



A Beacon on the Hill

Volume 73 Issue No. 1

Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder, Minister

January 2017

Josh's Journal

January's Theme: Otherness

"Otherness" is the name we give the experience of coming up to the limits of our privilege, whatever it may be. Some of us are given more privilege than others based on our identity of gender, sexual orientation, race, language, economic class or age. We all have multiple identities and we may be privileged in some of them and not in others.

One of the functions of privilege is that it usually feels like "This is normal." The experience of being white, feels normal to white people and therefore normative to everyone. An experience outside that "norm" gets labeled "otherness." One of my friends in academia shared something he heard an African American student say, "Privilege means that your history is a required class, and my history is an elective."

I think that Martin Luther King was the most significant figure who "woke" mainstream America up to this issue of privilege. Obviously not everyone listened then nor do they all listen today. I think it is important for us to be open to the notion that another person's experience in life may be very different from our own. That difference does not, and cannot, make their experience less valid and certainly doesn't make them less human.

Our assumptions are so ingrained into us, all of us. It is very hard to become aware of our world view that we may have taken for granted our whole lives. And yet that awareness is the first step to change. As Martin Luther King noted that no one can truly be called "other" in America who was born within its boundary. Yet far too often people are made to feel that way. Let take risks to grow, to understand, and to reach other with love to everyone regardless of who they may be.

May You Be Blessed Always,

Rev. Josh

Ministerial Matters



Rev. Josh's usual office hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:30am – 4:00pm, but it is always best to call first.

Church office hours are Sunday - Thursday, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm.

NEW TO FIRST UU?
Please visit our website to learn about the church, how you can meet others and get involved: <http://uusat.org/our-church-2/new-to-first-uu/>

President's Column

Welcome to the New Year! I hope your holiday celebrations were everything you needed them to be. Even though it seems that there's a lot more to do at this time of year with social events, family gatherings, and volunteer activities, perhaps even overtime at work, there are also often extra pockets of time to step back a bit, to relax and reflect on things.

The church's strategic planning committee is busy reflecting on the responses gathered from you all over the past several weeks to their short questionnaire. We appreciate the time you've taken to respond and provide your ideas, interests, and concerns. This gives us valuable guidance as we look ahead to the coming year and beyond.

As you'll see elsewhere in this month's issue, one of January's highlights is the city's annual Martin Luther King Day march. For several years now First UU has been well-represented at the march. If you haven't had a chance to participate in the past, I hope you'll consider it this year. It's a great way to spend the day with your fellow church members and join in a community tradition.

Jim Noël, President

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

As we start the new year, many of us take time to reflect upon the past 12 months and the status of our personal connections, jobs, health, and finances. Some of us may be concerned about money at the beginning of the year, especially if we are among the many Americans who tend to over-indulge during the holiday season. There are also many cultural, social, and marketing pressures that make the value, possession, and uses of money challenging throughout the year.

According to Lauren Tyler Wright, nurturing a healthy relationship with money comes from reflecting honestly on our attitudes about money, consumer behaviors, motivations for spending, and our needs vs. desires for possessions and wealth.

In her book on "*Giving – The Sacred Art: Creating a Lifestyle of Generosity*," Wright suggests:

Money can be used as a tool to celebrate life and increase joy rather than being a source of contention or stress. The key is to have a proper, skillful relationship with money—neither fearing it nor craving it, but respecting it and the power it can have in our lives and in the lives of others...In fact, through skillful giving, money can be transformed from a profane object into a sacred tool for achieving good.

Money can cultivate the worst in people, or it can bring out the best. If financial worries create conflict in your life or interfere with your desire to be generous, you may benefit from simple technical advice on personal finances and planning. Many of us, however, may also benefit from a deeper exploration of the role that our high-consumption, materialistic society plays in our financial decisions. There are many excellent resources available in the local library and on-line, including the UUA website:

<http://www.uua.org/finance/fundraising/generosity/adults/67537.shtml>. Developing and maintaining healthy financial habits may be one of the best gifts that you can give to yourself in 2017.

First UU will offer two courses on retirement planning in January: for people who have not retired after the Sunday Service on January 22 and for those of retirement age on Sunday, January 29. We urge you to take advantage of these resources.

- Polly Noël, Stewardship Chair

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

On January 15, bring the box back for our ingathering. Please convert your cash to a check if possible before returning the box. If you can't make it on the 15th, you can return the cash or check before or after that date.

PLANNING FOR A SUCCESSFUL RETIREMENT: TWO SEMINARS

Do you have questions or concerns about your readiness for retirement? In January, we will be offering two seminars on planning for retirement. On **January 22**, the seminar will be aimed at people who are still a few years away from retirement. On **January 29**, the seminar will address concerns of people already at retirement age.

Topics will include

- Establishing a structured investment plan
- Planning for handling medical and long-term expenses
- Helpful legal documents
- How to get unbiased, reliable information on retirement matters

About our facilitators:

Alan Chase has been a licensed security broker since 1984. He has been an AIF (Accredited Investment Fiduciary) since 2014. Alan has been with Commonwealth Financial Network, the largest independent broker dealer in the U.S., since 1999. Ian Chase was been with Commonwealth Financial Network since 2012. He became a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) in 2014. He graduated from Texas State University in 2008 with a degree in History and Political Science.

Emerson Bookshop *Plus*

Our church bookshop is open in the sanctuary classroom after the morning service most Sundays. 2017 calendars, cat deity shirts, chocolate bars, hot chocolate mixes, and cocoa are here! Stop by the sanctuary classroom after a Sunday service!

Membership Round Up!



Friendship Sunday – Fill Out Forms

Friendship Sunday on 26 February 2017 – so, thought about who you will invite to church? Starting on January 15th Friendship Forms will be available Sundays in the foyer. Just fill one out and put it in the BIG Friendship Sunday Box! Invite as many people as you want – don't just stop with one! Go BIG, that's our membership motto! Our Goal is 200 guests.

First UU 101

For people new to the church, the next First UU 101 session is January 8th, after the service in the Jefferson Building. Grab some food at the FUUnd Lunch and join us! These sessions last about an hour and just give you a bit more info about the church and tries to answer any questions you might have about UUs, and how U might fit in with UUs!

Join Us!

Dorothy Wallace, Membership Coordinator membership@uusat.org

Mid-Year Adult Class – Learn more about Being a UU!

Interested in learning more about being a Unitarian Universalist? In this foundational course, we'll be discussing the book by John Buehrens and Forrest Church entitled *A Chosen Faith: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism*. The class is designed for people new to the Unitarian Universalist faith or people who want to deepen their UU faith. Books available in the church bookstore (actually signed by John Buehrens!) or an eBook on both Amazon and Nook).

When: Tuesdays, Jan 10, 17, 24, 31 and Feb 7 (5 weeks)

Time: 7-9 pm

Where: Office Conference Room, Dorothea Dix Building

Contact: Dorothy Wallace at 590-1393 or membership@uusat.org



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SOCIAL JUSTICE MATTERS

Challenging Inequality – Discussions on Social Justice

Challenging extreme inequality is a moral imperative. The escalation of inequality undergirds so many injustices which our faith movement is committed to addressing: from economic injustice to mass incarceration; from migrant injustice to climate change; from sexual and gender injustice to attacks on voting rights. The Social Justice Committee will be offering a deep discussion of this complex and inspiring subject and the many ways to engage at personal, congregational, local, state, national and global levels in January, beginning January 8, at the 9:30 a.m. hour. Join us!

Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice: A Series of 4 Saturday Seminars

Introduction: A 2015 Action of Immediate Witness by the Unitarian Universalist Association recognized that racism is an institutionalized pattern reaching far beyond any single incident or person and voiced our denominational support for Black Live Matter as a movement and took a stance in response to this reality: the United States was built on a legacy of slavery, racism, and oppression that continues to take new, ever-changing forms. To say that "black lives matter" doesn't mean that black lives are more important than other lives, or that all lives don't matter. The systemic devaluing of Black lives calls us to bear witness, even as we acknowledge that oppression takes many intersecting forms. To explore this at the congregational level, your social justice team will offer some significant opportunities for our members to explore our role in supporting BLM and developing our own church's commitments to racial justice in our own community. Attend one or all of the seminars but be part of the solution in this new civil rights call!

I Saturday, January 14th 9:00 to 12:00 in the Jefferson Building

"Being White in Black Lives Matter"

A great preparation for the annual **MLK March on January 16th!**

II Saturday, February 11th 4:00 to 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall

"The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Hate" a guided discussion of the Unitarian Universalist "Common Read" by the Rev Dr William Barber II (sponsored by Denominational Connections)

III Saturday, March 18th 9:00 to 12:00 in the sanctuary

"Other Voices" A panel discussion with local activists on BLM and other racial justice topics

IV Saturday, April 15th 9:00 to 12:00 in the Jefferson Building

"Now What? Our Commitments", this workshop will be dedicated to determining action steps by our congregation to support BLM and other groups working for racial justice in San Antonio



Black Lives Matter to Unitarian Universalists.

**2017 THEME: KING'S LEGACY FOR PEACE IS JUSTICE FOR ALL.
REMEMBER! CELEBRATE! ACT!**



Annual Martin Luther King March (30th Anniversary of March in SA!)

Where: San Antonio

When: Monday, January 16, 2017

Gather at Freeman Coliseum Lot 1 between 8:45 and 9:00 AM, *march begins at 10:00*. We will gather under our big yellow Standing on the Side of Love banner and we will take FREE VIA transportation to the march start point as a group. Return bus service from Pittman Sullivan Park (end of the march).

Who: This is a family friendly event, get everyone involved!!! Youth Groups, Covenant Groups, Committees – let's really show our UU pride again this year! [I'm looking for some chant leaders again this year!](#)

Age and fitness requirements: All youth need to be accompanied by parents or adult youth group leaders. The route is almost 3 miles – please consider your own ability to complete the march.

Dress/Health: Please wear either a church T-shirt, a Standing on the Side of Love Shirt or other UU themed T-shirt. And good walking shoes! Come prepared for rain or shine – but bring bottled water either way.

Carpooling from the Church: We will coordinate carpools from the church to Freeman Coliseum for those who would like to do that – all carpools will depart no later than 8:15 AM in order to make the group movement time of 8:45 AM.

Sign Up with Dorothy Wallace at membership@uusat.org or call 269-2709

So, what are you going to do about it?

In a public letter to all ministers and congregations, UUA President Peter Morales provided guidance in the work ahead as our nation, our communities, and the most vulnerable among us face an uncertain future. He states that, while the temptation to 'normalize' the situation is great, it is irresponsible folly to act as though we are in a normal transition between administrations. He encourages us to provide sanctuary in the broadest and richest sense of the term and to resist human rights violations in active ways.

To implement this guidance, Susan Leslie, UUA Congregational Advocacy and Witness Director, Multicultural Growth & Witness Staff Team, suggests several actions you can take:

- Listen in to the New Year's Eve service being held by Rev. William Barber at the Metropolitan AME Church in Washington, D.C. It will be livestreamed at 9 p.m. CS time. Rev. Barber is the author of our Common Read for 2017 and the founder of the coalition, Repairers of the Breach. During the service, three moral declarations will be made about making a moral decision to enlist in the fight against injustice, a call for a

race and poverty audit of America, and a call for a national Moral Revival Poor People's Campaign. To connect: <http://www.breachrepairers.org/livestream>

- Meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 21, to car pool to Austin to join those marching to the capitol FOR social justice, FOR kindness, FOR equality of opportunity, FOR love. This is a sister event to the Women's March on Washington taking place in D.C.

Many church members are quite active already in social justice activities, and we encourage you to join in as you can. For example, you can sign up to

- support the Texas UU Justice Ministry [<http://www.txuujm.org/donate>] and
- attend Legislative Action Day in Austin on 2/15/17 [www.txuujm.org/LAD].

June Kachtik, Co-chair, Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee requests nominations for Share the Plate for August 2016 - July 2017.

To be nominated for Share the Plate, an organization must meet the following qualifications:



1. It must be a 501(c)(3) non-profit with a mission of service, advocacy, or direct action.
2. It must be either a local organization or a UU affiliated organization that is not already receiving budgeted support from FUUCSA.

Note: Nominators of selected Share the Plate recipients will serve as the liaison to connect the organization, the Share-the-Plate coordinator and the congregation.

To nominate an organization, email the following information by March 15, 2017 to sharetheplate@uusat.org

1. The name of the organization.
2. A one-sentence description of the organization for the ballot.
3. The organization's Web site.

A list of the qualified nominations with links to their websites will appear in April. In May, at our Annual Meeting, FUUCSA members will mark their choices on a ballot. The nine organizations with the highest votes will be assigned a month, and as the date approaches, the coordinator and the nominator will promote Share the Plate. Note: There will be no Share the Plate in January as the congregation is collecting memberships and other funds for UUSC.

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Every year the Unitarian Universalist Association chooses a book of significance that all UU congregations are encouraged to read and discuss. The book chosen is referred to as the "Common Read". The 2016-17 "Common Read" is *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear* by The Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hargrove (Beacon, 2016). The UUA website states that "The Third Reconstruction offers helpful, practical guidance for engaging with justice movements born in response to local experiences of larger injustices." Get a copy of the book now so you can join us in conversation Saturday, February 11th, 4:00 – 6:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall. More information about the "Common Read" can be found on www.uua.org.

Church Communications – What’s the Dif?

The church communicates in many, many ways to let people know what’s going on. Our “official” modes of communication are the Newsletter and our [What’s Happening?](#), both sent out via Mail Chimp to members and guests alike. There’s also the Sunday Order of Service insert, and the bulletin boards in the Fellowship Hall that provide timely information and updates. These modes of communication are maintained by the church office and staff.

But we have a number of unofficial methods of communication which are church member generated, where information is put out or exchanged by members or committee chairs. One of these is “First UU Announce” which is a Yahoo Group that people must subscribe to – unlike our Mail Chimp, where people are automatically subscribed through the church office. If you are interested in joining “First UU Announce” please send a request for invitation to membership@uusat.org and I will send you the link to join. Two key things to know about “First UU Announce”, first it is moderated and all messages are approved by designated moderators, second, it is an information “out only” system, not a chat room. Only important information about church events is put out.

Subscribing to “First UU Announce” will add to the number of emails you receive (the bane of modern existence) but as the information is moderated, it isn’t normally overwhelming. And, you can unsubscribe any time you wish!



The Member Care Committee is starting a new program to help women and families after the birth of a new child. This is a difficult time for many moms, especially if they don't have family nearby. A few prepared meals in the weeks after childbirth are incredibly helpful. Please help us meet a need that many in our congregation have faced!

Here's how you can help:

1. Sign up to prepare and deliver one meal to a member who has a new baby.
2. If you are pregnant, or know a member who is, let us know!

Contact Cassie Villela: cassie dot villela at gmail dot com or 210-861-3819

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE 2017 BASURA BASH!

The Annual Basura Bash Waterways Cleanup

Saturday, February 18, 2017

8:00 am to Noon

Online registration opens January 2017

This is a great way for high school students to get community service hours!

We are looking forward to you, your families, friends, students, civic groups, and co-workers getting involved.

Online registration is currently being updated.

We welcome you to visit the website, BasuraBash.org, to get information on our mission, history, and prior years of success.

We need someone to coordinate First UU's Team.

Please contact newsletter@uusat.org if you are interested in participating or coordinating.

Help STOP Hunger in San Antonio! Help Feed Hungry Families!

The Off Beats Covenant Group will collect jars of peanut butter on Sunday, January 15 and Sunday, January 22, 2017. Our goal is to collect 100 pounds of peanut butter for donation the San Antonio Food Bank at Haven for Hope and the Inner City Economic Development Foundation Food Bank. Hungry people will because of your generosity. The Green Team recommends that you donate Peter Pan brand or any product without palm oil.

January is Soup Donation Month

"Baby it's cold outside." Celebrate Super Bowl Sunday by donating a can of soup. **The SWIM Covenant Group will be collecting Soup Cans Each Sunday during the month of January for the San Antonio Food Bank.** There will be boxes available each week to take your donation prior to the Big Game.

Thank You for Calendars

The Crones Covenant Group wishes to thank everyone who contributed 2017 calendars. These will be distributed by Home Comforts of San Antonio to their clients with mental illness. The calendars will bring cheer because of the beautiful photography and help the clients to keep their follow up medical appointments. Thank you for your generous support of this vulnerable population.

Sunday Morning Adult Religious Education Classes

Sunday Mornings at 9:30 am

Religious Explorations – Fellowship Hall

World Faiths Book Group – Beatrix Potter Room

Mission: The First Unitarian Universalist Church World Faiths Reading Group welcomes all who seek to broaden and deepen their understanding of different faith and spiritual traditions through reading and respectful discourse.

In January we will read *Awakening the Buddha Within* by Lama Surya Das. Facilitated by Linda Schultz.

Jan. 8, 15, 22, & 29: Income Inequality

This class was a top pick in our recent adult religious education survey! Challenging extreme inequality is a moral imperative. The escalation of inequality undergirds so many injustices which our faith movement is committed to addressing: from economic injustice to mass incarceration; from migrant injustice to climate change; from sexual and gender injustice to attacks on voting rights. **Facilitators:** June Kachtik and Lani Van Petten. Office Conference Room

Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry, which consists of five voting members, focuses on supporting and monitoring the ministry of the congregation and assisting and supporting the minister. Members of the committee serve for a term of three years, with two new members chosen each of two years and one chosen the third year. Members are chosen from a list prepared by the Leadership Committee in collaboration with the minister and elected by the congregation at the annual Congregational meeting. Current members include Don Hymel, Martha Cooley, Vanessa Lucio, Nancy Pridgen, and Troy Peters. Reverend Joshua Snyder serves as a member ex

officio. The committee meets once a month and meetings are announced to the congregation. A portion of each meeting is open to the members of the church.

The Committee on Ministry exists to strengthen and improve relations between the congregation and the minister, to ensure that the congregation is aware of the diversity of ministerial responsibility, to clarify expectations and priorities for both the minister and church members, and to advocate for the minister with the board on programs dealing with education, professional development, and funding.

While the committee exists to facilitate communication between the minister and church members, it does not exist to eliminate direct communication, nor is it part of the committee's charter to bring unattributed criticism – positive or negative – through its members to the minister. In order to carry out the committee members' role as communication facilitators, the committee has developed a simple form designed to initiate dialogue. This form will be available in each pew, and also may be filled out online at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio. To submit a request, send your name, email address, phone number, and the topic or issue you wish to discuss to the Committee on Ministry. <http://uusat.org/our-church-2/committee-on-ministry/>

Coming in January

For other activities, see the church [calendar](#).

INCOME INEQUALITY CLASS – *Sundays, Jan 8-29, 9:30am, Conference Room* – This class discusses extreme inequality and the many injustices which our faith movement is committed to addressing: from economic injustice to mass incarceration; from migrant injustice to climate change; from sexual and gender injustice to attacks on voting rights.

FUUND LUNCH - *Sun, Jan 8, 12:00pm, Fellowship Hall* – Sponsored by the Membership Committee. Enjoy food and fellowship while raising funds for future Membership activities.

FIRST UU 101 - *Sun, Jan 8, 12:15pm, Jefferson Bldg* – The Membership Committee presents our newcomer orientation class, perfect for anyone new to the church and considering membership. Grab some food from the Lunch and head down.

OUR CHOSEN FAITH CLASS - *Tuesdays, Jan 10-Feb 7, 7:00pm, Conference Room* – Interested in learning more about being a Unitarian Universalist? In this foundational course, we'll be discussing the book by John Buehrens and Forrest Church entitled *A Chosen Faith: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism*. The class is designed for people new to the Unitarian Universalist faith or people who want to deepen their UU faith. Books available in the church bookstore or as an eBook on both Amazon and Nook.

SATURDAY SEMINAR "BEING WHITE IN BLACK LIVES MATTER" - *Sat, Jan 14, 9:00am, Jefferson Bldg* – The first event in our series "Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice." Join us for discussion and to prepare for the annual MLK March on January 16th.

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER EVENT – *Sat, Jan 14, 9:00am, San Antonio Food Bank, 5200 W Old Hwy 90* - Social Justice invites you to help in the effort to feed hungry families in San Antonio. Twenty-five people are needed to volunteer sorting food at the Food Bank. Possible work in the cooler, so bring a jacket when you come. Contact Chara Rodriguez at 210-244-3290 or cbrodrig at att dot net

PEANUT BUTTER DRIVE - *Sundays, Jan 15-22, Before & After Service, in front of Sanctuary* – Help STOP Hunger in San Antonio. The Off Beats Covenant Group are collecting jars of peanut butter for the San Antonio Foodbank and the Inner City Economic Development Foundation Foodbank. Drop off your jars of peanut butter in the boxes in front of the Sanctuary before or after service. The Green Team recommends Peter Pan brand or any that does not contain palm oil.

U-BAR-U INFORMATION SESSION - *Sun, Jan 15, 12:00pm, Fellowship Hall* – Join us to learn about all the camps and programs offered by UBarU Camp & Conference Center, the only UU camp serving South Texas.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MARCH - *Mon, Jan 16, 2017, Martin Luther King Academy, 1801 MLK Dr* – Join us as we walk together in one of the largest MLK marches in the country. We will meet at the church to carpool to the shuttle bus site. Times will be announced at a later date. Wear your yellow Standing on the Side of Love tee shirt if you have one. Shirts can be purchased in the Emerson Bookstore after service on Sundays.

RETIREMENT PLANNING SEMINAR - *Sun, Jan 22 & 29, 12:30pm, Fellowship Hall* –Do you have questions or concerns about your retirement readiness? In January, we will offer two seminars on retirement planning. On January 22, the seminar will be aimed at people who are still a few years away from retirement. On January 29, the seminar will address concerns of people already at retirement age. Topics at both will include: establishing a structured investment plan, medical and long-term expense planning, helpful legal documents, and how to get unbiased, reliable information on retirement matters.

IMBOLC RITUAL - *Sat, Jan 28, 7:00pm, Jefferson Bldg* – Join us for Celestial Celebration Circle's Imbolc Ritual on January 28th at 7pm in the Jefferson Building. Imbolc is the midpoint between Yule and Spring Equinox. The promise of warmth and growth is in the air. Many call it Groundhog Day but we honor Brigid and take time for introspection for the coming growing season. We consider what we need to cleanse from our lives, and what seeds of change we want to sow with the growing light. Joan Wells 377-2942

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

UBarU Information Session

Join us Jan.15 after church in the Fellowship Hall to learn more about UBarU* and its programs. We will start out with an overview of UBarU and its program for adults and families, with an opportunity to ask questions. Then we will cover programs for children and youth, especially summer camps. A light lunch will be provided. Please contact Sheri, dlre@uusat.org, with any dietary restrictions. Child care will be available if we get RSVP's by Jan. 8. *UBarU is a Unitarian Universalist Camp and Retreat Center located in Mountain Home, about 90 minutes north of First UU Church of San Antonio

SAVE THE DATE

1st annual UBarU Needle Arts Retreat

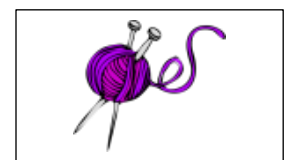
Join us for a fun and peaceful weekend of creativity. ALL ARE WELCOME!

When: Friday, 17 February thru Sunday, 19 February 2017

Where: UBarU Camp & Retreat Center 277 UBarU Drive Mountain Home, TX 78058

What: Two nights of cozy accommodations, five delicious meals and an

opportunity to enjoy your passion in community in the beautiful Texas Hill Country. *Early Bird Pricing:* *Weekend Rate:* \$130.00 *Saturday Only Rate:* \$75.00 (lunch & dinner included. To register, visit ubaru.org



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Sermon Podcasts:
<http://uusat.org/worship/sermons/>

Facebook: First Unitarian
Universalist Church of
San Antonio

Twitter: @FirstUUChurchSA

Services for January

11:00 am – In the Sanctuary

Religious Education for All Ages at 9:30 am– Various Locations

January 1: “Radical Hospitality: Erasing Otherness” - Dr. Sheri Phillabaum
Today we will bid a final farewell to 2016 and look forward to a 2017 of ever increasing unity and radical hospitality, within our church community and in our everyday lives. We’ll look into and question some of the assumptions that lead us to divide ourselves into groups of “us,” and “other.”

January 8: “On Being Illiterate” – Rev. Josh

Immigrants experience “otherness” more so than most. San Antonio has had a lot of experience lately supporting and assisting immigrant families in our community. We will explore what it means to be a stranger in a strange land as Rev. Josh shares about the time he was illiterate.

January 15: “The Third Reconstruction” – Rev. Josh

Rev. Josh and the Social Justice Committee join together to present a service on racial justice and community activism. William Barber is one of the premiere voices for civil rights and public witness in America today. We will look at some of Barber’s ideas and strategies for overcoming racism.

January 22: “There Is No God, and She Is Always with You”

– Rev. Josh

Is there a God? Is there not a God? These questions have been a part of the Western intellectual tradition from its inception. Buddhism has a somewhat different perspective. Brad Warner teaches us how to take a fresh look at the old theist vs. atheist debate using his trademark humor and Gen X Buddhist perspective.

January 29: “At the Crossroads of Comfort and Justice: A White Black Lives of UU Ally's Perspective” – Maggi Joseph

This sermon was inspired by my experiences at GA 2016 where I encountered the Black Lives of UU program track and had something of an epiphany about the persistence of white supremacy. And also where I experienced being an “officially” disabled person, needing a rollator to get around. I found myself experiencing epiphanies from both a privileged and discounted perspective. It is uncomfortable to confront these issues directly; how much discomfort are we prepared to endure for the sake of justice?

A Beacon on the Hill

Monthly Newsletter of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio

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