



The Community News

December 2016

OUR VISION

We will become a dynamic and nurturing religious community that celebrates our human diversity, supports lifelong spiritual growth, and acts for compassion and justice in the larger community.

December 2016 Services

Theme - Peace

Sunday, December 4 - 10:30am - "Pacifist, Made Not Born" - Guest Speaker Dr. Tom Cotton.

Sunday, December 11 - 10:30 am - "Spirit Play Worship". It is often said that the most spiritual place in the church on a Sunday morning is the Spirit Play Classroom. Come find out why in this interactive, playful service centered on our monthly worship theme: Peace. Led by Kathy Smith, DRE.

Sunday, December - 18 - 10:30am - "Annual Yuletide Celebration". Our worship for all ages uses ritual, stories, and song to weave together Yule, Hanukah and Christmas – holidays from three of our six UU sources. Led by Kathy Smith, DRE, and the Community Church Choir.

Saturday, December 24 - 3pm - "Christmas Eve Service for Families". This is a lively, participatory service of familiar carols and rounds, beautiful descants and bells, readings and stories of the season. Adults, youth, families, children of all ages – all are welcome.

Saturday, December 24 - 6pm - Lessons and Carol Service led by Annie Forester.

Sunday, December 25 - 10:30am - "Ghosts of Christmas Past" - Guest Speaker - Elena Westbrook. Everyone is invited to attend in their new Christmas pajamas or favorite holiday-morning lounging attire. Children are invited to bring a quiet toy.

January 2017 Sunday Services Theme - Grace

Jan. 1 - Guest Speaker - Sarah Reiling.

Jan. 8 - Guest Speaker - Tom Kellner

Jan. 15 - Guest Speaker - Tashi Nyima

Jan. 22 - Harvest The Power Class

Jan. 29 - Guest Speaker - Rev. Mark Walz

Typical Sunday
10:30 - 11:45 a.m.: Worship, Religious Education for Children and Youth, and Nursery Childcare

11:45 a.m.: Coffee and Conversation

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Patrick's Sabbatical Ponderings "Rest, Justice and Peace"

Well, after this November's elections, we *officially* live in "interesting times." Consequently, it's been a busy and bumpy start to the four month sabbatical granted to me by our covenant. At the start I attended a spiritual retreat near Knoxville TN, focused on Bowen Family Systems Theory (B.F.S.T.) as a lens for personal growth and community health. The election soon after created other foci and needs for attention. The next weekend I was fortunate to attend the SW UU Leadership training at Glen Rose. As UU's together we were able to offer understanding, support, direction and healing to each other as we better learned how to do the work of justice and peace. Later on, Thanksgiving locally with my family is always memorable, and an important part of my B.F.S.T. research gathering family information going back several generations. In addition to advocacy efforts, I am reading some for pleasure, working through a backlog of home maintenance, playing more with my kids and getting some rest.

Our congregational monthly theme for December this year is "Peace." I am reminded that "peace" is not only an absence of conflict or strife, but it also requires of us the ongoing establishment of "justice for all." And so any feeling of seasonal peace is challenged more than usual by our sense of the impending fallout of injustices from the close of the current administration and the beginning of the coming regime in January. So, it is that our UU values and principles are given direct, multiple, and high contrast challenges by the powers and principalities in our own governments at many levels.

It is together, with all people of good will, we are able to address these challenges with confidence and renewal. Together we may be able to dance through this crisis, and seize the opportunities only available to those who take the risk to be open to the possibilities present in uncertainty. We need to make sure we do not waste this crisis. Protect those who are vulnerable and speak out and up against greed, want, hate, fear and ignorance, always.

In the meantime, be kind and rest. Be kind and dance. Be kind and love yourself and all your beloveds for the precious gifts that you are. I also enclose Maya Angelou's poem "Amazing Peace" as a hopeful gift and a blessing for all of us this season. **(Prayer on insert).**

Blessings, Patrick

Board Highlights November 2016

Love All, Serve All

Your board agreed to place the Dallas Sai Center (Sathya Sai Baba) "Love All, Serve All" banner on the eastern side of the CUUC mansard roof facing the street.

Financial Task Force

The board formally approved a four member task force made up of Elena Westbrook, Jodie Zoeller, John Crowley and Nelah McComsey to develop a proposal to replace monies from our investment account.

North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregation (NTUUC) Grant

This year the board will apply for two NTUUC grants: A year-long stewardship consultation with William "Bill" Clontz -- \$7,000.00; and a communication package to include web redesign and social media -- \$8,000.00.

President's Column

After attending another inspiring Service is the Park, I was reminded how fortunate we are to enjoy the fellowship we share. We had a wonderful turnout at Bob Woodruff Park, and filled the Pavilion. The weather was beautiful, the service was lovely, and the First Friday Folksingers led us in singing. Following the service we returned to church and were served a delicious, vegetarian lunch by our friends in the Sai Community. After lunch we joined the Sai Community to sing hymns together.

This fall we welcomed new members to our church family, saw the completion of work on the roof repair and mold remediation efforts, and enjoyed another fun and festive Service Auction.

Thanksgiving is behind us, and I hope that each of you enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with family or friends. We truly have much to be thankful for.

On Christmas Eve our traditional family service, held in the afternoon is followed by our candlelight worship service in the evening. More information will be available in the Eblast as to the exact time for these services. There is something very special about the feeling of warmth and community that is present at both. Please plan to join us at one or the other.

Fondly,

Lexie

Uses of Major Repair Funds

Description	Total	Note
Annex Divider	-\$1,382.50	Rooms F & G
Annex Floor	-\$35.00	Rooms F & G
Annex Ramp	-\$2,783.71	
Entryway	-\$295.48	
Flooring	-\$9,283.03	Nursery, B & Minister's Study
Furniture	-\$1,432.54	Replacement for damaged
Hail Damage	-\$131.95	A/C fins
Handrails	-\$3,465.00	
Line of Credit	-\$1,154.37	Fees & interest
Mold Remediation	-\$29,151.13	
Mold Testing	-\$5,012.50	
Playground	-\$1,500.00	Shade sails
Plumbing	-\$8,969.00	Urinal, main line from meter
Reconstruction	-\$92,453.39	
Roof Leak	-\$11,178.50	Fixes prior to insurance claim
Temporary Storage	-\$3,041.87	Pod & storage for Minister's office
Window Tint	-\$1,509.00	
GRAND TOTAL	-\$172,778.97	

December, 2016

PDG – Potluck Dinner and Games! December 16 in Founders Hall. This monthly event sponsored by the RE Board is for everyone who loves to play games. **We meet on the third Friday of every month. Potluck dinner at 6:30pm, games from 7:30-10pm, childcare provided for young children (or children who are done with game-playing for the night).** Come for dinner, come for games, or come for the whole evening. And it's free! Questions? Ask Danni Williams or Patrick Fisher.

Women's Alliance

Come join the Women's Alliance for a Wintery Holiday Party on **Sunday, December 11, 2-5pm** at the lovely home of Victoria Rachel. We'll have food and fun. **Please RSVP to women@communityuuchurch.org.**

Friday Night Flicks Founders Hall - 7pm.

Dec. 30 - Steambath - 1973 - R

This razor-sharp, outrageous comedy portrays God as an overworked steambath attendant who doles out "wrath" and "blessed events" in between assignments of scrubbing floors and walls. Starring Bill Bixby, Valerie Perrine and Jose Perez as the Lord

Hey, RE Teachers! Coffee and Coaching! The RE Board is again sponsoring a series of 45-minute coaching "mini-sessions" about questions YOU have asked about teaching Religious Education here at CUUC. It'll be fun, it'll be informative! Coffee, snacks, and childcare will all be provided. **We'll look for you in Room F at 9:15am on December 4!**

Literary Ladies Book Club Upcoming Meeting

Women members and friends of Community UU Church are welcome to join us on **the third Tuesday of the month from 7 – 9pm.**

Date: Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7-9pm (note: The date has been moved to the second Tuesday this month to avoid holiday conflicts.)

Location: Pam Reinke-Walter's home **Contact Pam by Dec. 9 if you plan to attend.**

Selection: Bring poems, lyrics, and summaries of essays and short stories that have been meaningful to you to share with the group.

Simple Living Chalice Circle

Meeting time and place – The next meeting will be **Saturday morning December 10 at 11am.**

Theme/topic – Learning together to live deliberately.

Facilitator – Contact Ona Tannehill at Email simpleliving@communityuuchurch.org

communityuuchurch.org for location.

Annual Holiday Folksing Friday, December 2nd

The CUUC First Friday Folksingers invite you to their Annual Holiday Folksing on Friday, December 2 at 8pm at the home of Gail and Charlie Battista, 600 Homewood Drive, Plano, 75025.

Bring a holiday snack to share and come sit around the fire and join the FFFS in singing your favorite holiday carols and songs. Just listening is OK too! Come kick off the Holiday Season by joining in the fellowship of the First Friday Folksingers holiday festivities.

Bring your instruments and copies of any special music. A piano is available. Adult beverages will be provided. There is no childcare available.

Please RSVP to cbatti@aol.com or gcbatt@gmail.com by calling 972-517-0618 to let us know you'll be coming.

Religious Education

"Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief.

Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly now.

You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it."

Finding Peace through Working for Justice

By Kathy E. Smith, Director of Religious Education

The theme for this month is "Peace". There are many paths towards peace: meditation, prayer, love for family and friends. One that has, over the years, been important to many Unitarians, Universalists and UUs is social action: finding peace within oneself by working for greater justice in the larger community. In answer to the question "What can we **do**?", here are some concrete ways you and your family can increase justice in our community.

Remind your children that now, more than ever, it's important to take care of each other. Not just our friends, but the people we see who are being teased or are sitting alone. Stand next to someone who is being picked on – sometimes just your physical presence is a help. If you see bullying, speak up or tell a trusted adult. Invite the lonely kid or the new kid to sit with you at lunch. Acts of kindness and goodness add up.

Find the teacher(s) in your neighborhood school who is working towards a pluralistic America where everyone belongs and will work to protect marginalized students. Ask directly, "What can I do to help you?"

Participate in the Guest at Your Table program. And check out the website for the UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) to see how else you can help.

Join the Texas UU Justice Ministry (www.txuujm.org). Plan to attend the Legislative Ministry Day on February 15 – your chance (along with hundreds of other UUs) to talk to legislators directly.

Come sing with the Common Ground Street Choir – a UU-sponsored, multi-faith holler-along group that sings at local protests and demonstrations as well as building community within our group. Check them out on Facebook or ask me!

Donate to God's Food Pantry. With the increase in population in Collin County, there is an increased need for food – their shelves are often bare. Put your donations in the cart in the foyer. Or call 972-633-9777 to ask how you can help.

Dallas Youth First – Youth First provides support and activities for GLBTQ youth ages 12-18. Check their website at www.myresourcecenter.org/what-we-do/community/youth-first. They serve meals several nights a week.

Contact the local offices for your state and congressional elected officials – whether you voted for them or not. Put the numbers into your phone and call daily or weekly on a specific issue (or issues) that are important to you. Phone calls are more effective than emails or letters.

These are just a few suggestions of ways to work for social justice. There are many more! Choose one idea that is important to you and work to implement it for a month, then add another. The most effective way to achieve inner peace through social justice work is to do something every single day. All those little efforts add up.

See you in church!

Kathy

UBarU Corner

Plan a trip next year to Texas Hill Country. Below please find the current activity schedule. Find something a member of your family would enjoy & come on down.

DECEMBER:

- Chuck Baker SA Astronomers 3-4 December

JANUARY 2017:

- UUACCC Annual Meeting 17-21 January 2017
- Chuck Baker SA Astronomers 27-29 January 2017
- UBarU Board Meeting 29 January 2017

FEBRUARY 2017:

- IMBOLC Group 10 -12 February 2017
- Needle Arts Retreat 17-19 February 2017
- Chuck Baker SA Astronomers 24 -25 February 2017

MARCH 2017

- Men's Spring Retreat 31 March – 2 April
- Chuck Baker SA Astronomers 24-25 March

APRIL 2017

- Women's Spring Retreat 28-30 April

MAY 2017

- Family Camp 26 thru 29 May

JUNE 2017

- Meaning Makers Retreat 6 thru 11 June
- Sojourner Camp Grade rising third to fifth 11 thru 17 June
- GA New Orleans UBarU CLOSED 21 thru 24 June
- Olympia Camp rising sixth to seventh 25 June thru 1 July

JULY 2017

- Seeger Camp rising eights to ninth 2 thru 8 July
- Reeb Camp rising tenth to 2017 high school graduate 9 thru 15 July

AUGUST 2017

- UBarU Star Party 17 thru 20 August

UPDATE: UBarU Apiary: Our middle hive, the one that was lost in the post has been struggling. This often means the queen is very weak. I brought two large boxes of bees that were collected from a swarm in San Antonio this past week. It is our hope that they will combine with the current hive population and fortify the hive for winter. I am looking into obtaining a new queen for this hive. Thank you Kevin Hartley for assisting me with this installation. Apologies for the stings, these bees are from out of town. **Bill Daffinee UBarU Trustee**

Social Action News

Hunger Initiative

God's Pantry

The Pantry is busy working on 300 Thanksgiving Baskets for 11/19 and another 300 Christmas Baskets for 12/17 for low income Plano families. Your contributions are very much appreciated. Plans are underway for the annual God's Pantry Angel Tree. There will be decorations on the tree with the name or names of children under 12 years old. Each tag will also give some information about the child. The presents will be included with their Christmas Baskets. If you wish to participate, but do not have time to shop, cash donations are gratefully accepted.

Volunteers are needed to help make the labels, trim the tree, shop and deliver the gifts. See Linda Frank or Bev Fleming for more information.

Meals on Wheels

Did you know Texas ranks sixth in the nation for seniors who are hungry? Some of these seniors are unable to shop or cook for themselves. Over 90% of the seniors served live below the federal poverty line of less than \$11,880 a year. Meals on Wheels supports their needs in Collin Co. both with hot meals and a friendly visitor. Our church helps support this effort with a donation of \$525.00 for this holiday season.

Mark Your Calendars for Texas Legislative Action Day: Wednesday, February 15

We will have more detailed information as the date approaches, but this is an opportunity for UUs to go to Austin and make their concerns known to legislators. There will be a bus going from First Unitarian in Dallas, some individuals will travel on their own, and we hope to have some carpools available.

Last month, House Speaker Joe Straus laid out his priority list for the 2017 legislature:

- Fixing Child Protective Services
- Cutting budgets
- Public education funding
- Improving state's approach to mental health
- Encouraging entrepreneurship in Texas
- Cost of higher education

Some of these are certainly issues that UUs want to weigh in on, but Texas UU Justice Ministry will continue to lobby for these issues of primary concern: Reproductive justice, Affordable Care Act implementation, and economic justice/income inequality.

In addition, TXUJMJ works closely with Texas Impact (our Executive Director serves on their Board), and Texas Impact has already laid out a more detailed agenda for the 2017 session. You can see that agenda here:

<https://texasimpact.org/content/texas-impact-announces-2017-legislative-agenda>

For more information about how you can be involved, contact Nelah McComsey.

NTUUC and SWUUC NEWS

NTUUC Recognition Awards and Luncheon

Call for Nominations for the Eighth Annual NTUUC Recognition Awards, deadline for nominations December 2, 2016. Awards will be presented at the NTUUC Awards Luncheon at UU Church of Oak Cliff, January 28, 2017. Speaker Rev. Nathan Ryan is *Associate Pastor, Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge*.

The Marty Robinson Award for Volunteers

In honor of her years of dedication and wide-ranging service to the Southwestern UU Conference, the UUA, and in NTUUC congregations.

The Ruth Clark Award for Staff Members

In honor of her service as the first professional Director of Religious Education in the Southwestern UU Conference.

The Robert Raible Award for Ministers

In honor of his many years as minister of First Unitarian Church of Dallas, and his contribution to the growth of our churches in North Texas.

Nominations may be made by individuals or congregations, of youth and adults. For submission information, please visit www.ntuuc.org/awards. Recipients are requested to attend the Awards Luncheon, and will receive a ticket each.

Southwest UU Women's Conference

Southwest UU Women's Conference. Conference is February 10-12, 2017 at the Magnolia Hotel Dallas Park Cities in Dallas. Registration is \$190 before January 1, 2017, \$225 from January 1 through January 27. Final deadline January 27. To register go to: www.swuuw.org.

Helen Bond, is the keynote speaker. She is a percussionist of intricate melodies and polyrhythms of West African music/teacher/storyteller/humanitarian and winner of 2015 Jack Benny Arts and Humanities Award and is the Co-Founder of Benkadi Project.

Entertainment will be **Going Native**, a terrific new vocal group with three awesome women at its heart. **Lisa Mensing**— lead singer/rhythm guitar, **True Turner** – multi-keyboardist and **LaDonna Goetz** – lead guitar/vocals will make you want to rock and roll.

Join us for an inspiring weekend in Dallas with great speakers, music, worship, workshops, vendors, fellowship and fun.

Deadline for the January newsletter is Friday, December 9. Email articles to newsletter@communityuuchurch.org.

October Financial Report

Finance Report by Dick Hildenbrand, Treasurer

The October financial summary for our operating accounts is listed below. While October appears to have been a very positive month financially, the details underneath the bottom line show the primary driver to be early receipt of lump sum pledge payments that weren't expected until later in the year – hence this positivity will reverse itself in January. Year-to-date, income is even and expenses have been \$5,000 higher than budget. After we see the results of the Service Auction, we'll know how much belt tightening will be necessary, assuming no future surprises.

Congregational Meeting discussion: Several members voiced concerns about borrowing money from the bank to pay back our investment funds for the money taken to effect major repairs. Several members (John Crowley, Nelah McComsey, Jodie Zoeller and Elena Westbrook) agreed to serve on a task force to come up with recommendations on how to pay this money (\$170k+) back to our investments. A box showing where the Major Repair expenses have gone can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.



Upcoming Share the Plate Offerings

Date	Recipient
Nov. 27, 2016	Plano Community Home
Dec. 25, 2016	Minister's Discretionary Fund
Jan. 29, 2017	Community Harvest Garden



If you forget your checkbook on a Share the Plate Sunday, remember you can always donate on line.

October's Share the Plate netted \$324.13 for the UBarU Camp.

FREE MONEY!

Kroger: Update your Kroger Plus card to link to organization 83309 at www.kroger.com/communityrewards. NOTE: It's time to renew your Kroger Community Rewards - just follow this link: <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>

Tom Thumb: Link your Rewards card to charity 8089 at customer service.

Amazon.com: Use this link for purchases: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-1787256>

The church will get a portion of all purchase amounts!

INCOME & EXPENSE October 2016

INCOME	Oct. 2016	Month Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	% Annual Budget (FY 41.7% comp)
Total Offering Income	\$22,400	\$18,914	\$112,941	\$111,176	\$258,402	43.7%
Total Fund Raiser Income	\$119	\$190	\$4,249	\$5,950	\$24,900	17.1%
Total Building Usage	\$1,804	\$2,191	\$9,459	\$10,831	\$27,900	33.9%
Misc. Income	\$3,129	\$1,038	\$6,630	\$4,989	\$12,824	51.7%
TOTAL INCOME	\$27,452	\$22,333	\$133,279	\$132,946	\$324,026	41.1%
EXPENSE						
Administration	\$3,939	\$4,110	\$22,014	\$21,666	\$54,929	40.1%
Programs	\$1,900	\$2,247	\$9,267	\$9,676	\$22,739	40.8%
Religious Education	\$4,236	\$5,255	\$29,377	\$26,274	\$63,552	46.2%
Facilities/Grounds	\$3,370	\$4,214	\$24,460	\$23,698	\$60,742	40.3%
Ministry	\$8,565	\$8,504	\$43,961	\$42,522	\$103,276	42.6%
Denomination	\$1,708	\$1,708	\$6,832	\$6,832	\$18,788	36.4%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$23,717	\$26,038	\$135,948	\$130,669	\$324,026	42.0%
NET INCOME	+\$3,735	-\$3,705	-\$2,699	+\$2,277	\$0	

Family Events at CUUC in November

Sunday, December 4, 9:15 a.m. – Coffee and Coaching
Sunday, December 4, 10:30 a.m. – Worship and RE
Sunday, December 4, 12:15 p.m. – 5th-6th grade OWL
Sunday, December 11, 10:30 a.m. – Spirit Play as Worship
Sunday, December 11, 12 noon – Secret Santa Shoppe
Sunday, December 11, 12:15 p.m. – Coming of Age Class
Sunday, December 11, 12:15 p.m. – 5th-6th grade OWL
Friday, December 16, 6:30 p.m. – PDG (Potluck Dinner & Games)
Sunday, December 18, 10:30 a.m. – Worship (Yuletide Service for All Ages)
Friday, December 23, 6-10 p.m. – Yule Ball and Solstice Celebration
Saturday, December 24, 3 and 6 p.m. – Christmas Eve Services
Sunday, December 25, 10:30 a.m. – Worship (Cookie Communion for All Ages)

Adult Religious Education Classes

The Mission of the **Adult Religious Education Program** is to nurture and stimulate the religious and personal growth of the adult church community. We offer a varied and cohesive program within the context of the living Unitarian Universalist tradition and principles. **The church website has been updated with the latest classes and class descriptions - check it out at www.CommunityUUChurch.org. under Adult Religious Education.** CHILDCARE is available for all classes, upon request. To reserve childcare call the church office (972-424-8989) at least 48 hours in advance.

Monday

Yoga Class will not be meeting in December.

Tuesday

Tibetan Buddhism – 7pm – in the sanctuary. Meditation and Mind Training. Please join us for guided meditation and a skillful approach to developing mental peace and clarity. **Facilitated by the Ven. Tashi Nyima.**

Thursday

Humanist Group meets at 6pm in Room G. The program is discussion-centered on Humanist-oriented topics led by various speakers.

Exploring the Roots of Religion in Room G at 7pm. Facilitator Don Fielding. His video intros are always followed by lively discussions, and participants can benefit from his wealth of knowledge of the subject matter.

Quest for the Afterlife: Dec. 1 – Feasting with the Dead at Petra. Dec. – Druid Sacrifice at Lindow Moss? Dec. 15 – Honoring Ancestors in Ancient Ohio. Dec. 22 – A Viking Queen Sails to Eternity. Dec. 29 - NO CLASS.

UU Church Contact Email Addresses

Rev. Patrick Price:

revpprice@CommunityUUChurch.org

President, Lexie McGrane:

president@CommunityUUChurch.org

Director of Religious Education: Kathy Smith

dre@CommunityUUChurch.org

Director of Music, Christopher Wolff

musicdir@communityuuchurch.org

Church Secretary, Connie Meints:

cuuc-office@CommunityUUChurch.org

Church Bookkeeper, John Elder:

bookkeeper@CommunityUUChurch.org

Facilities Coordinator,

facilities@CommunityUUChurch.org

Membership Coordinator, Cindy Pilcher

mc@communityUUchurch.org

Board of Trustees: **board@CommunityUUChurch.org**

Trustees meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the Annex. Members, friends and visitors are always welcome.

Worship Programs (Sunday Services, Ushers Coordinator, Interior Arts)

worshipteam@CommunityUUChurch.org

Caring Committee Coordinator, Mina Daffinee

Caring @CommunityUUChurch.org

Communications Director, **Vacant.**

communications@communityuuchurch.org

Personnel Coordinator, Lolisa Laenger

personnel-chair@communityuuchurch.org

Committee on Ministry, John Hart, Chair

Mincom@communityuuchurch.org

Social Action Programs, Janice Hildenbrand

UUSInAction@CommunityUUChurch.org

Bridge Group Coordinator, Clint Burleson:

bridge@CommunityUUChurch.org

Circle Suppers Coordinator, John Snyder:

Circlesuppers@CommunityUUChurch.org

Friday Flicks Coordinator, Alice Mayo:

flicks@Community UUChurch.org

First Friday Folksingers Coordinator, Dick Hildenbrand:

folksingers@CommunityUUChurch.org

Outdoor Adventure Coordinator, Dick Hildenbrand:

outdooradventure@CommunityUUChurch.org

Leadership Development Committee:

ldc@CommunityUUChurch.org

Capital Improvement

Strategic Planning Committee:

planning@CommunityUUChurch.org

Chalice Circle/Simple Living Coordinator Ona Tannehill

simpleliving@CommunityUUChurch.org

Program Board: Sandy Farlow, Chair

programs@CommunityUUChurch.org

Finance Committee: **finance@CommunityUUChurch.org**

Stewardship Committee Gene Verinder, Chair

stewardship@CommunityUUChurch.org

Investment Committee: David Hollands, Chair, Carol Wise,

Karen Bethel **investment@CommunityUUChurch.org**

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists Kathy Smith, Coordinato

yruu@CommunityUUChurch.org

Adult Enrichment/Adult Education Celeste Kennedy,

Director **adultre@CommunityUUChurch.org**

EarthSpirit Janie McDermott, Coordinator

earthspirit@CommunityUUChurch.org

Men's Fellowship Brian Bristol, Coordinator

men@CommunityUUChurch.org

Religious Education Board Brennan Hadden, Chairperson

reboard@CommunityUUChurch.org

Hospitality Committee George Norwood, Coordinator

hospitality@CommunityUUChurch.org

Women's Alliance: **women@CommunityUUChurch.org**

Safe Congregations

Safecongregations@communityuuchurch.org

UU Website Links

Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA): www.uua.org

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC):

www.uusc.org

Southwest District (SWUUC): **www.swuuc.org**

North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations (NTUUC):

www.ntuuc.org

CUUC Representatives, Celeste Kennedy and Grace Morrison

NTUUC@CommunityUUChurch.org

UBarU Camp and Retreat Center, Trustee, Bill Daffinee

Wrdaffinee@aol.com

Church Office Hours

Monday: church offices closed: **Tuesday:** 9 am to 3 pm
Wednesday: 9 am to 2:30 pm: **Thursday:** 9 am to 2:30 pm
Friday: 9 am to Noon: **Office Phone #:** 972-424-8989

Reverend Patrick Price

Monday: Available for emergencies only.
Tuesday through Thursday: Noon to 4 pm
Friday: Available for emergencies only.
Other times by appointment. Please contact Reverend Price for appointments and scheduling information.

Director of Religious Education Kathy Smith Wednesday and Thursday: 1pm to 5 pm, other times by appointment.

Bookkeeper John Elder Tuesday & Thursday: 10:30am - 2:30pm
other times by appointment.

Membership Coordinator Cindy Pilcher Friday: 9:15am - 11:30am.

Church Secretary Connie Meints

Tuesday 9am to 3pm, **Wednesday & Thursday** 9am to 2:30pm, **Friday** 9am to noon.

Music Director Christopher Wolff

The Community News

The Community News is distributed to Members and Friends of this church. Visitors who complete a visitor card receive issues for three months. To continue receiving issues, sign the "Welcome Back" book on each visit. Others may subscribe for an annual donation of \$25.00.

The editor encourages and appreciates submissions and on-time submissions are especially delightful. The Community News is published once a month.

**Email articles to
newsletter@**

CommunityUUChurch.org

Please include your name on any news item submitted for The Community News. Items may be edited for clarity and brevity



2875 E. Parker Rd.
Plano, TX 75074

Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Plano

For our December 2016 calendar, go to our website at:
CommunityUUChurch.org

Events listed on the calendar are subject to change. For more information and confirmation of these events, please visit the church calendar at <http://www.communityuuchurch.org/pages/>

Amazing Peace by Maya Angelou

Thunder rumbles in the mountain passes.
And lightning rattles the eaves of our houses.
Floodwaters await in our avenues.
Snow falls upon snow, falls upon snow to avalanche
Over unprotected villages.
The sky slips low and gray and threatening.
We question ourselves.
What have we done to so affront nature?
We interrogate and worry God.
Are you there? Are you there, really?
Does the covenant you made with us still hold?
Into this climate of fear and apprehension,
Christmas enters
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope
And singing carols of forgiveness
high up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged
to come away from rancor,
Come the way of friendship.
It is the Glad Season.
Thunder ebbs to silence
and lightning sleeps quietly in the corner.
Floodwaters recede into memory,
Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us.
As we make our way to higher ground.
Hope is born again in the faces of children.
It rides on the shoulders of our aged
as they walk into their sunsets.
Hope spreads around the earth,
brightening all things,
even hate,
which crouches breeding in dark corridors.
In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.
At first it is too soft.
Then only half heard.
We listen carefully as it gathers strength.
We hear a sweetness. The word is Peace.
It is loud now.
Louder than the explosion of bombs.
We tremble at the sound.
We are thrilled by its presence.
It is what we have hungered for.
Not just the absence of war, but true Peace.
A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies.

Security for our beloveds and their
beloveds.
We clap hands and welcome the Peace
of Christmas.
We beckon this good season to wait awhile with
us.
We,
Baptist and Buddhist,
Methodist and Muslim,
say come.
Peace.
Come and fill us and our world with your majesty.
We,
the Jew and the Jainist,
the Catholic and the Confucian,
Implore you to stay awhile with us
So we may learn by your shimmering light
How to look beyond complexion
and see community.
It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.
On this platform of peace, we can create a language
To translate ourselves to ourselves and to each
other.
At this Holy Instant,
we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ
Into the great religions of the world.
We jubilate the precious advent of trust.
We shout with glorious tongues the coming of
hope.
All earth's tribes loosen their voices
To celebrate the promise of Peace.
We,
Angels and Mortals,
Believers and Nonbelievers,
Look heavenward and speak the word aloud.
Peace.
We look at our world and speak the word aloud.
Peace.
We look at each other, then into ourselves,
And say without shyness or apology or hesitation:

Peace, My Brother.
Peace, My Sister.
Peace, My Soul.