



FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

First Church News

**February
2011**

**Worship and
Religious
Education
for Children
and Youth**

**Sundays
10:30 a.m.**

**5200 Fannin
Houston, TX
77004
713.526.5200**

**Email:
church@firstuu.org**

**Website:
www.firstuu.org**

PRAYER

From the Rev. Dr. Daniel O'Connell

One of the great ideas about monthly themes is that the ministers and staff can write an essay about their reflections on a topic, we'll get at least one service devoted to the topic, and since we know the topic well in advance, we can get music and religious education components to merge well too.

And in this way, we get a more thoughtful, coherent, multifaceted view of the topic than without that coherence. It brings focus to our religious community. Prayer, like several other traditional religious concepts, is tricky for many UUs.

As a general rule, we Unitarian Universalists don't affirm an all knowing, all powerful, all good single God head. We do not stop to "worship" a God who demands this of us. For some of us, prayer is a conversation with God. For others of us, prayer is simply directed out into the universe, like a radio wave into infinity. Still others don't find the God concept useful but find a "prayerful" meditation very beneficial.

I think of prayer as a special form of meditation. Saying grace at dinner time is a way of focusing the family on the here and now. Away go the electronic devices. Put aside for a few moments are the worries of the day. Gently closed are books, arguments, and to-do lists.

We become still. We gently silence the "monkey mind" of the thousand thoughts wanting to crowd our brain. We acknowledge each other's presence. We feel the solidity of the chairs we sit on, the table between us. We take in sight and smell, the food before us.

And we pause. Just to rest for a moment. We have done this many times before. And it is our quiet hope we will get to do this many times again. But for now, just now, we rest for a moment, and we say grace. And we are blessed.

And I think any UU, no matter his or her faith stance on any particular topic, can achieve the blessing that comes with that kind of prayer.

My hope for you this month, is that you come up with your own table grace, your own daily moment of creating stillness, and find there gratitude and connection with something larger than yourself. *Amen.*

Daniel

Worship Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

February 6, 2011 — “Wild Thing . . . You Make My Heart Sing”

“You do not have to be good. You do not have to walk on your knees for a hundred miles through the desert repenting. You only have to let the soft animal of your body love what it loves.” So writes Mary Oliver. Let us learn to be a wild thing and let our churches become the clearings we create in life’s thicket, places where we can, in the face of confusion and worry, in the face of failure and loss, “lift our noses to the moon and sing.” Sermon by visiting minister the Rev. Gary Jones.

February 13, 2011 — “Animal Blessing”

In gratitude for the many ways our pets are a blessing to us, bring them along to church and join us in blessing those finned, furred and feathered friends of yours. If your circumstances dictate a picture or other representation of a particularly energetic pet, that will do. Service led by the Rev. Adam Robinson

February 20, 2011 — “A UU View of Prayer” Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Daniel O’Connell.

February 27, 2011 — “The Myth of Whiteness” Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Daniel O’Connell.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

The **Leadership Development Team** is responsible for ensuring successful ongoing leadership in our congregation. The LDT will be interviewing candidates for six positions beginning in March for the following: one member of the Board of Trustees, two members of the Stewardship Team and three members of the Leadership Development Team. Look for more information including details on these positions on the church’s web site very soon. (Click OUR CHURCH tab, then go to CHURCH GOVERNANCE). Contact any member of the LDT for conversation or information. You may write us at LDT@firstuu.org.

Carol Burrus, Karen Carlson, Earl Dredge, Carolyn Leap, Jon Naylor



Thinking about Joining? Membership Enrollment Day Is the First Sunday of Each Month

If you would like to join First Church, we ask that you complete the Enrollment Forms: New Member Information, Talents & Interests, Pledge Card and Skills Inventory. These forms are available in the office or from a Sunday Morning Hospitality Team member. Membership Enrollment is held the first Sunday of each month at the Welcome Table in Channing Hall (ground floor between the office and the sanctuary) after the worship service. **The next opportunity is Sunday, February 6.** You can turn in your enrollment forms at the Welcome Table in Channing Hall. We welcome the possibility of your joining us soon and hope that your relationship with First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston will be spiritually, mentally, and emotionally rewarding.

Our shared offering partner for February is **Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast**. PPGC works to ensure that all women, men and teens have access to safe, affordable health care and accurate information. With a network of twelve health centers in Houston, Southeast Texas and Louisiana they help people get the health care they need so they can live and love the way they want to. That’s why Planned Parenthood is a plan you can love with.



NEWS FROM OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Your Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, January 19th, and we had a good discussion about a wide range of topics.

First Church is really fortunate to have such loyal volunteers who serve on the Board. Their loyalty, commitment to the mission, willingness to volunteer and attendance at meetings is really impressive. I have had a lot of experience with nonprofit Boards, and this is a high performing group of people. They are thoughtful, civil and focused on improving organizational performance – Congress should take note!

I hope all members (we have 330!) will review our Board meeting minutes that are posted on the Church website. We are discussing a number of policies, or “value statements,” that both empower and constrain Daniel and the staff he supervises. On Wednesday evening we approved a policy on Safety and are having continuing discussions about Lifespan Education.

I will confess, for me, wordsmithing is tantamount to waterboarding but words are important. We want to be explicit about what is implicit. We also want our policies to be effective tools for our staff and current and future Boards.

We have many challenges facing us in 2011 but (as the author, Jim Collins, writes in *Good to Great*) we have the right people on the bus in the right seats.

On a personal note, I was reflecting on the little ways that First Church enables me to live our mission and values.

When I first get home at night, hang up my keys and empty my pockets, my change goes into the Guest at Our Table box on the kitchen counter. I like turning it into the office at the end of a year and it is heavy as a door stop.

When I’m driving around our busy streets and am approached by a homeless person on the corner, I reach into the back seat and get the plastic bag with our branded First Church food packs and offer it to them. They often act surprised by the bulk of the pack, and then they say “bless you.”

Bless me? I have enjoyed a life of privilege. My church enables me to truly live my values. Attending First Church has made me a better person and keeps me focused on the important things in life. It is my hope that you and your family members have similar First Church experiences. Count your blessings.

Peter



From the left, top row: Peter Durkin, President; Earl Dredge; Lydia Luz, Vice-President; Sheila Whitford; Wendy Van Syckle; Mike Hart; Carolyn Leap. From the left, bottom row: Hazel Heddings; Evan Michaelides, Treasurer; Rita Saylor; Rev. Daniel O’Connell, Senior Minister; Ron Cookston; Lucy Anderson. Not pictured: Steve Braun; Rosita Kirkman, Parish Clerk.



Everyone in their 20s and 30s is invited to join other young adults after the worship service on the first Sunday of every month. Join us in the courtyard as soon as possible after worship and then head over to a local restaurant for a good meal, great conversation, fun and fellowship. **Join us on Sunday, February 6, after church.**

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY

By Adam Robinson, Assistant Minister

Spiritual disciplines and practices are sometimes hard for us to talk about. Prayer seems to be one of those that is especially hard. There are classically five or six different kinds of prayer meditation/contemplation, adoration, supplication, confession and thanksgiving.

When I was a kid growing up in a much more conservative faith we kind of had a mentality that prayer was magic and it was all supplication or asking for stuff. God seemed to us to be a giant vending machine in the sky and most of us thought if we put the “in Jesus’ name, Amen” on the end of our prayer all of our wishes would be granted. It took a while before we realized that “Jesus’ name” wasn’t an abracadabra. There came a time when by paying attention, my little boy heart was broken because I didn’t receive an answer, only silence. As I got older and my wants and wishes got more complicated the great Santa Clause in the sky didn’t come through as often.

At some point in my chronological and spiritual maturity I came to a realization about prayer for me. Prayer is a very real way for me to practice mindfulness. If there are things for which I desire transformation in me, the world, our church, wherever, it is good for me to pay close attention to them. Whether I give thanks for something or contemplate something or even ask for something, I must focus on it.

Often with this focus comes a change in me that is more significant than any transformation outside of me. Often I am hit with the realization that I can be the change I am seeking. Or sometimes I am even able to understand that while I think life would be better if something matched my design, that may not be true for everyone and everything. But those things only come from being mindful and paying attention.

At this point I don’t really have an abracadabra. Jesus’ name; the Horned God; The Spirit of Love and Life; the God of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; the Goddess; my own Spirit or a thousand others may be invoked. But what doesn’t change is that I stop and focus and wait and listen.

Is there always an answer? Even silence is sometimes an answer. Sometimes it is the most powerful one.

Peace and Light,

Adam

Wheel of Life



Madgelean Bush, the first and longest serving director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in the Third Ward died on Christmas Day 2010.

Congratulations to **Tim and Carolyn Miller** and to **Frances Johnson** on the occasion of their recent retirements. Good luck to all of you and enjoy your new found freedom.

Pat Walsh, a former church member who moved away in 2005, died recently. Pat had been most recently living with her niece in Illinois.

Spanning the Ages

By Natalie Browne, Director of Lifespan Faith Development

This month's theme of Prayer gives me the opportunity I seldom take to share myself very personally. I pray often and try to pray all the time. Here is my attempt to explain what it means to me.

When my daughter was but four years old she brought me up short one morning. Although I had made a promise to let her be herself, on this particular occasion I felt the need to point out that she "might want to consider if those socks are the best pair for you to wear with your outfit." Her eyes filled with tears as she answered, "You're never going to like what I choose to wear, are you?" Because of her heart-felt reaction, I never again made a comment about her clothes without asking her permission first. Something changed inside of me as I sought to make amends for what I had done. I call this a prayer of confession.

Recently, I was at the intersection of Chimney Rock and the I-10 overpass: not a very attractive part of the Houston landscape. As I looked through my windshield, I was overcome by the intensity of the blue sky and the formations of clouds against it, despite the ugliness around me. Hurriedly, I got my camera and snapped a picture before the traffic light turned green. I call this a prayer of adoration.

When I first heard about the shooting that recently took place in Arizona, I was in a meeting. Right there, in the midst of the group, my mind encompassed the wounded and their families in a deeply felt wish for strength and courage. I call that a prayer of intercession.

Adoration, thanksgiving, supplication, intercession and confession; these are the traditional categories of prayer in the Christian tradition (coming, I believe, from I Timothy 2:1 - "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men.").

Although I no longer pray to God as a being, I find the categories useful for myself. For others, they may not be at all. Meditation may be a word they use, or perhaps "prayer" is a term they eschew.

For me, I use these words to describe ways of being "brought to awareness." In my first paragraph I use the words "brought up short." I think of Joseph Campbell who talked about God as myth or metaphor for everything beyond definition — beyond our knowledge — indeed, beyond all categories of thought (my "brought up short"). And that is one way I think of prayer: a reaching out to that place or time or, yes, being that is beyond my understanding when there is nothing I can do or say, yet a pressing need to respond is there.

So what of the work of prayer? Once again, out of my Christian tradition, I think of Brother Lawrence, a 7th Century French monk who wrote, "Men invented means and methods of coming at God's love, they learn rules and set up devices to remind them of that love, and it seems like a world of trouble to bring oneself into the consciousness of God's presence. Yet it might be so simple. Is it not quicker and easier just to do our common business wholly for the love of him?"

For me, daily meditation or devotions serve to increase the time I "am brought up short," and "feel the presence" together until I am living outside of words as well as with them, what Brother Lawrence, I believe, calls "consciousness of God's presence." How we do this praying depends so very much on who we are. Solitary walking works for me; for others it may be sitting in a meditative posture, working in soil, caring for a child, or playing music. For me, it has become necessary for my spiritual wellbeing.

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT OFFERINGS FOR ADULTS AND YOUTH

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. **A complete and detailed list of the January programs can be found at www.firstuu.org/pdfs/LFD_Current_Offerings.pdf.**

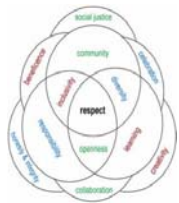
FINDING YOUR WAY AT FIRST CHURCH (for our guests)

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

Come for an informal conversation after the service. The Meditation Room is between the Sanctuary and Channing Hall. It is a pleasant place where you can meet members who will answer your questions while you enjoy a cup of coffee. You'll still have time for lunch in Channing Hall if you wish.



SUNDAY DISCUSSION CIRCLE, 12:00 noon



WHAT WOULD UUS DO? Living Our UU Values Video & Discussions

Sundays through March 6, 9:15 a.m.

Facilitators: Pam Perry and Carol Schwarten

Join us to watch a 10-minute video on one of the UU Principles followed by a discussion of how we might live our UU values that are represented in each principle. We'll discuss what we think UUs might do, if we were living our principles on a daily basis.

Feb. 6: How might we practice "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations" in our daily lives?

Feb. 13: How might we practice "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning" in our daily lives?

Feb. 20: How might we practice "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large" in our daily lives?

Feb. 27: How might we practice "the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all" in our daily lives?

Mar. 6: How might we practice "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part" in our daily lives?

These will be interesting and enjoyable discussions! Hope you can join us. If you have questions, email Pam at hearts@hal-pc.org.

PREPARING FOR OUR DEATHS — This presentation has been postponed until a later date that will be announced in a future newsletter.

The Great Ideas Group studies the great thinkers, great writers, great religions, and great ideas of the



past and present. We will begin our 5th year with a series of discussions on Science and Religion with lectures and materials drawn from a variety of sources. We meet on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays** of the month at 7:00 p.m. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information contact Eric Botts or Wendy Rodewald.

Houston Climate Protection Alliance - February 6, 1:15 p.m. Meet and discuss "Earth 2100," an ABC News program that asks "could this be the final century of our civilization?" The program follows the life of baby "Lucy" from birth and personalizes the effect of humanity making the wrong choices now. The program ends by presenting an alternative world made possible by making the right choices. Contact TimCMock@gmail.com or 713-662-2879.

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT OFFERINGS CONTINUED



“SECOND” FRIDAY MOVIE AND POTLUCK

Friday, February 11, 6:30 p.m. Potluck at 6:30 p.m.; movie starts at 7:00 p.m.

War Dance — Set in civil war-ravaged Northern Uganda, this Best Documentary Oscar nominee follows the lives of three youngsters who attend school in a refugee camp and find hope through a rich tradition of song and dance. Coming from a world in which children are abducted from their families and forced to fight in the rebel army, these kids give it their all when they travel to the capital city to take part in the prestigious Kampala Music Festival.

All About . . . First UU Adult Programs Team

Join us for spiritual, educational, and intellectual growth by attending one of our many programs and offerings. The Adult Programs Team meets monthly to plan and schedule workshops, discussion groups, and lectures. Our curriculum supports body, mind, and spirit by building community, broadening perspectives, feeding curiosity, and teaching skills for living UU principles. Our Team promotes, encourages, and affirms our congregation's spiritual growth and a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning" as expressed by the Unitarian Universalist Principles.

We invite you to share your ideas and longings for growth and stimulation with our Adult Programs Team for future planning. Let us know how we may meet your needs. You may contact us at AdultProgramsTeam@firstuu.org. Look for us in Channing Hall on Sundays for face-to-face time, as well.

Who are we? Woodie Lane (Chair), Robert Barnett, Steve Braun, Liz Gilbert, Kamal Maheshwari, Jon Naylor, Pam Perry and Natalie Browne, Staff Representative

SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECT

First Church Returns to School, Even the Kids (Voluntarily)!

Volunteer at the Church's Neighborhood Elementary School

MacGregor Music and Science Academy

Saturday, February 19, 2011

First UU Church volunteers have an opportunity to help out at our local public Magnet Elementary School on Saturday morning, February 19th. We will be working on grounds and gardening projects. They even have a Michelle Obama organic garden! This activity is open to everyone including families with children and youth.



We will bring our own equipment and supplies for this work and will need a variety of gardening tools. This is a great opportunity for families to work together, Faith In Action. Again, we would like all volunteers in this area to sign up in advance so that we can organize work crews and make sure each crew has the supplies and materials they need. To volunteer, sign up at the information table in Channing Hall or contact lauranagel@sbcglobal.net.

FROM YOUR SENIOR MINISTER, REV. DR. DANIEL O'CONNELL

This is an excerpt from the report presented at the January board meeting. The full report is available in full on the church website at http://www.firstuu.org/minister_reports.php. Other items included in the report are: **Operations and Team Building.**

Leadership Development Team (See page two.)

Social Justice Team from Craig Oettinger

The Social Justice Task Force continues to be active and is making plans to strengthen its contribution to the church. The day the BOT met last month we were 41 strong volunteering at the Houston Area Women's Center. On Sunday, January 16, 23 adults and 10 children from the church were scheduled to work in the courtyard area of Project Row Houses planting fruit trees, building a chicken coop and generally helping improve the facility of "The Green House Collective" that initiated this community garden. Our last scheduled activity will be working with McGregor Elementary School in February to support their tutoring of students for state-mandated achievement tests and working on gardening projects.

2nd Service Task Force Update from Rev. Adam Robinson

It is my hope that we will have the focus groups convened and the information compiled from those meetings to Rev. Daniel and the staff by the 18th of January. When we get this done, we will have a better sense of the urgency to move and the anxieties that surround this change, and will be better able to advise staff about a time-line for moving forward with a second service.

FROM YOUR TREASURER, EVAN MICHAELIDES

This is an excerpt from the report presented at the January board meeting. This report is available in full on the church website at http://www.firstuu.org/treasurer_reports.php.

December 2010 and half-year results

December was another solid month from the fiscal point of view. Our expenses for the month were a couple of thousand less than budgeted, which is good. Our income was about \$9K less than budgeted, owing entirely to a shortfall in pledge income. However, this was no surprise. Pledge income had been coming in early and was (and still is) way over budget, so we anticipated that the usual spike in December pledge income would be smaller than usual.

Our main financial challenges are related to past deficit budgets and manifest themselves today as cash-flow problems. This longer-term problem certainly needs to be addressed. But on a month-to-month operating basis, we are getting along reasonably well.

Audit Team Update

The Audit Team met on Tuesday, January 11. We were joined by Peggy, our Church Administrator. We have decided that the quickest way to start achieving results would be to proceed with an internal financial review based on a procedure/checklist provided by the UUA. We will meet with Peggy on Sunday, February 20, to get started.

The deadline for *First Church News* is the 15th of the month; for the weekly *Blast*, noon on Wednesday of each week. Email your news for consideration to news@firstuu.org.

Practical Matters

Notes from the Stewardship Team

We look forward to your insights and comments. Please e-mail us at stewardship@firstuu.org.

At First UU Church, there are many opportunities for members to engage in the spiritual practice of ministering to one another. The annual pledge drive is just one of them.

Michael Durall, in *The Almost Church Revitalized*, suggests that middle-class Americans could easily double their charitable giving without making a difference in their daily lives. This may not be true for all our members, but it may be for some. Is it true for you?

The Stewardship Team believes the health of our church and community depends upon a successful pledge drive. As our annual canvass takes shape, we invite all our members to reflect on what you can contribute. Think of your annual pledge as one exercise in your multitude of spiritual practices.

We are making a difference here at First UU. Your pledge ensures we continue to do so, for our members, our community and the world.

Joyce Ambler
Mary Koch

Thorpe Butler
Joe Lach

Evelyn Carlson
Sue Prochazca

Elizabeth Gilbert
Emily Todd

Risk Management in the Worship Place

Sunday, February 13, 12:15 p.m., Facilitated by Tom Cowen

Recognizing and preventing difficult and dangerous situations in the worship place will be discussed with suggestions made as to how to respond to them. Last fall, Tom attended a workshop presented by the Center for Personal Protection and Safety that was specifically designed for churches, and he welcomes anyone who would like to learn this information to attend. In light of the recent tragedy in Tucson and violent events in churches in the not too distant past, this information sharing opportunity will concentrate on the potential for significant outbursts and violence at church and how we will react to them if they happen.

Teachers, program facilitators, office volunteers, ushers and Welcome Team members are especially encouraged to be there. This video based presentation will be a bit different from previous ones that have been offered on safety and security and will guide our discussion into areas more complex and unique.

FIRST CHURCH NEWS is published monthly by First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin Street, Houston, TX, 77004. Phone: 713-526-5200. This is Volume 16, Issue 2, published on January 24, 2011.



**Saint Valentine's Day Concert and Dance
Featuring The Texas Southern University Jazz Experience Big Band
Saturday, February 12, 6:00 p.m.**

The TSU Jazz Experience will be featured in our annual fund-raising Valentine's Day Concert. Our own Jason Oby will be featured in performances of some of the most memorable love songs as recorded by Nat King Cole, Tony Bennett and the Duke Ellington Orchestra, to name but a few. The band is led by Horace Alexander Young, who has enjoyed a distinguished performing career throughout the United States and abroad as a woodwind artist and composer/arranger. Mr. Young has a long-standing affiliation with First Church dating back to 1972 when he played the first jazz service held in our sanctuary.

**Audience members will be encouraged to dance and enjoy a relaxed evening
with a wide variety of music evocative of the spirit of love.**

Desserts and champagne will be served.

**Advance tickets may be purchased for \$15.00 in Channing Hall on Sundays,
in the church office during the week, or on the church web site at www.firstuu.org.**

Ask A Choir Member About...



or contact Jason Oby at jason@firstuu.org.



∞ Chancel Enhancement ∞

Would you like to share your flowers, celebrate a special event or honor a loved one by adorning the chancel shelf in the sanctuary on Sunday? If so, please contact Penny Cerling, Chancel Enhancement Coordinator, to arrange a date, pcerling@sbcglobal.net. Thank you.

HOW IS YOUR SOUL MY FRIEND?

If you have any pastoral needs, we are here to help. Our Care Team, Befrienders and clergy are available for you. No matter how large or small you may think your need is, don't hesitate to contact us.

Rev. Adam Robinson, 713-526-5200 or
adam@firstuu.org



CARE TEAM



The Care Team meeting will be held on Sunday, February 27, with snacks at 12:15 and the meeting at 12:30. Our meetings are open to anyone who is interested in the topic of discussion or who would like to find out more about what the Care Team does. If you'd like more information contact CareTeam@firstuu.org.

FEBRUARY 2011

Every Sunday Morning

8:30 Early Morning Book Group
 9:00 Changing Women
 10:30 Worship Service
 10:30 RE for Children and Youth

11:30 Lunch
 11:40 Finding Your Way at First Church
 11:45 Men's Group
 12:00 Sunday Discussion Circle

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 5:30 pm Beginners Tai Chi 6:15 pm Tai Chi Class	2 7:30 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Covenant Group (offsite) 6:30 pm Houston Area Youth Advisors	3 7:30 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Covenant Group (offsite) 6:30 pm Houston Area Youth Advisors	4 10:00 am Poetry in Motion 12:00 pm AL-ANON 12:00 pm Elders and Sages 7:30 pm Folk Dancing	5 9:00 am Yoga
6 "Wild Thing" See: Every Sunday Morning 11:45 Young Adult Lunch 11:45 New Member Sign Up 12:15 pm Great Books 1:15 Climate Protection	7 7:00 pm Rhythm of Life 7:00 pm Beginner's Yoga	8 5:30 pm Beginners Tai Chi 6:15 pm Tai Chi Class 7:00 pm Great Ideas	9	10 7:30 pm Choir Practice	11 10:00 am Poetry in Motion 12:00 pm AL-ANON 6:30 pm Movie Night 7:30 pm Folk Dancing	12 9:00 am Yoga 6:00 pm Valentine's Day Concert & Dance 
13  "Animal Blessing" See: Every Sunday Morning 2:00 pm HAC-YAC	14 7:00 pm Beginner's Yoga	15 5:30 pm Beginners Tai Chi 6:15 pm Tai Chi Class 7:00 pm Stewardship	16 5:30 pm Welcoming Team 6:30 pm Adult Programs Team 7:00 pm Board of Trustees	17 7:00 pm Peace Forum 7:00 pm Covenant Group (offsite) 7:00 pm Web Team 7:30 pm Choir Practice	18 10:00 am Poetry in Motion 12:00 pm AL-ANON 12:00 pm Elders and Sages 7:30 pm Folk Dancing	19 9:00 am Yoga
20 "A UU View of Prayer" See: Every Sunday Morning 9:15 What Would UUs Do? 12:15 Parents Group 12:15 Paganism Disc. 2:00 pm HAC-YAC	21 10:00 am Newsletter Crew 7:00 pm Rhythm of Life 7:00 pm Beginner's Yoga	22 5:30 pm Beginners Tai Chi 6:15 pm Tai Chi Class 7:00 pm Great Ideas	23	24 7:30 pm Choir Practice	25 10:00 am Poetry in Motion 12:00 pm AL-ANON 7:30 pm Folk Dancing	26 9:00 am Yoga
27 "The Myth of Whiteness" See: Every Sunday Morning 9:15 What Would UUs Do? 12:00 pm Care Team 12:15 pm Parents Group 12:15 Paganism Disc.	28 7:00 pm Beginner's Yoga 7:00 pm Befrienders					

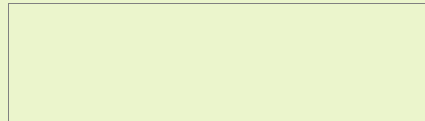
First Unitarian Universalist Church

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**Time Sensitive
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First Church News

If you prefer reading the newsletter online and do not wish to have a copy mailed to you, please let the office know, office@firstuu.org.



A Community of Love Beyond Belief:
Transforming Ourselves, Houston and the World

**Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Rev. Dr. Daniel O'Connell, Senior Minister
Rev. Adam Robinson, Assistant Minister
Natalie Browne, Director of Lifespan Faith Development
Peggy Harvey, Director of Administration
Tom Cowen, Facilities Manager
Jason Oby, Music Director
Bob Fazakerly, Organist
Hilman Laws, Weekday Custodian
Aaron Laws, Weekend Custodian

Rev. Robert L. Schaibly, Minister Emeritus

www.firstuu.org
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