



All Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist 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.

December 1, 2022

Fort Worth, TX

Number 437

Worship With Us This Month!

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

Worship Arts announces the schedule of Sunday Services for November. Because we are still in an interim period between ministers without the guidance and inspiration of professional clergy, we rely on the congregation to develop and create meaningful worship each week. Thank you to all who care and remain dedicated to this goal. We're grateful for all who participate and we rely on you to come out and join us during this important hour of church life. We look forward to seeing you.

December 4

Holy Darkness

The Reverend Lora Brandis

An exploration of imagery and light/dark language at work during this time of the year. Should we learn a new way of talking about darkness?

Rev. Lora Brandis has served congregations in Utah, Idaho, California, and Texas. She was the settled minister for Horizon UU in Carrollton from 2016 to 2021. Most recently she served as the sabbatical minister at First Unitarian Church of Dallas from January through July. Semi-retired, she spends most of her days with twin 11-month-old grandchildren Rose and James as their nana/nanny. Rev. Brandis is also an on-call hospital chaplain for Texas Health Frisco.

December 11

Stella Natalis

All Peoples Church Choir

Under the Direction of Michael Nguyen

Worship and choral presentation of Stella Natalis by Karl Jenkins. This beautiful choral work celebrates different aspects of Christmastide—winter, the sleeping child, tidings of peace, thanksgiving—with words ranging from the psalms to new texts by Carol Barratt.

December 18

Christmas Pageant: The Dragon Who Never Had A Christmas

Worship Arts & Religious Education Council

It seems like going to the store or wandering in town, Christmas is everywhere! What if you lived in a world without Christmas? How would you explain what's most important about the holiday? The Religious Exploration program invites you to enter an alternate universe filled with dragons, trolls, and talking flowers and animals as The Dragon Who Never Had a Christmas sets off to discover what the fuss is about.

December 25

Christmas Day Intergenerational Circle Worship Member Led Service

Circle Worship is a relaxed, informal mode of worship commonly used by youth and young adults. Instead of a sermon, participants engage in an interactive activity. THIS Sunday, which is Christmas, we offer an intergenerational circle worship focused on sharing. We will invite participants to share the gift of a poem, song, piece of art, story, or reading that speaks to your heart. If you know in advance what you'd like to share, please email fristjeffre@gmail.com. Last-minute and walk-in sharings are also welcome! Join us for pancakes and waffles after the service!

January 1

New Years Day Intergenerational Circle Worship Member Led Service

Circle Worship is a relaxed, informal mode of worship commonly used by youth and young adults. Instead of a sermon, participants engage in an interactive activity. THIS Sunday, ring in the New Year with an intergenerational circle worship. We'll set aside what no longer serves us and explore what we intend to bring into our community in the new year! Today is also Potluck Sunday - our first of the new year. Please bring a dish to share, especially your favorite traditional new year's day foods. Everyone is welcome!

Religious Education News

We are lifelong learners

Children's and Youth Programming

Curriculum is on Winter Break! Check out the following events that we will be having through the Month of December.

December 4, December 11, and December 18:

During the 9:45 hour, Elementary age Children and Middle School and High School youth are all working together to prepare for the Christmas pageant which will be held on Sunday, December 18!

December 25 and January 1, 2023: There will be no programming during the 9:45 hour, instead, sleep in and join in the intergenerational worship at 11AM!

Nursery: Our nursery is open during worship for children under 8 and during the RE hour for children not participating in the pageant preparation.

Holiday Happenings!

On *Sunday, December 4*, after potluck, we'll have an intergenerational party in the Library! Join RE Council as well as the children and youth in creating ornaments, trimming the tree, having some seasonal snacks, and say hi to Mr. and Mrs. Claus!



On *Sunday, December 18*, The Religious Exploration program invites you to enter an alternate universe filled with dragons, trolls, and talking flowers and animals as The Dragon Who Never Had a Christmas sets off to discover what the fuss is about.

Adults

We offer different opportunities every Sunday

December 4th—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.

December 11th—Social Justice Sunday

We welcome JoAnn Collins. She is the Outreach Coordinator for the Fort Worth chapter and also serves on the state board of Native Prairies Association of Texas. After retiring from 29 years of teaching elementary school, she is now a substitute

with FWISD and tries to get students involved in learning about nature by doing nature driven community service. With help from students at the Young Women's Leadership Academy in Fort Worth she began the Savage Cabbage Bash in 2015 where students meet to pull an invasive species (bastard cabbage) along the Trinity Trails.

December 18th—*Spirit of Life* Ashley Newlin continues to facilitate Spirit of Life, which offers participants space, time, and community to explore their Unitarian Universalist spirituality.

December 25 and January 1, 2023 There will be no programming during the 9:45 hour, instead, sleep in and join in the intergenerational worship at 11AM!

Our Whole Lives

Children & Youth OWL

Interest form for this spring's High School OWL is available!! Youth and parents / caregivers can fill it out here: <https://tinyurl.com/AllPeoplesHSOWL>

Around the Denomination



Road Trip: Texas UU Justice Ministry celebrates ten years of "bending Texas toward justice!" with a gathering at First UU in Austin on Saturday, January 21!

This event will:

- celebrate TXUUJM's 10-year anniversary;
- honor Rev. Chuck Freeman as TXUUJM's minister emeritus;
- feature powerful guest speakers to prepare for Legislative Action Day later in the spring (speaker announcements coming soon!);
- include volunteer awards, a shared meal, and FUN together after these two+ years apart.

Register for the event at the link: <https://firstuuaustin.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1525455>

Sarah Berel-Harrop, DRE, firstjeffre@gmail.com

Adventures in Religion

October 2, 2022, through March 26, 2023

At 9:45AM on Facebook Messenger and by phone. We will return to church, after COVID cases abate. Watch for announcement. We explore world religions. We are discussing *Islam: A Short History*, by Karen Armstrong. 2002 Modern Library Paperback Edition. The Modern Library, New York, 2002. Paperback: ISBN: 0-8129-6618-X. We read out loud together. No need to read in advance. *No religion in the modern world is as feared and misunderstood as Islam. This book demonstrates that the world's fastest growing faith is a much more complex phenomenon.* [Amazon, excerpt]

Contact: Marian Wendel, mwendel@netzero.net.

This Month's Estimated Preview

1. Beginnings
The Rashidun (632 – 611)
The First Fitnah
2. Development
The Umayyads and the Second Fitnah
The Religious Movement
The Last Years of the Umayyads (705 - 750)

We Want to Hear From You!

The long-dormant Caring and Sharing Committee is coming back to life.

At the bottom of each emailed newsletter and Courier is an email address for the Caring and Sharing Committee (look for it). Here's how to make use of that email address. Use it to communicate (by email) with the four current committee members: Joy Fletcher, Mary Anne Clark, Amelia Awalt, and Colleen Brewer. Send us news about what's going on in your life. Also be sure to include whether you want this information shared with anyone, or everyone, or no one. As a church family we want to respond to good news by joyful sharing, and we also want to share your concerns, and to help if we can. Watch future publications and Sunday morning displays at the church to find out more about how we can all multiply our joys and divide our burdens. Email us at caringandsharing@firstjefferson.org.

CUUPs Full Moon Fridays

Your friendly UU Pagans do enjoy the Turning of the Seasons and the Cycles of the Moon. In addition to our 8 holidays on the Wheel of the Year, we will be meeting on the Friday night closest to the full moon each month to celebrate and honor a different goddess and god. *Doors open at 7:30PM with ritual starting at 8:00.* Bring a snack to share and your favorite divination tool. We hope to see you there!

Eastside Ministries News

The Christmas by Candlelight fundraising event held annually at St. Rita Catholic Church will be Monday evening, December 5. Our church is hosting a table again this year. Seven members of First Jefferson attended last year and enjoyed the evening. Attendance is free, including dinner and Christmas carols sung by combined choirs. You will be encouraged to make a donation to Eastside as you are able. Contact Colleen at brewer2ck@gmail.com to reserve a spot at the table.

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 Ana Evans 817-939-2763

Upcoming Titles:

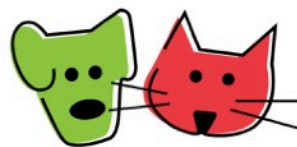
Thursday, December 1 at 7PM via Zoom—*The Beak of the Finch* by Jonathan Weiner [nonfiction]

Thursday, December 29 at 7PM via Zoom—*Olga Dies Dreaming* by Xochitil Gonzalez [fiction]

Thursday, January 26 at 7 pm via Zoom—*History of the World in 6 Glasses* by Tom Standage [nonfiction]

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 several thousand 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. 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.



Don't Forget to Feed Me

PET FOOD BANK, Inc.

Courier #437 December 2022

All Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist
1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76112-5412

2022 Board Of Trustees

President, Roy Brake
Vice President, Rosalyn Hunter
Treasurer, Dan Sexton
Secretary, Mary Ann Clark
Member-at-Large, Colleen Brewer
Member-at-Large, Joy Fletcher
Member-at-Large, Christina LuQuis

Contact Information

Congregation President
Roy Brake
president@firstjefferson.org

Caring & Sharing
caringandsharing@firstjefferson.org

Membership
membership@firstjefferson.org

Minister Emerita
Rev. Marjorie Montgomery

Director of Religious Education
Sarah Berel-Harrop
re@firstjefferson.org

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

Church Website
www.firstjefferson.org

Find Us On Facebook
www.facebook.com/FirstJefferson

Next Courier, Issue #438

Submission Date
Tuesday, January 31, 2023 10am
Send edited articles to
administrator@firstjefferson.org



ALL PEOPLES CHURCH

Unitarian  Universalist