



# First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church Courier

*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, 2022

Fort Worth, TX

Number 431

## The Last Foerst Word

from Annie Foerster

I'm not going to say goodbye now. I'll save that until the last Sunday service. But I am aware that from here on in, I will be saying, "This is the last time I do this," whatever it is, from attending a potluck or meeting with the board. Here's my schedule for June. I will be in the office on Wednesday afternoons, June 1, 8 and 15. I will be preaching the first three Sundays of the month, June 5, 12 and 19. I'll be working from home every morning except Fridays, my day off. If you need to contact me or call me, I'll be available. I have two weeks of vacation left and I will be taking those after the 19th, but I'll be available for emergencies as per my contract.

Earlier this year, someone asked me if I would offer a collection of my favorite sermons and I agreed. But, I said, I wanted them to be your favorites, too. You have been making suggestions and I have been putting together the collection. It is called *As I Told You Before: A Sermon Collection from the Rev. Annie Foerster*. I had asked that you use it as a fund raiser. That means you will pay a nominal fee for copies, but the collection itself will belong to you (the church) and you can advertise it and sell it to other groups and churches in the North Texas area (or as far away as you wish).

The thirteen sermons, with readings and commentary, will be ready on Sunday, June 5. Let us know how many copies you want at \$20 each. But here's an added incentive. There will be 50 first-run copies with a special binding and signed by me that will go for \$25. If I ever get famous, that might make them worth something extra for you.

Email Karl at [administrator@firstjefferson.org](mailto:administrator@firstjefferson.org) (for now) to let us know how many advance copies we should make. He will have the ability and the authority to make more copies as they are needed later on.

On the 19th I will be sharing my philosophy of saying goodbye and relating some of my highlight moments as your minister.

There will be time in the service for others to speak. Let Mary Kirwin know if you have something to say.

I can tell you this upfront—I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you, getting to know you as a community and individually; and sharing the struggles with you through Covid and the day-to-day struggle of just keeping on.

*Many blessings,  
Rev. Annie*



## We've Changed Our Name!

History was made when we voted to change our name to **All Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist** at our congregational meeting on May 22, 2022. The winner received 25 votes while the second finalist First Unitarian Universalist of Fort Worth received 21 votes. Thanks to the congregation for your enthusiasm and participation in the process. Let's go forward with a renewed sense of hope and change in keeping with the new identity. We still have many legal and housekeeping tasks to attend to, so everything won't change instantly. We welcome your ideas and help with the many tasks necessary to accomplish the establishment of our new name. *It will take a village of all people!!*

# Worship

**Join us Sundays at 11am in the Sanctuary or on Facebook or YouTube**

## May 29

### **Spring Choir Concert**

**The First Jefferson Choir, directed by Michael Nguyen**, will perform a medley of songs from *The Secret Garden*. The book was written in 1911 by Frances Hodgson Burnett, and recast as a Broadway musical in 1991 by Lucy Simon and Marsha Norman. A young orphan girl, Mary, goes to live with a wealthy uncle, who is himself mourning the death of his wife Lily in childbirth. In his grief, he avoids most contact with his son, Colin, who believes that he also is doomed to an early death, and rarely leaves his bed. Mary discovers her aunt Lily's abandoned garden and begins, with the help of a local boy, Dickon, to restore it. They are soon joined in this effort by Colin, and as the three children bring the garden back to life, their own damaged lives, and that of the uncle, are also restored.

## June 5

### **Celebrating Blessings**

#### **The Reverend Annie Foerster**

This is the last of the Soul Matter topics for the fiscal year. The children will be talking about this topic as well. We'll be looking at both the meaning of blessings in our lives and the practice of celebrating. When life gets tough, we often forget to look for the former and observe the latter. Let's make them a habit.

## June 12

### **Buddha, Once More**

#### **The Reverend Annie Foerster**

When Buddha found his response to life's difficulties, he began to preach about it immediately. He made it easy for people to remember—just four pillars (life can be tough, that can be overcome, you can do it and I'll tell you how) and an eightfold path of moderation (the how). He left one more numbered plan for practicing a life of goodness and kindness call the ten Paramitras (or perfections). Easy-peasy, we should all be Buddhists. Except...being human you will often stumble, forget or fall back into old habits. Practice is the name of the game, but with his lists and his tolerance for imperfection, Buddha says life can be fun.

## June 19

### **Saying Goodbye**

#### **The Reverend Annie Foerster**

I don't know anyone who likes saying goodbye. I think of some of the final episodes of epic TV shows and remember they were either so good they made you cry or so bad you wanted to throw your shoe at the screen—or both. I'll try for something in the middle, but remember this—it will be a two-way effort. I'll bring the tissues; please wear your softest slippers.

## June 26

### **The GA 2022 Sunday Morning Worship**

#### **11:30 a.m. Central**

We will watch the General Assembly Sunday morning worship live from Portland OR. The Rev. Gretchen Haley, Senior Minister of the Foothills Unitarian Universalist Church in Fort Collins, CO will lead the service. In a change from our typical Sunday schedule, we'll meet at 10:30 a.m. for coffee and conversation before we gather in the sanctuary for worship.

## A New Vision

While we are used to pasting possibilities on the patio windows and voting for our choices, why don't we do this? Why don't we create a new vision for the congregation—a statement that will be an inspiration to work toward?

Paul Schattman has lent us his colored pens and streaming papers and, beginning on June 5, you will find some suggestions for what this congregation, now under a new name, might foresee for the future—five years, ten years, or more down the road.

For instance you might envision A full-time church with full-time leadership. Or, A church that makes a difference in the surrounding community. Or, Striving for Peace and Justice.

After a few weeks and your brilliant, creative suggestions, you can hold a vote. This time you wouldn't have to narrow the choice down to one idea. Before I leave, I will find someone (or you, yes you, might just volunteer) to agree to wordsmith the final choices into a Vision Statement. Perhaps it could be made official at the November Congregational Meeting.

*Make it so,  
Rev. Annie Foerster*



# Religious Education News

## We are lifelong learners

*“When you inhale and when you exhale breathe the possibility of another world into the 37.2 trillion cells of your body until it shines with hope.*

*Then imagine more.” ~Aurora Levins Morales*

Our world is on fire in so many ways; it's easy to get frightened, tired, and demoralized. But, another world really is possible. I invite you to read the entire poem, *V'ahavta* (<http://www.auroralevinsmorales.com/blog/vahavta>), which is excerpted above.

*All programming begins at 9:45 am on Sunday mornings.*

## Children and Youth Programming

*May 29th—Memorial Day.* Celebration of the end of the congregational year and the beginning of summer! We will have both indoor and outdoor games for children and youth. In the spirit of celebration, children and youth have the option to attend the choir concert during the worship OR to keep the games going.

Summer programming will consist of an all-ages space with various activity stations to engage our children and youth (and adult helpers) in a relaxed learning environment of PLAY and FUN. Questions? Interested in helping out? Please email me at [firstjeffre@gmail.com](mailto:firstjeffre@gmail.com).

After the first hour, all children and youth should join their parents in the sanctuary. Children and youth over eight years old would attend the entire worship service. Children eight and under may stay with their parents in the sanctuary or they may, after the story for all ages, engage in supervised play in the nursery.

## Adult Programming

We offer different opportunities every Sunday:

*May 29th—Memorial Day.* In keeping with the holiday, programming will be relaxed and informal (or you can join the children and youth in games!).

*June 5th—Unitarian Universalist Ethics.* Following the curriculum *What We Choose* we will consider our guiding principles for moral decisions and examine how we each, individually, decide what is right.

*June 12th—Social Justice Sunday.* We will discuss recent events, as well as historical developments in Fort Worth, that influence and affect the lives of Texans. These conversations open up ways we can make a difference and change our future.

*June 19th—Grounding in Relationship.* Cultivating relationships and engaging in joyful, playful time together provides grounding and support as we work for justice.

*June 26th—Soul Matters Sunday.* Drawing on the monthly theme *Nurturing Beauty*, we will take time to engage our individual spiritual life, hear each other's stories and build deeper connections with one another.

## Teacher Appreciation

So many individuals have given their time and talent to provide Children, Youth, and Adult RE to the congregation this spring. Please send me notes about things that you have learned from them, or things that have touched your heart. I will be incorporating them into gifts for our wonderful teachers. Mark your calendars now to attend worship on June 5, where we will have a short ritual to show appreciation for the teachers who have made the spring RE program possible.

*Sarah Berel-Harrop, DRE, [re@firstjefferson.org](mailto:re@firstjefferson.org)*

## Adventures in Religion

*March 20, 2022, through January 29, 2023*

*Sophia Lyon Fahs Room, 9:45AM* We explore world religions. We are discussing *The Bible: a Biography*, by Karen Armstrong. Atlantic Monthly Press, New York, 2007. Hardback: ISBN-10: 0-87113-969-3 and ISBN-13: 978-0-87113-969-6. We read out loud together. No need to read in advance. *“Acclaimed historian Karen Armstrong discusses the conception, gestation, and life of history's most powerful book.”* (Goodreads) Contact: Marian Wendel, [mwendel@netzero.net](mailto:mwendel@netzero.net).

## This Month's Estimated Preview

Chapter 4: Midrash

Chapter 5: Charity

## Book Discussion Group

The First Jefferson book discussion group is currently meeting via Zoom on the following dates. We read and discuss a variety of books: fiction, nonfiction, classics, mysteries, historical, etc. Suggestions for books are encouraged. For information, contact Joan Carey 817-217-5905.

## Upcoming Titles:

**Thursday, May 26 at 7pm(Central) via ZOOM—***The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles [fiction]

**Thursday, June 23 at 7pm(Central) via ZOOM—***Once I Was You* by Maria Hinojosa [nonfiction]

**Thursday, July 28 at 7pm(Central) via ZOOM—***One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez [fiction]

## Memorial Service for

### Philip Vinson

A Celebration of Life service will be held at All Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist for Philip Vinson, husband of Rita Vinson, beginning at 3:30 on Saturday, June 11.

Phil was a photo-journalist by profession and later taught both and was a successful photographer, with many rewards to his name and a book of his photographs, printed in 2008. Phil was also a jazz pianist and played with Tarrant County College bands.

He and Rita were married for 52 years.

A time for refreshments and remembering will take place after the service in Coleman Hall.

## Eastside News

### Sizzling Summer Jazz Fest

Free Admission

Dine and dance to help us raise the funds needed to carry out our mission to assist families in need. Grilled hamburgers and hot dogs compliment an evening of cool summer sounds by the East Fort Worth Community Jazz Band.

Quilt Auction and Other Cool Activities

### All Proceeds Will 100% Benefit Eastside Ministries of Ft Worth, TX

June 18, 2022, 5pm to 7pm

Meadowbrook-Poly United Methodist Church  
3900 Meadowbrook Dr. Ft Worth Tx 76103

For more information call Eastside Ministries at 817 446 3278

## Thanks for Remembering

### Our Four-Legged Friends

Our partnership with Don't Forget to Feed Me continues to be a success. *In the last year, your generosity has helped provide over 2,500 meals to hungry pets!* Pet food donations can be dropped off at First Jefferson on Wednesday afternoons and Sunday mornings. Cash donations of any amount are always welcome. Just twenty-five cents can provide a meal for a hungry pet so don't feel that you have to give a lot at once. See Jo Burnham or Karl Thibodeaux if you would like to make a cash donation or scan the QR code on the side of the donation box to give by credit card.

## 2022 Board Of Trustees

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## Courier #431 June 2022

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## Next Courier, Issue #432

Submission Date  
Tuesday, June 28, 10am  
Send edited articles to  
[administrator@firstjefferson.org](mailto:administrator@firstjefferson.org)

