



# FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO July 2018 Newsletter

First Unitarian Society of Chicago 5650 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago IL 60637 (773) 324-4100

## Summer News Rev. Teri Schwartz

Earlier this week, as I was waiting at a bus stop downtown, I saw a news truck speeding south on State Street. “Where are they going? What news is happening?” I quietly wondered to myself. I envisioned how, when they got there, they would unfold their giant antenna and then broadcast the news to the world.

News reporters are trained to prepare questions *before* they begin their interview, even before they arrive on the scene. What if we did that in our spiritual lives—trained ourselves to pursue the news with questions in hand, ready to broadcast from wherever we find our quest has taken us?

In any inquiry, the first task is to determine what questions to ask. Answers, if they exist, can come next. Questions of spiritual reflection and discernment are a key practice of many religious traditions. When we focus on a set of reflections and commit to them daily, it changes what we start to notice. It



changes not only *what* we see, but *how* we see. With the questions in mind, we can more readily find some answers, or at least find greater peace with the questions themselves—and ourselves.

For many of us, the summer is a time in which the normal routines of school, church, and life may lessen a bit. We may find our bodies wanting to slow down in the heat.

## In This Issue

---

Summer News	1	183rd Annual Meeting	4
This Month in RE	2	Worship Services	5
Give Away the Basket	3	Meetings and Events	6

Even if your summer is busier than the rest of your year, taking time out to reflect can slow down an otherwise relentless pace of life.

As you move through your summer, I invite you into your own spiritual news truck of sorts. For your summer discernment, I offer you this poem by John O'Donohue, an Irish teacher and poet known for drawing on Celtic spiritual traditions.

### **At the End of the Day: A Mirror of Questions**

What dreams did I create last night?  
 Where did my eyes linger today?  
 Where was I blind?  
 Where was I hurt without anyone  
 noticing?  
 What did I learn today?  
 What did I read?  
 What new thoughts visited me?  
 What differences did I notice in those  
 closest to me?  
 Whom did I neglect?  
 Where did I neglect myself?  
 What did I begin today that might endure?

How were my conversations?  
 What did I do today for the poor and the  
 excluded?  
 Did I remember the dead today?  
 Where could I have exposed myself to  
 the risk of something different?  
 Where did I allow myself to receive love?  
 With whom today did I feel most myself?  
 What reached me today?  
 How deep did it imprint?  
 Who saw me today?  
 What visitations had I from the past and  
 from the future?  
 What did I avoid today?  
 From the evidence—why was I given this  
 day?

This summer, find the “news” of your spirit and broadcast what you find. I’ll be doing the same, as I embark on my summer study leave and then some vacation with family. May our summer journeys—whether they traverse land, sea, or spirit—be a blessing.

May it be so,  
 Rev. Teri

## **Greetings from the DRE**

**Beth Moss, Director of Religious Education (RE)**

The summer season is upon us. Although things slow down a bit here at church, summer RE is just ramping up!

This summer we will be using the curriculum *World of Friends*. Each stand-alone lesson has the students “meet” a child from a different religion though hearing their pretend story. The lessons include a bit of geography and history, common customs, and crafts related to the material. Listed below are the dates for each chosen religion, and the name of the imaginary child who will help our kids learn about that religion and contextualize the basics from a UU perspective. While this is of course not an

exhaustive list of faiths, the hope is this summer will give our kids a foundation to help later deepen their learnings. This also happens to be one of the most FUN, multi-age friendly curriculums I have ever administered before. Come check it out whether you can make it one week, two weeks, or all ten!

Date	Lesson
June 24	Islam: Meet Fatima
July 1	Islam: Meet Guntur
July 8	Hinduism: Meet Ravi
July 15	Buddhism: Meet Sumalee
July 22	Buddhism: Meet Duc
July 29	Confucianism: Meet Wen

Aug 5	Taoism: Meet Mei
Aug 12	Earth-centered Religions: Meet Rowan
Aug 19	Earth-centered Religions: Meet Tiva
Aug 26	Sikhism: Meet Devasheesh

We need teachers for all August Sundays except Aug 19. Please reach out if you can teach or be a classroom assistant.

## Summer Schedule Changes

Although class continues during the summer months, our Sundays look a little different!

- Time for all ages will not occur regularly
- Students should proceed directly to class at the start of services
- Classes are NOT separated by grade level in the summer
- There is one class held each Sunday held during services
- Childcare continues to be available
- Nursery hours are only 9:30-11:30

Thanks for reading and see everyone soon!

## Give Away the Basket

At First U, we give away our Sunday offering twice a month to agencies in the community who are working for the greater good. We select four recipient organizations who receive roughly six offerings each. Members nominate eligible organizations, and the congregation votes to select four recipients at our May Annual Meeting. This year, we received only four eligible nominations; all four will be recipients of our GAB program for the 2018-2019 church year.

### Families and Prisoners United (FPU)

[Families and Prisoners United](#) is an organization built on bringing together families and prisoners who share common emotional, psychological, and financial dilemmas as a direct or indirect result of broken penal system. FPU is focused on rebuilding broken family bonds, restoring rehabilitated individuals to society, and refining the rehabilitated individual and making them into constructive components and members of society while preventing recidivism.



### The Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (CRLN)

[CRLN](#) builds partnerships among social movements and organized communities within and between the U.S. and Latin America. We work together through popular education, grassroots organizing, public policy advocacy, and direct action to dismantle U.S. militarism, neoliberal economic and immigration policy, and other forms of state and institutional violence. We are united by liberating faiths and inspired by the power of people to organize and to find allies to work for sustainable economies, just relationships, and human dignity.

### Hyde Park Transitional Housing Project (HPTHP)

Founded in 2002, the [Hyde Park Transitional Housing Project](#) provides housing and a stable, supportive environment for up to two years for homeless families in Chicago's

Hyde Park and Kenwood neighborhoods who are working on improving or developing the skills necessary to live independently.

## Southsiders Organizing for Unity and Liberation (SOUL)

[SOUL](#) believes that our faith calls us to the fight for justice for all, especially those who have historically been marginalized and oppressed. Our mission is to assist low-income people of color in the Chicago Southland to build power, then subsequently leverage that power to fight for their own interest and liberation. We achieve this mission by partnering with congregations, people of faith and local community groups, training them in disciplined organizing strategies, to build leadership, create public policy and foster legislation, engage in direction action, and hold their public officials accountable to the interest of their communities. SOUL is working to build a movement to create change. We have keenly listened to the communities that we

serve to develop a shared vision. We are dedicated to the belief that all people deserve decent and affordable housing, access to healthy, nutritious food in every neighborhood, and a sanitary environment where people will be able to breathe clean air and drink clean water. We are working to create a full-employment economy, so that everyone (despite the color of their skin, their economic demographic, prior criminal history, etc.) has the opportunity to work with access to gainful, sustainable, living-wage employment. We believe that good, quality public education is a right and not a privilege. And we are committed to ensuring that public funds are leveraged fairly, to invest resources in the communities that need them the most and not redistributed to keep local economies beholden to corporate greed.

## Highlights of Our 183rd Annual Meeting Joan Pederson, President, First Unitarian Church

### Election Results

All terms are for one year (July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019) unless noted otherwise

#### President:

Betty Holcomb

#### Vice President:

Christine Harrell

#### Trustees:

(3-year terms ending June 30, 2021)  
Kristin Faust, Christine Harrell, Ellen LaRue

#### Trustees:

(1-year, completing unexpired terms)  
Beverly Bennett, Betty Holcomb

#### Alternate Trustee:

Amos Biggers

#### Program Council Co-Chairs:

Cindy Pardo & Cheryl Wegner

#### Religious Education Council Chair

Alina Biggers

#### Social Justice Council Chair:

Evan Freund

#### Nominating Committee Members:

Kris Barker, Lisa Christensen Gee, Lisa Martin-Eatinger

#### Delegates to 2018 UUA General Assembly and MidAmerica Region Annual Meeting:

(All onsite in Kansas City)  
Betty Holcomb, Allan Lindrup, Joan Pederson, Bette Sikes

## Decisions

Adopted a balanced \$583,325 budget for the 2018-19 church year that

- Launches the pilot year of the Anchor Teacher program for religious education instruction
- Provides training for an additional Our Whole Lives (OWL) teacher
- Boosts the salary of the Director of Operations and provides other staff raises
- Funds major building repairs, key to avoiding deferred maintenance

Approved amendments to our bylaws that offer greater flexibility in scheduling the Annual Meeting and that clarify the organizations section

## Recognitions

### Multiracial Unity Award:

(Granted by the Racial Justice Task Force of our Social Justice Council):  
Faith in Place

### Exceptional Service to First Unitarian:

(Granted by the Board of Trustees)  
Irene & Vince Vitullo (presented during the worship service earlier in the day)

## July Worship Services

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 10 AM

*All Are Called: General Assembly 2018*  
Rev. Teri Schwartz

Every year, our democratically-governed association of congregations has an annual conference for purposes of governance, worship, education, and fellowship. This year's GA theme, *All Are Called*, is grounded in a deep belief that we are all prophets. Our denomination asks an age-old question seeking new answers: who and how are we called to be at this time, individually and collectively?

July 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM

*A Time for Singing*  
Jeff Hamrick

Music director Jeff Hamrick leads the congregation in a spirited yet reflective exploration of *Singing the Living Tradition*, our main UU hymnal (first published in 1993!). Though many of us can sing a good number of the well-known hymns, there are other lovely songs that languish in obscurity. Bring your voice, an inquisitive mind, and a water bottle—and let's (re)discover some of these treasures!

July 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM

*Lessons from the Silk Road*  
Rev. Dr. Lee Barker

A trek through the Indian Himalayas yielded a guide to the path of cross-cultural and interreligious engagement. On this Sunday, Rev. Dr. Barker will explain some of the lessons that were gained along the way.

Lee Barker is President and Professor of Ministry at Meadville Lombard Theological School (UU) in Chicago. He, his wife Kris, and daughter Ava have been members of First Unitarian for 15 years.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10 AM

*Whose is the face of god?*  
Rev. Jason Lydon

In June of this year, a group of psychologists at the University of North Carolina released a report after surveying over 500 people in the US, finding that the most common face of god is a young white man. We will reflect together on what it means for UUs, humanists and theists alike, to respond to this image of god. How do we engage in cultural theological work to dismantle white

supremacy and to see the divine and beauty in all?

July 29<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM  
*Summer Seminary*

Rev. Jason Lydon is a Unitarian Universalist community minister. He and his partner, along with their cat and dog, moved to Chicago in summer 2017. Prior to moving, Jason had been living in the Boston area for the last 30+ years. In 2005, Jason founded Black&Pink, an open family LGBT/HIV+ prisoners and “free world” allies who support each other. Now Jason is on the Board of the UU Prison Ministry of Illinois and is dedicated to lifting up an anti-racist, abolitionist, queer liberation theology in Unitarian Universalism.

This service is being led by participants in the Unitarian Universalist Association’s Summer Seminary program. These high-school-aged youth have come from around the country to explore the possibility of becoming a Unitarian Universalist minister, religious educator or other religious professional through a five-day immersive program held at Meadville Lombard Theological School this week. Come to worship and hear our next generation of religious leaders as they find their voices and speak their truths.

## July Meetings and Events

### Memorial Service for Everett Bernstein

7/2/2018 Monday 2:00 PM

Montgomery Place

A memorial service for our friend and fellow member, Everett Bernstein will be held next Monday at Montgomery Place. Join us as we celebrate his remarkable life with his wife, Joan, and the Bernstein family.

### First U Humanists

7/9/2018 Monday 7:00 PM–8:30 PM

Chris Moore Parlor

Join us for a lively discussion of ideas and events from a humanist perspective. For more information please contact Hank Henriques at [mrgonwa@hotmail.com](mailto:mrgonwa@hotmail.com).

## Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

## Co-Ministers’ Office Hours

Rev. David Schwartz, by appointment on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday

Rev. Teri Schwartz, by appointment on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday

## First Unitarian Newsletter

©2018 The First Unitarian Society of Chicago,  
Published monthly.

5650 S. Woodlawn Ave

Chicago, IL 60637

Phone: (773) 324–4100

Fax: (773) 324–1136

Email: [administrator@firstuchicago.org](mailto:administrator@firstuchicago.org)

Website: [www.firstuchicago.org](http://www.firstuchicago.org)

Editor: Tim Arehart

[timarehart@gmail.com](mailto:timarehart@gmail.com)