

Courier

First Jefferson
Unitarian
Universalist
Church

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.

June 1, 2017

Fort Worth, Texas

Number 371



On The Journey

"I wanted a perfect ending. Now I've learned, the hard way, that some poems don't rhyme, and some stories don't have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next. Delicious ambiguity."

~ Gilda Radner

When I talk about the nature of the congregation and its ministry, I could – and often do – remind us of our highest aspirations, of all the beautiful visions for a more just world that is free from oppression, of a Beloved Community that is at once a point on the horizon and a result of all that we do here and now. I will address the meaning of covenant and the special promises we make as part of this faith and this congregation. My hope is to raise our collective spirits and remind us of the best part of Unitarian Universalism and of this faith community. That lift can be enough to start the day well or to remember that there is more than the grief and fear that so often are part of our

world. I know I need to be reminded of the dream when I hear of the bombing at a pop concert in Manchester, England, and how so many girls, teens, and women are killed or injured.

Gilda Radner's words remind me that most of our lives come in much smaller and much less fabulous increments. Gilda was one of the great original comedians of Saturday Night Live. She died of ovarian cancer at age 42. Even her work in comedy, where a look or a gesture can make a joke, did not counter her desire for life to go as expected. When I ask you to help me create a covenant, I ask for what you need to be safe and to function well. I ask for what you can give to support a particular group or purpose. People name what is needed and what is offered. The result is a document of hope based in real experience of painful moments, of wanting to be heard, and of wanting to live as an authentic person of faith.

After the covenant is made, then the real work begins. If recent conversations about race and about gender orientation tell me anything, it is that the smallest of words and the most invisible of attitudes make an enormous difference in feelings of respect, of how to physically interact with a person, or whether a person can use a bathroom in peace. As I said in worship on May 7, our first task of growing in our relationship
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On The Journey

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with the Holy, Divine, and the Universe is to meet the world as it is, because we are met in the same way. Universalists would say that we are loved as we are, no matter how much mud we dig into or that lands on us. As we explore the nature of covenant this month, let us enter into that delicious complexity instead of looking for happy endings. Let us attend to those small, ragged moments that also are part of achieving our aspirations.

Namaste,
Jennifer



■ WHERE IN THE UUORLD IS THE REVEREND JENNIFER?

Generally I am available for meetings and conversations on Wednesdays and Thursdays. I am happy to visit at the church or meet in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. This month I will lead worship on June 4 and 11. I will participate in the Worship Arts meeting on June 1, the potluck and congregational meeting on June 4, and the Committee on Ministries meeting on June 14. My family and I will be away for the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association as of June 17.

The best ways to reach me are by my cell: 972-639-7900 and by email: revjinnis@earthlink.net. I look forward to hearing from you.

Bowing to the light within,
Jennifer



Theological Themes for 2016-2017

The themes for the year are part of our effort to focus the messages in worship and education. We also recognize the value of exploring an idea in more depth than can be done in one service or one class. This year's themes are based on the unison affirmation we say together in worship every Sunday.

Love is the doctrine of this church, the quest of truth is our sacrament and service is our prayer. To dwell together in peace, to seek knowledge in freedom, to serve others in community to the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with creation—Thus do we covenant with one another.

For July and August, we started with *Love is the doctrine of this church.*

*The Quest of Truth Is Our Sacrament—*September and October

*Service is Our Prayer—*November and December

*To Dwell Together in Peace—*January
*Seek Knowledge in Freedom—*February and March

*Grow in Harmony—*April and May
*Covenant—*June

See Reverend Jennifer for more information about the themes.

June 4

“Global Flower Communion”

**The Reverend Jennifer Innis and
Congregation**

In honor of the 95th anniversary of Flower Communion, the Unitarians in Prague invite all Unitarian Universalist congregations to celebrate the inclusive ritual created by the Rev. Norbert Capek. Rev. Capek offered a worship that would speak to the people who came from many faiths before finding the Unitarian church in Prague. Please bring flowers to share with the congregation as part of the worship. <https://www.uua.org/international/blog/international-flower-communion>



June 11

“The Promise of Welcome”

The Reverend Jennifer Innis

June 18

“Jack Calhoun’s Vision: Occupy the World”

Dan Levine

See upcoming weekly emails for more information.

June 25

“Down in My Soul”

The Reverend Samuel Schaal

The wisdom of all ages speaks about the road to our depth. Yet most of us live on the surface. We accept ourselves as we appear to ourselves. But when the picture we have of ourselves breaks down, we are plunged into the depths, beyond the surface of self to the soul, where we might discover deep things.

Sunday Schedule

9:15 AM Nursery: Infants thru Age 3

9:30 AM Adventures in Religion, Library

9:45 AM Adult Forum, Jagers Parlor/
HUUmanist Meeting(2nd Sunday)

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

10 AM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

11 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary

CARING & SHARING

*Dear First Jefferson UU's,
The family of Ed Lee and I would like to thank you for the Celebration of Life Service and reception for Ed. I heard several compliments about both and I thought they were well done. The personal stories were highly appreciated and touching. They brought tears to my eyes. The Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall looked great. The choir did an excellent job also. At the Reception there was a good variety of foods. Guests seemed comfortable and to be able to talk and share with others. Thanks you to each of you who participated and helped with the ceremony and/or the reception. You are each much appreciated. Ed would have been speechless which would have been rare for him. Also thank you to all who brought food to the Lee home. It was delicious, appreciated and all of it got eaten.
Muriel Lee and Family*

Marianne Hermann sends thanks to all for the thoughtful cards, help, food and support she has recently received. She also reports that she is doing well and progressing with her recovery after hip surgery.

Please remember, pray for, and think positive thoughts for a friend of the family of Joe Kleehammer, Daniel Vicena. Despite surviving 3 tours in the Middle East, he now faces a brain tumor and failing kidneys.

If you would like a pastoral note to be shared with the congregation, please write it in the notebook at the podium near the sanctuary entrance.

Caring and Sharing at First Jefferson is our network of cards and other support by members and friends. Please contact Rev. Jennifer if you need the prayers and care of the congregation, if you know of a need, or if you would like to help.

WELCOMING CONGREGATION

“What is a Welcoming Congregation, and why is it on the agenda for the congregational meeting?”

In the 1980s and 90s, when the word “welcoming” became a code word for lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, the Unitarian Universalist Association launched a Welcoming Congregation Program to help us learn how to undo homophobia—and later, transphobia (prejudice against transgender people)—in our hearts and minds, our congregations, and our communities.

Today, most Unitarian Universalist congregations are recognized Welcoming Congregations. The spiritual practice of welcome is a very important one to our faith community. First Jefferson completed the program many years’ ago.

While the congregation operates from the assumption that it is a safe, affirming space for those who are LBGTQAI, the Board recognizes the value of being intentionally welcoming. Language and understanding of sex, sexuality, gender has evolved in recent decades. Understanding the implications of gender and sexuality along with racism, ableism, and classism, to name a few, also has evolved. The Board will talk more about the renewal of the Welcoming Congregation status at the congregational meeting. The Board hopes to charge a task force with starting the renewal process over the summer. See <http://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program/refresher> for more information or contact a member of the Board.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who had dinner last month at El Pollo Loco for the Eastside Ministries fundraiser. ESM will get between \$500 and \$600 for that event.

■ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings First Jeffersonians!

With Memorial Day weekend upon us, summer has officially begun and there's lots going on at church.

This weekend will see much activity up at First Jefferson as the team leading the effort to spruce up church springs into action.

We will be replacing the carpet in Jagger's Parlor, removing the carpet from Coleman Hall and staining the concrete floors, and finishing up some exterior painting. All this in preparation for the Leadership Conference on June 10th. We like to say that 'service is our prayer' and this weekend offers many opportunities to put that into practice. Contact Mathieu Thiem or anyone on the Board for more information.

We are wrapping up our budget drive for 2017-2018. Thank you to all who have turned in pledges. We have some generous increases! Unfortunately, we are well short of a balanced budget. At last count we have \$124,603 in written pledges. The balanced budget includes \$175,000 in pledges. If all pledges come in as expected, we will be about \$40,000 short. The Board and the Finance Committee will be exploring our options in the coming days, in preparation for the Congregational Meeting on June 4th. Expect to hear several options presented at that meeting. Also, the leadership hopes to reach out to people who are connected to the congregation, but may not make a regular donation. Every contribution makes a difference. If you haven't turned in a pledge

form, feel free to send a note by email or look for electronic copies of the forms on the church Facebook group and on the church website(<http://firstjefferson.org/Courier/pledgeform/PledgeCommitmentForm2017.doc>). The Congregational Meeting agenda has already been published, per the bylaws. Please make certain to attend this meeting as we plan for our future together!

The Board of Trustees has recently been reminded that it has been over a decade since we last renewed our Welcoming Congregation status with the UUA. For those of you unfamiliar with this term, it denotes a congregation that has made an intentional effort to create a safe and welcoming place for members of the LGBTQIA community. The Board feels that this is important and necessary work for the future of First Jefferson. A task force is in the early stages of formation and we'll be reaching out to the congregation for additional voices. For information about the Welcoming Congregation program, go to: <http://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program>.

Saturday, June 10th, will see the Dallas-Fort Worth Cluster Leadership Conference at First Jefferson. I encourage everyone to register for this event. In addition to providing education and training in church leadership, this is also a great opportunity for fellowship with UUs from across North Texas. I hope to see all of you there!

In faith,
Michael Zepeda

■ POTLUCK SUNDAY

Sunday, June 4, 12:15pm, Coleman Hall

Do you have a culinary delight that you have been wanting to share with a group of people? Please join us as we share food, fun and fellowship after the service on the first Sunday of each month.

■ ALL CHURCH CLEAN UP

Saturday, June 17, 9am

Join us once a month as we all lend a hand to help keep First Jefferson looking beautiful.

■ SMALL GROUPS

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, including first time visitors and newcomers as well as Members and Friends of First Jefferson. Sign up for the Circle that best fits your schedule with the Circle Leader. These groups give participants opportunity to deepen in their own self-understanding and foster closeness and connectedness.

Men's Covenant Group

Meets on the first Wednesday, at 7pm in Jagers Parlor.

Wednesday, April 5, at 7pm in Jagers Parlor, Randy Brooks

Upcoming:

May: Deran Wright

Women's Alliance

Women's Alliance meets on the second Tuesday of the month except for July and August when we do not meet at all. All women of the church are welcome to join us and we would love to have new members.

June 13, 12pm, Coleman Hall After our delectable noon potluck luncheon at First Jefferson we will begin planning programs for next year to start in September since we don't meet in July and August. So, be thinking about a subject or speaker that would be of interest and a field trip that would be both enjoyable and doable. Come one, come all. Let your creative juices flow!

Friends Covenant Group, A Women's Group

Meets monthly 4 p.m. on the third Friday

Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS)

*2nd Sunday, 12:15 pm, John Adams Room
Contact Rosalind Dugan 817-447- 9240 or
rosalind.dugan@yahoo.com.*



■ SOCIAL GROUPS

Interweave

3rd Friday of the month, 6 :30 pm, meets at No Frills Grill, 1550 Eastchase Pkwy., Suite 1200, Arlington 76017

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 817-706-3614 mrzep@charter.net.

UU Metaphysical Research Group

Third Sundays, 12:30pm, Library, An open forum created to reflect, discuss, investigate and research. Topics will vary from mysteries of our existence, paradoxes in reality, puzzling questions of origins and first principles to studying individual philosophers and famous Unitarian Universalists. For more information contact Joel Bailey, facilitator

First Jefferson Book Discussion Group

4th Tuesday each month, 7pm, Jagers Parlor
We read and discuss a variety of books: fiction, non-fiction, classics, mysteries, historical, etc. Suggestions for books are encouraged. For information, contact Joan Carey 817-217-5905.

Upcoming Titles:

June 27 : *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* by Elizabeth Kolbert [Nonfiction]

July 25: *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion [Fiction]



First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Quilters

Tuesdays, 1pm, Jagers Parlor or Library
The First Jefferson Quilters meet weekly on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Jagers Parlor. Our mission is to make quilts and we welcome all who want to make quilts with us. We have a long history at our church of producing quilts for fundraising, outside charities, and keeping people and buildings warm. We have recently finished two quilts - one to raffle at our church service auction and one to raffle for the benefit of the Eastside Ministries. Please consider joining us, regardless of your quilting skills or experience. Contact Mary Kirwin 817-714-1796.

FELLOWSHIP

■ CHILD & YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Have a Great Summer!

The children and youth do not have regular classes or programs during June, July, and early August. The nursery is open from 9am-1pm every Sunday. The Religious Education Council is preparing a great year focused on world religions. The children and youth program begins on August 20.

Registration is Open!

Registration helps everyone keep track of children and youth from the nursery up through high school. Please complete a form for the new program year even if you registered in previous years. Also, the second part of the form includes the general behavioral covenant we agree to as a program. Please discuss the covenant with your child(ren), too.

To help with materials needed to run the program, we ask for a voluntary donation of \$50 per child. We understand that resources vary from family to family. Every contribution is gratefully received. Thank you for your support!

Forms are available in the main office and in every classroom. Please give completed forms and donations to Rachel Hawkins or Rev. Jennifer.

A Typical Sunday at First Jefferson

9:00am – Volunteers open the building and start coffee. Nursery workers arrive.

9:15am – Nursery is open. Volunteers arrive to prepare for class.

9:30am – Adventures in Religion begin. Classrooms are open for early arriving children and youth.

9:45am – Adult Forum and classes for children and youth (August–May) begin.

10am – End of late arrival window for children and youth. See Sunday Coordinator for information. Choir rehearsal begins.

10:30am – End of Adventures in Religion

10:45am – End of children and youth classes. Parents/guardians sign them out. End of Forum.

11:00am – Worship begins

12:30pm – Nursery begins to wind down.

1:00pm – Nursery closed.

Become Part of Our Program

If you are interested in teaching, or have any questions, comments, concerns, etc. about the religious education program, please see Mary West, Julia Sexton or Rev. Jennifer Innis.





Hope  **Joy**  **Awe**
Connection

■ ADULT SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION

Adult Forum/HUUMANIST Meeting

Sundays, 9:45 am, Jagers Parlor

June 4: Bobbie Russell will speak on psychedelics assisted therapy.

June 11: Bill Maginnis will show a video "Everything you know about drug addiction is wrong."

June 18: Bill Maginnis will show a video "What will happen if there is no minimum wage?"

June 25: Bill Maginnis will show two short talks: One is by Pope Francis and one is about non-violence.

Help! Speakers needed for adult forum. Got something interesting to say? Let Lorraine Levine know. We have lots of openings in the months to come.

HUUMANIST Meeting

Usually meets 2nd Sundays at 9:45 am, Jagers Parlor



Adventures in Religion—Jesus Through Pagan Eyes

Library, Sundays, 9:30 a.m.

Adventures in Religion is a round-table discussion group about world religions. Next, we discuss Reverend Mark Townsend, *Jesus through Pagan Eyes: Bridging Neopagan Perspectives with a Progressive Vision of Christ*, Llewellyn Publications, © 2012. ISBN-10: 0738721913. ISBN-13: 978-0738721910. Paperback.

“A thoughtful and deeply moving collection of stories, essays, and interviews about Jesus from today’s most respected Pagan, Wiccan, and Druidic leaders. These explore the historical figure of Jesus in relation to Witchcraft, the tarot, goddess worship, and shamanism while illustrating how this god of the Christian church blesses and inspires those who embrace non-traditional spiritual paths.” (Amazon review)



Part Three: Thirteen Interviews with Respected Pagan Elders

June 4 Chapter 27: Caitlin Matthews and Chapter 28: Janet Farrar, pp. 257-274.

June 11 Chapter 29: Gavin Bone and Chapter 30: Oberon Zell-Ravenheart, pp. 275-289.

June 18 Chapter 31: Cassandra Eason and Chapter 32: Raven Grimassi, pp. 291-302.

June 25 Chapter 33: Scott Blunt and Chapter 34: Kerr Cuhulain, pp. 303-317.

July 2 Chapter 35: Gill Edwards; Conclusion; and Epilogue: A Druid Magician and the Son of God, pp. 319-335.

■ LET LOVE LEAD-LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Saturday, June 10, 2017, First Jefferson

Featuring Carlton Pearson

Protégé of Oral Roberts from 1977, Carlton Pearson grew to be a Spiritual Activist of the “Gospel of Inclusion”. He is now Adjunct Minister at All Souls Church in Tulsa.

“Carlton Pearson’s church, Higher Dimensions, was once one of the biggest in the city (Tulsa), drawing crowds of 5,000 people every Sunday. But several years ago, scandal engulfed the reverend. He didn’t have an affair. He didn’t embezzle lots of money. His sin was something that to a lot of people is far worse: He stopped believing in Hell.” -thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/304/heretics

Carlton places high priority on personal integrity, meaning the integration of all aspects of human beings being human, and how that plays out through what he calls “Self Actualization” and that all in the global human family should acknowledge its common relevance and its collective relativity. He believes the opposite of that is dis-integration (disintegration) of the human spirit, race and civil society.

You can read his biography in an article in UU World: uuworld.org/articles/the-gospel-inclusion

2017 Preliminary Program Details

8:30 - 9:00am

Gathering, Registration, Breakfast
Check in and enjoy a delicious continental breakfast, juice and coffee

9:00 - 9:30am

Welcome & Worship
Anita Mills, NTUUC President, Rev. T.B.D.,
Common Ground Street Choir

9:30 - 10:15am

Keynote
Bishop Carlton Pearson
Followed by Talk Back - 10:15 - 10:45am

11:00 - 12:00 Noon

Morning Programs
A. Growing our Congregations
Tracy McShan
Elevator Speeches
Growth Starts on the Ground Floor
B. Extended Leadership Session 5
Connie Goodbread & Natalie Briscoe
C. Racial Justice
Carrie Stewart, organizer
Historical Moment
Grounding in Uuism

12:15 - 1:15pm

Lunch



North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations

Celebrating more than a century of liberal religion in North Texas



■ JOIN THOUSANDS OF UU'S IN NEW ORLEANS!

The annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association is going to New Orleans, LA for June 21-25. This General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates.

The General Assembly 2017 will be at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, 900 Convention Center Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70130. Steeped in a history of influences from Europe, the Caribbean, and Africa, it is one of America's most culturally and historically-rich destinations. It is a city known for its music, food, architecture, and festivals. The average high temperature in June is 89 degrees and the average low is 71.

New Orleans is also known as a place of re-birth following the devastation of Katrina in 2005. Many Unitarian Universalists have contributed time and funds in the effort to rebuild both the city and the congregations in the area. By going to New Orleans, we can both celebrate our successes and recommit to the relationships that have been forged with this community.

This year is particularly important as the delegates will elect the next president of the UUA. For more about the candidates, see <http://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/elections/president>

For more about General Assembly, see <http://www.uua.org/ga>

1:30 - 2:30

Afternoon Programs

A. Growing our Congregations

Tracy McShan

Clarifying the Mission

Integrating Stewardship

B. Extended Leadership Session 5

Connie Goodbread & Natalie Briscoe

C. Racial Justice

Carrie Stewart, organizer

Define Race & Racism

History of White Supremacy

2:45 - 3:45

Afternoon Programs

A. Growing our Congregations

Stewardship in Practice

TBA

B. Extended Leadership Session 5

Connie Goodbread & Natalie Briscoe

C. Racial Justice

Carrie Stewart, organizer

What we can do

Education-Reflection-Action

4:00- 4:30

Closing Worship

Questions:

Please leave a voicemail at (469) 682-8870, or drop an email to: LetLoveLead@ntuuc.org

Registration:

Early Registration deadline is May 21. Go to <https://www.ntuuc.org/events/current-events/let-love-lead-leadership-conference-20>

REPORT FROM THE WHITE SUPREMACY TEACH IN

Thank you to everyone who participated in the conversation following the White Supremacy Teach In on May 7. About 15 people were in the core of the discussion plus others who listened. The questions focused on “When did you first become aware of race?” and “What was your response to the phrase, “White Supremacy?”” Group members came from a range of racial and cultural backgrounds, including White, Black, Latinx, and more.

Thank you to all who helped with the worship for the Teach In, including Julie Hevelone, Mary Kirwin, Tina Harmuth, Julie Cecil, India Wright, and Glen Bailey.

It was a privilege to engage with the question of race and white supremacy as part of worship at First Jefferson and as part of the teach in that happened throughout the Unitarian Universalist Association. Over 680 congregations participated.

What happens next? The conversation continues. The White Supremacy Teach In was one moment of reflection and a chance to take seriously the question of oppression and race in this faith and in society. Those of us involved in worship and in social justice will follow up with possible next steps and with listening to the experience of other Unitarian Universalists. For now, I invite you to keep going back to the conversation by listening to reports from the UUA interim co-presidents, Sofia Betancourt, Bill Sinkford, and Leon Spencer. Their most recent letter is an invitation: Making This a Time of Opportunity. http://www.uuworld.org/articles/making-time-opportunity?utm_source=uuworld&utm_medium=front&utm_campaign=1st

Also, please learn more about Black Lives of UU at <http://www.blacklivesuu.com>. An excerpt of the 7 Principles of Black Lives is included in this newsletter. Its powerful, positive frame brings out new ways to understand the real life impact of the 7 UU Principles.

In Faith
Rev. Jennifer

The 7 Principles of Black Lives (excerpt) from the Organizing Collective of Black Lives of UU

The Movement for Black Lives Convening gathered 1500 People of Color from across the country in 2015. One result of this meeting was The 7 Principles of Black Lives. An excerpt from that statement is here. For the full statement see: <https://medium.com/@BlackLivesUU/the-7-principles-of-black-lives-8afb62c797ab>

We see a direct link between the 7 UU Principles and the Movement for Black Lives. We — those of us at the Movement for Black Lives Convening, along with other Black UUs — created this document to present to our faith the 7 Principles of Black Lives.

Our hope is that this direct connection between our faith & the fight for Black liberation will make clear the URGENT need for all those who call themselves Unitarian Universalists to declare, without caveat or clarification, that Black Lives Matter.

Principle #1 : All Black Lives Matter.

Queer Black lives, Trans Black lives, formerly incarcerated Black lives, differently-abled Black lives, Black women’s lives, immigrant black lives, Black elderly and children’s lives. ALL BLACK LIVES MATTER and are creators of this space. We throw no one under the bus. We rise together.

The Movement for Black Lives calls on the Unitarian Universalist faith — a faith willing to make the bold proclamation that each person inherently matters — to live up to that claim by working toward a future in which black lives are truly valued in our society.

Principle #2 : Love / Self-Love is practiced in every element of all we do.

Love and Self-Love must be drivers of all our work and indicators of our success. Without this principle and without healing, we will harm each other and undermine our movement.



Embrace the best tools, practices, and tactics, and leave behind those that no longer serve us. Evaluation and assessment must be built into our work. Critical reflection must be part of all our work. We learn from our mistakes and our victories...We call on all UU's to root out the Anti-Blackness that exists within our congregations and our faith.

Principle #5: Most Directly Affected people are experts at their own lives.

Those most directly affected by racial injustice & oppression should be in leadership, at the center of our movement, and telling their stories directly. Black voices in our congregations, in our faith, and in the world must be valued.

Principle #6: Thriving instead of Surviving

Our vision is based on the world we want, and not the world we are currently in. We want our people to thrive, not just exist — and to think beyond the possible. Any work towards peace, liberty and justice must address racial injustice. Black UU's are calling our faith to join us as we work towards justice for ALL Black people and by extension for all people.

Principle #7: 360 degree vision

Acknowledging the ways in which a Supremacist society diminishes us ALL is a critical part of the work of the Movement for Black Lives. We call on our faith to affirm the truth that only when Black Lives Matter will All Lives TRULY Matter. As Dr. King said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

We seek justice for those we have lost to police violence, we seek equity in housing, education and healthcare, we seek compassion from our fellow UU's for the struggle we are called to be a part of.

Principle #3: Spiritual growth is directly tied to our ability to embrace our whole selves.

A principled struggle must exist in a positive environment. We must be honest with one another by embracing direct, loving communication & acknowledgment of all that we are and all that we hope to be.

The spiritual growth of UU's of Color is directly tied to our ability to stand in the truth that black lives matter, that our lives matter, both in the wider world and just as importantly in our UU congregations.

Principle #4: Experimentation and innovation must be built into our work.

■ WORK TOGETHER TOWARD SOCIAL JUSTICE

HUUDLE/Voices in Action on June 11

Want to know how First Jeffersonians are putting faith in action? Come to the next HUUDLE/Voices in Action meeting after worship on June 11. See Pam Cox and Lorraine Levine for information.

■ COMMUNITY GARDEN

First Saturday Group Gardening Days

Saturday, June 3 at 9am We hold monthly group gardening days on the first Saturday of each month. This is a great time to visit with community gardeners and find out about the opportunities and goings on at the garden. We will be planting, cleaning the common areas and working on our compost.

Plots are \$35/yr. Contact Connie Nolen or Karl Thibodeaux if you would like to participate in the garden.



■ REUSE, REPURPOSE, RECYCLE—AND CREATE!

Inviting vendors for the first R-Bazaar. If you are a creator or vendor of items which are Up-cycled, repurposed, refinished etc. or if you make an item to help eliminate carbon footprints such as reusable lunch bags etc. we invite to show your wares. There is a \$15 admin fee. The fee holds your space, and a packet which includes 2 letter sized flyers, 4 half sheet handbills, 16 quarter sheet handbills and a link so you may print more.

■ SHARE THE PLATE: TANDY HILLS

First Jefferson joyfully and gratefully gives half of the undesignated funds donated during the Sunday morning offering to other organizations. Recipients of the Share the Plate offering are selected by the Board of Trustees, and are selected in order to further community efforts that align with the mission and vision of the congregation and are in line with our Principles. For April – June, the Share the Plate will go to the Friends of Tandy Hills. Choosing Tandy Hills is in line with the environmental focus of Unitarian Universalism’s 7th principle, to respect the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part. Friends of Tandy Hills Natural Area is a volunteer-run organization that works to preserve 160 acres of indigenous prairie in Fort Worth, just 5 miles from the congregation. The organization hosts a number of educational events, and encourages conservation and preservation efforts. More information about this wonderful organization can be found on their website at www.tandyhills.org.

“Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit, and as vital to our lives as water and good bread. A civilization which destroys what little remains of the wild, the spare, the original, is cutting itself off from its origins and betraying the principle of civilization itself.”

~ Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire*

First Jefferson is proud to support Tandy Hills. See a member of the Board for questions about Share the Plate.

■ CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Spring Congregational meeting of First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church will be held on Sunday, June 4, 2017, at 1pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to enjoy potluck in Coleman Hall prior to the meeting, and childcare will be available.

Spring Congregational Meeting

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Quorum
3. Opening Words
4. Chalice Lighting
5. Review of Relational Covenant
6. Approval of Previous Minutes
7. President's Report to the Congregation
8. Minister's Report to the Congregation
9. Finance Report
10. Congregation Ratify Board Appointee
11. Congregation Ratify Renewal of Welcoming Congregation Status
12. Congregational Approval of 2017-2018 Budget
13. Closing Words
14. Extinguish the Chalice
15. Adjournment

Our congregational meetings are open to the public, and anyone who wishes to do so may attend. People who have been members of the congregation for at least 30 days prior to the meeting are entitled to a vote. The Board Secretary will have the sign-in sheet for the meeting in the church lobby just prior to the meeting to ensure that we meet quorum requirements.



■ 2ND ANNUAL MUUSE ART SHOW & SALE

Art show is 5-9 pm 9/9/2017 (Gallery night) and 10-2pm 9/10/2017

September 9 (Gallery Night), 5-9pm and September 10, 10-2pm, Coleman Hall

Art show open to the public. First time presenters are encouraged to show.

Parties interested in being in the show, or for more information, or to book space contact Karl at: administrator@firstjefferson.org or (817) 451-1505 or Irene at sereneseri@yahoo.com

Nominal fee: \$15 admin fee (holds your space), and only 15% of sales.

Artists 15 years and younger: no fees charged, with a signed letter of consent from parent or legal guardian.



CHURCH WORKS

■ JUNE 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAT MAY 27, 2017

Floor Refinishing, Coleman Hall, Jagers Parlor
12pm CUUPs Service Rehearsal, Sanctuary

SUN MAY 28, 2017

Floor Refinishing, Coleman Hall, Jagers Parlor
12:30pm HUUmanist Steering Committee Meeting, Library

TUE MAY 30, 2017

1pm First Jefferson Quilters, Jagers Parlor

THU JUN 1, 2017

7pm PFLAG, Coleman Hall
7pm PFLAG Youth Group, Jagers Parlor

SUN JUN 4, 2017

12:15pm Potluck Sunday, Coleman Hall
12:30pm Religious Educ. Council, Jagers Parlor
1pm Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary

TUE JUN 6, 2017

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

WED JUN 7, 2017

7pm Men's Covenant Group, Jagers Parlor

FRI JUN 9, 2017

NTUUC Conference

SAT JUN 10, 2017

NTUUC Conference

SUN JUN 11, 2017

12:15pm Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs) Meeting, John Adams Room
12:30pm Social Justice Discussion, Library
1:30pm Astrological Society of North Texas, Jagers Parlor

MON JUN 12, 2017

6:30pm Finance Committee, Church Office

TUE JUN 13, 2017

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

THU JUN 15, 2017

6pm Worship Arts Committee, Jagers Parlor

FRI JUN 16, 2017

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

SAT JUN 17, 2017

9am All-Church Clean Up
7pm CUUPs Midsummer, Coleman Hall, Kitchen

SUN JUN 18, 2017

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

TUE JUN 20, 2017

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

WED JUN 21, 2017

7pm PFLAG Board Meeting, Library

SUN JUN 25, 2017

12:30pm HUUmanist Steering Committee Meeting, Library

TUE JUN 27, 2017

10am Courier Deadline, Email items to administrator@firstjefferson.org
1pm First Jefferson Quilters, Jagers Parlor
7pm Book Discussion Group, Jagers Parlor



New Community School

EC Stanton Community School, a new non-profit democratic school, is in the process of enrolling its first class of students. We will be renting space for our school right here at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church. A democratic school is a student-run, student-focused school concept, that puts the business of learning back into the hands of students. We will serve students age 5-18, starting with a part-time model for this school year (M/W/F from 8:00-4:00) with the goal of moving to a full-time model for next year. We are having an informational meeting in the sanctuary on May 27th at 10:00 for anyone that is interested for their own children or to learn about generalities about the model. If you are interested in attending, fill out the following form so we know what questions to answer and how much coffee bring <https://goo.gl/forms/7CRBb3bR4V7u72UN2> ! We have additional information on our website at ecstanton.org or you can e-mail us at information@ecstanton.org.

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

Trans-Cendence

First & Third Tuesdays, 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.

Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. with a whole group meeting. This usually has about 50 people at it. At meetings there is a discussion topic or a special speaker. Then at about 8pm they split into groups. One group remains in the larger group area. This group is usually the gender diverse people. Another group splits off comprised of youth and young adults. The last group is the SOFFA (significant others, family, friends, and allies) and this group talks about issues related to transition for the SOFFAs themselves.

Ryanwood Neighborhood Association

Meets six times a year at the First Jefferson. For details go to Ryanwood's website www.ryanwoodna.org or contact President Glenn Pense president@ryanwoodna.org.

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.



CONSULTING MINISTER

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MINISTER EMERITA

Rev. Marjorie Montgomery

MEMBERSHIP

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PRESIDENT

Michael Zepeda
president@firstjefferson.org

CHURCH OFFICE

Karl Thibodeaux 817-451-1505
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CHURCH WEBSITE

www.firstjefferson.org

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/FirstJefferson

COURIER #371, JUNE 2017

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**NEXT COURIER, ISSUE #372**

Submission Date
Tuesday, June 27, 1 pm
Send edited articles to Karl at
administrator@firstjefferson.org

2016 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT, Michael Zepeda

Vice President, Irene Forrester

Treasurer, Open

Secretary, Mary West

Member-At-Large, Charlotte Bailey

Member-At-Large, Bill Maginnis

Member-At-Large, Mathieu Thiem

Committee on Ministries, Bob Portman, Julia
Sexton, Margo Spoolstra

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