

Courier

First Jefferson
Unitarian
Universalist
Church

Hope  Joy  Awe  Connection

June 1, 2018

Fort Worth, Texas

Number 383

*We are a liberal religious community of diverse individuals. We nurture **spiritual growth**, encourage **lifelong education**, work for **social justice**, serve the **larger community**, and celebrate **life's gifts** together through meaningful worship. We welcome and support others in their expression of religious freedom.*

Our Relational Covenant

Unitarian Universalist congregations, including our church, are founded on the mutual promises we make to one another about how we will live together. This covenant encourages us to bring our best selves to our relationships with one another. We commit to practice and promote these ideals intentionally so that we grow in spirit and deepen our connections with one another and all that is.

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.

CONGREGATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Congregants,

I hope that the heat has not been wearing you down. It is hard for me to believe I ever did tolerate the heat living in Iran and Thailand. I want to say thank you to all who came for our Spring Congregational meeting. The budget was approved and I am glad to say it is a balanced budget. To make it balance, we did have to make a few cuts. I hope it does not affect us too much. One of the cuts we will feel was to Worship arts. We are asking for 6 lay lead services this next year. If you have an idea, or if there is a sermon that has been brewing inside you, please reach out to Worship arts.

The name change was also discussed, I must say I am excited by the amount of energy there. The vote was an affirmation to a name change, but not until a task force is created to look into possible names, costs and process therein. Thank you everyone for allowing us to address the needs for a change and the need for everyone to be heard.

Rather than write about the very things which were in the president's letter. I have asked Karl to add it to this newsletter and therefore, I can keep this one short. If you have not read it from our congregational packet, please take a moment and read it. I also want to say thank you to all who supported me through my first congregational meeting as president. I could not have done it without you.

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



June 3

“Living By Theology”

The Reverend Annie Foerster

Before we create our elevator speeches, perhaps we ought to know what other people understand by the words ‘religion,’ ‘theology’ and ‘belief.’ If we build our own theology, is it strong enough to stand upon?

June 10

“The Hero’s Journey: What Again?”

The Reverend Annie Foerster

I promise this is the last in the series of explorations of what it means to live the hero’s journey. Didn’t I last speak about being done? Spoiler alert—the series should have been called The Hero’s Journeys (plural). Yikes!

June 17

“Who Says?”

The Reverend Annie Foerster

Where do you get your authority for your beliefs, your faith, your actions? From the Constitution? From your own experiences? From study and reading? From parents and peers? Yes. Perhaps the next question is Who Needs Authority?

June 24

“Becoming Invincible: Overcoming Fear Through Reason and Experience”

John Beckett

We live in fearful times—or so we’re told. Politicians attempt to exploit our fears, while others claim fear is only an illusion and attempt to shame those who are afraid.

Sometimes fear is rational. Other times it’s not. Most times it’s a little of both, and that makes it really complicated. But through reason and experience, we can keep fear from controlling our lives.

John Beckett a member and former President of the Denton UU Fellowship, where he serves on the Worship Committee. John is a Druid in the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids, a member of the Denton Covenant of UU Pagans, and a former Vice President of CUUPS Continental. His blog “Under the Ancient Oaks” is part of the Pagan Channel of the multifaith website Patheos. John has been writing, speaking, teaching, and leading public rituals since 2003.

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

■ CARING & SHARING

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.

Roy Brake graduated from Tarleton with Bachelor of Business Administration this month. Jo Burnham and the rest of the First Jefferson family are very pleased and proud!

Congratulations to Matt Jones who graduated from the University of North Texas on May 12. Matt received a B.S. degree in Ecology and Sustainability and will be attending the University of Minnesota next fall to pursue a masters in Environmental Policy. Matt grew up at First Jefferson, starting here when he was one year old with his parents Mary and Kimmel and brother Casey.

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 home-bound, and making casseroles that can be frozen and used when needed. If you are interested in doing some or all of this, you can contact Betty Churchman at bettychurchman@swingingbridgesministries.org or Sue Lowry at sue.lowry56@gmail.com.

■ POTLUCK SUNDAY

Sunday, June 3, 12:15pm, Coleman Hall

Bring a dish to share or just join in and help us share the food, fun and fellowship. Please join us as we pick our final choice for potential name change.

■ 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:

June—*Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee [Fiction]

July—*The Blind Man's Garden* by Nadeem Aslam [Fiction]

August—*Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation* by Lynne Truss [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. 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 2nd & 4th 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.

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.

Women's Alliance

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

Jun 12—Planning Meeting

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 (Group will not meet in July and August—Have a great Summer!) Contact: Connie Nolen

Men's Covenant Group

Meets monthly, the first Wednesday, 7pm, Jagers Parlor The men's Group will meet Wednesday, May 2nd at 7pm in the Jagers Parlor. We will have our yearly spring dinner and open discussion conversations. I will bring BBQ ribs from David's BBQ. Bring whatever you want (salad, cold slaw, beer, dessert, etc.). I will bring some dominoes and card in case we want to re-remember how to play. Contact: Bob Portman

Evensong, a covenant group for women.

Meets monthly on the third Tuesday, usually in a member's home Group is on Summer hiatus. See you in the Fall! 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, 1pm, John Adams Room Contact Rosalind Dugan 817-447- 9240/rosalind.dugan@yahoo.com or Charlotte Bailey, charlibailey@gmail.com.

■ Do You Know *THE POINT*?

The Point is a customizable Unitarian Universalist retreat for all ages.

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 (trivia, bingo, talent show, game night, star-gazing, s'mores and sing-alongs), outdoor activities, programming for all ages and interests, and an engaging theme speaker. Each day begins with worship and ends with a sunset talk, but how you spend your day is completely up to you!

We hope you can join us at Lake Murray, July 22-27, 2018!

For more information and registration visit <http://www.thepointuu.org/>



DENISE THORNSBY

Denise grew up in Longmont Colorado, but has lived in Texas for the last 32 years. Her son, Oliver, is 9 years old. She has been the property manager of an apartment complex for the last 20 years. An avid gardener of both vegetables and flowers she has a garden and green house at her home. Denise is especially interested in hydroponic gardening with a tower garden where she can harvest leafy vegetables in three to five weeks. She watches a minimal amount of TV but is an avid reader of metaphysical and religious books where she has studied many belief systems. Both Denise and Oliver love animals with two dogs, four cats and a new bunny as part of their family. Denise grew up in the Lutheran church but did not go through confirmation at age 12 because of belief differences. Denise found out about First Jefferson from Jo Burnham while visiting The Enchanted Forest store.



RANIEL BAKER

Raniel found out about First Jefferson while he was visiting Jo Burnham's place of employment, The Enchanted Forest. He asked her if she knew of any Pagan Rituals or Gatherings in the area. And surely enough she did! Raniel is a member of our CUUPS and Galdr Kindred groups.

Raniel was born in St Petersburg, Florida and moved to Ft Worth when he was thirteen. He has been a performing singer since he was a child and was first chair in the Ft Worth All City High School Honor Choir his senior year. Raniel received his BA from Tarleton State University with a major in vocal musical performance. He was a chorus member in the St Petersburg, Florida opera for one year. Raniel's vocal interest ranges from opera to metal, country, rhythm and blues, reggae, Japanese popular music, and even yodeling.

Raniel works in a cell phone repair warehouse and part time as a professional singer.



UUA General Assembly

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. The 2018 General Assembly will be June 20-24 in Kansas City, Missouri. Most General Assembly events will be held in the Kansas City Convention Center.

Registration and Housing Open March 1

GA Registration and the GA Housing Reservation System open at 9 a.m. CST. at www.uua.org/ga/travel

GA Theme: "All Are Called"

Grounded in a deep belief that we are all prophets, Unitarian Universalists ask, "How can we faithfully meet the demands of our time?" The call to witness and act for justice in our society and in the world is clear. So, too, is the call to examine our structures and practices, dismantling and transforming those which fail to recognize the full humanity of all people and to honor the interdependent web of life. Join us in Kansas City as we dive deeply into questions of mission for our Unitarian Universalist Association, for our congregations and communities, and for each of us as individuals.

Kansas City

The City of Fountains is practically overflowing with adventure. Whether it's the scent of smoldering BBQ luring you to a plate of ribs, the sweet echo of jazz welcoming an evening of entertainment or the spray of fountains inviting you to kick off your shoes and make a splash, you'll sense inspiration in the air – and find it along every boulevard.

As America's most centrally located major metropolitan area, Kansas City's location is a huge advantage for travelers. In fact, more than 55 million Americans can get to Kansas City in less than a day's drive. And flying there is even easier—as Kansas City International Airport is just a three-hour flight away from each coast.

Excellent Programming

GA will offer more than 175 programming selections over the course of five days. Major worships this year will be lead by UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray and Rev. Sofia Betancourt. More programming details are available at www.uua.org/ga.

Financial Aid Available

The UUA is committed to the goal of making GA accessible to as many attendees as possible. Go to www.uua.org/ga in the month of March to learn about scholarships to support delegates - particularly those from marginalized groups - and volunteer opportunities (work in exchange for registration).



EASTSIDE MINISTRIES

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

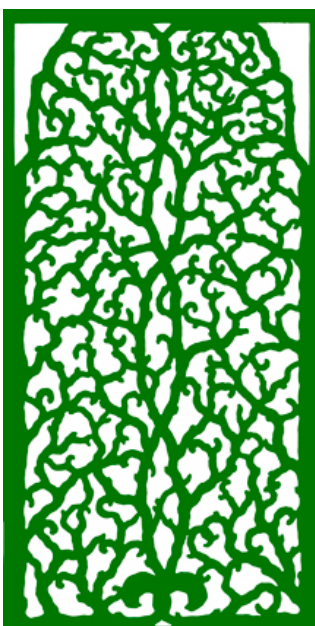
On Sundays, if an offering is not designated to one's budget drive pledge, half is passed on to a recipient organization chosen quarterly. Suggestions for recipient organizations to Irene Forrester, Board president.



COMMUNITY GARDEN

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! Next sales day is Sunday, May 6.



CHILD & YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Council Chairs: Mary West and Julia Sexton

Summer Maker Space Coming Soon!

The final Religious Education classes of the 2017-18 year will be on May 20th. The teachers and RE families will then take a break for a few weeks. On June 17, we begin our summer program: Maker Space. The goals include exploring our creative sides, inventive reuse of materials, and the joy of making things. We could use any old craft supplies you have been meaning to re-home as well as cardboard, plastic, or fabrics. We are also accepting volunteers to come help lead the youth and maybe share new techniques with them. Adults are encouraged to come and get creative with us!

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 Forum

Sundays, 9:45 am, Jagers Parlor

May 27: Bill Maginnis will show some of the fascinating videos he found on YouTube.

June 3rd: Mary Cathcart will talk about her study trips to Honduras and Mexico.

June 10th: Lon Burnam will talk about developments in environmental issues, especially nuclear waste disposal.

June 17th: Betty churchman will talk wills and end of life preparation.

June 24th: Don Wilcox will bring a speaker from Amphibian Theater to talk about creative things they are doing with their theater.

July 1st: Lorraine Levine will facilitate a current events discussion.

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)

This Month's Estimated Preview

Part Two: The Cosmogonic Cycle

Chapter III: Transformations Of The Hero

6. The Hero as World Redeemer
7. The Hero as Saint
8. Departure of the Hero

Chapter IV: Dissolutions

1. End of the Microcosm
2. End of the Macrocosm

■ JUNE 2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAT JUN 2, 2018

10:30am Gentle Yoga, Sanctuary

SUN JUN 3, 2018

12:15pm Potluck Sunday, Coleman Hall
12:30pm HUUDLE/Voices in Action, Library
12:30pm The Galdr Kindred, John Adams Room

TUE JUN 5, 2018

1pm First Jefferson Quilters , Jagggers Parlor
7pm Trans-cendence Meeting, Coleman Hall,
John Adams Room, HS Room

WED JUN 6, 2018

7pm Men's Covenant Group, Jagggers Parlor

THU JUN 7, 2018

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

SAT JUN 9, 2018

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

SUN JUN 10, 2018

12:30pm Religious Education Council, Religious Education Office
1pm Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs) Meeting, John Adams Room
1:30pm Astrological Society of North Texas, Jagggers Parlor

MON JUN 11, 2018

6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting, Church Office

TUE JUN 12, 2018

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

FRI JUN 15, 2018

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

SAT JUN 16, 2018

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

SUN JUN 17, 2018

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

TUE JUN 19, 2018

10am Courier Deadline, Email: administrator@irstjefferson.org
7pm Trans-cendence Meeting, Coleman Hall, John Adams Room, HS Room

WED JUN 20, 2018

7pm PFLAG Board Meeting , Library

THU JUN 21, 2018

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

SAT JUN 23, 2018

10:30am Gentle Yoga, Sanctuary
12:30pm Knitting Group, Jagggers Parlor
7pm CUUPs Midsummer , Coleman Hall, Kitchen Tue Jun 26, 2018
1pm First Jefferson Quilters , Jagggers Parlor
7pm Book Discussion Group, Jagggers Parlor

SAT JUN 30, 2018

10:30am Gentle Yoga, Sanctuary



■ 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 or contact Mark & Lisa Daly mark.daly@tx.rr.com.

LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S.

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

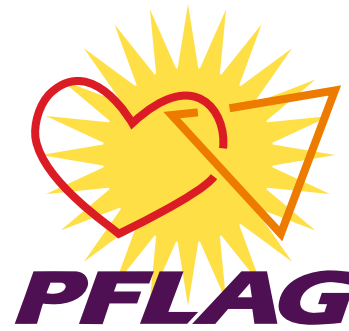
Vision: A community where ALL youth are safe.

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

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, or visit our website at spectrumchambermusic.com.



THIS MONTH & BEYOND

■ PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

From the May 20 Congregational Meeting:

Transcendent Values of First Jefferson are:

- Hope
- Joy
- Awe
- Connection

Areas of Focus in 2018-2019

- Formalizing and setting Policies
- Safety, Communication, Building use and conflict resolution
- Ministerial Search
- Lay lead Pastoral Care
- Worship
 - Thank you to Julie Hevelone and Mary Kirwin as co-chairs of the Worship Arts team, for all the wonderful services!
 - Thank you to Roy Redman, Mikhail Berestnev, and the choir for providing wonderful
 - Thank you to all the lay leaders, who help or provide a service.
 - Thank you Lewis Morris, Karl Thibodeaux and Patrick Gutierrez for operating the projector and sound system.
- Stewardship, beyond dollars and cents
- Renewing our status as a Welcoming committee
- Becoming a Green Sanctuary
- Board Development
- The board started off the year slowly, with the president falling to pneumonia.
- Sue Lowry stepped down from the Board and will focus her energies on Worship Arts

Addressing the Absence of a minister

- Pastoral Care
 - Pastoral care is being handled by our Caring and Sharing Committee. Thank you Sue Lowry and Betty Churchman for revamping the committee and addressing many pastoral needs and concerns of our congregants
 - Thank you Julia Sexton, Bob Portman and Mary Alice Williams for working on the Committee on Ministries, the pastoral care of the congregation..

Administration

- Once again many thanks to Karl Thibodeaux for all his great work as office administrator. He goes way beyond his call of duty, handles so many details that are essential to the running of the church, he is the vital link in our communications without and within our church and he works with our renters and manages our rentals.
- Many thanks are also due to Jean Morris who has graciously given of her time and talents to revamp our many venues of communication, from our order of service, to the newsletter and Facebook.
- Thomas Earthman has taken over the duties of childcare administration.

Stewardship

- I am very pleased to say that most people turned in their pledge. It was nice to see many new pledge units come in this year. Thank you for all who responded to our call. Although, we have enough in pledges and estimated income to create a balanced budget, we do not have enough to hire on a minister. Maybe next year.
- A grant was not submitted to the North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations. Should the name change be approved, the board may apply for a grant to defray the associated costs.

Building Projects

- To comply with our Insurance carrier, our roof will be replaced, sans the portion done a few years ago.
- Doors will be replaced and or repaired. This is more than a cosmetic upgrade. It will secure our building and make it more accessible to others.
- Air conditioning units in the sanctuary and the RE wing will be replaced.

Long Term Rental

- EC Stanton Community School have been holding school here since August and it has been a good fit. They have increased in size, and appear will continue to do.

My dream for the congregation:

- To be more inviting to the community around us.
- To see more diversity, in the peoples that attend our church.
- To be more Green, using less disposables, etc.
- To be a Welcoming Congregation.
- To be more visible in our community
- To have the RE Wing Bursting and over flowing with the life and laughter from all the families
- To be standing room only during service
- For us all to be strong, active stewards of our faith

*With Dreams in my eyes,
Hope in my heart, and
Faith in tomorrow,
Irene*

A Message From Your Finance Committee

We are closing in on June 30, the end of our fiscal year for accounting purposes. We thank you and appreciate the many pledge payments and other donations that you have made to First Jefferson during 2017-2018. We would not be able to sustain it all without your generous financial support!

There have been a number of unforeseen/unbudgeted expenses recently for air conditioning repairs and other building and grounds maintenance. At the same time, we have also experienced a decline in projected pledge income. We gently remind you to remit any outstanding balances due toward your current pledge. At our congregational meeting on May 20, we gratefully accepted the additional contributions from a number of our members to be applied to this deficit. If you were not aware and might be able to contribute more, we will continue to accept your donations for this effort through the end of the month.

And, we would also like to thank the Religious Education Council for providing monthly breakfast and/or lunch meals for the congregation. This regular fundraiser has made a difference to help support the regular programs and activities for our children, youth, and teachers. The congregation appreciates it very much!

With gratitude,
Mary Kirwin
Connie Nolen
Dan Sexton
Eric Wennersten

CONGREGATION PRESIDENT

Irene Forrester
president@firstjefferson.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Jean Bruttell Morris
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MEMBERSHIP

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COURIER #383, JUNE 2018

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Submission Date
Tuesday, June 19, 10am
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