome.

María Milner: “The Role of Popular Feminism in Upholding Systems of White Oppression”

María will be discussing the way in which white liberal feminism has historically upheld systems of white oppression as it relates specifically to Latinx communities and more broadly to communities of the global majority. This talk highlights the importance of

the UU value of undoing white supremacy culture to María's racial equity work, especially within the structure of the UU church. (María will also be a speaker for the Public Affairs Forum this month, see her bio on pg. 15.)

On May 8, we'll have our last meeting until September. Betty Wood will be speaking of her 20 years in international volunteerism hoping to inspire others. In addition, she has stories to tell from living 10 years on three continents while with Department of Defense schools, and one semester teaching in China.

Please contact Mary Overton at mover100@aol.com with any questions.

Eagle Scout Toddler Playground Project

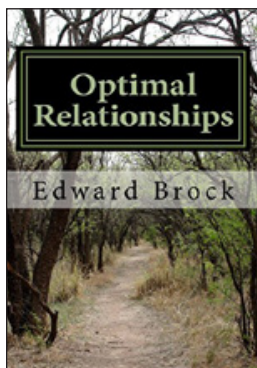
April 21–22

Our toddler playground will be refurbished this spring! Kirkland Schwitters, grandson of members Brian & Sharon Moore, will be leading a team of Boy Scout volunteers in the installation of a new surface for the toddler playground. This project will complete his requirements for becoming an Eagle Scout.

The work is scheduled for the weekend of April 21–22. Kirk will be at a gallery table after each service on Sunday, April 8. Please stop by to learn more about the project.

New book out by former First UU minister

Former First UU interim minister Ed Brock has written a book, “Optimal Relationships: A Path Toward a More Civil Society,” which can be acquired



through Amazon. Comments from colleagues about the book include:

“Ed Brock has written an extraordinarily powerful and useful book to

help us all forge optimal relationships in a variety of settings, despite the polarization we seem to so often find ourselves facing. Filled with stories of real-life people, he provides us with a road map of practical principles we can follow, rooted in family systems theory. Because he so adeptly illustrates each of the concepts he presents with these stories, his book will be useful both to people who already have some knowledge of family systems, as well as to those who are new to these concepts.”

— Rev. Chris Jimmerson, Minister for Program Development, First UU

Call for volunteers: ARCH Sack Lunch

Fifth Monday, 6:30 p.m.
(exact time negotiable)

We need a whole sack lunch team (about 6 people) to make lunches for the working homeless on the fifth Monday of the month. There are only 4–5 such Mondays in the year, the next one is April 30.

We need a captain and at least two others to deliver lunches to the ARCH (500 E 7th St). To learn more about ARCH, go to www.frontsteps.org. To learn more, contact Mary Jane Ford: sacklunch@austinuu.org, or (512) 926-4122.



Spring Into Action 2018

This year's Spring Into Action will focus on the proposed Eighth UU Principle:

"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

This principle, recommended for UUA adoption by Black Lives of UU, is being discussed and adopted by individual churches across the country.

Why this theme now? In the recent Courage and Wonder workshops, many participants envisioned a more vibrantly multicultural First UU Austin. The Eighth Principle tells us there is work to be done to make that vision real. The principle calls on us to covenant to build the Beloved Community that Martin Luther King Jr. envisioned.

"But the end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the Beloved Community...It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of men." – *Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

"Dr. King's Beloved Community is a global vision in which all people can share in the wealth of the earth. In the Beloved Community, poverty, hunger and homelessness will not be tolerated because international standards of human decency will not allow it. Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood." – *The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change*

Here at First UU, our new mission is to build the Beloved Community, and our new ends are closely aligned with the Eighth Principle, recognizing the need to dismantle white supremacy culture within ourselves, our church, and the larger world. White supremacy culture is defined as one that positions white people and whiteness as superior and thus visits continual harm on people of color. Being part of this culture doesn't require wearing a white hood or carrying a tiki torch. Despite being against racism or even having been involved in the civil rights movement, we are all part of that culture—which is invisible to many white people.

In the spirit of Beloved Community and a deliberate effort to dismantle racism, we offer a menu of activities over the next month:

As a kick-off to the month, the board of trustees will host a

discussion about the new mission and ends, what they are, and how we as a congregation can fulfill them.

Highlights include two book discussions: one led by the church's People of Color group, and the other led by White Allies for Racial Equity. (See book details on the right.) All are welcome to both. These discussions were very popular last year, and we hope to continue the rich conversation and learning. The two books are complementary in that one examines whiteness and one woman's growing awareness of her role in creating Beloved Community, and the other centers the stories of POC Unitarian Universalist religious leaders in a way that allows us to learn from them. Books are available via Amazon or the church bookstore.

Two public forums over the month will be devoted to the theme. Our own María Milner will speak on paving the way to diversity and multiculturalism in and for the Beloved Community through individual accountability. Then the National Coalition Building Institute will lead an introductory, participatory skill-building session on coalition building.

Dates and locations are listed on the right. Childcare is available for all Spring Into Action events, please bring food/snacks for your children to eat.

This year's theme: The Eighth Principle



Spring Into Action 2018

special events schedule

DATE & TIME	LOCATION	ACTIVITY
Sunday, April 8 12–1 p.m.	Howson Hall	 Beloved Community: A Discussion of the Church's New Mission. The board will review and respond to questions about the new mission and ends, which include Beloved Community and are closely aligned with the Eighth Principle. A discussion will focus on how we can live out our new mission and find ways to achieve our new ends. <i>Lunch will be served.</i>
Sunday, April 8 1–3 p.m.	TBD	 First Sunday Seminar: "What to Do if ICE Shows Up at First UU to Take Alirio." Attend this two-hour workshop to learn about the history of non-violent civil disobedience and to practice direct action steps we can take if ICE shows up. (See pg. 4)
Sunday, April 15 12–1 p.m.	Sanctuary	 Public Affairs Forum: "From A to B to C: Acting on Accountability to Build Bridges Towards the Beloved Community." Maria Milner, Latinx cultural consultant and founder of Voces Tejas, will speak on the role UUs must individually play in holding themselves accountable as both witting and unwitting participants of systems of oppression in order to pave the way to build bridges towards the Beloved Community. (See pg. 15)
Sunday, April 22 12:30–2 p.m.	Rm. 13	 Workshop: Living Out the Eighth Principle of UUism at First UU. Leaders from both White Allies for Racial Equity and the First UU People of Color group will give a workshop on how we can more fully live out the 8th principle by helping us reflect on how some of our well-intentioned words and behaviors have unintended consequences for POC, and how changing that behavior will help us more fully realize our goal of Beloved Community.
Sunday, April 29 12–1 p.m.	Sanctuary	 Public Affairs Forum: "Coalition Building: What is it, and What Could it Mean for Our Beloved Community?" Darlene Lanham and Jeremy Stoll of the National Coalition Building Institute will lead an introductory, participatory, skill-building session on coalition building. (See pg. 16)
Saturday, May 6 12:30–2 p.m.	TBD	 UUA Common Read: "Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry." Edited by Mitra Rahnema, this is the first book to center the stories and insights of UUs of color offering their professional religious leadership. We all can learn from their stories. All are welcome, led by White Allies. Lunch will be served.

Activities co-sponsored by First UU's People of Color group, White Allies for Racial Equity, and the Change Team.

The People of Color group is a collective of members and friends of First UU who self-identify as people of color. Our monthly meetings offer a unique UU space in which group members gather to support each other. In collaboration with the White Allies group we participate in efforts toward dismantling racism in our church.

The Austin Area UU White Allies for Racial Equity is a group of self-identified white Austin area UUs and friends. We educate ourselves about whiteness and its impact on our own behavior and larger institutions to better allies as we partner with our church People of Color group and local anti-racism groups.

The First UU Change Team was recently established with the goal of fostering a culture of interdependence at First UU so we may come together as a congregation with a spirit of love, mutual respect and care, to seek justice within our church, our community, and the broader world. Our work is guided by the Eighth Principle of UUism. ■

MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERING



Spring Into Action elects Counter Balance: ATX to receive special offering

It's Spring into Action once again. Time for the annual church-wide social action. Our theme is the Eighth Principle of Unitarian Universalism, but what does that mean? More importantly, what does it mean in regards to the work we should be doing and supporting outside the walls of the congregation?

The Eighth Principle asks some very deep things of UUs. We have to embark on a journey of spiritual wholeness. According to the eighth principle, the way to do that is by working to build a diverse and multicultural Beloved Community. We, in turn, can only do that by our actions that show we are accountable in dismantling racism, and that work has to be done within ourselves as much as it has to be in all of the institutions we participate in.

While we are only now striving to catch up to being active and accountable members to our local community, Counter Balance: ATX has been doing the work of dismantling the systems of racism and oppression since the inception of the organization. As womayn

(co-founder Fatima Mann's all-inclusive word for women and those who self-identify as women) of the global majority, they have been taking on the hard work and continued stresses of doing the work that First UU is only now dreaming of beginning. First UU is behind in this work, and if we are to believe that we have any hope in catching up now, we should be doing so by throwing our financial support behind those people of the global majority within our local community, they who have been tirelessly, continuously, and wholly giving themselves in spirit, heart, soul, sweat, pain, and body to the work of combating systems of oppression and disenfranchisement.

Counter Balance's work knows no limits, even when faced with financial constraints. They have organized food giveaways (Feed El Barrio Thanksgiving event), book drives to gift during the holidays (Melanated Book Drive), and the school supply drive that First UU contributed to last summer. They create entire summits for womayn of the global majority and the African diaspora because they have

seen the need for women of those marginalized communities to have a space to own and be agents of without reservation, permission, or allowance by society at large. They speak truth to power with tireless energy and absolutely no apology in every march and experience they organize. They do this all with tangible support—financial, physical, and in-kind—of the very community they seek to lift up.

First UU is striving to become the diverse and multicultural Beloved Community. Counter Balance is the Beloved Community. For them, the tenets of the Beloved Community ring beyond truth; they have reached the place of power and empowerment. It is because of the truth of their light that the Spring Into Action coordinating team has nominated Counter Balance: ATX as the recipient organization for the April monthly service offering.

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

Assumptions: How Many Do We Make?

Dear Covenant,

Recently during coffee hour, I introduced myself to someone whom I had seen a few times, but thought might be new to our church. During our conversation, she expressed her delight at finding a church whose principles and views on many social justice issues match her own without having to profess beliefs she does not have. As our conversation continued, I asked her where she went to college. Suddenly, her demeanor changed. She seemed uncomfortable, soon excused herself and left. I don't know what happened. But I certainly don't want to discourage possible new members. Did I do something wrong?

— *Confused*

Dear Confused,

Thank you for your question and your dedication to our church's goal of intentional hospitality. Without more information, we can only guess at what caused her apparent discomfort. But it's possible that your experience may be an example of the many assumptions of which we are largely unaware that we make in conversation.

Some topics of conversation that many of us fall into automatically may cause embarrassment to others. Your question made the assumption that the woman with whom you spoke

went to college. It's not an unreasonable assumption given that two-thirds of UUs have college degrees. However, some people choose not to go to college, perhaps because of other career interests, or perhaps because money is an issue. Likewise, some people prefer to avoid restaurants, perhaps because of the food served or perhaps because they are being careful with their money. Whenever a question in some way relates to money, it has the potential to put the responder in an awkward position, feeling embarrassed and as if they don't fit in.

As we become aware of our conversational habits, we also have a growing responsibility to learn to engage others in conversation without comments and questions that make assumptions about people's backgrounds. We can focus our questions and conversation instead on what brings each of us to our church and what keeps us here whether it's for community, nourishment, transformation, or justice seeking.

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

Hands on Housing: Spring Housing Project

Saturday, April 7

Hands on Housing is a program through iACT to paint, do small repairs, and beautify the home of a low-income elderly or disabled household. The agency uses other funding to do major repairs before the volunteer events, and we finish the job! We need both skilled and unskilled volunteers for painting (unskilled) and special repair projects (skilled). Visit the Social Action table in the gallery on Sundays before the event to sign up, or contact Jill Smith & Dennis Conine: handsonhousing@austinuu.org.

Are you missing the Pagan group?

Church visitor Amanda Pal would like to restart the pagan small group at First UU church. Ideally she'd like a group kickoff with a ceremony for Beltane, May 1, with the ceremony itself on May 5 or 6. Would you be interested in gathering to plan for such an event? If so, let's shoot for the first couple of weeks of April. Contact Amanda for details: amandapal614@gmail.com.

Enneagram Study Group

Thursday, April 12
Room 15A
7-8:30 p.m.

This month we look at "Three Ways of Moving Through the World: Stances." The psychologist Karen Horney described three basic attitudes and their positive value: in moving toward others the person tries to create a friendly relations to his world; in moving against others the person equips himself for survival in a competitive society; in moving away from others, the person hopes to attain a certain integrity and serenity. We will explore these stances in the nine Enneagram types. Contact: enneagram@austinuu.org.

Senior Luncheon

Wednesday, April 11
Howson Hall
12 p.m.

Pam Ferguson will speak about improving memory in our aging brains with a surprising method. Soup, salad and dessert will be served for \$5. Please RSVP to Alice Cashman: (512) 217-2615.



Create Your Legacy Today

Thinking of planning for the future, but don't know where to start? Take advantage of this special offer to First UU church members from a great local start-up to help you create a will.



Activate your legacy planning account today: givingdocs.com/fuuca

You can make an impact! The time and gifts you have invested in the First UU community have enabled us achieve our goals and grow in fellowship with one another.

If you would like to continue this legacy and create an ongoing impact far into the future, we invite you to visit www.givingdocs.com/fuuca.

First UU member Robert Guice is the founder of Giving Docs, an online estate planning platform. He's offering this tool to our community to help us

maximize our opportunity from the Wake Now Our Vision matching campaign. (Ask Denominational Connections Chair David Overton for more details on Wake Now Our Vision.)

Creating your estate plan (will) through traditional routes like working with a lawyer can be long and expensive. Giving Docs:

- Takes an average of seven minutes to complete
- Provides FREE lifetime access

Your estate plan can be created in five simple steps:

- 1 Enter Your Info
- 2 Add Loved Ones
- 3 Distribute Assets
- 4 Finalize Details
- 5 Review Will

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Questions? Contact Giving Docs Program Director Jessica Cox

Email: jessica@givingdocs.com
 Phone: (762) 499-4569

SERVICE SATURDAYS

Pitch in with Keep Austin Beautiful Day

Saturday, April 14, 9–11 a.m.
707 W 31st St

Each April the local nonprofit Keep Austin Beautiful hosts Clean Sweep, a county-wide service day spanning over 130 sites in 31 zip codes throughout Austin and Travis County. In previous years, the cleanup and project day has resulted in over 26 tons of trash removed by 4,000+ volunteers who contribute 8,700 combined service hours.

As Clean Sweep has grown over the years, it has become more than just a cleanup day. Volunteers are planting gardens, restoring habitats, removing graffiti, and more. To recognize all the work volunteers are doing on this day, Clean Sweep has been renamed Keep Austin Beautiful Day.

Join other First UU members for Keep Austin Beautiful Day as we help clean up trash in a neighborhood near the church. We'll be working at the Heritage Neighborhood site, meet us at the alley on 31st between Washington Square and West Ave. A group will car-pool from the church departing at 8:30 a.m. Be sure to dress for the weather and wear comfortable clothing that you don't mind getting dirty. Please bring sun protection, and a full reusable water bottle to stay hydrated.

This activity is open to kids of all ages. Advance sign-up is required, register or at the Social Action table in the gallery after Sunday services.

For more information, contact celestehpadilla@yahoo.com.

"Path to Membership" class

Saturday, April 21
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 as soon as possible or with Shannon at the visitor table, so we can get an accurate head count for food and childcare.

"Getting to Know UU" class

Sunday, April 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.

Eclectic Folk Jam**Friday, April 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” 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.

UU/Quaker Singalong

Saturday, April 28
Friends Meeting House
(3701 E. MLK Blvd.)
7–10 p.m.

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

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

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

APRIL 1**A ‘Foolish’ Easter**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Easter is a time of new beginnings, celebrating babies, renewing our awe at the resurrection of the natural world, turning our thoughts to the life that comes out of death. “All that dies shall be reborn,” says the neo-Pagan chant.

In the major arcana of the Tarot, the Fool is an archetype of the beginning of the journey. What might the Fool have to teach on this, his day? See the “Music Matters” section on pg. 3 for our special musical event for Easter.

APRIL 8**Broken Things**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

The Japanese art of kintsugi, where broken things are repaired using material that has been mixed with gold. This is a way of embracing damage, where a bowl or plate becomes even more beautiful because of its “scars.” The piano-violin duo of Kathryn Govier and Ben Hummel will provide music for the services.

APRIL 15**Moral Disengagement**

REV. CHRIS JIMMERSON

Why do good people sometimes do really bad things—or allow such things

to happen in our name? How do folks justify this and resolve the cognitive and emotional dissonance it can cause? The First UU Adult Choir and band will rock to some tunes for today’s services.

APRIL 22**Seeds**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

On this Earth Day, we will talk about the life of seeds as they interact with the life of humans, about how diversity is crucial to protection against disease, and how well-meaning people sometimes create unintended consequences when solving short-term problems. Joe Drennan is back to share with us his music while Youth Choir regales us with their spirited singing.

APRIL 29**And Now For Something Completely Different!**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Austin Playback Theater will be here, asking for stories with a nature theme. They then reflect the stories back to us by acting them out. It is our hope that we will be able to see nature with new eyes, see one another with new eyes, and nourish our spirits by remembering our connection to the earth. First UU’s group of professional singers come together to provide some gorgeous singing during the services.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

APRIL 1

Easter—No Forum

APRIL 8

Exploring Shakespeare Through Performance

WITH JAMES LOEHLIN

James Loehlin, UT English professor and director of the Shakespeare at Winedale program, will discuss Shakespeare's works, the Winedale program, and the upcoming production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Using examples from the play, he will demonstrate the Shakespeare at Winedale approach to teaching and learning through performance.

James Loehlin was born in Austin, and his family are longtime members of First UU Austin. He holds degrees from UT, Oxford, and Stanford, and is now Shakespeare at Winedale Regents Professor of English at UT. He has published several books on the performance of Shakespeare, Marlowe, and Chekhov. He and his wife Laurel both grew up in Austin, and have lived here again since 1999.

APRIL 15

From A to B to C: Acting on Accountability to Build Bridges towards the Beloved Community

WITH MARÍA MILNER

María Milner is a Latinx cultural consultant and co-founder of the citizen social action group, Voces Tejas. Using her education in history—with a deep knowledge in public history—and her extensive and varied experience in volunteerism, she has spent the last year presenting on the topic of Latinx voter outreach.

Born in the borderland of Texas, María knows deeply and firsthand what it means to be a nepantlera (neither from here nor from there). It is this intimate experience with the nebulous nature of being Latina and American that informs her passion to improve the position of Latinx communities in the U.S.

María will be discussing the role UUs must individually play in holding themselves accountable as both witting and unwitting participants of systems of oppression, in order to pave the way to build bridges towards diversity and multiculturalism in and for the Beloved Community.

APRIL 22

Growth Policies for a Sustainable, Equitable, Affordable, and Healthy Austin

WITH JAY BLAZEK CROSSLEY

The Austin region is adding about 50,000 more humans every year, with that rate expected to increase over the next decade. City, county, regional, and state policies guide this growth by dictating where and how people can live and determining our options for getting around and accessing all the benefits of our modern metropolis. Two major current public processes, CodeNEXT and the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan, will each contain myriad decisions and details. How will various options impact affordability, climate emissions, and traffic? The Growing Weirder project by nonprofit think tank Farm&City seeks to empower the people of the region with more meaningful, data-based understandings of our options for future growth.

Last year Jay Blazek Crossley launched Farm&City, built on over a decade of work on Texas public policy, specifically urban planning, transportation, health, and equity issues.

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**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

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*****APRIL 29****Coalition Building: What
is it, and What Could it
Mean for Our Beloved
Community?**WITH DARLENE LANHAM &
JEREMY STOLL

Darlene Lanham and Jeremy Stoll of the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) will lead an introductory, participatory, skill-building session on coalition building. NCBI is an international leadership organization that provides training in diversity, equity, and inclusion in a variety of settings.

The work of NCBI is guided by several core principles and key insights, including: building hopeful environments to welcome diversity, healing ourselves to change the world, becoming effective allies, changing hearts through stories, and skills training for institutional change. NCBI has received numerous awards in recognition of its excellent diversity training programs, including the Nelson Mandela Award for outstanding international work on fighting racism, and the US Dept. of Education's recognition of NCBI's work on college campuses as a national "best practice" as excellent for educational significance, quality, usefulness and replicability. Learn more: www.ncbi.org. ■

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