

# Courier

First Jefferson  
Unitarian  
Universalist  
Church

Hope  Joy  Awe  Connection

April 1, 2018

Fort Worth, Texas

Number 381



Like the Sufi saint Rabi'a, who ran through streets with a torch and pitcher, threatening to light fire to the heavens and douse the flames of hell...



...we seek Beloved Community right here, right now.  
Combine the torch and the pitcher, and you get us!



## *We promise:*

- to promote kindness, love, and healthy relationships
- to give each other support, empathy and understanding
- to be mindful and considerate in all our interactions
- to clarify and respect personal boundaries and feelings
- to listen to one another and seek understanding
- to respect one another and appreciate the range of opinions among us
- to strengthen one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- to act in the knowledge that we are part of a large and diverse world community
- to work toward equity, justice, and compassion in all relations
- to practice forgiveness for ourselves and others so that when we fail to keep this covenant we can begin again in love

This covenant is a touchstone for nurturing ourselves, our church community, and supporting our work in the world. Through the covenant, we enrich our relationships with one another and serve others in accordance with our principles. We pledge to revisit and renew this covenant to sustain the vitality of our congregation in our ongoing quest for spiritual growth.

## *Our Relational Covenant*

## CONGREGATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Greetings!

I would like to start off this newsletter with a great big THANK YOU to my fellow congregants. Thanks for giving your time to discuss your thoughts on the ministerial search. I am also so grateful for the name change conversation. I personally feel relief and gratitude on how the request for a name change has been received. Thank you for listening and understanding why it means so much to many minorities such as myself. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I feel heard. Whether or not the name changes, thank you. The names suggested seem to be headed towards a particular path, so it seems that we all are leaning in a similar direction. I take great comfort and joy in that.

I am so excited that the RE council has a candidate for our part-time RE Coordinator Position. The Council approached the previous board and it was reaffirmed by the current board, to create the RE coordinator position and to fund it. I was so glad that we can finally give a bit of support to our very overworked RE Council. They have been carrying such a heavy load! With no DRE and no minister, they have been doing much more than we had a right to ask. We finally can show our appreciation, by lightening the load, just a bit. Thanks to the RE Council for all the hard work they have done over the years, and their due diligence in finding a good candidate to help with the work load. Thank you. I hope this allows more joy to come to the council.

We are really blessed to have inherited such beautiful grounds. It is nice to just be able to step outside and be in harmony with creation. We have been blessed with many who have worked hard to keep our grounds inviting. In that vein, the board has approved a small fund for basic lawn care. If you like to garden and would like to be a part of the grounds committee, please let me know so I can hook you up! I believe that this inheritance will also be our legacy

to those that come after us. If you haven't strolled our grounds, I invite you to do so. It is about time for our berries, including one of my faves, mulberries, to bloom. Please take a stroll, commune with nature and have a heart healthy snack!

Speaking of inheritances and legacies, I ask you to think, as stewards of our faith, what inheritances are you grateful for? Which ones do you treasure enough to make certain they will be here for those who come after us? What legacy do you want to leave behind? What part of our church doctrine, principles or covenant appeals the most to you? What are you willing to give of yourself and your resources, to make sure they live on? Our actions and our inactions determine our legacy. What should ours be? As our stewardship drive is about to take off, I ask you to ponder these questions and reflect on them? How will you be a steward of our faith?

As this letter is about to be sent out, my mind wanders. I think about the possibility of a new name, new minister, how can I/we be better stewards of our faith, and, of course, the canvas drive and budget. But, if I am truly honest, I am also looking forward to the party this Saturday on the 24th. I am not just looking forward to a great Mexican (well, Tex-Mex) meal, but also the chance to hang out with fellow UU's and just relax and have fun!

*With dreams in my eyes,  
hope in my heart and  
faith in tomorrow,  
Irene*

PS. I still have a stash of girl scout cookies, so please join me for coffee, cookies and conversation on the second Sunday of the month.

**April 1**

**“A Season of Hope”**

**The Reverend Annie Foerster**

Easter is a holiday with a long and evolving history. From Persephone’s return from the underworld to the Easter Bunny who delivers decorated eggs, the stories share one theme in common—hope for the future. What does Easter mean for Unitarian Universalists?

**April 8**

**“The Deep Well”**

**The Reverend Aija Jansone**

In ancient communities well was a sacred center that sustained and nurtured community. What sustains us? Where and how do we find nurture particularly during the dry seasons of life?

*Rev. Aija Jansone is pursuing a doctoral degree at Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, TX. Prior to these studies she worked as a healthcare chaplain in adult and pediatric settings and as a pastor for a congregation in St. Louis.*

## Our Sunday Schedule

9:15 AM Nursery: Infants thru Age 3

9:30 AM Adventures in Religion, John Adams Room

9:45 AM Adult Forum, Jagers Parlor

9:45 AM Child & Youth Religious Education, Religious Education Wing (August-May)

10:00 AM Choir Gathering, Choir Room

11 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary

**April 15**

**“The Hero’s Journey: Where Shall I Find Help?”**

**The Reverend Annie Foerster**

I am a Taurus on the zodiac cycle—a bull-headed, stubborn, independent, know-it-all, determined, goal-driven, opinionated Taurus. I can make it work because I am also, generous and compassionate. (Look it up, if you don’t believe me, or ask another Taurus.) There is a down side to all these marvelous qualities (including modesty). I have an extremely difficult time asking for help. Yet all the myths of the Hero’s Journey point to hero’s need to accept assistance. Where does your help come from?

**April 22**

**“The Earth is Our Mother”**

**The Reverend Annie Foerster**

Stephen Hawking said the universe was coming to an end, but he didn’t mean in our lifetime, or for many lifetimes to come. But, perhaps it wouldn’t hurt us to consider it as finite in order to see our role in its maintenance.

**April 29**

**“Covenant: Life in the Vertical Dimension”**

**The Reverend Samuel Schaal**

Covenant is at the center of Unitarian Universalist life. This gives us an opportunity to experience what has been called “the deep center” of our faith, to hold us steady in difficult times.

## HERO’S JOURNEY WORSHIP SERIES

The Hero’s Journey is one of those myths that Joseph Campbell discovered existed in almost every culture and religion around the world. He collected these stories for his landmark book, *The Hero With a Thousand Faces*. These myths, he claimed, are important teaching stories about both the culture and its expectations for the individual.

The Adventures in Religion Class has been studying the book and the cultures in which they are found. This series of worship services helps explore the individual’s role as “hero.” Remember this: *If you can’t tell your life story with you as the hero, no one else will.*

## ■ CARING & SHARING

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If you would like a pastoral note to be shared with the congregation during Sunday service, please write it in the Book of Memory and Hope in the vestibule.

Michelle Youngblood is still in the Cardiology ICU at Harris Hospital in Fort Worth but will be moved to the hospice unit sometime over the next few days. Her family has said that if anyone wants to come by for a last visit with her, now is the time.

Thoughts and prayers for one of our young ones who has found herself in jail in Georgia. Miranda Bruttell could use good thoughts for wisdom and peace as she finds her way.

Thoughts for Andrew Field's mother, who was recently diagnosed with stage 0 breast cancer and is recovering from reconstructive surgery after having a cancer site removed.

Tim Miller and Mary Alice Williams celebrated 30 years of his business in Arlington at Pet Care Hospital.

Patrick and Judy Gutierrez express their thanks to Uncle Sam and the IRS for the return of taxes paid on an early retirement withdrawal.

## ■ GOOD EGG AWARD

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The first quarter recipient of the Good Egg Award will be presented at Potluck on Sunday, April 1st.

## ■ JOIN US IN CARING FOR EACH OTHER

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First Jefferson is a community of folks who gather for worship and/or other activities within the congregation. One of the functions of a healthy community is to care for one another during good times and bad. Therefore, we will be developing a Caring and Sharing ministry among the congregation. Some of the activities will include sending cards (get well, sympathy, thank you, congratulations, etc.), making telephone calls and visiting folks who are in the hospital or homebound, and making casseroles that can be frozen and used when needed. If you are interested in doing some or all of this, please join us for a get together on **April 8 after the service at 12:30** to learn more. If you have questions, you can contact Betty Churchman at [betty\\_churchman@swingingbridgesministries.org](mailto:betty_churchman@swingingbridgesministries.org) or Sue Lowry at [sue.lowry56@gmail.com](mailto:sue.lowry56@gmail.com).

## ■ POTLUCK SUNDAY

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*Sunday, April 1, 12:15pm, Coleman Hall*

Bring a dish to share or just join in and help us share the food, fun and fellowship. There will be a table reserved during the potluck for discussion of the service or questions for the speaker.

### ***Congregation discussion: Minister Search and Name Change***

Cottage Meeting 3 of 3, March 25, 12:30 pm,  
Jaggers Parlor



## ■ FELLOWSHIP DINNER AND PARTY—MARCH 24

6:00 pm Appetizer and Wine

6:30 pm Celebration of Our Past and Our Potential

7:00 pm Dinner

*Conversation teasers: Hopes & Dreams for Church*

8:00 pm Dancing

## ■ SMALL GROUP PROGRAMS

### Book Discussion Group

*Meets monthly on the fourth Tuesdays, 7pm, Jagers Parlor* We read and discuss a variety of books: fiction, non-fiction, classics, mysteries, historical, etc. Suggestions encouraged. For information, contact Joan Carey 817-217-5905.

#### Upcoming Titles:

**April**—*The Lemon Tree: An Arab, A Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East* by Sandy Tolon [Nonfiction]

### Choir

*Rehearses Sundays, 10:00-11:00am* All voices are needed and welcomed. If you are unsure if you want to join, come and visit a rehearsal any Sunday with no obligation. We would be very glad to have you.

### Gentle Yoga

*Meets weekly, Saturdays, 10:30-11:30am, Sanctuary* Gentle Yoga is a form of physical and spiritual practice designed for beginning students and anyone who continues to get older every year. It focuses on three aspects of the body-flexibility (reaching and bending), core strength (spine and tummy) and balance (to prevent falls). It also emphasizes relaxation and proper breathing. You'll need a yoga mat, clothes that will bend with you and a willingness to try. If you have trouble getting down on the floor (or up, once you're down), you can do many of the postures from a chair.



If you aren't trim and buff like the pictures in the yoga magazines, Gentle Yoga is for you. If you can't stand on one foot without toppling, Gentle Yoga is for you. If you can't bend and touch the floor, Gentle Yoga is definitely for you.

**Contact:** Annie Foerster at [redseamripper@gmail.com](mailto:redseamripper@gmail.com). Annie has been a yoga student for forty-two years and an instructor for thirty-seven years. She specializes in helping older students, young people and just about everyone in between.

### Knitting Group

*Meets weekly, Saturdays, 12:30pm, Jagers Parlor* Whether you are an experienced knitter or want to learn how to knit, you are welcome! Bring your needles and yarn and join us. For more information, contact Charlotte Bailey at [charlibailey@gmail.com](mailto:charlibailey@gmail.com).

## **First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Quilters**

*Meets weekly, Tuesdays, 1-3pm, Jagers Parlor or Library* We have a long history of producing quilts for fundraising, outside charities, and keeping people and buildings warm. Please consider joining us, regardless of your skills or experience. Contact Mary Kirwin, 817-714- 1796 for more information.

## **Interweave**

*Meets monthly, 3rd Friday, 6 :30 pm, No Frills Grill, 1550 Eastchase Pkwy., Arlington* Fun and fellowship. Nationally the group advocates on behalf of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and their allies. This group is for everyone regardless of sexual orientation. For information, contact Michael Zepeda at 817-706-3614 [mrzep@charter.net](mailto:mrzep@charter.net).

## **Women's Alliance**

*Meets monthly, second Tuesday during the school year. All women welcome!*

**Apr 10**—A presentation of Darren Wright's art by Laurie Mikitka

**May 8**—Woman architect movie presented by Freddie Heitman

**Jun 12**—Planning

Alternate—Civil War Museum dresses presented by Marilyn Kortum



## **UU Metaphysical Research Group**

*Meets monthly, third Sundays, 12:30pm, Library* An open forum created to reflect, discuss, investigate and research topics vary from mysteries of our existence, paradoxes in reality, puzzling questions of origin and first principles to studying individual philosophers and famous Unitarian Universalists. Contact: Joel Bailey

## **Galdr Kindred**

*Meets monthly, first Sunday, from 1-3pm in the John Adams Room. Business meetings held third Saturdays from 12-2pm in the Library.* If the Galdr Kindred has a central principle that defines this group, it would be that we seek to understand and apply our shamanic heathenry to commune with the World Tree, Yggdrasil, in order to root ourselves into the dreaming intelligence of the Earth. We do not discriminate based on race, gender, sexual orientation, etc. We operate within the guidelines of the 7 Unitarian Universalist principles. We will not tolerate hate or abuse of any kind. We openly refute and will not congregate with groups that use hate in the name of the Gods. We support declaration 127. Contacts: Mathieu Thiem and Christian Torres.



## ***Find Out About Covenant Circles!***

### **You Are Invited to Join Our Covenant Circles**

Covenant Circles are open to all who are interested in connecting more deeply with the folks at the church. These groups give participants opportunity to deepen in their own self-understanding and foster closeness and connectedness. Please feel free to visit to see if you would like to be part of the group; if you choose to join the group after that, we ask that you commit to attend regularly.

### **Friends Covenant Group, a women's group**

*Meets monthly, the third Friday, 4 pm, Jagers Parlor* Contact: Connie Nolen

### **Men's Covenant Group**

*Meets monthly, the first Wednesday, 7pm, Jagers Parlor* In March, Dr. James Farmer will speak on Life Coaching and building self-esteem. Contact: Bob Portman

### **Evensong, a covenant group for women.**

*Meets monthly on the third Tuesday, usually in a member's home* Contact Mary Alice Williams at 817-683-3062 or on Facebook if you are interested in attending.

### **Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS)**

*Meets monthly on the 2nd Sunday, 12:15 pm, John Adams Room* Contact Rosalind Dugan 817-447- 9240 or [rosalind.dugan@yahoo.com](mailto:rosalind.dugan@yahoo.com).



## ■ WORK TOGETHER TOWARD SOCIAL JUSTICE

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### ■ HUUDLE/Voices in Action

An online group to share individual action and gather support and attendance for events. Usually meets monthly on the first Sundays following potluck luncheon in the library (**Please note: Next meeting will be April 8**). Join us on April 8 for a discussion of how best to use First Jefferson's Social Justice funds. Contact: Pam Cox or Lorraine Levine. *See you in April!*



## ■ LOVE RESISTS THROUGH RADICAL PRESENCE: ICE & COURT ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAMS

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March 27, from 7:00-8:15 p.m. (ET).

Bryan Stevenson told UU's at last year's General Assembly that to make a difference, we must "get proximate to the suffering". More and more congregations are looking for ways to do this effectively; to resist the current administration's racist actions and to stop unnecessary deportations. ICE and court accompaniment programs enable supporters to journey alongside people fighting for their own freedom and dignity, and hold the system accountable. In our immigration and criminal justice systems that often results in unjust outcomes, accompaniment programs can make a real difference. Hear about some established ICE and Court accompaniment programs in the country about how accompaniment has helped to stop deportations, reduce bonds, and keep families together. As Stevenson says: "if you are willing to get closer to people who are suffering, you will find the power to change the world."

Register Here: [https://uusc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ulpS52RFQNm7r8XG9KCylA](https://uusc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ulpS52RFQNm7r8XG9KCylA)



## EASTSIDE MINISTRIES

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### Eastside Ministries Needs You!

Daytime, business hours volunteers needed at Eastside Ministries to help receive, sort, tag, and display clothing donations that come in each day. If you are able to help, come by any day during business hours to get started. Eastside Ministries, 5929 E Lancaster Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76112, (817) 446-3278.



## OFFERING DONATION

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On Sundays, if an offering is not designated to one's budget drive pledge, half is passed on to a recipient organization chosen quarterly. Suggestions for recipient organizations to Irene Forrester, Board president.



## COMMUNITY GARDEN

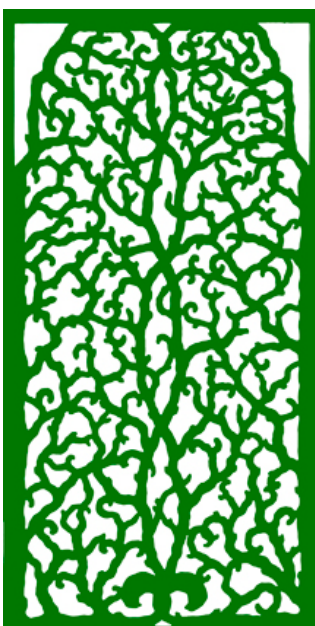
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Prime East Fort Worth sandy loam plots = \$35/yr. Contact: Connie Nolen or Karl Thibodeaux.

Support the community garden when purchasing free trade coffee or chocolate Sundays!

### Community Garden Clean up

*2nd Saturday 10am - 12pm Next Clean Up will be April 14.*



## CHILD & YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Religious Education Council Chairs: Mary West and Julia Sexton

#### Easter Canned Food Hunt

Easter is right around the corner, which means it's time to start gathering items for our annual food hunt benefitting Eastside Ministries. Please bring donations of non-perishable foods, as well as hygiene products to the red grocery cart at church. Thank you!

#### Nursery

*The Nursery provides care for children through age 3 during the 9:30am-10:45 education time.*

At this point the Nursery also includes the younger elementary children, our Chalice Children, for free play after they attend the beginning of worship.

#### Our Current Curriculum

*The curriculum for 2017-2018 focuses on world religions and the six sources of Unitarian Universalism. Some classes will explore stories from other faiths. Some classes will learn about different beliefs and even have a chance to visit houses of worship.*

#### PK-1

Spirit Play is a way of introducing children to sacred stories and providing a safe community for exploring those stories and their own big questions. Using the Montessori method, Spirit Play students hear stories and then choose how to respond to that experience using craft and other materials or work directly with the stories. The spiritual environment of the classroom includes a range of ages and developmental levels. *Lead Teacher: Jackie Freeman*

#### Grades 2-8

Holidays and Holy Days is based on the very popular curriculum by Charlene Brotman, a Unitarian Universalist religious educator. She says, "Holidays are the natural, age-old vehicle of religious socialization, setting time aside to remember

a great person or event, give thanks for life's bounty: harvest, safety, freedom, warmth, or invoke light and gladness for overcoming darkness and danger, death and drought. Festivities tell a story which children absorb through experiences far more than through words." *Lead Teacher: Mary West*

#### High School

Neighboring Faiths offers a thoughtful way to become familiar with world religions and visit houses of worship. The youth and advisors will learn the basic tenets of a particular faith before attending a service at a local congregation. This program was created by Unitarian Universalist educators Christine Reed and Patricia Hoertdoerfer. A preview of the book can be found on Google books. *Lead Teacher: Dan Sexton*

#### Become Part of Our Program

If you are interested in teaching, or have any questions, comments, concerns, etc. about the religious education program for children and youth, please see Mary West or Julia Sexton.



## ADULT SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION

### Adult Forum

*Sundays, 9:45 am, Jagers Parlor*

**April 1:** Lorraine Levine will facilitate a discussion on current events.

**April 8th:** Bill Maginnis will be presenting some of his interesting videos.

**April 15th:** Shannon Layman, a UTA faculty member and some other people involved with Musical Memory Singers, will explain their program for people with Alzheimers and similar disorders and their caretakers.

**April 22nd:** Jean Bruttell Morris will talk about the Living Covenant.

**April 29th:** Topic to be announced.

*Coordinator: Lorraine Levine. Got something interesting to say? Let Lorraine Levine know. We have openings in the months to come.*

### Adventures in Religion—

#### The Hero with a Thousand Faces

*John Adams Room, Sundays, 9:30 a.m.*

Adventures in Religion is a round-table discussion group about world religions. We are currently discussing Joseph Campbell's *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, Princeton University Press; 2nd edition; (March 1, 1972). ISBN-10: 0691017840. ISBN-13: 978-0691017846. (Paperback).

*This book uncovers truths disguised under figures of religion and mythology. Campbell explores Apollo, the Frog King of the fairy tale, Wotan, the Buddha, and others, and the relationship of their*



*timeless symbols to those rediscovered in dream by depth psychology. He compares the psychological view with the words of such spiritual leaders as Moses, Jesus, Mohammed, Lao-tse, and the "Old Men" of the Australian tribes. From behind a thousand faces, the single hero emerges, archetype of all myth, and, through him, a statement of the basic truths by which man has lived throughout the millennia. (Joseph Campbell and Princeton University Press)*

### March Estimated Preview

Part Two: The Cosmogonic Cycle

Chapter I: Emanations

1. From Psychology to Metaphysics
2. The Universal Round
3. Out of the Void—Space
4. Within Space—Life
5. The Breaking of the One into the Manifold
6. Folk Stories of Creation

### New Location!

Adventures in Religion meets in the John Adams Room, 9:30 am, Sundays.

*Please join us there!*

## ■ APRIL 2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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### **SUN APR 1, 2018**

8am Easter Party, Coleman Hall  
 12:15pm Potluck Sunday Coleman Hall  
 12:30pm The Galdr Kindred, John Adams Room

### **TUE APR 3, 2018**

1pm First Jefferson Quilters, Jaggars Parlor  
 7pm Trans-cendence Meeting, Coleman Hall

### **WED APR 4, 2018**

7pm Men's Covenant Group, Jaggars Parlor

### **THU APR 5, 2018**

6pm LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S Board Meeting, Jaggars Parlor  
 7pm PFLAG, Coleman Hall  
 7pm PFLAG Youth Group, Jaggars Parlor

### **SAT APR 7, 2018**

10:30am Gentle Yoga, Sanctuary  
 12:30pm Knitting Group, Jaggars Parlor

### **SUN APR 8, 2018 - CELEBRATION SUNDAY**

12:15pm Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs) Meeting, John Adams Room  
 12:30pm Stone Soup Luncheon, Coleman Hall  
 12:30pm Caring & Sharing Meeting, Coleman Hall  
 12:30pm HUUDLE/Voices in Action, Library  
 12:30pm Religious Education Council, Religious Education Office  
 1:30pm Astrological Society of North Texas, Jaggars Parlor

### **MON APR 9, 2018**

6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting, Church Office

### **TUE APR 10, 2018**

12pm Women's Alliance, Coleman Hall  
 1pm First Jefferson Quilters, Jaggars Parlor

### **THU APR 12, 2018**

11am Eastside Ministries Board Meeting, Coleman Hall

### **SAT APR 14, 2018**

10:30am Gentle Yoga, Sanctuary  
 12:30pm Knitting Group, Jaggars Parlor

### **SUN APR 15, 2018**

12:30pm Metaphysical Research Group, Library  
 1pm Board Meeting, Jaggars Parlor

### **TUE APR 17, 2018**

10am Courier Deadline, Email: administrator@irstjefferson.org  
 1pm First Jefferson Quilters, Jaggars Parlor  
 7pm Trans-cendence Meeting, Coleman Hall

### **WED APR 18, 2018**

7pm PFLAG Board Meeting, Library

### **THU APR 19, 2018**

6pm Worship Arts Committee, Jaggars Parlor  
 7pm LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S., Library

### **FRI APR 20, 2018**

4pm Friends Covenant Group, A Women's Group Jaggars Parlor  
 6:30pm Interweave Get Together, No Frills Grill, 1550 Eastchase Pkwy., Suite 1200, Arlington 76017

### **SAT APR 21, 2018**

10:30am Gentle Yoga, Sanctuary  
 12pm The Galdr Kindred, John Adams Room  
 12:30pm Knitting Group, Jaggars Parlor

### **SUN APR 22, 2018**

Fire Drill during Worship Service  
 12:30pm Church Council Meeting, Jaggars Parlor  
 1pm Cross Timbers Magical Studies Group, John Adams Room

### **TUE APR 24, 2018**

1pm First Jefferson Quilters, Jaggars Parlor  
 7pm Book Discussion Group, Jaggars Parlor

### **SAT APR 28, 2018**

10:30am Gentle Yoga, Sanctuary  
 12:30pm Knitting Group, Jaggars Parlor  
 7pm CUUPs Beltane, Coleman Hall

## ■ HOSTED AT FIRST JEFFERSON

### PFLAG

*1st Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm*  
PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. More info at [www.pflagfortworth.org](http://www.pflagfortworth.org) or contact Mark & Lisa Daly [mark.daly@tx.rr.com](mailto:mark.daly@tx.rr.com).

### LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S.

*Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month, 7pm Jagers Parlor/Library*

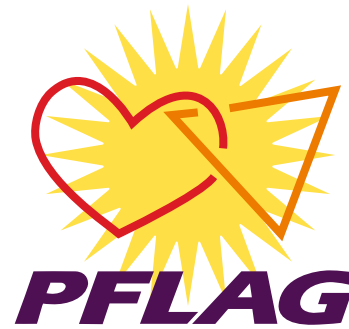
**Vision:** A community where ALL youth are safe.

**Mission:** LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S. fosters the well-being of LGBTQ youth and allies.

- provide safe spaces for social and personal development;
- promote supportive learning environments; and
- provide resources to youth and their families.

### Trans-cendence

*First & Third Tuesdays of each month, 7pm, Coleman Hall*  
Trans-Cendence works to support transgender and gender diverse people of all ages and sexual orientations. They also support the spouses, partners, parents, friends and allies of gender diverse people and are a resource for those who work closely with transgender people like counselors, educators, law enforcement, etc.



### Astrological Society of North Texas

*Second Sundays, 12:30 pm, Jagers Parlor*  
The Astrological Society of North Texas is a non-profit whose purpose is to share astrological information and to offer education in the science/art of astrology.

### Spectrum Concert Series

*Next concert is May 14, 2018 at 7:30 in the Sanctuary*  
Now in our 32nd season, the Spectrum Chamber Music Society is devoted to sharing diverse and exciting chamber music performances with the local community of Fort Worth, as well as neighboring communities. Our annual series of six unique concert programs take place at two local churches, First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth (downtown) and First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church (eastside). The group features musicians of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, joined by musicians from all over North Texas and beyond.

*For questions concerning Spectrum concerts, please contact Dan Sigale by phone at (817) 938-5492 or via email at [spectrumchambermusic@gmail.com](mailto:spectrumchambermusic@gmail.com), or visit our website at [spectrumchambermusic.com](http://spectrumchambermusic.com).*



THIS MONTH & BEYOND

## 🕯️ *Pass it on* 🕯️

### Annual Budget Drive



March 25 *Commitment Sunday - pledge cards available*  
 April 1 *Easter - budget drive midway point*  
 April 8 *Celebration Sunday - budget drive complete*  
*Stone Soup Luncheon*

This year's **pledge goal is \$149,906**. A healthy stretch fitting a congregation prepping for a minister search following a six-month period of lay ministry.

\$150,755 = 14% increase over 2017 pledges

\$148,005 = 12% increase

\$142,505 = 8% increase

### **How much is right? What should you pledge?**

You'll see and hear all sorts of phrases: tithing, fair share giving, etc. **Of your presence and your presents, how much of your time and talents will you share, how much of your treasure should you share?**

One way to think about it is, how much do you need to give to feel generous? Another is, how much do you need to give to feel like you have a seat at the table? How much to feel like you are a decider? How much to feel invested?

*"Over the last few weeks, as we were discussing things like a minister search and a name change, building repairs, the church aesthetics and so much more, I can't help but think of what we already have. What we were fortunate enough to inherit. We have the principles to guide us. The affirmation (doctrine) of our church to keep us focused. Our covenant to keep us in right relations. We also have received gifts we often take for granted: The grounds, the building, with the great beams in Coleman hall, our sanctuary which carries the beautiful musical notes around the room, the RE wing, nurturing and growing the future UU's. Which gift means the most to you? As a fellow steward of our faith, how do you show your appreciation? Are you vested? As steward of our great faith I ask what legacies shall we leave? What relationship? What reputation do we want to have? How do we want to be remembered? I beseech you to reflect on these before you think of how much you want to pledge, as a fellow steward of our faith, what part(s) will your stewardship be?"*

~Irene Forrester, president

## NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

*The publishing schedule has moved up by a week to issue The Courier the Sunday prior to the beginning of each month.*

### May issue

Content and images due: Tuesday, 4/24

### June issue

Content and images due: Tuesday, 5/22

### July issue

Content and images due: Tuesday, 6/19

## WORKING ON OUR PUBLICITY—TOGETHER!

Send us your photos of fellowship and service in our church or community to [publicize@firstjefferson.org](mailto:publicize@firstjefferson.org)! Send us your advertisements for groups, classes and parties to [publicize@firstjefferson.org](mailto:publicize@firstjefferson.org).



## COUNCILS

The committee of committee chairs, the Church Council, has a Facebook group for calendaring, collaboration or policy question. If you are a committee chair and have not received an invite, please email [vicepresident@firstjefferson.org](mailto:vicepresident@firstjefferson.org) to be added.

The committee of small group leads also has a Facebook group for calendaring, collaboration and policy questions, if you are a small group of covenant circle leaders, please contact [vicepresident@firstjefferson.org](mailto:vicepresident@firstjefferson.org) to be added to the Fellowship Council.

## Board Notes

From the March meeting of the Board of Trustees, a few items to report:

- For HVAC replacement of the main sanctuary unit, a \$10,000.00 estimate was accepted, a motion passed to request the amount from the church endowment committee to transfer the funds to cover the expense
- After research on lay ministry for pastoral care, Sue Lowry and Betty Churchman have been appointed co-chairs to the Caring and Sharing committee
- Mary Alice Williams was appointed to a three year term on the Committee on Ministries, replacing Margo Spoolstra. We thank Margo for her service.
- Compensation to the Rev. Annie Foerster for supplemental duties provided, outside of guest sermons, was approved not to exceed \$500/month
- To fill the Minister Search Committee, two more names were approved, after discussion, to add to the president's pool of approved appointees. A Search committee will be announced once the seats are all accepted.
- Lawn service will be contracted to mow weekly. Edging and field mowing will remain by volunteer.
- We have a few mulberry trees creating property damage to a neighbor's yard and pool. The board approved removing the trees and hiring a contract tree service if necessary.

**CONGREGATION PRESIDENT**

Irene Forrester  
president@firstjefferson.org

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Jean Bruttell Morris  
vicepresident@firstjefferson.org

**MEMBERSHIP**

Jude Olson, Peggy Portman,  
Mary Alice Williams  
membership@firstjefferson.org

**MINISTER EMERITA**

Rev. Marjorie Montgomery

**CHURCH OFFICE**

Karl Thibodeaux 817-451-1505  
administrator@firstjefferson.org

**CHURCH WEBSITE**

www.firstjefferson.org

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**COURIER #381, APRIL 2018**

First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church  
1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76112-5412

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED****NEXT COURIER, ISSUE #382**

Submission Date  
Tuesday, April 24, 10am  
Send edited articles to Karl at  
publicize@firstjefferson.org

**2018 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

*President*, Irene Forrester  
*Vice President*, Jean Bruttell Morris  
*Treasurer*, Dan Sexton  
*Secretary*, Mary West  
*Member-at-Large*, Betty Churchman  
*Member-at-Large*, Sue Lowry  
*Member-at-Large*, Della Purdin-Hall

Committee on Ministries: Bob Portman,  
Julia Sexton, Mary Alice Williams

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**TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL ENCLOSED**