Stewardship Drive

It’s April and the stewardship drive is in full swing. If you have not pledged yet, it is time to do so now! Our goal this year is one hundred percent participation.

I am encouraging everyone to pledge this year. Even if you have never pledged before, please pledge this year. Unlike some UU churches pledging is not a requirement of membership at Community UU. The result is that we have many members who do not pledge. If you usually just put money in the plate each Sunday, please pledge this year. Even if you can pledge only one dollar, or five dollars a month, it is a commitment to this church and to your religious community, your church home. You will be surprised how easy it to give to the church if you just get started. For those of you who are long time contributors, I ask that you raise your pledge as much as you can. Try raising your pledge one percent, or five percent or even ten percent. Pledging is easy! You can go to the church webpage and select the pledge now button to go to the secured pledge form.

Community UU, like all Unitarian Universalist churches, is self-supporting. We fund everything we do ourselves, with the exception of the NTUUC grants we are eligible for each year. We build our budget each year after the stewardship drive. As we prepare ourselves for a new minister, a strong financial foundation is important to attract the right person. This is the time to make a commitment to our church home. Remember, there is no place like our home, and you are the community in Community UU Church.

Blessings, Sarah

April, 2019
Sunday Services
Theme - Transformation
April 7 - “Lying and Truthfulness” Guest Speaker, Bob Thigpen.
April 14 - Guest Speaker TBA
April 21 - EASTER - Guest Speaker, Rev. Edwin Robinson.
April 28 - Guest Speaker, Dorayne Breedlove.

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

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.
We Are All On The Caring Team

Each Sunday in our covenant we commit “to help one another.” In a sense, we are all on the caring team. If you would like to be more intentional about helping and to be notified of opportunities to help when the need arises, please consider joining our team. You can do as much or as little as works for you.

Pastoral care offers opportunities for members to care for one another through calls, cards, meals, visits, rides, thoughts and prayers. Both the giving and receiving sides of pastoral care are transformative. It is a mutual ministry. We all at various times in our lives will need to receive care and will be in a position to give it. What a privilege it is to be able to help one another.

Contact June Bruns at Caring@CommunityUUChurch.org

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE! The Congregational Annual Meeting is Sunday, May 19 following the worship service. Committee annual reports are due in the office by Sunday, April 14. Please be sure if you are contacted about submitting a report that you get it in by the deadline. Thanks You.

March Board of Trustee Highlights

The Board discussed the possibility of renting space to a new school for the coming school year.

The Board is working with Sai Baba to renew their contract with a small increase in rent.

The Board approved the purchase of walkie talkies to be used by Board approved persons and discussed feasible options to maintain and improve safety in the Church.

The Board discussed the need to communicate to the congregation the overall sound financial position of the Church.

There are a couple potential candidates to fill the DRE position.

The Board discussed the progress of the current stewardship campaign.

Facilities reported minimal leaks in the recent rains and will create a Faithify campaign to replace the sails in the playground.
The Annual Congregational Meeting is **Sunday, May 19, 2019.** Below is the slate of names for election at this meeting. The meeting will follow the worship service and the youth will be offering a meal.

**Board of Trustees Slate May 2019**

**Treasurer**  Cindy Hadden (2 year term exp. 5/31/21)

**Facilities**  Tom Brikowski (2 year term exp. 5/31/21)

**Program Board Slate**

**Denominational Affairs**  Dick Hildenbrand (1 year term exp. 5/31/20)

**RE Board Chair**  Brennan Hadden (1 year term exp. 5/31/20)

**Leadership Development Committee Slate**

Place 1  Open (3 year term exp. 5/31/22)

Place 2  Tim Williams (3 year term exp. 5/31/22)

Place 3  Open (3 year term exp 5/31/22)

Place 6  June Bruns (2 year term exp. 5/31/21)

Rev. 3/22/19

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**Share the Plate - April**

Since 2010, CUUC members, including youth, have done annual service trips to New Orleans, post-Katrina. The work involved has mainly been building and repairing for entities that cannot afford materials. For several years, the travel costs have been covered by YRUU fund raising, while the cost of materials and equipment rentals has been covered through Share the Plate donations. These immersive trips have become a large part of the youth’s religious education program and we plan to continue them, however, for this and future years, the destination may be other than New Orleans. **Please generously donate to Share the Plate for April, Sunday, April 28, for the materials that the youth will need for a productive 2019 service trip.**
April, 2019

Simple Living Chalice Circle
The next meeting will be Saturday morning April 13 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, April 20 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.

Friday Flix April Friday Flix will hold the Saoirse Ronan Film Festival:

April 12 - Lady Bird, starring Saoirse Ronan. Set in Sacramento, California, in 2002, it is a coming-of-age story of a high-school senior and her turbulent relationship with her mother.

April 26 - Atonement, The film stars James McAvoy, Keira Knightley, Saoirse Ronan, Romola Garai, Benedict Cumberbatch, and Vanessa Redgrave. This 2007 romantic war drama film which chronicles a crime and its consequences over the course of six decades, beginning in the 1930s.

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

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: April 16
Location: Diane Teng’s home. Please contact Diane at brighteyedgirlz@gmail.com by Friday, April 12 if you plan to attend.

Selection: April 16 Lilli De Jong by Janet Benton

Pregnant, abandoned by her lover, and banished from her Quaker home and teaching position, Lilli de Jong enters a charity for wronged women to deliver her child. She is stunned at how much her infant needs her and at how quickly their bond overpowers her heart. Mothers in her position have no sensible alternative to giving up their children, but Lilli can’t bear such an outcome. Determined to chart a path toward an independent life, Lilli braves moral condemnation and financial ruin in a quest to keep herself and her baby alive.

Confiding their story to her diary as it unfolds, Lilli takes readers from an impoverished charity to a wealthy family’s home to the perilous streets of a burgeoning American city. Lilli de Jong is at once a historical saga, an intimate romance, and a lasting testament to the work of mothers. "So little is permissible for a woman," writes Lilli, yet on her back every human climbs to adulthood." Goodreads

The Men’s Fellowship Breakfast is Saturday, April 20, 8:30am at Poor Richards Café, 2442 K Avenue, Plano, TX 75074. If you plan to attend, please let Tom Bieg know by 6pm Friday, April 19. Send email to tombieg75@gmail.com.

Deadline for the May newsletter is Friday, April 19. Email articles to newsletter@communityuuchurch.org.
Social Action News

What’s New in the Community Garden? Part of the mission of the Community Garden is preservation. We address this through seed exchanges, heirloom varieties, organic practices and habitat preservation. Our volunteers bring their special expertise on various projects such as the bee hives and honey harvesting.

One of the essential components of a healthy ecosystem is diversity of life. We truly do not understand the myriad of ways that insects, birds, plants, animals and all life interacts and sadly, often find out too late that the eradication of a species has detrimental effects on the ecosystem.

The National Butterfly Center in Mission, Texas, is under threat from the administration’s plan for a border wall. This is a good time to focus on preservation and its importance to all life. “Consider just one of the myriad ways in which insects support our survival. Of the nearly 300,000 species of flowering plants, around 90 percent of these rely on an animal pollinator to complete their reproductive cycle. Approximately 200,000 species of animals provide this critical service, 199,000 of which are insects, pollinating everything from our heavy contingent of crops to mighty forests, deserts, prairies, tundras and everything in between.” (from Michael S. Engel, paleontologist and entomologist at the University of Kansas.)

Our community garden is just one way we can support this diversity of life (and, spoiler alert, we are planning our very own butterfly preserve)! **Tune in next month for more information. For more information about our garden and adopting a plot, please contact Deb Bliss at harvest@communityuuuchurch.org**

Barron Elementary School is asking for us to replenish the school health supplies such as facial tissues, hand sanitizers, hand wipes/baby wipes, and also plastic bags (sandwich, quart, and gallon sizes). Please bring any of these to Church to place in a box marked for Barron in the Social Action alcove across from the water fountains. The Art teacher has also asked for any art related supplies like markers, crayons, construction paper, poster board etc. which you can donate. Check with me if donations are bigger and won’t fit in the donation box, so I can transport and deliver those items to Barron. Thanks! Anne Smith

A Path to Membership

Interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism or Community UU Church, Plano? Considering membership with our congregation? Want to learn more about our religion, church or activities?

Come to our next “A Path to Membership” class being held on **April 7 at 9am in the Library** (Room D).

For more information and to RSVP (required for childcare), contact Vicki Verinder at membcom-chair@communityuuuchurch.org.
Welcoming the Different

Community Church recently saw two guest speakers in our pulpit addressing issues around mental health care and the realities of living with mental illness, whether in yourself or someone you love. Unfortunately, a stigma around mental illness persists, and it falls to us, as UUs, to contribute to change—by talking about such issues openly and constructively, and welcoming with love those who may have needs. As many as 1 in 4 adults are affected by mental illness, so it does affect us! Our inherent worth and dignity isn’t erased by a change to our mental health, and we need to live that truth when we’re faced with it in others.

This is not to suggest we take it upon ourselves to “fix” one another, but to be mindful of the struggles some in our community may be facing, and to act with increased awareness and compassion. Here are a few simple suggestions:

Check your assumptions. Stereotypes about mental illness permeate pop culture: mental illness makes a person violent, dangerous, erratic, untrustworthy, or “bad.” Remember, these are dramatizations for the sake of a sensational plot, and don’t reflect reality. Statistically speaking, those living with mental illness are far more likely to be victims of crime, rather than perpetrators of it. Similarly, even a qualified medical professional wouldn’t attempt to diagnose someone’s condition, if any, without a thorough examination—all of us should resist the temptation to pass judgment on someone’s behavior if it’s outside of our norm.

Watch your language. Have you ever described someone who isn’t as being “OCD” or “bipolar” because of quirky behavior? It may seem like no big deal to say “that’s crazy” or “what a schizo,” but consider what it means to repeatedly use mental health conditions as insults. We start to equate that condition with negative traits, which only reinforces the stigma and judgment around mental illness.

Community matters. Mental illness can be isolating. Those with anxiety or depression may avoid social interaction, and due to stereotypes and misconceptions, others may avoid or ostracize those with mental health issues. We simply can’t do that. Keep inviting or including those who are struggling. Even if they don’t want to (or can’t) accept an offer today, ask again later. Be patient, be persistent, and be present.

Be open, if you can. If you’re comfortable sharing your experiences with mental illness, do so. Many people think that illness affects “other people,” not folks they know, or that medication and therapy are for “other people,” not for folks like themselves. The more we bring these issues into the open and talk about them, the more we can normalize them and empower others. Your story might encourage others to have hope and seek help.

(Continued on Page 7)
(Continued from page 6 Welcoming the Different)

**Know where to get help.** Again, it'd be a mistake to assume we can (or should) fix anyone who comes through our doors, but being aware of resources in our area can make the difference in someone becoming well and recovering. Mental illness lies to those it affects, telling them they’re alone, that no one understands or cares, and that they’re broken or beyond help. It’s up to us to provide hope and community where there may be none. Here are a few of the organizations and resources shared with us recently:

**Mental Health America of Greater Dallas - [www.mhadallas.org](http://www.mhadallas.org)** *(guest speaker Bonnie Cook, Executive Director)*

**Prelude Clubhouse - [www.preludeclubhouse.org](http://www.preludeclubhouse.org)** *(guest speaker Mary Taddiken, Volunteer/Consultant)*

**NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) – [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)*

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255**

Submitted by Alyssa Church

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**Church Members Visit Texas State Capitol**

On Wednesday, March 20th, church members Pam & Jon Reinke-Walter and Dick & Janice Hildenbrand participated in the Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry (TXUUJM) Legislative Action Day. They were among 100+ UUs who met at state legislators’ offices to give our positions on several issues and bills. In the morning, State Representative Donna Howard (D-Austin), who is the lone UU legislator in Texas, spoke to the assembled group. Donna talked about “how elections matter” and contrasted the tones of the 2017 and 2019 sessions, where the majority party has become much more cooperative and collaborative. As an example, she cited that “finally” the legislature has become focused on funding for public education after several sessions around mostly socially-divisive issues. Our members teamed together to meet with staff members of their House representatives (Matt Shaheen [HD-66], R-Plano and Candy Noble [HD-89], R-Lucas), who politely listened to what was said, and in some cases, agreed. State Senator Angela Paxton [SD-8], R-McKinney, did not respond to a request for a meeting. The TXUUJM focus priorities this year (based on congregational surveys) were Immigration/Refugees, Reproductive/Gender, Economic, Environmental and Public Education.
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 UUism, and its applications to our lives and spiritual-personal development. April topics: TBD.

Exploring the Roots of Religion in Room G at 7pm. Facilitator Don Fielding. Big History: The Big Bang, Life on Earth and the Rise of Humanity. April topics: April 4 - Life on Earth—Multi-celled Organisms; April 11 - Hominines; April 18 - BREAK; April 25 - Evidence on Hominine Evolution.

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Board of Trustees
board@communityuuchurch.org

Sarah Reiling, President
reilingsarah51@gmail.com
c# 214-620-4515

Keary Liu, Secretary
kearyliu@hotmail.com
h# 469-403-5849

Kimberly Schramm, President Elect
kschramm10@gmail.com
c# 949-439-8048

Cindy Hadden, Treasurer
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Tom Brikowski, Facilities Coordinator
facilities@communityuuchurch.org

Jodie Zoeller, Personnel
jodiezoeller@gmail.com
c#214-212-8309

Vacant, VP Programs
programs@communityuuchurch.org

Alyssa Church, Communications
communication@communityuuchurch.org

RE Board
reboard@communityuuchurch.org

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

_Finance Report by Cindy Hadden Treasurer_

The February financial summary for our operating accounts is listed below. The cumulative Net Income gap is $45.5K above budget. The one thing that stood out this month, is that a number of people apparently forgot to pay their pledge payment in February. If you are one of them, please make your payments on time, or contact me to let me know what the situation is, so this does not take us by surprise.

**Where we are:** We are in a great place to start next year. With the current positive balance, we can fund some of the expected costs associated with hiring new staff. We are also starting to look at the budget for next year. It looks like it will be in pretty good shape, if pledging meets or exceeds the stewardship goal. We are all a part of this community, our spiritual home. We should all be part of taking care of our spiritual home, and I am looking forward to joining everyone else on this journey!

In the community, the Share the Plate offering netted $303.09 for TXUJJM. Thank you!

_Feeback Share the Plate Offerings_

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Service Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>UBarU</td>
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If you forget your checkbook on a Share the Plate Sunday, remember you can always donate online.

**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!

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**INCOME & EXPENSE February, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>February 2019</th>
<th>Month Budget</th>
<th>YTD Actual</th>
<th>YTD Budget</th>
<th>Annual Budget</th>
<th>% Annual Budget (FY 75% comp)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Offering</td>
<td>$12,197</td>
<td>$16,532</td>
<td>$154,073</td>
<td>$151,855</td>
<td>$201,292</td>
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<td>Total Fund Raiser</td>
<td>$1,493</td>
<td>$1,150</td>
<td>$14,027</td>
<td>$19,965</td>
<td>$22,615</td>
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<td>Total Building</td>
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<td>$19,555</td>
<td>$19,239</td>
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<td>Misc. Income</td>
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<td>$16,770</td>
<td>$16,860</td>
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<td>49.97%</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>$15,845</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19,906</strong></td>
<td><strong>$196,080</strong></td>
<td><strong>$207,829</strong></td>
<td><strong>$267,865</strong></td>
<td><strong>73.20%</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSE</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$3,433</td>
<td>$4,625</td>
<td>$33,459</td>
<td>$45,529</td>
<td>$58,731</td>
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<td>Programs</td>
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<td>$22,319</td>
<td>$27,373</td>
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<td>Religious Education</td>
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<td>Facilities/Grounds</td>
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<td>$43,067</td>
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<td>Denomination</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$15,655</strong></td>
<td><strong>$21,480</strong></td>
<td><strong>$153,136</strong></td>
<td><strong>$210,349</strong></td>
<td><strong>$267,865</strong></td>
<td><strong>57.17%</strong></td>
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**NET INCOME** $190 $1,574 $42,944 $2,520 $0
For our April 2019 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

Treasurer, Cindy Hadden
treasurer@communityuuchurch.org

Board of Trustees: board@CommunityUUChurch.org
Trustee 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:
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: Vacant 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

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

UUA Southern Region: www.uua.org/southern

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

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

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.