



The Community News

July 2020

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.

The Summer of 2020 has arrived. What do you recognize? The heat is familiar. The whirring noises of air conditioning units and fans, chigger bites and iced tea. These are annual phenomena.

What is different this year is the continued impact of COVID-19. Out of an abundance of caution, our church building and grounds continue to be closed as we have moved our worship, religious education, and fellowship activities online. But that doesn't mean that the building is sitting inert, unused and unloved. Quite to the contrary, the challenges that the pandemic has brought come with a tiny bit of a silver lining for the volunteers that manage our space. The CUUC Facilities Team has taken the opportunity to get some things done that are a little harder to do when the building is under regular use. Maintenance and repairs continue to be done inside and out. The carpeting throughout the main building has been cleaned, as have the chairs in the Sanctuary. Outside, the mowing team is keeping the grounds from being overgrown. Other landscape work with our trees and shrubs is ongoing.

And the biggest "ta-da" moment for our grounds this month: the long-awaited electronic sign for our Church is here! The installation is complete and the sign is now live. Our flags and our Black Lives Matter banner were temporarily taken down for the construction and installation of the new sign. Now we have new flagpoles for our U.S. and rainbow flags, and the banner has been reinstalled. Did you ever think you'd use the term "snazzy" to refer to a flagpole? It definitely applies in this case. Old Glory will now be lit at night with a solar-powered LED disk that sits on top.

We are so grateful to the community members who do this work. It is important to keep our physical space in the best shape possible, and these volunteers do a fine job of making that happen.

So, as the building is important for the church, we must say again that the church is more than the building. As we move through the summer you can continue to connect with Community UU Church through our website, YouTube channel, Facebook page, and more. Fellowship activities and the Caring Committee are available and thriving. The Beloved Community is still here for all of us. Stay safe, stay connected, and stay cool.

Jeannette Baillie

July, 2020

Sunday Services

Theme - Journeys

July 5 - "A Change Gonna Come: A Journey to Becoming Anti-Racist" based on Ibrahm Kendi's work and his own experiences. - **Bill Holston** - guest speaker. See page 5 for more information.

July 12 - Pastor Kris Cervantes.

July 19 - Book Sunday

July 26 - Kiya Heartwood- guest speaker

Typical Sunday

Out of an abundance of caution until further notice, we have shifted from in-church Sunday morning services to **on-line worship services via our website**. Our intent is to help minimize the potential spread of the new coronavirus in our communities and protect the most vulnerable.

In This Issue

June Board meeting highlights	2
July Share the Plate	3
UBar U News	6
June Share the Plate	8
Financial Report	9

June Board of Trustee meeting highlights

Facilities: Tom Brikowski

Electronic sign is up and running.

Flagpoles have been installed and flags raised with banners reinstalled in greenway between Church parking lot and W Parker.

Construction progressing on the moving of the monument garden due to new sign installation.

Building in good shape, with continuing minor upkeep projects.

Annual Meeting Recap – Kimberly Schramm

Zoom annual meeting went smoothly and was well attended with over 53 members.

Stewardship Drive update: Gene Verinder

92.5% of the 2019-2020 pledge budget has been fulfilled.

Sarah Reiling has agreed to help Gene in reaching out to the few people who have not fulfilled or not responded to the committee inquiry regarding pledges.

Finance Report: Cindy Hadden

Church finances are doing well. Paying hourly workers etc. as we have agreed. Due to Covid19, income is down but expenses continue. We have cash reserves so we have a little safety net without having to get into unrestricted funds.

Board approved to move funds from one account to another to be able to increase funding to God's Food Pantry to increased need.

Investments are doing well for this economy.

Payroll protection – application – Legacy Bank did not respond, so moving forward working with QuickBooks to apply for the funds.

GA Delegates: Kimberly Schramm

Three of our four allotted delegate positions have been filled: Dick Hildenbrand, Gene Verinder, Vicki Verinder. GA will be via online streaming instead of in person due to Covid 19 this year.

Communications: Jeannette Baillie

Communications Committee will be responsible for the content/messaging of the new electronic sign.

Continued work to engage with our members and to find ways to effectively communicate to the entire outside community that our church is still a LIVE and functioning community, even though we have not been meeting there in the last several months.

Religious Education: Brennan Hadden

Most Fall program planning for children and youth is finished and Summer programming is beginning with guests to speak about a place that is different from our own (usually a foreign country) and to provide a craft associated with that place.

Owl program is completed with a live visit in the church garden

Interviews have been held for DRE, but none found to be satisfactory, so the search continues.

President's Column

Here at the beginning of July, we mark the fourth month since our congregation has been able to hold services in person. Since then, we have been connecting via Zoom, phone calls, viewing services on YouTube and interacting on social media platforms.

While it's good to connect in all of these ways, there's no denying that it's not quite the same as the warm, personal interactions we experience when we are able to be together in person, face to face.

When will we be able to gather, once more, in our sanctuary? Based on the guidance from our Unitarian Universalist Association, we cannot safely return until there has been, among other things, multiple weeks of a reduction in infections. As I write this, none of the criteria for reopening have been met. In fact, cases in Texas have increased alarmingly in recent weeks.

The UUA has published their recommendations on their website: <https://www.uua.org/safe/pandemics/gathering-guidance>

However, the Board and the Safe Congregations Committee are working to create a plan to reopen as soon as we can safely do so. Until that happens, please keep in mind that, though official activities of the Church are in virtual mode, you can still connect with friends and maintain relationships outside of the context of our formal Church meetings.

At the same time, the Board, Worship Associates and Pastor Kris are working to make our virtual services more engaging, meaningful, and interactive so that our Church community can thrive.

The Board of Trustees welcomes your input, thoughts, and suggestions. How are you staying connected with your friends, family and organizations?

Kimberly Schramm, President, BOT

Our Share the Plate Offering for July, which **starts Sunday, July 12, is Gods Pantry** and the need is critical now as their number of clients continues to increase and the North Texas Food Bank is experiencing shortages due to increased demand. The Pantry is forced to buy their supplies with their own limited funds. They are the only food pantry in Collin County open to everyone without restrictions or conditions. Our Church Community Harvest Garden donates their harvest every Saturday and we have a dedicated fund to help with their utility bills, but cash donations are desperately needed now. **Share the Plate is July 26.**

July, 2020

Simple Living Chalice Circle
There will be a meeting July 11 via Zoom. Theme/topic – Learning together to live deliberately. Through September we meet the second Saturday of each month on Zoom.

Facilitator Ona Tannehill,
email:
simpleliving@communityuuchurch.org

Women's Fellowship Breakfast.
To all the women of the Church: The breakfast gathering of all the women of the Church has been cancelled until further notice. For more information, questions contact Vicki Verinder at womens-fellowship@communityuuchurch.org

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast has been cancelled until further notice.

Friday Flix has been cancelled until further notice.

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: July 21

Location: This meeting will occur in your home by connecting to Zoom. If you would like to receive an invitation, contact Deb Bliss by July 17 at

harvest@communityuuchurch.org.

Selection: Individual selection on a book on racism to share in the discussion. For a list of recommended books, contact Deb Bliss at harvest@communityuuchurch.org.

Deadline for the August newsletter is Friday, July 17. Email articles to newsletter@communityuuchurch.org.

(Continued from front page - Sunday - July 5)

We have one of our favorite speakers scheduled for the first week in July - Bill Holston, Executive Director of Human Rights Initiative of North Texas. His topic will be “*A Change Gonna Come: A Journey to Becoming Anti-Racist*,” based on Ibrahm Kendi’s work and his own experiences. You can check out their website at hrionline.org or follow Bill on Facebook. (He’ll also take you on a virtual hike every now and then.)

Bill is a prominent civil-rights activist in our community supporting not only immigration rights, but LGBTQ rights, and Black Lives Matter. There are several organizations doing great work in service of the Black community in Texas. Learn about them here with this list provided by HRI:

Human Rights Initiative of NTX

The monumental triumph of escaping abusive environments often demands everything from survivors. We are here to help.

BYP100 byp100.org

BYP100 Action fund is the 501(c)(4) arm of BYP100, a national organization of Black 18-35 yr olds creating justice & freedom for all Black people.

The Afiya Center linktr.ee/AfiyaCenter

Transforming the lives of Black Women and Girls through Reproductive Justice.

Faith In Texas www.faithintx.org/shortcuts

Faith in Texas is a multi-racial, multi-faith grassroots movement of people united in values working together for economic, racial & social justice.

MothersAgainstPoliceBrutality mothersagainstopolicebrutality.org

Mothers Against Police Brutality is the voice for justice for victims of police brutality and deadly force. #MAPB

Texas Organizing Project topjustice.org

TOP organizes Black & Latino ppl in #Dallas, #Houston & #SanAntonio to transform Texas into state where we have the power & representation we deserve.

North Texas Dream Team linktr.ee/northtexasdream

Community org! Grassroots Community Organizing: leadership@northtexasdreamteam.org Twitter: @northtexasdream

Next Generation Action Network linktr.ee/NextGenAction

To cultivate young leaders driven towards the eradication of social injustice through social, education, civil and community reform. Pres. @niqualex

If you are an Instagram user, try these links: [humanrightsinitiative](https://www.instagram.com/humanrightsinitiative) #BlackLivesMatter
[@theafiyacenter](https://www.instagram.com/theafiyacenter) [@byp100](https://www.instagram.com/byp100) [@faithintexas](https://www.instagram.com/faithintexas) [@texas_organizing_project](https://www.instagram.com/texas_organizing_project) [@northtexasdream](https://www.instagram.com/northtexasdream)
[@nextgenaction](https://www.instagram.com/nextgenaction)

From UU Women's Federation:

MINERVA POTLUCKS

Minerva Potlucks are a time for spiritual renewal and nourishment. A safe and sacred space for women to connect with one another in spiritual exploration. A treasured tradition in some women's circles that typically takes place at the beginning of each new month.

To help UU Women stay connected during this time of isolation, in collaboration with UU Women and Religion, we are offering Virtual Minerva Gatherings via Zoom weekly! Note: There is no charge to participate.

These online gatherings will embody the same elements of conversation, poetry, music, art and ritual as our in-person Minerva Gatherings have over the years. If you would like to join us in a diverse celebration of women and femininity, please **email (TwinkleManning@gmail.com) to receive the private Zoom link. (Type "Minerva Potluck" in the subject line.)**

Go to <http://twinklesplace.org/UU-Women-Online-Offerings/> for more information about online programs.

These programs are funded in part, by a generous grant from UU Women's Connection (no link), by UU Women and Religion (<https://www.uuwr.org/>), UU Women's Federation (<https://www.uuwf.org/>), and by UU women supporters (<http://twinklesplace.org/supporting-uu->

UBarU News

UBarU is working together with you, with the state and local government, and with our constituents to weather the COVID situation. For the short term, we have suspended all on-site activities through the end of July and are looking ahead to safely hold August and fall events. Decisions will continue to be made as we move forward, and uncertainty is part of the process. We appreciate your patience. **Details will be available at: <https://ubaru.org/home>.**

The **Star Party at UBarU will be August 13 - 16**. In addition to the star parties, it will include astronomy lectures, meals, lodging, and more, offered at our IDA certified Dark-Sky Park in Mountain Home, Texas. Independent viewing as well as use of the UBarU Youth Observatory is planned. Experienced and novice astronomers are welcomed! **For more information go to <https://ubaru.org/home/star Party>.**

Our Quaker predecessors began building the Sojourner cottage using straw bale construction. After they gave the camp to First UU Church of Austin and the Foundation was created, hearty volunteers completed the construction. Today, Sojourner cottage is a comfortable 2 bedroom space with a living room area, table for eating and meal preparation area. It can sleep 1-4 in the bedrooms and more if the couches are used. **Email director@ubaru.org if you would like to use the cottage for a family vacation, personal retreat, outing with friends or other use.**

Thank you for your recent and ongoing support. To send donations go to <https://ubaru.org/home/Support>

Social Action

What's New in the Garden?

Weather is warmer but our plants are thriving. Tomatoes, peppers, Swiss chard, and herbs are most content. Potatoes have blossomed, begun to die back, and will be harvested before the end of June. In the past we've held a contest for the largest potato "witnessed harvested" at the garden. The prize: possession of the Mr. Potato Head trophy till next season.

Deliveries averaging 100 pounds are made to God's Pantry each Saturday. Helping folks dealing with food insecurity keeps us motivated to make the most of our production.

As we work through our 14th year, a leadership team of 6 gardeners has been formed to formalize some of our processes, work towards a sustainable structure, and insure that each gardener has input into decisions about our future. These folks bring their corporate expertise and have already made a difference.

Bring your family out to the garden early some morning for a breakfast picnic to enjoy the wild life, colors and fragrances of the plants, and sky. We have four tables to choose from. Recent critter sightings: blue skink, toad, baby bunny, and ladybugs. If you come at dusk, you're apt to find fireflies dancing!

Gods Pantry

Do you use take out food? Gods Pantry needs the eating utensils you receive with your take out orders for their homeless clients. Right now their supply is depleted and help is needed. They also need masks and plastic gloves. Thank you. For more information contact Linda Frank.

Barron Elementary School Donations

Anne Smith has emailed many of our church volunteers who over the years have spent valuable time helping out at Barron Elementary School. She reached out to the counselor Maria Duvall and to Mirla Angel, the person who accepts and distributes our donations of health and school supplies. They both responded that reports have come back to them from families who have been pleased with the online course work that the teachers have created for "at home" studies. They also stated that the teachers and staff have been relentlessly working to provide food supplies, clothing, and any other necessary items for their families during this shutdown. They expressed much gratitude for our aid and care for their school over the years and are looking forward to seeing us back at the school next year. Anyone who would like to continue donating health supplies or other school supplies may drop them off at church or even bring them by our home. Please let me know if you want to drop these supplies off, so I will be alerted to watch for them at either location. Thanks again! Anne Smith,

Board of Trustees

board@communityuuchurch.org

Kimberly Schramm, President
president@communityuuchurch.org

Ina McBride, Secretary
secretary@communityuuchurch.com

Jody Zoeller, President Elect

Cindy Hadden, Treasurer
treasurer@communityuuchurch.org

Tom Brikowski, Facilities Coordinator
facilitites@communityuuchurch.org

Personnel Chair, Vicki Verinder
personnel-chair@communityuuchurch.org

Vacant, VP Programs

Communication Chair, Jeannette Baillie
communications@communityuuchurch.org

RE Board

President : Brennan Hadden Members: Angela Hathaway, Eric Schnurr, Nikole Witt

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.

Tibetan Buddhism, join Tashi Nyima for Virtual Sangha on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays at 7pm. Please join us from your home at <https://zoom.us/j/825940300>.

It is wise to download Zoom before your first use. As a courtesy to others, please place your computer on silent mode during the meditation and until it is time to discuss the teachings.

Thursday

The Thursday Event Humanist group is not meeting at this time. This session include videos and discussions of Humanist topics. The current main topic is inequality, it's detrimental effects on society, and how to reduce it. The discussion is led by Doug Hawes. The facilitator is Rev. Don Fielding.

Our June Share the Plate will end Sunday, July 5 when Bill Holston will be with us to speak about immigration, white nationalism and his own personal journey to becoming an anti-racist and honors and supports our work with the Human Rights Initiative of North Texas. We donate to supplies and needs of their clients throughout the year and also have an annual coat drive in the fall.

Human Rights Initiative provides free legal services to people who have suffered human rights abuses. They represent immigrants who have been victims of violence because of their religious or political beliefs and apply for asylum in the United States. HRI also handles matters under the Violence Against Women Act and helps immigrant children who are victims of violent crimes, neglect, abuse or abandonment, and human trafficking victims. In addition, HRI provides a range of social services including community referrals to appropriate area service providers, job search assistance, workshops and group activities, and individual guidance. Considering the current state of immigration affairs in our country, let's help support those folks on the front lines!

May Financial Report

Finance Report by Cindy Hadden Treasurer

The preliminary May financial summary for our operating accounts is listed below. And so we get to the end of our fiscal year. One that ended very different than it started. No one could have predicted this and look sane, and here we are. Some of the things to note are that we wrote off the mower, which had been showing on our balance sheet for the last ten years. Normally, when an asset like a mower is listed on the balance sheet, it gets written off over the net 3-5 years in equal portions, but since it was so long over due, it was decided to just take the whole thing off at once. This created a \$7.9K expense in Facilities that did not have anything to do with the current year expenses, but fortunately we were in an excellent place to do it at this time.

Looking forward: Good news is that due to inability to find good candidates for the open positions, frugeness, and planning ahead, we are able to transfer \$39K into our Cash Reserves account this year. This places us in a very good place to meet this coming year head on.

Pledge Now

Upcoming Share the Plate Offerings

Date	Recipient
July 26	God's Pantry
August 30	Barron Elementary School

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

Donate Now

May's Share the Plate netted \$0 to UBarU.

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 May, 2020

	May 2020	Month Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	% Annual Budget (FY 100% comp)
INCOME						
Total Offering Income	\$ 10,049	\$14,440	\$191,058	\$208,100	\$208,100	91.81%
Total Fund Raiser Income	\$ 39	\$ 150	\$ 18,455	\$ 22,615	\$ 22,615	81.60%
Total Building Usage	\$ 2,470	\$ 2,738	\$ 25,399	\$ 27,786	\$ 27,786	91.41%
Misc. Income	\$ 11	\$ 30	\$ 1,372	\$ 16,860	\$ 16,860	8.14%
TOTAL INCOME	\$12,568	\$ 17,358	\$236,283	\$275,361	\$275,361	85.81%
EXPENSE						
Administration	\$ 3,654	\$ 4,460	\$ 43,513	\$ 58,227	\$58,227	74.73%
Programs	\$ 1,956	\$ 3,262	\$ 27,661	\$ 33,462	\$33,462	82.66%
Religious Education	\$ 2,078	\$ 5,044	\$ 9,620	\$ 64,326	\$64,326	14.95%
Facilities/Grounds	\$12,880	\$ 6,188	\$ 66,337	\$ 57,004	\$57,004	116.37%
Ministry	\$ 2,927	\$ 4,315	\$ 32,351	\$ 44,242	\$44,242	73.12%
Denomination	\$ 1,810	\$ 0	\$ 17,458	\$ 18,100	\$18,100	96.45%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$25,305	\$23,270	\$196,940	\$275,361	\$275,361	71.52%
NET INCOME	-\$12,737	-\$ 5,912	\$ 39,343	\$0	\$0	

JULY

For our July 2020 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

Consulting Pastor, Pastor Kris Cervantes
minister@communityuuchurch.org

President, Kimberly Schramm:
president@Communityuuchurch.org

Director of Music, Christopher Wolff
musicdir@communityuuchurch.org

Director of RE, vacant
reboard@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

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 Choir, Jeannette Baillie
communications@communityuuchurch.org

Membership Council
membcom@communityuuchurch.org

Personnel Chair, Vicki Verinder
personnel-chair@communityuuchurch.org

Committee on Ministry, Stan Darnell, Chair
Mincom@communityuuchurch.org

Social Action Programs, Maria Brennecke
UUSInAction@CommunityUUChurch.org

Bridge Group Coordinator, Diane Behanese
bridge@CommunityUUChurch.org

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

Friday Flix Coordinator, Celeste Kennedy
flicks@CommunityUUChurch.org

Outdoor Adventure Coordinator, Dick Hildenbrand:

Leadership Development Committee: June Bruns
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

Women's Fellowship Breakfast
women's-fellowship@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

Consulting Pastor Kris Cervantes by appointment.

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

Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Plano
2875 E. Parker Rd.
Plano, TX 75074

