The Community News

September 2018

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.

Plano Balloon Festival Parking Fundraiser

It’s that time again! Yes, it’s time for the Plano Balloon Festival Parking Fundraiser at Community UU Church on Friday, September 21, through Sunday, September 23.

This is one of our big fund raisers of the year. And, taking part in the Balloon Festival also raises awareness about our Church among our neighbors!

We are designated as an official parking site by the Plano Balloon Festival organization for the event, and throughout the weekend, we park cars on almost every conceivable parking space on our property.

Are you ready to step up to volunteer? We need volunteers to help with this fun and profitable activity that benefits our church and the wider community.

As part of the team of volunteers working shifts throughout the weekend, you will have an opportunity to spend time with old friends and get to know new people, too. Volunteer shifts are four hours long, and childcare will be provided for those who need it.

This year, shifts are 4 hour or 4.5 hours, with Saturday afternoon/evening 4pm to 8pm and 6pm to 10pm offering the greatest opportunity for fundraising.

If you are a new member, this is a great way to volunteer, have a good time working with other members and get to know people. And, for our experienced members, it’s a great way to have fun and connect with the community.

Contact Kimberly Schramm and tell her you want to support our church with this fun and profitable activity!

September 2018

Sunday Services
Theme - Faith

September 2 - “Rational Faith and Applied Hope” - Guest Speaker - Elena Westbrook

September 9 - “Forward By Faith” - Guest Speaker - Brett Bratcher

September 16 - “Pride” - Guest Speaker - Stephanie Dorman and Alyssa Church.

September 23 - “UU Faith in Action - Guest Speaker—Chuck Freeman.

September 30 - “Reclaiming Our Covenant” - Guest Speaker - James Snell

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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Our Neighbor, Barron Elementary

At the intersection of Parker Road and P Street, just a short distance from Community UU Church, sits Barron Elementary school. Since 2013, it has been an integral part of our Social Action and outreach efforts. Over the years, many volunteers have offered their time and energy to help out at Barron, and the opportunity to make a positive impact is greatly needed and appreciated.

According to the 2016-2017 Texas Academic Performance Report, 86% of Barron’s students are “economically disadvantaged,” which is defined as being eligible for free or reduced lunch or other public assistance. About 65% of students are considered “at-risk,” a category that includes many factors such as low academic performance, limited English language proficiency, disciplinary issues, homelessness, and more.

How do we help? Volunteers from CUUC work directly with students and teachers in many ways: tutoring individual pupils, mentoring students who need extra help, and working in the school library. Some act as teacher resource room helpers, printing, cutting, and gathering classroom educational tools. We’ve also helped at special school events like their Fall Festival, and served as field trip chaperones and camp counselors.

Each year we also collect specific health and school supplies to donate to Barron, and this year is no different! Classes began on August 13, so our annual supply drive is going on right now. This effort is much appreciated by the teachers, who ordinarily pay for these needed classroom supplies out of their own pocket.

What can I contribute? Requested items are hand wipes, tissues, hand sanitizers (alcohol-based only), and plastic bags (sandwich and gallon sized Ziploc ones).

Where can I drop it off? Look for cardboard banana boxes labeled for Barron Elementary in Founders Hall and the Social Action alcove across from the water fountains. In the alcove you’ll also find a small box on the wall where you can drop off your box tops, which will also be delivered to the school.

What else can I do? We always need dedicated volunteers to interact with staff and children at Barron! If you can donate your time, help, and resources, there are sign-up sheets in the church foyer that can be filled out and given to Anne Smith, who coordinates these important efforts with Barron. If you would like to volunteer in some of these positions this school year, you must be cleared by the PISD system and can visit this address to do so online: https://oea.pisd.edu/volunteer/EntryPointHomeAction.do. Only mentors and tutors or those having direct contact with students need a background check. Others like teacher workroom helpers just need a volunteer district form to be filled out.

Any questions? Please contact Anne Smith.

September Share the Plate - Minister's Discretionary Fund. The month of September the Share the Plate, which happens Sunday, September 30 will go to the Minister's Discretionary Fund. This fund helps many members of our congregation and the community at large. Half of the collection on Sunday, September 30 will go to Minister's Discretionary Fund. You can also donate to this cause all month long via the CUUC web page by selecting the Share the Plate option.
**Presidents Column**

The Board of Trustees met on Saturday, August 18, for our annual retreat. Facilitated by Natalie Briscoe, co-lead of the UUA Southern Region. Natalie led us in some very productive visioning about Community Church. As a result of the retreat, the Board is planning some updates of the Bylaws and Policy and Procedures to reflect what we are actually doing, and also to streamline and automate some systems. We also discussed the current shortage of ministers and religious educators in the UUA. Natalie has offered to come to church September 16 to be available for questions from the congregation. She also recommended that we go to the NTUUC discussion on November 10.

**A Special Invitation**

The North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations (NTUUC) has invited all interested persons to have a discussion about the future of NTUUC on Saturday morning, November 10 at First Unitarian in Dallas. The exact time has not been decided yet.

Formerly know as NTAUUS, NTUUC oversees an endowment fund that was established to care for Raible Place, a low income housing project run by the cluster. When the property was sold, the proceeds were deposited in the endowment fund. It is from this fund that grants are given each year to the churches in NTUUC.

Community UU has received many of these grants. To name just a few:
- Playground improvements
- Audio visual upgrades for the sanctuary
- Leadership Development funding
- DRE salary funding
- Membership Coordinator funding
- Stewardship Development funding

Please come give your opinions and thoughts to NTUUC and help decide the future of Unitarian Universalism in North Texas and at Community Church.

Remember, you are the community in Community UU Church!

Blessings,

Sarah

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**Circle Suppers** will start a new season in September. **First event is September 8.** Last year we averaged 19 guests attending two dinners per month. **On the second Saturday of each month we gather at the home of one or more members for dinner.** The host makes the main dish and each guest brings a side dish. This is a great way to get to know other folks in the church in a smaller group setting. If you haven’t previously attended Circle Suppers you may apply now to receive monthly email invitations. **Just send an email to CircleSuppers@CommunityUUchurch.org** and give your name (or names) and address and phone number and we’ll send you monthly invites.

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You are invited to a Garden Party sponsored by the Women's Alliance. When: Sunday, Sept. 30 at 1:30pm. **Who:** All women of the Church invited. **Where:** At the lovely vintage home of Jo Howser, 1410 East 15th Street, Plano. **What to bring:** Your favorite dish to share. If homemade, please indicate any special ingredients like nuts etc. Come enjoy conversation, a garden tour and hear plans for the rest of the year. For more information and to RSVP, contact Victoria Rachel or Diana Behannesey at women@communityuuchurch.org.
September, 2018

Simple Living Chalice Circle
The next meeting will be Saturday morning September 8 at 11am.
Theme/topic – Learning together to live deliberately.
Facilitator Ona Tannehill at Email simpleliving@communityuuchurch.org.

Women’s Fellowship Breakfast.
To all the women of the Church: We’re having a fellowship breakfast gathering of all the women of the Church on Saturday, September 15 at Poor Richard’s Café, 2442 K Ave. in Plano, starting at 8:30-9am and ending around 9:30-10am. Come join us for a morning of good food and fellowship to meet other women in the church. For more information, questions and to RSVP, contact Vicki Verinder at membcom-chair@communityuuchurch.org.

The Genealogy Group next meeting is Thursday, October 18.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED - to collect weekly donations from God's Pantry Cart and place in a car in the parking lot. The help will be much appreciated. See Linda Frank.

Friday Flix. Snack, beverages and conversation at 6:30pm with the movie starting at 7pm in Founders Hall.

Sept. 14 - Carol. This is a 2015 drama Set in New York City during the early 1950s, Carol tells the story of a forbidden affair between an aspiring female photographer and an older woman going through a difficult divorce.

Sept. 28 - Calendar Girls. This is a 2003 British film. This movie is based on a true story of a group of Yorkshire women who produced a nude calendar to raise money for Leukemia Research under the auspices of the Women's Institutes in April 1999.

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast is Saturday, September 15, 8:30am at Poor Richard’s Café, 2442 K Avenue, Plano, TX 75074. If you plan to attend, please let Tom Bieg know by 6pm Friday, August 17.

Coming Attractions for Grades 4-7. Plans are forming for creating a great program for Grades 4-7 in 2018-2019. Inspired by the success of our senior high group, the RE Board would like to offer a social and educational program informed by the class interests. See a member of the RE Board for more information.

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: September 18
Location: Diane Ensminger’s home. Contact Diane by September 14 if you plan to attend.
Selection: The Hummingbird’s Daughter by Luis Alberto Urrea This historical novel is based on Urrea’s real great-aunt Teresita, who had healing powers and was acclaimed as a saint. Urrea has researched historical accounts and family records for years to get an accurate story.

Deadline for the October newsletter is Friday, September 21. Email articles to newsletter@communityuuchurch.org.

The Church office will be closed Tuesday, September 4.
August Board Meeting Highlights

The Board discussed the need to review existing bylaws and policies and procedures.

The Board discussed the current denomination-wide difficulty in filling positions, including the DRE. Also clarified was when it is appropriate to hire from within the Church membership and when to look outside the congregation.

The Board discussed NTUUC’s movement towards desiring more collaboration between churches and how it can leveraged, especially in hiring ministers and DREs.

BSA Venture Crew 3466 has not yet made a final decision to accept our charter.

Children and Youth Religious Education Ministry

As I have thought about what to say, a number of things came to mind. Maybe introduce the teaching teams for the RE program or outline the RE program and its focus this year. However, I have settled on two things. But, before I go further, I would like to thank the teachers and helpers of the Steamy sUUmmer, we could not have done it without you. Thank you. Now for a update on the current plans for the Director of Religious Education (DRE) role, and then a note for those who have or interact with youth and children, at this time of year.

We have had a job description for an Interim Director of Religious Education (iDRE) posted for several months. Our plan was to hire a iDRE for 2 years to help us run our program, work with us to evaluate the current program, and prepare the position for a settled DRE. This process includes a look at strengths of the program and vision for the program. This process is intended to prepare for hiring a settled DRE who can be successful and help our program to grow into our vision. However, we only received 5 applications. Only 2 of the applications had the elements the search committee felt we should move on to interviews. Unfortunately, they both had accepted other opportunities before we could interview them. The position is still posted and open. There have been some changes in our needs since the position description was created in December 2017. There is also a typical season for hiring a DRE or iDRE. This leads to where we are now, no iDRE or DRE. Our current plan is to hire someone for the day to day management of the program, review the iDRE job description with the aim to be ready to hire in the spring. We still plan on hiring an iDRE for 2 years.

We are obviously in transition. At this time of year, there are lot of transitions. For our children and youth, the school year is starting, the transition that comes with the start of school can be an exciting and scary time. For some, it is the first time in school or at a new school or maybe in a new town. I wanted to ask all of you to watch for children and youth in need and help where you can. Often this is just a smile or a friendly greeting. Also be aware the start of the new school year creates stresses and burdens for the parent, guardian, caregivers, and their partners. Please support them as well. I also wanted to give one of many back to school online resources to support those with children and youth returning to school. This is a list of pointers from Edutopia to help with the transition of back to school. https://www.edutopia.org/article/back-to-school-resources-parents. Brennan Hadden - RE Board President.
**UBarU Autumn Women’s Retreat**

Join us for a weekend to recharge your spirit in the fellowship of Unitarian Universalist women.

**Friday, 5 October thru Sunday, 7 October 2018**

- This will be a weekend with no responsibilities other than to be your own true beautiful authentic self.
- This is a weekend where you can deepen your relationship with old friends and also build new friendships.
- This is a weekend to sing, meditate, dance, take a walk in the hill country, visit the labyrinth or do whatever else your spirit needs.

Weekend includes all activities, meals, and accommodations. Registration is $160.00. For full information and to register visit www.ubaru.org.

**UBarU Autumn Men’s Retreat**

Join us for a weekend of fun and fellowship with other Unitarian Universalist men.

**Friday, 19 October thru Sunday, 21 October 2018**

- Step out of your work responsibilities for a few days and enjoy the quiet of UBarU.
  - Play, work and relax in the heart of the Hill country
  - A weekend at UBarU is good for your mind and spirit!

Weekend includes all activities, meals, and accommodations. Early bird registration $150.00 before August 31 and $160.00 after. For full information and to register visit www.ubaru.org.

**A Path to Membership**

Interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism or Community UU Church, Plano? Considering membership with our congregation?

We’re not just a Sunday Service. Learn about: Our Social Action Programs, The Community Garden, Religious Education and more.

Come to “A Path to Membership” classes being held at 9am on two Sundays in September, 9th and 23rd, in the Library (Room D). Childcare provided.

For more information and to RSVP (not required), contact Vicki Verinder at membcom-chair@communityuuuchurch.org.
Social Action News

What’s New in the Community Garden?

Gardeners are smiling with all the lovely rain we have been receiving! And it is time to prepare to plant your fall crops! Whether we are planting in the community garden or our home gardens, here are a few important tips to remember:

Cultivating your soil is an essential step in organic gardening. Remove weeds and break up the soil with a pitchfork or tined instrument to optimize availability (and retention) of air, water and nutrients. Add compost, Medina fertilizer and dried molasses to enhance your bed. You can cover the soil with hay or mulch to allow microbes and other beneficial organisms to flourish.

Some excellent fall crops for our area are beans, beets, leeks, mustard, lettuce, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, kohlrabi, bulb onions, edible shell peas, parsley, radishes, spinach, winter squash and turnips. In September, our local nurseries will have starter plants. Always refer to the planting guides for our Zone (8a for Collin County) for optimal planting dates. Fall gardening is especially rewarding in our area as temperatures begin to drop and evenings cool.

Bring the kids by! There are so many teachable moments in the Community Garden. Children can count butterflies, look for different colors, and enjoy our new garden art: a 6’ carrot, a 12” grasshopper, our peace pole with old garden tools. Don’t forget the Little Free Library where you can purchase local honey for $5.

If you are interested in joining our happy gardening group, please contact Deb Bliss at harvest@communityuuchurch.org.

Spread the Cheer and Thank You’s!!!

Every year on First Responders’ Day which is September 11, CUUC along with The Dallas Sai Center deliver baskets of treats to our first responders to let them know they are appreciated. Last year we delivered to 71 fire houses, police stations and 911 call centers in the area. How can you participate? We need lots of baked treats to put in our baskets, people to help assemble the baskets and drivers to deliver them. This is our 10th year showing our support for our First Responders and it is a lot of fun!! Items to bring: cookies, brownies, bar cookies, chips, pretzels, dried fruits, nuts, trail mixes, granola bars, fruit, candy. Homemade items are the best! Please donate anything that needs refrigeration.

This year First Responders’ Day falls on Tuesday, so we will be assembling the “goodie” containers on Monday evening, September 10, starting at 4pm in Founders Hall. Please bring all food to Founders Hall before 4pm on September 10. If your donations are not perishable, there will be 2 large boxes in Founders Hall for donations.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Barb Salvo. First ones to sign up to deliver will get the location(s) of their choosing. This is an opportunity to take the kids to a firehouse. They might get a tour!
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.

Tuesday


Thursday

Humanist Group – New Direction meets at 6pm in Room G. The Humanist Group continues to meet prior to The Meaning of Life: Perspectives from the World’s Great Intellectual Tradition class led by Rev. Don Fielding. Each week different group members plan the discussion on a Humanist-oriented topic which helps us learn more about Humanism, its history, its relationship to UU ism, and its applications to our lives and spiritual -personal development. September topics: TBD.

Exploring the Roots of Religion in Room G at 7pm. Facilitator Don Fielding. The Meaning of Life: Perspectives from the World’s Great Intellectual Tradition, Professor Garfield has put together an intellectually gripping course that is every bit the equal of the monumental subject it sets out to explore. September topics: Sept. 6 - BREAK; September 13 - Nietzsche - The Twilight of the Idols; September 20 - Nietzsche - Achieving Authenticity; September 27 - Gandhi—Satyagraha and Holding Fast to Truth.

Board of Trustee
board@communityuuchurch.org

Sarah Reiling, President Keary Liu, Secretary
Kimberly Schramm, President Elect Jodie Zoeller, Personnel
Stephanie Dorman, VP Programs Alyssa Church, Communications
programs@communityuuchurch.org communication@communityuuchurch.org

RE Board
reboard@communityuuchurch.org

President – Brennan Hadden
Members: Steve Dodds, Jack Dorman, Angela Hathaway and Danni Williams
July Financial Report

Finance Report by Cindy Hadden Treasurer

The July financial summary for our operating accounts is listed below. The cumulative Net Income gap is $14K above budget. This is mostly due to the minister’s severance pay ($6.4K) which has been paid in August, and RE not having spent as budgeted ($1.5K). These expenses will come later, and we cannot count on this windfall continuing, especially since current year pledges are not coming in as quickly as expected. The search is ongoing for a new IDRE and a new Membership coordinator. This creates some savings, but not a lot.

What can you do? Pay your pledge as agreed. Make sure we have matching information if your employer has a matching program. Use the “Free Money” links to the right, it gives money to CUUC while you pay nothing extra. Increase your pledge or donate extra if and when you are able. We are a wonderful community, and we can get ourselves in a very good place to find an interim minister at the beginning of next year.

Upcoming Share the Plate Offerings

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>Minister’s Discretionary Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 28</td>
<td>Meals on Wheels</td>
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If you forget your checkbook on a Share the Plate Sunday, remember you can always donate online.

July’s Share the Plate netted $457.65 for God’s Food Pantry. Thank you!

FREE MONEY!

Kroger: NOTE: It’s time to renew you Kroger Community Rewards - just follow this link: https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards
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 July, 2018

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<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>July 2018</th>
<th>Month Budget</th>
<th>YTD Actual</th>
<th>YTD Budget</th>
<th>Annual Budget</th>
<th>% Annual Budget</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Offering Income</td>
<td>$13,540</td>
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<td>$ 123</td>
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<td>$ 22,615</td>
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<td>$ 119</td>
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<td>TOTAL INCOME</td>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tr>
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<td>$ 3,480</td>
<td>$ 4,150</td>
<td>$ 6,510</td>
<td>$ 8,762</td>
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<td>Programs</td>
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<td>$ 5,043</td>
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<td>Religious Education</td>
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<td>$13,475</td>
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<td>Facilities/Grounds</td>
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<td>TOTAL EXPENSE</td>
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<td>$47,955</td>
<td>$58,860</td>
<td>$267,865</td>
<td>17.90%</td>
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NET INCOME                                  -$ 9,316  -$14,369  -$ 6,995  -$21,043  $0
For our September 2018 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/calendar.
UU Church Contact Email Addresses

President, Sarah Reiling:
president@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, Tom Brikowski
facilities@CommunityUUChurch.org

Board of Trustees: board@CommunityUUChurch.org

Trustees meetings are held the third Saturday of each month at
10am in the Annex. Members, friends and visitors are always
welcome.

Worship Programs (Sunday Services, Ushers
Coordinator, Interior Arts)
worshipteam@CommunityUUChurch.org

Caring Committee Coordinator, June Bruns
caring@CommunityUUChurch.org

Communications Director, Alyssa Church
communications@communityuuchurch.org

Membership Council
membcom@communityuuchurch.org

Personnel Coordinator, Jodie Zoeller
personnel-chair@communityuuchurch.org

Committee on Ministry, Karen Bethel, Chair
Mincom@communityuuchurch.org

Social Action Programs, Linda Frank
UUSInAction@CommunityUUChurch.org

Bridge Group Coordinator, Clint Burleson:
bridge@CommunityUUChurch.org

Circle Suppers Coordinator, John Snyder:
CircleSuppers@CommunityUUChurch.org

Friday Flix Coordinator, Celeste Kennedy
flicks@CommunityUUChurch.org

First Friday Folksingers Coordinator, Dick Hildenbrand:
folsingers@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: Stephanie Dorman, 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 vacant
yruu@CommunityUUChurch.org

Adult Enrichment/Adult Education Celeste Kennedy,
Director adultre@CommunityUUChurch.org

EarthSpirit Janie McDermott, Coordinator
earthspirit@CommunityUUChurch.org

Men’s Fellowship Tom Bieg, Coordinator
men@CommunityUUChurch.org

Religious Education Board Brennan Hadden, Chairperson
reboard@CommunityUUChurch.org

Hospitality Committee Gene Verinder, 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
**Wednesday:** 9 am to 2:30 pm  
**Friday:** 9 am to Noon

**Tuesday:** 9 am to 3 pm  
**Thursday:** 9 am to 2:30 pm  
**Office Phone:** # 972-424-8989

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

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

*Music Director Christopher Wolff*

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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.