

SEPTEMBER 2018

FIRST  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH *of* Austin



FIRST UU  
NEWS

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



*ingathering*  
welcome back home

Graphic Credit: Running Water, Jai Lu Fau, PNG Tree

## Racism Unlearning Circle

**Saturday, September 15**

**Rm. 15**

**10 a.m.–12 p.m.**

This group is a place for white folks to discuss the creation and meaning of whiteness, white supremacy, racism, our role in perpetuating oppressive systems (intentionally or not), and how we can take accountable action to dismantle white supremacy and show up with minoritized peoples to demand an end to dehumanization. Meetings are third Saturday of every month. Check First UU [Facebook](#) events for more event info to prepare for meetings. Childcare RSVP: [childcare@austinnuu.org](mailto:childcare@austinnuu.org). Info: [racismunlearning@austinnuu.org](mailto:racismunlearning@austinnuu.org).

## “Getting to Know UU” Class

**Sunday, October 7**

**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@austinnuu.org](mailto:membership@austinnuu.org). Childcare is provided.

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# SUNDAY SERVICES

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

## SEPTEMBER 2

### First UU Alive

WITH REV. CHRIS JIMMERSON

Our spirits become most fully alive and connected to our human potential when we are able to embrace our UU faith and spirituality in our daily lives. Join Jules and Rev. Chris as we explore the wonderful possibilities of our UU Living Tradition.

## SEPTEMBER 9

### Water Communion

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Please bring some water from a place special to you for the common bowl as we speak together about places that move us, have meaning for us, or hold comfort for us.

## SEPTEMBER 16

### Faith Out Loud

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

As we begin a sermon series on our church's ends/goals, we will talk about living our UU faith and values, teaching them to our children, and acting on them in the world.

## SEPTEMBER 23

### Celebration Sunday!

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

This Sunday will be a party. We will talk about UU 101, 201, 301, and 401 with original songs and stories from Rev. Meg. We will all be invited and encouraged to make our pledges together as a celebration of faith and hope, expectation and promise.

## SEPTEMBER 30

### What I Learned from Being a Writer

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Being edited, rejected, praised, criticized, inspired, and uninspired, I'll create circumstances in which you have to just keep your head down and write anyway.

### Eclectic Folk Jam

*Friday, September 14*  
*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, September 22*  
*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](mailto:singalong@austinuu.org).

**Path to Membership****Saturday, November 10****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, sign the membership book, and fill out new member paperwork, if you feel ready!

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

**Senior Luncheon****Wednesday, September 12****Howson Hall****12 p.m.**

Soup, salad and dessert will be served for \$5 and there is always an engaging program planned to bring community information. This month we will hear from Elizabeth Stehl as she tells us what we need to know to experience the freedom and economy of riding the bus here in Austin.. Please RSVP to Alice Cashman: (512) 217-2615.

# PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM

S A N C T U A R Y | SUNDAYS | NOON

## SEPTEMBER 2

***Labor Day - No Forum.***

## SEPTEMBER 9

### **Austin's Upcoming Mayoral Race Meet the Candidates**

The Public Affairs Forum will host a mayoral candidate forum where candidates highlight their qualifications, reasons for running for office, key issues, and concerns for Austin's future. Featured are: current Mayor Steve Adler, former City Councilperson Laura Morrison, an engineer, public health professional, and civic activist, and Travis Duncan, an artist and civic and environmental activist.

Steve Adler, a lawyer, has worked as a legal advocate for those facing economic injustice, employment discrimination, sexual harassment, and racial injustice. In 1996 he became Chief of Staff and then General Counsel to State Senator Elliott Shapleigh before entering private practice in eminent domain law. As mayor, Steve has focused and provided leadership on issues of affordability, managing growth and traffic, the environment, water issues, and reducing social and economic injustice in Austin.

Laura Morrison served as a member of the City Council from 2008 until 2014. Prior to entering public service, she worked for ten years as an engineer and program manager for a global aerospace company. She has a Master's Degree in Mathematics and a graduate

certificate in Public Health, Community Preparedness, and Disaster Response. She served as elected President of the Austin Neighborhoods Council. Laura is committed to community-based solutions for problems as well as transparency, broad participation, and collaboration in government. She continues to support environmental protection, preservation of neighborhood integrity, and better access to health care for our citizens.

Travis Duncan is a native Texan and previously worked at Tesla selling solar power systems. He now works as an artist. He wants to "change things at City Hall" with a primary focus on environmental issues, to reduce or eliminate the city's dependence on fossil fuels. He envisions a power plant fully owned by the people of Austin. He is also running for Mayor to promote universal access to health care, improved education, and to end homelessness. He wants better management of city growth, relief from traffic congestion, and the reduction or elimination of high property taxes.

There are many common themes in these candidates' platforms. The Public Affairs Forum is an opportunity to meet the candidates and listen to their proposals for making city government more progressive, more effective, and more responsive to citizens' needs.

# PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM

SANCTUARY | SUNDAYS | NOON

## SEPTEMBER 16

### New Leadership for the Office of the Austin Police Monitor -

WITH FARAH MUSCADIN

In June 2018, Farah Muscadin was appointed by the City Manager to run the Office of the Austin Police Monitor (OPM). She reviews complaints against officers and has been on the scene in critical incidents and investigations, including officer-involved shootings and the recent Austin bombings.

The mission of the Austin Police Monitor's office is to promote education, dialogue, and mutual understanding between the community and city law enforcement and to enhance public trust and confidence in the fairness and integrity of the Austin Police Department. The office is a step toward greater accountability for the Austin Police Department (APD) and helps protect the civil rights of the public. The OPM makes recommendations on policy, procedures, and discipline. The OPM also conducts community outreach programs and educational forums and assists the Citizens' Review Panel in fulfilling its oversight duties.

Ms. Muscadin is researching best policies and practices to develop improved models of police oversight and accountability. Currently, there are some questions about the freedom and prerogatives she has in her

role given the temporary absence of a police contract. At present the OPM cannot access internal files of the APD.

Ms. Muscadin describes her new position as a hoped for dream job where she can use her experience and legal skills to interface with the community and improve community policing.

## SEPTEMBER 23

*Celebration Sunday - No Forum*

## SEPTEMBER 30

### The State of the Climate in Austin

WITH GIL STARKEY

Gil will explain the mission of 350 Austin and discuss the state of the climate, climate issues in Austin, climate change and the current political landscape, and local actions regarding the Global Climate Movement.

Gil Starkey is a native of Virginia and a graduate of Virginia Tech, from which he earned a BS in Biology. He worked in the electronics industry for forty years. Gil and his wife, Bobbie Tsukahara, moved to Austin in 2000 to be near their children and grandchildren. Just before retiring from their respective professions, Gil and Bobbie co-founded 350 Austin in November 2016. Gil currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for 350 Austin.

## The Connections Fair is Changing!

This year, rather than holding a one-day Connections Fair in the fall, First UU will focus on connecting congregants with church activities and service opportunities throughout the month of October. Each Sunday in October, we will offer information about opportunities in an area such as Congregational Life, Social Action, or Arts and Education. Leaders from that Sunday's area will be available in the courtyard and/or Gallery to talk with you about their activities and how you can get involved. And if you're not sure where to start, the Transformation Through Service team will be on hand to help match your interests and skills with the right opportunity!

## Women's Alliance Fall 2018 Schedule

We meet on the second Tuesday evening each month in Howson Hall at 6 p.m. for a potluck dinner, followed by a speaker at 7 p.m. All are welcome. Childcare is provided if a reservation is made by the end of the month prior to the meeting.

For more information or to make childcare reservations, please contact Mary Overton, [womensalliance@firstuu.org](mailto:womensalliance@firstuu.org).

### September 10

"Beyond Tomorrow"

Rev. Meg Barnhouse

### October 9

"How the Arts Enhance STEM Education"

Kenny Felton, Executive Director, Texas Music Partners

### November 13

Sally Scott

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As I write this I'm in a coffee shop called Flying Star in Albuquerque, NM. Writing in coffee shops has always been my preferred way to write. People suggest I get a desk. I wouldn't use it. They suggest I go somewhere quiet. That doesn't work for me. I love the sound of spoons on ceramic mugs, the smell of coffee, the hiss of the espresso machine and the rise and fall of conversation all around me.

What I'm working on during this August break are two book projects. One is a book of fiction for middle grade kids. The agent who read it said I needed to tighten up the plot and clear up a list of things, and then she'd be willing to read it again. I finished doing that two days ago. The next project is a memoir. I'm hoping to tell the stories of my life in a way that will be interesting and helpful, and throw in pretty much everything I know. I don't know what kind of a book that will turn out to be, but I've done what all writing teacher's suggest and sent my inner editor on a long vacation (mine's in Uruguay for some reason). In this way you can get what Stephen King calls "the closed door version" done. It's the crummy first draft, where you just keep writing without trying to make it perfect, or even slightly presentable.

On my dad's side of the family, writing books is the way to be somebody. My Grandfather Barnhouse was a famous Presbyterian evangelist with a radio show called The Bible Study Hour. He started a magazine called "Eternity." The way he preached was to work his way through a book of the Bible verse by verse, teaching with all his scholarship and devotion brought to bear on the passage's original language, on what the words meant in

their time, on who the writer was and what he might have meant, and then what the meaning is for the people listening to him. It took him five years to preach through the Gospel of John, seven years for the book of Romans. The books which resulted from this practice are still carried in Christian book stores. My dad has written a couple of books, but is unwilling to be edited, so he publishes them himself. His older sister Ruth wrote a couple about the pathology of homosexuality, which, needless to say, hurt a lot of my people. I think she meant them to be kind, but they did not have that impact. I began writing at 10, when I wrote a story about a balloonist named Mme. Featherflight. She found a small boy stowing away on the balloon, and they went on worldwide adventures together. My father was captivated by the story, and has told me I was a writer ever since. In seminary, my roommate Laurie was a journal writer. I bought a journal and became one, too. After our studying was done we'd put on our long flannel nightgowns and write in our journals. It felt companionable, useful, important. When my children were young I was working as a pastoral counselor. One night I got a phone call from a fellow named Pat Jobe. His name was familiar, but I couldn't place it. He'd gotten an assignment for a seminary class to talk to a minister who was serving in a non-parish setting, and asked if he could interview me. We talked for at least an hour and a half. We laughed and told stories and generally delighted ourselves and one

## That Pesky First Draft

**Rev. Meg Barnhouse**  
Senior Minister



another. Something about the combination of us made each of us lighter, funnier, deeper. He asked, toward the end of the conversation, whether I might like to write a commentary for his local NPR commentary series called "Radio Free Bubba."

"That's where I've heard your name. I love those commentaries!" I said, and I wrote one and took it up to the station in NC to record. They asked for more, and soon I was a regular.

"Make it three and a half minutes, make it funny and make it deep," they said. My first five books are collections of those commentaries. Skinner House, the UU press in Boston, published three of them and Hub City press in Spartanburg, SC published the other two. I've written two novels that have not been published, so I may put them out myself. Crown Books took one of them, but wanted a two-book deal. I had two toddlers and a job, so the second book took three years. By that time they'd moved on. Being a writer is beautiful and it's rough. You get used to rejection and to being edited. I keep my head down and keep writing, when I can. I'm grateful for this time to spend writing. I have missed you all, and by the time you read this, I'll be back. So my message this month is: if you are starting to write anything, make the first draft crummy and you'll be on your way!

## YOUR FIRST UU BOARD



## A Moment with the Board

Sean RamseyPresident  
Board of Trustees

In last month's article I wrote about "Pathways to Membership" and the act of being an engaged member of this community. One only needs to look around to see what this looks like in action. There are people in the Gallery every Sunday volunteering their time, helping us live out our mission. There are also a lot of people behind the scenes helping with the finances, managing the construction, caring for the grounds, and helping us fund our future.

In Policy Based Governance there is term prescribed to the group of people to whom the organization owes a duty of stewardship - Moral Owners. The recently updated definition our congregation uses for this is "The moral owners of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin are the past, present and future congregation and those with whom we work to co-create the Beloved Community."

I love the term 'moral ownership'. The very thought that we listen and act upon the direct and indirect feedback of the moral owners of this congregation, as we do the work of the Board, is inspiring. It honors all

the blood, sweat, and tears of the people on whose backs we stand, whose hands we hold today, and the future generations who will inherit this community.

In the Pathways to Membership class I was asked what the one takeaway was that I wanted these potential new members to leave with. It was this. We are they. Social Justice happens because we do the work. Lifespan R.E. happens because we do the work. This building is maintained because we do the work. The book clubs, covenant groups, supper clubs, meditation groups, and all the things you have come to love and enjoy about this community are because we do the work.

*and we  
fund the  
work.*

Whatever we have today is because of the generosity of the congregations before us. And whatever we hope to leave to the generations

after us will be due to our own sense of generosity.

*we  
are  
they.*

On September 23rd, there will be a Celebration Sunday hosted by the Stewardship Ministry to celebrate our new mission and our ongoing construction. There will be food trucks, music, and fun for all ages. Prior to the fun, you will be asked to make your annual pledge, and as you deliberate about whether to give just little bit more next year remember our Moral Ownership. How will your gift honor their work? How will your gift reflect gratitude for the work being done today? And how generous will we be to future generations?

Whatever your decision, may your gift be a reflection of what your heart treasures.

## FIRST UU ALIVE

**Jules Jaramillo**  
 Director  
 Lifespan Faith Development



### Lifespan Faith Development and First UU Alive

Lifespan Faith Development is at the heart of everything we do at First UU. It may be easy to recognize this on Sunday morning, when our children are sung out to their faith development classes, or you are sitting in the sanctuary during a worship service. You may know it as book groups, Wellspring, Chalice Circles, or other adult faith development groups. These and many other First UU offerings are essential to our faith formation but if what we learn in our classrooms or sanctuary does not move beyond the walls of this church then our Unitarian Universalist faith does not have the opportunity to become a Living Tradition.

First UU Alive recognizes that Unitarian Universalism is a Living Tradition. It is the Lifespan Faith Development program that you know and love, with the intention that the messages of our weekly services, classes, and programs can overflow into the places where our lives are happening - beyond Sunday morning. Imagine the possibility of this vibrant congregation returning to our faith every day. Working to keep our faith alive in our homes, workplaces, schools, and community. First UU Alive focuses

our learning opportunities in ways that we may actively live out our mission and vision in the world - every day.

To start First UU Alive off with some awesome-sauce...

There will be a new section in the newsletter each month called Weekly Faith Connections! Here you will find daily/weekly Unitarian Universalist practices for our daily lives. There is a little bit for everyone - adults, families, and children. Each month there will be a combination of different reflections, readings, chalice lightings, meditations, and spiritual and mindfulness practices. There are no requirements for participation- simply an invitation to take time daily- individually or as a family, to create meaningful daily practices in living your Unitarian Universalist faith. And if you have a favorite chalice lighting, short reading, meditation, or spiritual practice you would like to share - please email it to me at [faithdevelopment@austinuu.org](mailto:faithdevelopment@austinuu.org).

In faith and love,  
 Jules ·



Weekly Faith Connections remind us to create a Living Tradition of Unitarian Universalism in our daily lives. We can do this in our homes through creating rituals and activities that may include; reflections, readings, chalice lightings, meditations, and spiritual and mindfulness practices. This is a gentle invitation to take time daily, individually or as a family, to create meaningful daily practices in living your Unitarian Universalist faith.

### Chalice Lightings

Choose a chalice lighting for the month and light it to begin your day, before a meal or before your daily spiritual practice. Here are a few suggestions:

#### Let us Look First to the Response of Love

By Maureen Killoran

In these hard times, let us look first to the response of love.

In the midst of challenge, may our chalice flame bear witness to the inherent worth and dignity of every human being.

In the midst of uncertainty, may our chalice be a beacon of encouragement, that our values may guide our choices.

Let us look first to the response of love.

#### Children's Chalice Lighting

By Christian Schmidt, Alexis Capen

We light this chalice

celebrating the flame of faith lit in each of us,

honoring the light each of us bring into the world,

rejoicing in the community we create together.

### Reflection

Take time throughout your week to reflect on ways to create deeper connections in your Unitarian Universalist faith. If you need a place to start, try:

#### Reflection & Poetry Practice: I am Learning...

Spend time reflecting on the poem below, "I am Learning...". Reread it and consider creating your own poem. Don't worry, you do not have to be a poet. All you have to do is complete the sentence "I am learning..." 5-10 times. After you've written your own version, put it up somewhere where you will easily see it every day for a week or two.

Reflect on the following questions:

- What was it like to identify the learning you are in the midst of and what it was like to be more aware of it each day?
- What areas of your learning can be reflected in or supported in our Unitarian Universalist principles or sources?
- What might be your next step?

#### **I am Learning...** by Amy Lloyd

i am learning to be brave  
 i am learning to speak my own language  
 i am learning what i want to become  
 i am learning what kind of life i want to live  
 i am learning to stand in my place without flinching  
 i am learning to go my own way  
 i am learning not to help people who don't want help  
 i am learning to embrace my powerful spirit  
 i am learning how to build my own bridges  
 complete with lions to guard against the foot-traffic  
 i am learning i have value to bring to those waiting to hear my voice  
 i am learning the intensity of my own burning passions  
 i am learning to keep digging in the murkiest of my own brokenness  
 i am learning to accept my imperfections as beautiful

## WEEKLY FAITH CONNECTIONS

i am learning to think in terms of unlimited possibilities  
 i am learning i will not always be understood in the way  
 i intended  
 i am learning to apologize and then move freely forward  
 i am learning  
 and learning  
 and learning  
 new things  
 every minute  
 every day  
 i am a learning to be a part of the healing of the world  
 because i am willing to learn to be me

## FAMILY FAITH CONNECTIONS

Creativity encourages us to find ways to express ourselves in unique ways. This month, set aside time to connect creatively with your family and Unitarian Universalist Principles. Here is a suggestion to get you started:

The Rainbow Path

Respect all beings  
 Offer fair and kind treatment to all  
 Yearn to learn  
 Grow in spirit and mind  
 Believe in my ideas and act on them  
 Insist on peace, freedom, and justice  
 Value the connections in the web of life

Set aside time each week to gather as a family with drawing paper and art materials and draw the following images. The picture can be something that you have done or that you may want to do as a family. Have fun and be creative.

Draw a picture or word cloud of:

Week 1: What your family feels is important about respecting all beings.

Week 2: Your family helping take care of the earth.

Week 3: Your family learning something together.

Week 4: Your family creating peace, freedom, or justice.

## DAILY MEDITATION

As you begin your day, remember to pause for a moment to sing a hymn, chant, or meditate.

I find a few rounds of hymn #1009 in *Singing the Journey* a wonderful “go to”.

*When I breathe in, I'll breathe in peace;*

*When I breathe out, I'll breathe our love.*

## GOING DEEPER: REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Loren Eiseley reminds us, “It is a commonplace of all religious thought, even the most primitive, that the [person] seeking visions and insight must go apart from [their] fellows and live for a time in the wilderness.”

What might “*stepping apart and going into the wilderness*” look like in your life?

Rose Nguyen writes, “I sometimes get so caught up with my big dreams... that I forget to recognize all the little dreams I’ve made come true!... We can get so caught up looking at where we should be, where we aren’t, and where others are in comparison that we forget to appreciate where we’ve been and where we’ve come from.”

*How might looking back on how far you’ve come be a blessing to you this month?*



## JULES' DESKTOP



**Jules Jaramillo**

Director  
Lifespan Faith Development

## Lead and Support Teachers Needed for Teaching Teams!

### First Service:

PreK-1st Grade

- 1 Lead Teachers
- 2 Support Teachers

2nd-5th Grade

- 1 Lead Teachers
- 2 Support Teachers

### Second Service

PreK-K

- 1 Support Teacher

1st & 2nd Grades

- 2 Support Teachers

3rd & 5th Grades

- 1 Support Teacher



*Have No Fear... Sunday Seminars  
will return in October.  
Stay tuned for more information.*

Please contact our Director of Lifespan Faith Development, Jules Jaramillo, at [faithdevelopment@austin.org](mailto:faithdevelopment@austin.org) for more information.

### Soul Matters Chalice Circle begin in September.

If you have signed up for a Chalice Circle, you facilitator will be contacting you soon to share your monthly meeting dates and times. Please contact our Director of Lifespan Faith Development, Jules Jaramillo, at [faithdevelopment@austin.org](mailto:faithdevelopment@austin.org) if you have any questions.

### Family Connections

Are you interested in creating family faith connections at church?

Would support in developing your confidence in Unitarian Universalist parenting with other UU parents be helpful?

How would building relationships between families, First UU and your home support your family?

What about connecting and supporting families with other families walking similar UU journeys?

If your answer is YES, or if these questions intrigue you, contact our Director of Lifespan Faith Development, Jules Jaramillo, at [faithdevelopment@austin.org](mailto:faithdevelopment@austin.org) to let her know your family is interested in further information about Family Connections.

## California, Here We Come...

Kiya Heartwood



### NEW STAFF

And now, without further ado:

## Christina Tannert

Our New Children's Choir Director  
(and kitten crooner)



Christina Tannert is a product of AISD schools with a Master of Arts in Teaching Music degree from Trinity University in San Antonio. She is a music specialist at Doss Elementary School in Austin ISD. She currently sings with Panoramic Voices here in Austin and has sung with choirs in Austin and San Antonio. She has also previously worked with the Conspirare Youth Choir. Ms. Tannert is a bassoon player and has recently played with the Austin Chamber Music Academy. She is a contributing author to Music Memory curriculum materials, used in many elementary schools throughout the US. She loves traveling, dancing, and singing to her two cats in her spare time. Ms. Tannert is very excited to begin making music with the kids at First UU Church of Austin!

## THE COMMCOORD BLOTTER



## This Blue Boat's Home

**Bear W. Qolezcua**

Communications Coordinator

*I've been sailing all my life now,  
never harbor or port have I known...*

- Peter Mayer, Blue Boat Home

You never know the connections someone may make to you or your life ... the marks a place may leave on your heart. I know they aren't always positive but, in some way, there may be a positive to extrapolate (Again, I realize that isn't universal. Some horrors have no good, no reason, no meaning).

Fall is a time of mourning for my family. It is in the fall we have lost many of the linchpins that held our little entourage of weirdos together. It was one particular death that brought me here to First UU Church... my mother's.

Growing up in a house tinged by mysticism, symbols were incredibly meaningful. This was something my family had developed as our own practice, in a way, over the years. Each person had a symbol for others in their life. To me, my mother was a lighthouse. To her, I was a little rowboat. My mother, an artist, would draw the rowboat sometimes when she was doodling, blue wood against black water. I was her blue bear, her grumpy child with a broken heart and sad smile. This blue-ness has stuck with me through my life and I tend to lean toward it in my creative efforts.

Three weeks into my first semester of seminary I got *the call*. The one a child dreads but knows will come, especially when they know their parent has been sick an extremely long time. My sister told me to come home, so I gathered Gilbert and we took off for Azle, my birth place. Within forty-five minutes of our arrival, my

mother took her final breath. We were shattered, of course, but none were taken by surprise. It was a Monday, the warmth outside exacerbated by the hospital-style atmosphere of my mother's bedroom, but the sunlight ran cold as my siblings and I lost our remaining parent.

For years before this day Gilbert and I had been members of a Presbyterian church in downtown Austin. They were kind and loving but it was that familiarity and love that I dreaded the next Sunday, we didn't attend church... I couldn't bear such love when all I had within me was anger and loss. So I told Gilbert that I wanted to try somewhere else. Anonymous. Unbothered. I knew some Unitarian Universalists and knew what the Church was *generally* about... the second Sunday after her death we set out for First UU. Neither of us were prepared to be met with such a community of people nor for the powerhouse that is Rev. Meg.

That morning began the end of the high holy days of my childhood faith and the opening song was a Kol Nidre. This is a prayer to ask for release from unfulfilled promises. I felt it within my bones and cried... *ugly* cried. I had made many promises that, now, went unfulfillable. Hearing such a reverent approach to such lofty traditions I instantly felt home. I left uplifted and, yet, sorrowful. Grieving my mother and also something else that I was coming to realize... my faith. I had never believed God was

more than a concept but even that was too much. I was mad and I wanted to leave behind all that held me back from being my full self: the ordination process within the Presbyterian Church, and those last shreds of belief. I wondered if this could be the right place for me, this commune of the hurt, the hopeful, the newcomers and cradle UUs.

I got an answer which was what I wanted, sure, but I was not expecting it to hit me with such force.

The following Sunday we were treated to a solo performance of a song that has grown dear to me, I sing it each day on the way in to the office and it brings me enormous peace. "Blue Boat Home". I was crushed as I listened to the words and realized what it was saying and to use language that was more than familiar... it was specific in my life... that was the star-sign for which I had asked.

My mother's little blue boat had, indeed, found a home.

I know I read a lot into it but it spoke of my precise feelings and pointed me in the direction of the vocabulary I was missing to describe my tattered faith and my heart. Humanism. I knew it was out there and this church, that music, gave me the tools. The hymn gave me life while this place saved it.

This church, its people, its principles and faith have left marks upon my heart... you, my kindred pilgrim souls. A joyful mark, a happy scar. ·

## MONTHLY SERVICE OFFERING

# This Month's MSO: PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CLINIC

Nan Sechler

Whether we pick up the newspaper, turn on the TV or radio, or look at our smart phones....we are bombarded by news....disturbing news. One has to wonder at times if there is anything good going on. Well, take heart...there is. People and organizations behind the scenes who don't often make the nightly news are fighting the good fight and answering the call to help lead us to a more healthy, moral and caring world.

Among those organizations is People's Community Clinic. The work of PCC is probably best described by their Mission Statement: "To improve the health of medically underserved and uninsured Central Texans by delivering high-quality, affordable healthcare with dignity and respect." PCC is a non-profit organization, founded in 1970 by a group of visionary medical professionals who provided free care, two nights a week, in the basement of the Congregational Church near the UT campus.

Since that time, PCC has become one of the oldest, continually running independent clinics for primary health care in America. The organization is run by a Board of Directors, more than half of whom are PCC patients (consumer members). This consumer involvement insures that the health issues of the patients are addressed and that the Clinic stays relevant to the needs of the community. In addition there is a Foundation Board, made up of community members invested in the Clinic's mission, who help provide leadership and support.

For the year 2017, the Clinic provided 60,753 medical care visits, a 21% increase over 2016. An additional 78,713 health support services were provided. These health support services include immunizations, lab screenings, sonograms, lactation support classes, family planning, health education, behavioral health and social work, chronic disease management and nutrition, a center for adolescent health issues, and tandem teen prenatal and parenting classes. Services are offered at the Clinic or through partnerships with other organizations.

Though the Clinic is not a political organization, the dire conditions that have occurred due to the immigration issue has led it to take a position and express concern for the sake of the children and families caught up in this present crisis. Dr. Louis Appel, Chief Medical Officer and Director of Pediatrics, and Dr. Pritesh Gandhi, Acting Director of Adult Health, are among those from the Clinic who have visited the child detention centers in Tornillo and have spoken out publicly about the medical harm to children being kept in these conditions and away from their parents. As part of their Community Centered Health Home initiative, PCC has become a member of the Austin Interfaith Alliance which has called for immigration reform and access to healthcare.

Since 1970, the Clinic has offered a health home for those in need with no judgment and with respect and dignity to all who enter its doors regardless of their circumstances. Services are paid for by grants, donations, insurance, fund raising and sliding scale fees based on the patient's ability to pay. Kindness and morality are not dead, they thrive in many places like People's Community Clinic and in the hearts of those who care and work to make our community better for all.

On Sunday, September 9, People's Community Clinic will be the featured non-profit chosen by the congregation to benefit from our Monthly Special Offerings. Your generous donations are greatly appreciated.

For more information about the work of the Clinic, go to [austinpcc.org](http://austinpcc.org). For information about the Church's volunteer work with the clinic, email [pcc@austinuu.org](mailto:pcc@austinuu.org).

As a reminder, October is our annual Children's Book Drive for the patients of PCC. If you are cleaning out closets, bookcases, etc., please save your gently used children's books for our drive each Sunday morning in October. Books for all ages – from toddlers to teens – are needed. •

## DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

### U-Bar-U Fall Events

UBarU is a UU camp and retreat center in the beautiful Hill Country, just 120 miles west of Austin.

- Women's Retreat – October 5 - 7. 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. Registration and more details at <http://ubaru.org/home/Womens-Retreat>.

- Fall Men's Retreat – October 19 - 21. 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. Information and registration at <http://ubaru.org/home/Mens-Retreat>.

### Ships Ahoy! Youth Training

Begins October 12

Youth, ages 15 – 18, are invited to participate in this amazing journey into Unitarian Universalism to prepare them for membership and leadership in congregations and the Association at large. The training consists of four modules, including on-line and in person experiences, held between October 12, 2018 and March 10, 2019. More information and registration at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ships-ahoy-registration-36888626876>. Scholarships are available – contact David Overton at [denom@austinuu.org](mailto:denom@austinuu.org).

### Immigrant Rights Resources

The Unitarian Universalist Association's "Love Resists" campaign has developed a number of actions that individuals can participate in – see <https://www.uua.org/lovesists/blog/love-resists-family-separation>.

And the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has completed a major report on immigrant rights, "A Cautionary Tale – The United States Follows Hungary's Dangerous Path to Dismantling Asylum". It can be found at <https://www.uusc.org/resources/research-publications/cautionary-tale/>.

### Carpool Opportunities

Want to carpool to an event outside Austin? Email David Overton at [denom@austinuu.org](mailto:denom@austinuu.org) and we will work to put you together with someone to share the ride. .



## UBarU Camp & Retreat Center

There are some fun events coming up at UBarU Camp & Retreat Center!

**UBarU Star Party Aug 31-Sept 3.**

**Men's Retreat - Oct 19-21.**

**Women's Retreat - Oct 5-7.**

For more details and to register please go to [www.ubaru.org](http://www.ubaru.org).

If you want to rent a cottage for a quiet weekend not during a retreat, email Robyn at [director@ubaru.org](mailto:director@ubaru.org).

# BEYOND TOMORROW

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

## STEWARDSHIP



SAVE THE DATE



## FOR THIS SMOKIN' GOOD TIME!

Good Times, Texas Chili Queens, and Torchy's Tacos

Following the second service on Celebration Sunday (September 23) we're going to have a party!!! You're invited to partake in food, fun, and your First UU Family! The Texas Chili Queens and Torchy's Tacos food trucks will provide lunch. Dessert will be courtesy of the Good Times Ice Cream Truck. Stay tuned to find out how you can get your free tickets.

## TRANSFORMATION THROUGH SERVICE

Service is a core component of our Unitarian Universalist faith. Through service, we make valuable contributions to our church and community, enhance our own faith and spirituality, strengthen our relationships with others, and move our congregation closer to fulfilling its mission.

The Transformation Through Service team helps connect First UU congregants with the many meaningful service opportunities available through our church. If you would like to get more involved at First UU, you can talk with one of our team who can help you get connected with service opportunities that match your interests, skills, and time availability. Email us at [transform@austinuu.org](mailto:transform@austinuu.org) to schedule a conversation.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Check out the latest information about our church's ongoing construction/renovation/rejuvenation is available on the monitor in the gallery. If you're concerned about booking a room at church, follow the standard process of contacting Shannon, [info@austinuu.org](mailto:info@austinuu.org), and she'll be able to address your needs.

## SO WHY SHOULD WE GIVE MONEY TO THIS PLACE CALLED FIRST UU?

The reason is simple. Our combined resources are working toward the better world we'd like for the future. Financial resources allow our values to take on a material form and do so through our centuries old UU tradition known for being on the right side of American history.

Unitarians Universalists throughout the years may have disagreed about how quickly and by what means we would advocate for changes in society, but fight for change we did. While other groups found reasons to condone oppression, UUs have done the opposite by siding with the oppressed, working toward inclusion, and fighting for the health of our planet. With the legacy of generations of UUs before us, we add our voices, our hearts, and our financial commitment toward building the Beloved Community.

The world can be brutal when the spirit of good people goes unheard. Please join us on September 23 in the spiritual practice of giving to First UU, where justice and compassion take shape.

## INSIDE AMIGOS

## Journey for Justice - TPS

Peggy Morton

## THE JOURNEY FOR JUSTICE CARAVAN

## FIRST UU

SEPTEMBER 15

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

## DINNER &amp; CONVERSATION

The Current President's announced plans to end Temporary Protected Status threaten to separate and destroy hundreds of thousands of families across the country, and riders on the TPS Caravan will stop at First UU for a dinner and conversation Saturday, Sept. 15 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Show up to hear firsthand testimonials about the lives El Salvadorans, Nicaraguans, Hondurans, Liberians, South Sudanese, Haitians, Nepali, Libyans and Yemeni face without a path to citizenship after having lived in the U.S. with TPS over the last couple of decades.

Impacted immigrants started their Journey for Justice in Los Angeles, CA in mid-August and plan to travel across the country for a 12-week tour to share their work to protect TPS families and send the Trump administration a clear message that their courage is more powerful than his fear.

They pooled resources, bought a run-down bus, and named it "Libertad," which means Freedom. They sanded, painted and repaired Libertad for the trip and could use donations to keep it running on their journey. Donations can be made through the non-profit NDLO at <https://ndlon.org/journey-for-justice>

El Salvadoran Edwin Murillo, who has Temporary Protected Status, spoke at First UU last December as part of the celebration of International Migrants Day. Edwin married a fellow El Salvadoran and they have two U.S.-born teens but will be forced to leave in 2019 unless the policy is stopped. He lives in Dallas, is a leader with the National TPS Alliance and is coordinating the Western route for the caravan.

First UU's Inside Amigos will host them Friday, Sept 15 at 6:30 p.m. Those wanting to help with dinner and/or set up or clean-up, contact Peggy at [insideamigos@austinuu.org](mailto:insideamigos@austinuu.org).

## HEALTHY RELATIONS MINISTRY

Dear Covenant,

There's something about the new sanctuary design that's really bugging me. That new TV screen is ugly and distracting! I loved the look of the old sanctuary. The traditional elements felt calm and reassuring. I don't like it when technology is thrust into my place of worship. It no longer feels sacred. What can I do?

~ Distracted

Dear Distracted,

Change can be hard for pretty much everyone, so your distress is understandable for that reason alone. We are sorry this change is so hard for you. Most likely you are not alone. However, we want to offer you some things to think about when you look at that TV screen.

You probably know that a growing segment of our population prefer to use technology in their everyday lives wherever possible, including at church. Also, some folks with eye issues appreciate the large screen because they find it difficult to read the small print in our hymnals, and they find the larger-print handouts clumsy to hold. Others have said they appreciate being able to see the illustrations of the Story for All Ages.

So if we want to be "intentionally hospitable to all people," as our covenant calls us to do, then your challenge is to ask yourself if you can live with something that appeals to many other folks, even if it's a turn-off for you. Can you learn to accept it, in the service of welcoming other folks who experience the world differently from yourself? We hope you can. And if you continue to struggle with this, you are welcome to come talk to us at the HRM (Healthy Relations Ministry). We can't stop the change, but we can support you as you adjust to it.

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

## LGBTQ SPIRITUALITY

First UU is proud to host the following two LGBTQ monthly events here on the church campus. They are held the 3rd Sunday of every month and we welcome anyone with an interest to participate. Since the church began hosting these groups we have been able to showcase UU values to a historically underserved group of individuals. Many who participate have had damaging experiences with organized religion but have found First UU to be a safe haven without judgement and prejudice. Participants regularly express thanks to First UU for providing a welcoming yet traditional church environment.

The discussion group tackles subjects like solidarity within the community and how society's gender roles affect us. Each month's topic is different but there is no studying involved. We come together to share our perspectives and insights with one another. This group has met in various locations around Austin over the past 8 years before finding its permanent home here at First UU.

The Authentic Relating Games group sometimes draws a crowd of 20-30 folks! These are fun-loving people who like the challenge of trying on new communication techniques and experiencing the feeling that comes from

deliberately putting compassion into action. The results are heart-warming and personally enriching.

### LGBTQ SPIRITUALITY

2:00-3:30, 3rd Sunday of each month

Come join other gay women, men, and other non-binary individuals who share a passion for personal transformation, exploring what truly matters in our lives, and how connecting with others of like mind contributes to our sense of spirituality. Explore how we as LGBTQ people can share our unique gifts with each other and the world.

### LGBTQ AUTHENTIC RELATING GAMES

3:30-6:30, 3rd Sunday of each month

This monthly event is designed to connect LGBTQ community members in a brave, safe, loving and kind facilitated space. Trained facilitators will take you through a flow of interactions that are designed to enhance self awareness, foster connection, boost empathy, and build community. Have fun while learning new skills that can be used to bring more compassion to your interpersonal relationships.

## MUSICIANS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

**SEPTEMBER 2.** The piano-violin duo of Kathryn Govier and Ben Hummel, and singer-actress Lena Hill will be providing music for the services.

**SEPTEMBER 9.** The First UU Adult Choir will be singing some tunes.

**SEPTEMBER 16.** Music provided by pianist Grace Ma, together with a small ensemble of First UU singers.

**SEPTEMBER 23.** Nakia is back! The Austin Blues and Soul Singer, Songwriter, and Entertainer will rock the house, along with the First UU Intergenerational Choir and Band, on Celebration Sunday.

**SEPTEMBER 30.** Music by a small ensemble of First UU singers.

## MUSIC NOTES

### DO YOU LOVE TO SING?

#### JOIN ONE OF THE CHOIRS AT FIRST UU!

Our children's and youth choirs meet for an hour on Sundays. Start time is around 9:30AM, when young ones are sung out of service. Children's Choir (grades K-3) meets in RE Room 11 and Youth Choir (grades 4-8) meets in RE Room 13. Our directors, Christina Tannert and Chantel Mead, are experts in their field and are a lot of fun! Session starts September 9. Register your child(ren) online at <http://bit.ly/FirstUUREg2018>.

The First UU Adult Choir, led by Director of Music Brent Baldwin, rehearses Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary from 6:45pm to 8:30pm starting September 5. The choir sings 2-3 services per month, and features a wide variety of music. No audition required. Childcare available. This is a great way to hone your singing skills and learn really cool stuff while having fun. Come check us out! For questions, send an email to our Assistant Director of Music at [Katrina.Saporsantos@AustinUU.org](mailto:Katrina.Saporsantos@AustinUU.org).

## WHITE ALLIES FOR RACIAL EQUITY

*Sunday, September 9*  
*Rm 13*  
*12:30–2 p.m.*

For the September meeting we will be discussing the excellent through-provoking conversation-starting book *So You Want To Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo, which attempts to answer many white folk's questions about how to have conversations about race, what to do when said conversations go south, etc. It is one of the best books I have read yet about race. I led an excellent discussion of the book recently and found not only is the book helpful in

understanding complicated issues but is also good for discussions.

It's by a woman of color who addresses many of the questions we have such as "how do I know when an issue is about race (answer: if a person of color says it's about race... then it's about race), how do you address those who try to switch debates of racism into debates of classism (point out that the tools we need to destroy classism are not the same as those needed to stop racism not to mention the reasons a white person might be working class might be different than those of a person of color), what if you mess up when talking about race (you will, don't sweat it,) etc. This

book discussion will be open to both White Allies and the People of Color group.

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 Butki 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).

## PARADOX



## Paradox Players Is Back!

Our long hiatus is coming to an end! But while we were on hiatus, the Paradox Players leadership team was busy. We have a new Interim Artistic Director, Laura King, and Amy Bennett has stepped up to be our Managing Director. We are exploring exciting possibilities for expanding our mission into the Austin theater community, while maintaining our focus on main stage play productions. And of course, Readers' Theater kept meeting on second Mondays!

Paradox Players is gearing up for a late fall production of Charles

Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, as adapted by Christopher Schiario, and directed by Barbara Abbate. We will open with two Preview shows on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon after Thanksgiving, November 24 & 25. Our opening Gala night will be the last Friday in November, the 30th, with additional performances on December 1 & 2, and 7-9.

The personal transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge from a mean old curmudgeon to a man filled with joy and light is a perfect message for the holiday season!

Please check our website, <https://paradoxplayers.org> for information about casting this play. More information will follow about auditions and a theater workshop for youth

interested in being cast.

As always, volunteer opportunities abound with Paradox Players. It's a great way to get to know people in the church who share a love for community theater. You can check the serving opportunities listed in [myFirstUU](https://myFirstUU.org), or you can email us at [paradoxplayers@austinuu.org](mailto:paradoxplayers@austinuu.org).

Paradox Players is also exploring plays for our 2019 season. We are planning a full season of three plays and hope to have the list available during the run of "A Christmas Carol."

See you at the theater!

- Susan Thomson, Chair, Paradox Players Leadership Team

**FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST****CHURCH OF AUSTIN**

(512) 452-6168

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## FIRST UU MINISTERS

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

REV. CHRIS JIMMERSON

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

BRENT BALDWIN

## DIRECTOR OF LIFESPAN

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

JULES JARAMILLO

## CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

SHANNON POSERN

## DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

BEAR W. QOLEZCUA

## BOARD PRESIDENT

SEAN RAMSEY

**GREEN SANCTUARY MINISTRY**

Do our longer stints of hundred+ degree temperatures, poor air quality, fires, floods and more concern you?

Our Green Sanctuary Ministry has joined with 350 Austin to stand up for our sacred planet and all its creatures by stopping the causes of climate destruction. We are working to reduce fossil fuel atmospheric toxicity.

We meet the third Tuesday of each month (For September, we will meet a week early, September 11) at First UU Church of Austin, 7PM.

**CHANGE THE WORLD, NOW!  
WHILE WE CAN!**

Care for more info?

Contact Beki & Richard Halpin:

[green@austinuu.org](mailto:green@austinuu.org)

Or call us, 512-288-4080

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