



LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT FIRST CHURCH

Welcome to Lifespan Faith Development at First Church where we provide tools to help us grow spiritually, build stronger families, improve relationships and make the world a better place.

FINDING YOUR WAY AT FIRST CHURCH (for our guests)

The Meditation Room, between the sanctuary and Channing Hall, is a pleasant and comfortable space where you can meet one or two leaders of the congregation, enjoy a cup of coffee, and be invited to feel at home.

Sundays, 11:40 a.m. or immediately after the service, lasting about 20 minutes.

NEW FOR SEPTEMBER

Visitors are welcome at all events.

**See the schedule for children
and youth on page 5.**



SECOND FRIDAY MOVIE AND POTLUCK

Friday, September 10 , 6:30 p.m., Fireside Room

The potluck will be at 6:30 p.m.; the movie starts at 7:00 p.m.

A children's movie will be scheduled if we receive requests by September 3: email names and ages to childcare@firstuu.org.

Dirty Pretty Things

Undocumented immigrants Okwe and Senay work at a posh London hotel and live in constant fear of deportation. One night, Okwe stumbles across evidence of a bizarre murder, setting off a series of events that could lead to disaster — or freedom. This gritty, complex thriller from director Stephen Frears received an Oscar nod for its screenplay.

FACILITATOR TRAINING

Sundays, September 5 or 12, 1:15-2:45 p.m., Fireside Room

Light lunch provided

Facilitator: Natalie Browne

For current facilitators and church members who would like to brush up on their skills, this short program will provide basics of good group facilitation. Choose one date or the other. Sign-up is necessary for lunch plans to be made. Childcare will be provided if reservations are made at least one week in advance. Email names and ages to childcare@firstuu.org.





FROM JESUS TO CHRIST: THE FIRST CHRISTIANS

Sundays, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

September 12 thru October 3, Room 304

Facilitators: Janice Porter and Robert Barnett

This historical documentary series produced by *Frontline* tells the epic story of the rise of Christianity. The four hours explore the life and death of Jesus, and the men and women whose belief, conviction, and martyrdom created the religion we now know as Christianity. Drawing upon historical evidence, the series challenges familiar assumptions and conventional notions

about Christian origins. Archaeological finds have yielded new understandings of Jesus' class and social status; fresh interpretations have transformed earlier ideas about the identity of the early Christians and their communities. Each hour of video will be followed by a discussion. Sign up at the information table or call the office, (713) 526-5200.

NEW U CLASS

Saturday, September 18, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Fireside Room

Facilitator: The Rev. Daniel O'Connell and others

While the New U Class is primarily a pathway to membership, everyone is welcome—both the curious and those who have already decided to join us. We will explore how your spiritual journey led you to us and how UU's talk about religion. You'll have a short tour of the building and find out the way things run here at First Church. During the class you'll have the opportunity to meet several church leaders and staff. We'll do our best to answer your questions. The day includes a complimentary lunch, giving everybody an opportunity to get better acquainted with each other. We require a minimum of 10 participants in the class. Sign up at the information table or call the office, (713) 526-5200. Childcare will be available; email names and ages to childcare@firstuu.org by September 10.



HARVEST THE POWER; DEVELOPING LAY LEADERSHIP

Mondays, September 20, 27 and October 4 and 11*

7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Fireside Room

Facilitators: Steve Braun, Sheila Whitford and Liz Gilbert

This program is designed for young adult through elders who currently hold positions of congregational leadership or are considering a congregational leadership position. It was created not only to strengthen the skills and the confidence of individuals who have accepted a leadership role in our congregation, but also to provide the intentional faith development of integrated leaders who model healthy personal, spiritual and leadership practices. The 12 workshops are structured in three units of four workshops each: **identity, purpose, and path**. Participants explore their own leadership and religious journeys, the meanings of power and authority, and turning points and change opportunities in their lives and congregations. You are encouraged to take all three modules, but may also sign up for just one or two. For more information and to sign-up, visit the information table or call the office. A minimum of ten participants are required for each module.

PARENTS GROUP

September 26, 12:15 to 1:45 p.m., Room 207 (4th Sundays)

Looking for thoughtful parents who share your values and concerns? Newcomers are always welcome! We are currently discussing Debra Hafner's book, *What Every 21st-Century Parent Needs to Know: Facing Today's Challenges with Wisdom and Heart*. Infants are welcome in our group. If you need childcare, please email names and ages to childcare@firstuu.org by Sunday, Sept. 19. For more information, contact Sue, steinhardts@earthlink.net.



DHARMA TALK

Tuesday, September 28, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Sanctuary

First Church, in collaboration with the Jungto Society, is honored to present the Venerable Pomnyun Sunim, Buddhist monk and Zen master.

The Venerable Pomnyun Sunim's clear, and insightful advice, based on Buddha's teachings, shows us how to be happy and free in our daily life. He advocates a new paradigm for civilization in which happiness is achieved through the practice of a simple life style, the active participation in social movements, and the protection of the Earth, mother of all living things.

ON-GOING GROUPS

Sundays

Early Morning Book Group, 8:30 a.m., Room 302

This group reads and discusses non-fiction books -- both new and old -- whose topics include but are not limited to religion, science, morality, ethics, biography, philosophy, history, and current events. Books are chosen by participants. For more information see <http://kpgoo.com/fuubookgroup.html>.

UU Changing Women, 9:15 a.m., Room 303

Men's Group, 11:45, Room 204

Conversation for guys -- one of the best things for long-term mental health.

SUNDAY DISCUSSION CIRCLE, 12:15 p.m., Room 302

Discussion leaders provide a safe and energizing environment for the discussion of a variety of relevant topics.

September 5: How do we get beyond abortion, have an authentic conversation about sexuality in America, and decrease unplanned or unintentional pregnancies? Facilitators Jon Naylor and Peter Durkin.

September 12: The rising tide of violence: what is the appropriate response from a religious community that asserts the inherent worth and dignity of every person? Facilitator: Eric Botts

September 19: If empathy is not sympathy, then how do we define "empathy" and how can it be used as a tool to reduce anger and violence in ourselves and our society? Facilitator: Pam Perry

September 26: How do you prioritize your life? Facilitators: Michelle & Stan

Mondays

Beginning Yoga, 7:00 p.m., Channing Hall

Facilitator: Stan Polins

Individualized, safe and healthy environment in which to learn and practice Yoga.

Tuesdays

T'ai Chi, 6:15 p.m., Channing Hall

Facilitator: Dale Englefield

Dale teaches the traditional Yang Style short form with martial arts references. Beginners are encouraged to arrive early for personal instruction at 5:30 p.m.

Great Ideas Group, September 14 and 28 (2nd and 4th Tuesdays)

7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Room 304

Facilitators: Wendy Rodewald and Eric Botts

On 2nd Tuesdays, we are discussing "Travels in Space and Time" from the Carl Sagan series *Cosmos*. On 4th Tuesdays, we'll have an open-ended discussion of climate change issues in September and October. Tim Mock will facilitate the discussions starting by exploring what attendees know and what they are curious about, concluding with new information not generally available in the popular media. Newcomers are welcome. September 28 — human impact=geopolitical/food

Thursdays

Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m., Music Room

Music Director: Jason Oby

Fridays

Poetry Group, 10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m., Library

Leader: Lucrecia Cox

"The best words in the best order." This group reads poetry and enjoys the rewards that only great literature can provide. Members choose the selections. For more information contact lc Cox@treysot.com.

Elders and Sages Chalice Circle, September 3 and 17 (1st and 3rd Fridays)

12:00 noon, Room 302

Folk Dancing, 7:30 p.m., Channing Hall

Houston International Folk Dancers is a recreational group dancing a wide variety of ethnic folk dances from around the world most Friday evenings. All who are interested are encouraged to join them. For more information see www.folkdancers.org.

Saturdays

Yoga, 9:00 a.m., Channing Hall

Facilitator: Julie Byrd



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH 2010-2011

Children and Youth start out in the sanctuary and leave from the worship service for their classes. Older Youth meet until 12:15. All others meet until 11:30. Children 5th grade and younger finish with a Closing Circle in the Fireside Room, where parents can join them and pick them up.

OLDER YOUTH (9th—12th grades): Living in UUville, Room 207

This 10-week curriculum explores Unitarian Universalist purposes and principles in an environment that encourages individual initiative as well as teamwork. Tasks and activities encourage thinking about personal religious beliefs and will encourage spiritual growth.

YOUNGER YOUTH (6th-8th grades): Neighboring Faiths, Room 208

This is a year-long exploration of the faith traditions and practices of other religious groups. Field trips, guests, and the opportunity to create community for discussion are keys to building community among the youth, connecting them with their congregation and the larger community while strengthening their Unitarian Universalist identity.

KINDERGARTENERS THROUGH 5TH GRADERS: UU Pillars. The four pillars of our Unitarian Universalist faith are: 1. UU Identity, 2. Sources of Wisdom and Inspiration, 3. Peace and Social Justice, and 4. The Interdependent Web. The children focus on each pillar over a seven-week period. Each year, the children widen the scope of their exploration and understanding of these pillars.

GRADES 4-5: Room 203

GRADES 2-3: Room 202 GRADES

K-1: Room 201

PRE-SCHOOL (4's and 5's): Spirit Play, Room 126

This program provides children with an environment in which to find answers to their existential questions such as "Where did we come from?" and "What happens when we die?" Using a modified Montessori approach, the children are given lessons and stories about which to wonder and express themselves with the support of their teachers and a carefully planned environment.

NURSERY (Infants to 3's), First Floor

In addition to our excellent childcare staff, volunteers will offer a Sunday morning story time for toddlers. Excellent care available for all little ones.