

July 2018

FIRST  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH *of* Austin



FIRST UU  
NEWS

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



# HOGWARTS APPROACHES

July 23 - 27, 2018

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## Racism Unlearning Circle

**Saturday, July 21**  
**Rm. 15**  
**10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

Based on Undoing White Supremacy Austin's unlearning circles, this group will be a place for white folks to explore our socialization/racialization in a culture of white supremacy and how we perpetuate racist systems - intentionally or not. The goal is to begin dismantling white supremacy culture within ourselves and increase our engagement in actively challenging and disrupting racism wherever we encounter it and accountably showing up with people who have been minoritized to demand an end to dehumanization. Please check the First UU Facebook page events section for more event info. Childcare will be provided, please RSVP: [childcare@austinuu.org](mailto:childcare@austinuu.org). Contact: [racismunlearning@austinuu.org](mailto:racismunlearning@austinuu.org).

## "Getting to Know UU" class

**Sunday, August 19**  
**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.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



## On a Ministry of Music by Rev. Meg Barnhouse

I wanted to bring you all up to speed on what is happening with my wife, Kiya Heartwood. It occurs to me that some of you all do not know several interesting things about her.

First, Kiya at General Assembly: She was asked to help write the theme song for General Assembly this year, "All Are Called." She helped the song's main writer make it as good a song as it could be. You will hear it over and over during General Assembly. She is playing music at four of the worship services, and the last worship service of GA is named after one of her songs, "Hold On." She will be playing that song with the band at the service.

She is already making us proud as a seminary student at Starr King seminary in Berkeley, California. She is a distance student, which means that she goes to

Berkeley every January and August. I will be taking this August to drive to Berkeley with her and do some writing while she is in class. She took one of the hardest classes first, Unitarian and Universalist History. Her paper won one of the three class prizes!

Becoming a UU minister is a new chapter in her life. She has been a professional road musician since she was 26 years old. Leading her band, 'Stealin' Horses', she was signed by Arista Records and had a hit on MTV called "Turn Around." You can still find the video if you Google her name and the name of the song. You can see what we call her 'baby pictures.' ■

## An Update on Construction

As of now, the walls of the new kitchen and the sanctuary extension are going up. We are told that the kitchen will be ready to use by November.

The sanctuary work will demand that we hold services in Howson Hall in the month of October. We are hoping the the foyer restrooms will be ready by late July.

We understand the scheduling things has been very difficult this year. The unpredictable nature of construction surprises (the water pipe is not where the

1987 plans said it was), Austin regulations and inspections, and other slings and arrows of renovation work render it difficult for us to lay out a reliable schedule to help the congregation plan. When it is over, we will have welcoming and useful spaces.

On Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, come ready to write a blessing for the church on the studs of the new addition! ■

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS



## A Letter from the Board

by Tomas Medina

President-Elect  
Board of Trustees

Wow! I had the privilege and honor of attending my first First UU Board of Trustees' retreat recently. It was not only a deeply moving and inspiring experience but also eye-opening. During the two day retreat, we focused on what our responsibilities are to you, our fellow First UU congregants and builders of the Beloved Community.

The first thing I noticed was how thoughtfully and seriously my fellow Board members take our responsibility. Our sole purpose is to help ensure our church moves toward fulfilling its new mission, "Together, we nourish souls, transform lives and do justice to build the Beloved Community." One of the last things I realized during the retreat may already be obvious to you. Our new mission statement says that everything we do as a church has the goal of building the Beloved Community. I find that to be a thrilling goal, and during the retreat I saw that this goal was deeply motivating not only to my fellow board members but also to our ministers, whose responsibility it is to take actions that help our church fulfill its mission.

During the retreat, we took a deep dive into the nuts and bolts of policy based governance, which is the operating model used by First UU. Unless you are a policy wonk, I'm guessing you're not all that interested

in the details of policy based governance. But, what you might be interested in knowing, and what was an a-ha moment for me, is that our ministers' responsibility is to help all of us fulfill the mission together we, First UU congregants, created.

I was raised Catholic, and in my experience, ministers lead us, at least in part, by telling us what our goals should be. And, until attending the retreat, I didn't fully realize that at our church it is the other way around. Our ministers' responsibility is to lead us to achieve the goals which we told our ministers are important to us. While this is empowering to us congregants, it also means we have to take our responsibility of articulating our goals seriously.

Something I was very happy to learn about policy based governance is that the board empowers the church's executive, Rev. Meg Barnhouse, with taking action to help us meet our goals. In order to provide actionable steps which the church can take to meet its goal, the board has articulated Ends. You can think of Ends as concrete goals which support building the Beloved Community.

Rev. Meg's job is to make sure the church is taking steps to meet the Ends. Our responsibility as your Board is to ensure that Rev. Meg and her staff are fulfilling their

responsibility to you. What makes me most happy about this, is to know that it's not the Board's responsibility to manage the nitty gritty details of how we can achieve our Ends. Rather, you can think of the Board as your oversight team, working with Rev. Meg, what your goals are and what she and her staff will do toward helping our church achieve the goals that you have articulated.

What I am also excited about is to realize that, as Board members, one of our main jobs is to listen to you, our fellow builders of Beloved Community, to help us understand how we can most effectively move toward achieving our goals. The direction our church takes is really up to all of us... and only us. Our ministers will help us but they can only do so if we articulate where we want to go. In this upcoming year we'll be reaching out to you not only for insight into how our church is doing in meeting its goals, but also insight into what specific goals will help us build the Beloved Community. My request of you is when we ask for your input you'll be generous with your ideas. I hope you are as excited as I am we all have the awesome responsibility of helping chart the future course of our church! ■

## LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT

## Lifespan Faith Development Highlights

**by Laine Young**  
Interim Director of  
Lifetime Faith Development

**No First Sunday Seminars in Summer**

We do not have First Sunday Seminars in June, July, or August. First Sunday Seminars will resume in September. *Interested in teaching a First Sunday Seminar in the fall? Please send your class proposal to [faithdevelopment@austinuu.org](mailto:faithdevelopment@austinuu.org).*

**Racism Unlearning Circle - July 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. Meetings are the third Saturday of every month from 10am-12pm. Please check the First UU Austin 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).

**Registration for Chalice Circles Begins in August!**

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 Church of Austin. 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. This year we will be using the Soul Matters curriculum and the theme is, "What does it mean to be a people of.....?"

Registration will be ongoing through the month of August. Grab a registration form at the Lifespan Faith Development table outside the sanctuary on Sundays! Fall registration will close on Wednesday, August 1. ■



## Hogwarts Camp is coming!



We had a great time at the Camp UU Hogwarts Prefect lock-in! We made new decorations for camp and planned youth-led events this year. Over the next few weeks, we will have several events to help get everything ready for this year's camp!

Enrolled prefects are invited to our next gathering, a pizza party, Saturday July 14. Our Volunteer safety training will be July 22 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at First

UU. Also, all are invited to help transform First UU into a magical castle July 22 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Lunch and childcare will be provided from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. for both the safety meeting and the time for transforming these halls into the great Hogwarts Castle. Please contact: [campuu@austinuu.org](mailto:campuu@austinuu.org) to RSVP. We are so excited about camp this year! It is going to be magical!

Hogwarts Camp will be July 23rd - 27th! ■



### Plastic Cap & Lid Recycling needed for Camp UU Hogwarts!

Camp UU Hogwarts will be collecting plastic bottle caps and lids in July for a camp project. Please help us out by collecting and bringing your donations to the basket at the Lifespan Faith Development table outside the sanctuary! For any questions about this project, contact [campuu@austinuu.org](mailto:campuu@austinuu.org). ■

## AN OFFERING OF POETRY

## who are we to dream

by **Kate Hirschfeld****Member****First UU Youth Group**

You sit across from me and demand a simple ask really  
 Just a handful of thoughts to a handful of questions  
 Not answers just thoughts,  
 feelings, concepts undiluted with revision or common sense.  
 Though I'm practiced in a lack of logic it's never out loud like this  
 To people like you, real people with practical things like jobs and paper clips and those things  
 that hold bags of chips closed so they don't go stale.  
 How do I tell my most irrational wants to people like you  
 I've always been taught to give answers to questions  
 Not a breadcrumb trail of ramblings leading into some sort of subconscious desire  
 Or other questions to match yours and turn the camera around  
 Who are you to ask me what I want  
 Who are you to know what you want or think I would be the same  
 Who are any of us to have dreams?  
 Projecting the future into our palms to mold into a reality  
 To set it on our bedside table like a night light in our darkest moments  
 Sometimes it'll keep us up all night  
 Sometimes it will be the reason we get up each morning  
 Sometimes it will make you think run and scream and cry and everything loud  
 Sometimes it will hold you during thunderstorms sometimes it will bring lightning though your  
 fingertips into your veins  
 Make your heart pump more than just blood  
 Make you more dream than human  
 An idea of an idea that you're in love with  
 But sometimes we'll forget to plug it in each evening  
 Sometimes it'll be misplaced or we'll leave it in a junk drawer somewhere  
 Under a pile of papers, paper clips, and excuses  
 Sometimes we'll forget we ever had one  
 Sometimes we'll pretend we never did  
 Sometimes we're too busy to be in love  
 At least that's what you told yourself  
 And later when you find it in the middle of the future  
 It will be much bigger than your palms now  
 So big you didn't recognize it when it arrived  
 And you'll look at everything you thought and hoped and dreamed  
 And you'll feel some type of  
 Nostalgia  
 Maybe  
 Satisfaction  
 Maybe  
 Disappointment  
 Maybe  
 Who am I to know  
 But one who dreams and doesn't look back to see if it all came true

## DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

### General Assembly Highlights – July 15

General Assembly is the big annual event for our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect and make policy for our Association. This year General Assembly was held in Kansas City, and 15 First UU Austin members attended, including four youth. We will share highlights from GA at the Sunday morning services on July 15.

### UU Summer Vacation at the Point – July 22 – 27, 2018

Imagine five days of UU covenant and community in a resort-like setting on the shores of Lake Murray in Oklahoma. The Point offers personal growth, faith renewal, learning opportunities, spiritual practices, community worship, music, excellent cuisine, sustainable practices, social gatherings (concerts, movie night, bingo, talent show), outdoor activities, programming for all ages and interests, and an engaging theme speaker. Each day begins with worship and ends with a fun activity, but how you spend your day is completely up to you! More information and registration is at <http://www.thepointuu.org/>, or contact church member Sally Scott, a Point veteran, for a first-person description of why this is a great experience - [sallyscott33@gmail.com](mailto:sallyscott33@gmail.com).

### Act with UUSC to protect immigrant rights

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is coordinating two actions to protect rights at risk – the forced displacement of the Rohingya minority in Burma, and family separation here on the US/Mexico border. Sign onto the UUSC's letters to US officials at <https://www.uusc.org/>. Our voices need to be heard on these urgent issues!

### 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.

- **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](http://www.ubaru.org/home/SummerCamp).

- Grades 8–9: July 1–7

- Grades 10–HS grads as of 2018: July 8–14

*(Grades are as of Sept 1, 2018)*

### Carpool Opportunities

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. ■

### “Path to Membership” class

**Saturday, July 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!

Be sure to 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.



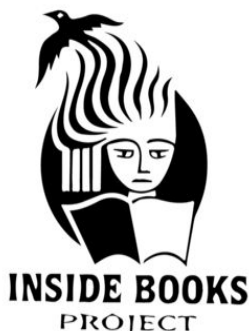
**MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERING**

## This Month's MSO: Inside Books Project

Inside Books Project is a mind saving organization that sends free books to Texas prisoners, and our Monthly Special Offering recipient for July.

Inside Books is an all-volunteer organization that spends 80% of its revenue on postage and the rest on rent, printing, mailing staples and internet. In one year Inside Books received 18,000 requests from inmates and mailed back 35,000 books, free of charge.

In addition to supporting this project financially, our church members have donated thousands of fiction and nonfiction books to this reading lifeline for Texas prison inmates. Those on the receiving end of the books have said, "Your books save my life from the daily horror of this place. Thank you!" and "Your books are the only thing that keeps me sane in this mad house. You allow me to learn, travel and even smile."



Inmates request a wide variety of books on every topic imaginable, but the most requested books are dictionaries, English/Spanish dictionaries, general fiction, skill-building study guides, law, science, and history books. These books save these folks from empty hours. The Inside Books Project helps improve their minds, their vocabulary, and their days by giving them a way to look beyond their four walls and find worlds within and without our Texas penitentiary facilities.

Downsizing? Have lots of books you're not reading (or just a few)? All are welcome and appreciated. Thank you all for your financial support as well as your donated books and time. Every gift allows Inside Books to put these donations to good use and put books in the mail to Texas prisoners. ■





**FIRST UU IN PICTURES**

# Saying a Sweet Goodbye to Laine Young

photos by Bev Larkin

*Sunday, June 18, 2018*



**Eclectic Folk Jam****Friday, July 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](mailto:singalong@austinuu.org).

**UU/Quaker Singalong****Saturday, July 28****Friends Meeting House  
(3701 E. MLK Blvd.)****7:30–10:30 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](mailto:singalong@austinuu.org).

**SUNDAY SERVICES****SANCTUARY 9:15 AM AND 10:45 AM****JULY 1****A Feeling for the Holy**

WITH MEG BARNHOUSE

Throughout human history there have been moments, places, and events which have seemed holy. What does that mean? How do we mark those times and places in our own lives?

**JULY 8****The Genderbread Man— Do we know as much as we think we do?**

WITH MEG BARNHOUSE

Unitarian Universalist Children and Youth learn about gender identity, sexual preference, gender presentation, and all the other terms in the multicolored universe in our curriculum called our whole lives. There is an adult version, too. Here are some bits of information that might be new to you!

**JULY 15****Our UU Heritage; Our Larger UU Faith**

WITH CHRIS JIMMERSON

Our new mission statement says that we “build the Beloved Community”. As Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King defined it, that’s a huge dream though. We do

not do it alone. We do so as part of a rich Unitarian Universalist heritage and our larger UU movement, as well as in partnership with many other faiths and groups. We’ll examine our mission in relationship to these larger efforts of which we are a part, especially in light of our recent Unitarian Universalist General Assembly. Some of our youth and fellow church members will try out their videography skills and share some of their insights with you from while they attend General Assembly!

**JULY 22****Let’s Talk about Depression**

WITH MEG BARNHOUSE

So many people suffer from blue days, sad weeks, or stormy months. How do you know if what you have is depression? Is it related to events, or is it hereditary? Does it come to you out of nowhere? Let’s talk about what we know.

**JULY 29****You are Magic**

WITH MEG BARNHOUSE

The service will be created in collaboration with The UU Camp Hogwarts which finishes right before this Sunday.

**STEWARDSHIP**

# Looking “Beyond Tomorrow”

by **Leo Collas**

The annual stewardship drive is starting its work behind the scenes. Before you scroll past this looking for fun General Assembly stuff or flip the page looking for a witty Meg story, please give this article a read. I promise to make it worth your while.

This summer is going to be fun. And you can look forward to Celebration Sunday on September 23, with food trucks and music, and even more fun than usual! On Celebration Sunday everyone will have the opportunity to pledge during the service – yes – you read that right! This is different from past years’ stewardship drives. After second service, we’re going to have a party to celebrate our church and ourselves! So put it on your calendar: Celebration Sunday is September 23.

Another new thing First UU is doing is creating a year round Stewardship Ministry which will focus on supporting the different ways of giving to our church: time, talent, and treasure. A big part of this is becoming educated about First UU’s mission, goals, and needs.

Our hope is to make this an informed and important process for you, the committed members and friends of our church. Productive relationships take nurturing, whether it’s your first true love or your fourth grandchild. Everything that makes up the infrastructure of your life

requires attention and maintenance. Nothing is really free... but you knew that.

Did you know, however, that First UU is completely self-funded? Meaning that the church you love and depend on receives no direct support from any parent organization. While it’s great that we are completely self-directed, it not so great that we must pay all our own bills. Thankfully, we have a sophisticated and fully functional budget! By “fully functional,” I mean that there is a well-planned budget process, just as you would expect from a well-run organization. Like rowboats, though, a church budget only works if those onboard participate.

So please participate in the life of this church and share in all the wonderful things that go on here. You are already committed to social action; you believe in science, equality, and a person’s right to choose what happens with their own body. You believe in the good that is taught by the world’s great religions and by the noblest teachings of humankind’s most prodigious philosophers. Our faith does not dwell on ways to worship but teaches that living your beliefs is central to the core of Unitarian Universalism.

There are multitude ways you can contribute. Many of you already give your time and talent to help our

church thrive. If you’d like to learn about other opportunities, stop by the Visitor’s table after service or contact a member of the Transformation Through Service team. They’ll be happy to help you find a good fit.

Another way to support our church is financially:

- You can still take advantage of the Wake Now Our Vision Legacy Challenge, which is a grant that matches 10% of your planned giving to our church. You can find the paperwork online at [www.WakeNowOurVision.org](http://www.WakeNowOurVision.org) and Liz Nielson, a member of our church and board-certified estate planning attorney, will be happy to help you if you have questions.

- If you want to make a one time payment or set up a pledge for this year, please log on and establish an account on [MyFirstUU](http://MyFirstUU), or reach out to our office staff for help.

Our annual auction just wrapped up. If you participated, thank you! You helped our church financially!

No one here will ever ask you to give money to something that we feel isn’t remarkable and meaningful. We want you to give to something you love, First UU! So, put your money where your heart is and, with your church family at First UU, help build the Beloved Community. ■



**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  
**Bear W. Qolezcua**

Financial Administrator  
**Katherine Patton**

Board President  
**Jairy Grisaffe**

## WHITE ALLIES FOR RACIAL EQUITY

**Sunday, July 8th**  
**Rm 13**  
**12:30–2 p.m.**

White Allies for Racial Equity will meet as usual on the second Sunday of July. Topic TBA. Watch the email list for updates.

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 information, contact Scott at [sbutki@gmail.com](mailto:sbutki@gmail.com). To be added to the email list, contact Elizabeth Kubala at [elizkubala@gmail.com](mailto:elizkubala@gmail.com). ■

## A Change in Staff

It is with great sadness we announce that Katherine Patton, our Financial Administrator, is leaving us to pursue exciting new opportunities. Katherine had been working part-time both here and at a non-profit school while also taking additional accounting courses at night. She has been able to secure one full-time job so that she can more easily continue

her educational goals. Her last day on staff will be July 13.

We are deeply grateful to Katherine for all of her work in streamlining and improving our systems, as well as her calm and kind interactions with other staff and church members. Please, join us as we wish Katherine well and success as she moves into the future! ■


**First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Austin**

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