



Our Vision:

Nourishing Spirits, Working for Justice, Transforming Lives

Mission

Community UU Church is a congregation of welcoming, diverse, caring and committed people. We provide an atmosphere and framework for examining spiritual questions individually and communally; serve by enriching the spirit through words, music and fellowship; and educate all ages by promoting ethics, a sense of morality and the pursuit of personal and shared truths. We work together to make our world a more compassionate, just and respectful place.



Upcoming dates of note:

**Christmas Eve Service:
Carols and Candlelight**
6:30pm Sunday Dec 24th

Office Winter Break
The Church Office will be closed Dec 25th to Jan 2nd

High School OWL
Sundays from 12-2pm
Starting on January 21st

Service Auction
Scheduled for February 10th

Community UU Church
2875 East Parker Road
Plano, TX 75074
972.424.8989
Info@UUPlano.org

A Welcoming Congregation

Holiday Greetings from the Minister

~ Rev. Dr. Aija Duelm

Dear members and friends of Community UU Church,

It has been an intense and amazing year. Together we faced a lot of changes and challenges and we did so with determination and immense care for one another. I am amazed at the commitment and dedication that I see in each and every one of you and I am grateful to be able to journey with you. This holiday season provides a wonderful opportunity to look back at what we have accomplished and consider our dreams and hopes for our future. In this newsletter you will find reports and stories about what has been happening here in our midst. We hope to be able to bring the news to you twice a year in this format.

As we look toward the next year, we hold our hopes for this community and for ourselves to continue to heal, grow and support one another. May we find ways to tap into the holiday joy to uplift us, to embrace the light of candles and decorations to cheer us toward kindness and goodness, to swing in the rhythm of holiday music to feel how connected we are to each other. May we also take time to rest.

Wishing you peace and joy this holiday season!



Reports From the Fall Congregational Meeting

Minister's Report

Dear Members and Friends of the Congregation, we pause and reflect on what has happened these last few months, what we have accomplished and what we still dream to accomplish in the near future.

There are multiple purposes for these reports. One is to have a note in the history books of this church and fulfill our bylaw obligation. Another purpose of this report is to let our members, friends, newcomers know how we are doing; to tell you how courageous, thriving, values-based, and creative this congregation is. A third purpose of this report is to have a moment of pause for the leaders of this church to reflect on the activities and well-being of the congregation. These are moments to be reminded of why we do all the work, and endure through the difficulties and challenges.

My report covers four months, since July 1st when I joined you as your minister. When I began, my main goal was to provide pastoral leadership through a stable ministerial presence and crisis management that would keep this faith community woven together, allowing time and space for wounds to heal and for the community to recover to able to re-emerge to the new future.

The beginning of our time together was challenging for all of us and added yet another thing to deal with. We had outside intruders and attacks that shook us considerably. Together we grieved and supported one another through the trauma and we worked to rebuild the damage to our building. We attended numerous meetings planning and implementing safety measures that would seek to protect us in the future.

This was quite an experience and your new board did an amazing job. You will hear more about what they did from our president, but I would like express my gratitude to your leaders. You have a board that is steady, patient, compassionate, hard-working, and devoted. In difficult decisions this year, they showed faith, commitment, and collaboration. I deeply appreciate the commitment and diligence of your board members and your president Deb Bliss has been an amazing leader. She has spent most of her day hours working for the church, doing so collaboratively with others as a remarkable team leader and taking care of the whole community always thinking about what is best for this congregation.

All of your board members worked extra hard these past months, holding numerous extra meetings to deal with the crisis. Their work would not be possible without all of your support and help. Many of you chipped in often and provided your wisdom, guidance and helping hand. Getting through these last few months were possible because of all our work together, when you stepped up and contributed to the life and work of this church.

We pushed the start of our programming to September to give us some time to work through the crisis. We have started the year with our regular activities as well as some new things. We began a successful adult RE class, restarted circle suppers, continued the church chats. Among the new things in our congregation – we are working on growing our justice ministry and as part of it, we established a welcoming congregations renewal team who is guiding us in implementing the work that will lead us towards practicing welcome and renewing our certification.



We Are Not Alone

November 29th we received a video and email from UU Church of Cherry Hill, New Jersey:

As members and Ministry leaders of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Cherry Hill, NJ, we would like to send blessings and peace to you this Thanksgiving. In response to the events of the summer that you had to endure, we wanted to let you know that we have been thinking about your community.

Since late August we have been working on a congregation-wide project to amplify peace to you.

We received 1000 Origami Cranes for Peace that will soon be on display!



Communications Report

I believe this religion offers a lot towards addressing the world's problems if we can somehow spread our message.

Our two advantages are our seven principles and the inclusion and respect of all the worlds' religions. When this congregation built its first building in 1981 founding members made banners of the 5 major religions of the world to hang in our sanctuary. We brought those banners to this building but lost the original banners in the freeze of 2021. Thanks to new members Jen & Chris, they have been reconstructed, updated, and improved upon.

About 4 years ago I had the principles printed on business cards that are available in the foyer. Currently all visitors with a written name card will be given the principles. If you're having trouble explaining this religion to friends or family take a few cards home with you. We have a bottomless supply.

At the present time the first screen a visitor sees on our website is our principles. They will also see the slide "Hate cannot drive away hate; only love can do that". The website is being reviewed and updated.

These two statements will also show up on all social media accounts. Social media was a mystery to me until I realized they are all marketing platforms to spread the word. Currently we have Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube.

If you have any comments or ideas to improve our visibility in the community, please do not hesitate to talk to me.

~ Bill Daffinee.

Minister's Report (Continued)

We have a committee on ministry for me to have a feedback loop on how our ministry is going. We came together for a start-up workshop to look at what collaborative ministry means for us in the post-pandemic times. We have created a pastoral care team, different from our caring team. In light of the many challenges we have experienced, it was on my heart to build this team so that you would have pastoral care support; Particularly when I might not be available. If you find yourself going through a challenging or difficult experience, you can reach out to this team for emotional and spiritual support. The pastoral care team members are:

June Bruns, Marsha Ring and Bob Bliss. You can reach the team via email at pastoral-care@communityuuchurch.org.

We renegotiated the employment agreement with our congregational administrator, John Elder, increasing their hours to 25 hours per week to acknowledge more fully the work that goes into administration of our church. We hired our own Sexton Cas Boone and signed a contract with our editor Chris Ronin. We have hired a third nursery worker, Nosheen Jan. We are still looking for someone for AV booth.

Our worship services have been running strong and the attendance has increased slightly. Our music director has selected a wonderful choir repertoire. We have moved our online worship streaming to a different platform. We had our new member orientation sessions and celebrated our newest members. We are working toward beginning OWL at the start of next year, hoping to build our children RE program, hoping we could have some social events, where we can come together as families and be with one another and just have fun, and we are looking forward to our stewardship drive to be able to discern what other dreams we might be able to materialize next year.

Why do all these things? All of the activities and work that we are doing have a purpose. Our mission summarized is "Nourishing Spirits, Working for Justice, Transforming Lives" Our work, our finances, our actions demonstrate that we have lived up to our mission. The congregation has kept covenant by embracing one another spiritually, celebrating diversity, generously supporting the ministries of the church with time, money, and enthusiasm, and lovingly calling one another back into covenant, to understand roles, boundaries and mutual accountability.

We have persevered through crisis, handled and managed its peaks and turmoil and still got many activities going. Now we can focus on healing and allow ourselves to do the healing work. It may require working through grief, it may require rebuilding trust, it may require simply to rest and accept that taking a break is part of healing process.

Looking forward to extraordinary possibilities,
Rev. Dr. Aija Duerm

Lost & Found

If you lost it, we may have found it. You can find items turned in to the church in the northeast corner of Founders Hall in a plastic storage box on the floor.



Reports From the Fall Congregational Meeting

President's Report

Lifting Up Super Heroes Who Have Pulled Us Through Challenging Times This Year

Church Fire: When four young men visited June 26 recording conversations and speaking out in the service, worship leaders Elena Westbrook and Jeannette Baillie kept their cool and boundaries. Later in the day with the help of Mark Johnston's research they learned the intent of their visit was as social media trolls. Jeannette sent notices to those they'd recorded with best practices for avoiding engagement and closely monitored our social media accounts over the next month. John Elder posted no recording signs. We consulted with Plano PD and learned in the future those not complying with our request can be escorted off campus as trespassers.

Several weeks later when the troller's edited video was posted, Jeannette began to see hate messages on our social media sites. At 12:30 a.m. on July 23rd a fire bomb was tossed at our front entrance. John Elder and Dick Hildenbrand were alerted and quickly arrived on the scene with Plano Fire and Police. Jeannette Baillie drove to the church shortly after the incident, spoke with the first responders, and posted a press release on social media. A phone consultation with Jodie Zoeller, Dick, and John resulted in a decision to carry on with the 10:30 Poetry Service that morning by entering through a side door. Jodie worked closely with the Plano Police Dept. the Safe Congregations Committee and Rev. Aija for the next weeks while serving as our spokesperson to the media. Rev. Aija planned several support sessions for the congregation. Jodie and Kiki were in touch with the investigators over the next few weeks and set up the Plano Police security presence for Sunday mornings. John and Dick made calls to Church Mutual Insurance and researched repairs and security devices.

Security Plan: Members of the committee to create a comprehensive security plan included Dick, Mike Edgmon, and Sunil Patell working with John Elder to research our needs and available products. My role was communication with the congregation and Dallas Sai Center. Even before the event, Joyce Thompson realized there was a need for an Emergency Management Team. She recruited and organized training for volunteers, then held an evacuation drill for the congregation.

Welcoming Congregation: The UUA now requires annual Welcoming Congregation status renewal. Kiki Boyett, Pat Lander, and Ina McBride have taken on this year-long project which works LGBTQ+ topics into services, action, and activities of congregation life.

Many Thanks from Deb Bliss

When I began my term as president, I asked for your support not fully realizing the level of need. You have stepped up in so many ways:

Audrey Schaper and Julie Loehrer revived our Circle Suppers.

Justin Schaper led Adult RE classes on world religions.

Ina McBride and Betsy Friauf have joined the Worship Associates.

Anita Edgmon and Leopold Knoppe spent a weekend in Houston to train as Our Whole Lives instructors, and will teach High School OWL starting in January 2024.

Nancy Gaige now serves as our liaison with the Texas UU Justice Ministry.

Mina and Bill Daffinee, June Bruns, and Nancy Barlow have continued the tradition of hosting a new member brunch.

Dick Hildebrand has volunteered to Chair the Leadership Development Committee to recruit and educate church leaders.

We still have openings for RE teachers, choir members, ushers, and greeters. Join Barb Salvo and Donna Lane in the annual church service auction, or work with June Bruns and the Stewardship Committee this spring.

Getting involved and getting to know one another will enrich your experience as a member. It truly takes a village to keep a congregation thriving! Thank you for your support!

Reports From the Fall Congregational Meeting

Religious Education Report

The end of the semester looks much like the start. We still need more volunteers to keep programs growing. We are looking forward to the spring semester, including continued adult programming.

Thank you to Rev. Aija for her work with adult RE programming. In her report, you will find information including a possible adult OWL class, in addition to the High School OWL class, which is starting in January.

We also plan to continue to use the Soul Matters curriculum for our children's programming.

We have hired an RE Administrator, Erin Snider, and plan to leverage her time to prepare classrooms, communicate with families, help recruit volunteers, coordinate adult RE programming, and other RE administration tasks to allow for growth in all of the RE programs. Please welcome her as she starts in January.



President's Report (Continued)

Service Streaming: After experiencing multiple Sunday morning streaming problems through Zoom, Mark Johnston found a robust and reliable alternative in the free service, Discord. He tested it by running it parallel to Zoom for several months, sent out instructions to the congregation, and made the switch in December 2023.

Membership Database Service: When notice arrived that our database service was going out of business by the end of October, John Elder took the lead in researching options. Breeze was selected by a committee. Dick Hildenbrand, Gene Verinder, and John Elder are working on the switchover project with co-chairs Kiki Boyette and Mark Johnston.

Facility Insurance: Church Mutual wrote that our insurance policy would end by November 30. Steve Mason took the lead on gathering data through John Elder and Dick Hildenbrand to send out applications through several agents. We are now signed up with Scottsdale.

Communications: In an effort to fill in communication gaps Bill Daffinee saw within the congregation and wider community, he has been working with Jen Mason, Gene Verinder, Mark Johnston and media specialist Chris Ronin in creating information platforms. Bill has printed business cards with our seven principles. You'll find them on the welcome desk to share with friends. Each first-time visitor receives one. The principles are now featured on the home page of our web site.

Facilities: Several roof leaks were discovered with the recent rains. Dick Hildenbrand and John Elder were first on the scene. Mike Edgmon met to help further evaluate the situation. Bill Daffinee has contacted our roof warranty contractor, Delta-E who has the warranty for the roof. Problems we currently have are not part of the warranted work. These members have been steadfast in their commitment and service to us behind the scenes. Please thank them personally when you see them at church.

~Deb Bliss

SWUWCon24 February 9-11, 2024 "Nurturing Creative Spirit"

Join us for the SouthWest UU Women annual conference in Navasota, TX. Space is limited. Single rooms are sold out and only double rooms (with a roommate) are available. Scholarships are also available.

Register soon at: <https://swuuw.org/swuuwcon-2024/>

Workshops: <https://swuuw.org/workshops2024/>

The Keynote Speaker and Conference Musician will be:
Rev. Kiya Heartwood from UU Church of the Brazos Valley, TX



Board of Trustees

Deb Bliss serves as president. She leads the Safe Congregations Committee, acts as liaison with Dallas Sai Center, participates in faith-based leadership and security workshops through the UUA, Southern Region, Homeland Security, and the Plano Police Dept., and listens to your concerns. Her term shifts to Past President in June.

Pam Reinke-Walter serves as secretary providing minutes for board and congregational meetings. She's the one composing countless thank you notes for members' above and beyond actions.

Kiki Boyett is our new treasurer, and has a broad and detailed understanding of our finances. She leads the Finance Committee meetings and files 9 reports each month.

Vicki Verinder keeps us up to date through our Membership Committee, **Tom Bieg and Celeste Kennedy**.

Barb Salvo focuses her work on volunteer engagement. She is the one to help connect your interests and skills to a committee or project when you're ready to make a commitment of time and energy.

Bill Daffinee volunteered to complete the open term of trustee with the portfolio of communication.

Sandy Farlow uses her corporate personnel skills to search for qualified staff by promoting our open positions. She stays aware of fair employment practices promoted through the UUA.

Brennan Hadden keeps us updated on Lifespan Education programs while teaching Religious Education classes.

Jodie Zoeller serves as Past President and provides governance guidance and perspective.

Please note **President-Elect** remains open. This position will assume the presidency in 2024.



The charge to your Board of Trustees:

- represent the wishes of and communicate with the entire congregation
- act as stewards of the congregation's resources and assets
- ensure smooth administrative functions
- ensure legal and ethical integrity
- maintain accountability
- protect the spiritual, emotional, and physical health and safety of the congregation
- support our shared ministry and programs.

Other Church Business

The CUUC Board of Trustees (BoT) meets every 3rd Saturday in Founder's Hall from 10:00 AM to noon. Stop by and see what is happening.

Every month our President Deb Bliss writes a Board of Trustees Highlights that is posted on the website, and printed and placed on display on the table in front of the name tag board in the lobby.

Also, on the website and the table in front of the name tag board you will find a non-financial-person's summary of the financial conditions.

You can identify a Board of Trustees member by the blue ribbon they will have on their name tag.



Service Auction February 10th 2024

Come join us for "Warming Hearts" at our annual Service Auction on February 10, 2024. The festivities kick off at 6 pm with dinner. Start thinking now about items you can bring to the auction for everyone to bid on. Get creative with parties, social opportunities, dinners, services you can offer, meals delivered, baked goods, etc. We are also bringing back our Service Marketplace. If you need help with a task and are willing to donate a sum to CUUC for that help, a volunteer can sign up to assist you. So, save the date and come join in the fun!!

Board of Trustees Highlights December 16th, 2023



Increased Sunday presence of Board Member on Duty to two trustees present 9-1:00. Voted to discontinue Sunday morning security service January 2024.

Approved Erin Snider as Religious Education Administrator Jan. – May 2023.

Approved application for Brite Divinity student to serve as Religious Education and Social Justice Coordinator. Approved submitting an NTUUC grant to fund coordinator position.

Approved Mike Edgmon and Stan Darnell as Co-chairs of the Facilities Team.

Approved Rev. Aija as supervisor of Sexton. We are searching for a nonmember who would like 2-3 hours/wk. at \$18/hour to work on church cleaning duties with Sexton and be flexible subbing in when needed. Contact president@UUPlano.org if you know of a candidate.

Income

November income was \$4600 less than expected, with pledges only at 51% of budget. We are currently \$17,000 less than expected this fiscal year.

Expenses

Expenses were \$5000 lower than expected this month, mostly because we budgeted a Director of RE, but do not have one, resulting in \$5000 in savings for the month. Facility expenses were up, with electricity up \$500, and a termite inspection that was \$250.

Bottom Line

For this Fiscal Year (beginning in June), we are \$13,700 better than we had budgeted, ending the period at - \$29,100*.

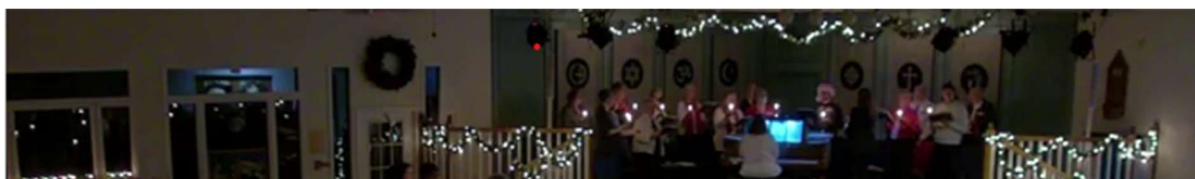
*NOTE: We budgeted to end the Fiscal Year in May of 2024 at roughly \$50,000 negative.

Move to Breeze from Vanco/Church DB

As a reminder, we have moved our membership information from Church DB to Breeze. And our online pledges from Vanco to Breeze.

Income & Expense – Nov 2023

Income	Nov Actual	Oct Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	% Annual Budget (FY 50%)
Total Offering Income	\$11,331	\$16,351	\$87,704	\$99,950	\$198,500	42.67%
Total Fund Raiser Income	\$0	\$0	\$681	\$0	\$15,000	4.55%
Total Building Usage	\$3,610	\$3,454	\$16,428	\$15,969	\$32,798	50.09%
Misc. Income	\$355	\$105	\$1,150	\$630	\$4760	24.16%
TOTAL INCOME	\$15,298	\$19,100	\$102,964	\$116,549	\$251,058	41.05%
Expenses						
Administration	\$4,009	\$4,675	\$23,077	\$24,233	\$50,598	45.61%
Programs	\$2,092	\$2,975	\$14,157	\$18,779	\$37,881	37.37%
Religious Education	\$0	\$5,221	\$490	\$34,380	\$66,697	0.73%
Facilities/Grounds	\$5,871	\$4,770	\$44,614	\$36,381	\$76,388	58.40%
Ministry	\$5,930	\$5,333	\$30,856	\$26,668	\$58,670	52.59%
Denomination	\$1,044	\$1,044	\$5,220	\$5,220	\$10,440	50.00%
Total Expense	\$18,947	\$24,021	\$118,415	\$145,663	\$300,676	39.38%
Net Income	-\$3,649	-\$4,111	-\$15,450	-\$29,114	-\$49,618	31.14%



Social Action

The purpose of the Social Action group is to promote action by congregants for various issues. These issues include:

Criminal Justice	Immigration
Economic Justice	LGBTQ+ Rights
Environmental Justice	Peace Studies
Gun Control	Protecting Democracy
Healthcare Access	Racial Justice
Public Education	Reproductive Justice

One of the previous activities for Protecting Democracy was involvement in "UU The Vote", which meant writing postcards to registered voters reminding them to vote. The list of voters was provided by the Unitarian Universalist Association. In 2023, we instigated a monthly Social Action Conversation after the service on the first Sunday of the month. Each month, a different issue and action items are discussed.

Share the plate

Social Action is responsible for the Share the Plate program which is scheduled to occur roughly every other month and invite a representative from the organization to speak to our congregation about their activities. This includes Bill Holston from Human Resources Initiative who discussed their work helping immigrants adapt to their new living environment. This includes living quarters, food, clothing and Childcare/schools. Then they provide all necessary paperwork for immigration applications, and all their services are free.

Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry TXUJMJ

The Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry is proud to be the UU State Action Network of Texas.

We are "Bending Texas Toward Justice TOGETHER."

TXUJMJ educates and organizes Texas UUs, member congregations, and partners to advocate effectively for UU principles in public policy and the public square.

Nancy Gaige is currently the CUUC representative at monthly Zoom meetings of the TXUJMJ Advisory Council. TXUJMJ also provides a monthly Zoom Action Hour with various goals such as contacting legislators on specific issues or writing to designated groups. In 2023, the organization sponsored a Legislative Action Day for UUs all over the state to meet at the capitol in Austin and visit legislators in person to discuss various issues.

Join the newsletter at TXUJMJ.org



Barron Elementary Needs

Barron Elementary has been accepting both health and school supplies from our congregation for many years. This list includes: tissues, hand wipes, and hand sanitizers (alcohol-based only) and plastic bags of various sizes.

School supplies needed include- drawing paper, notebooks, file folders, construction paper, Crayola markers, watercolors, Pencils & sharpeners, dry erase lap boards along with cleaner sets, and pens plus any other school supplies, so that teachers do not need to purchase these themselves.

These items can be placed in the Barron box in the alcove across from the Women's restroom at church or notify Anne Smith at: UUsInAction@communityuuchurch.org

Historically churches have kept member data on paper in a file locked in the minister's office.

But, now all of that data is kept on-line in the cloud provided by a vendor. Our current vendor ChurchDB is closing their business at the end of 2023.

We have found a new vendor, Breeze. Staff/volunteers have transferred all of our data to this new site. This data base will allow you to pledge online, look up other members, upload your own directory picture, RSVP to upcoming events, and set up one-time or recurring online giving via credit card or ACH bank transfers.

Please set up an account using the link to the right or the QR code below and check your information.

Thank you for your time to confirm that your personal information is correct.

Bill Daffinee
Community UU Church of Plano
Communication Director



EASY BREEZEY

Goodbye Church DB, Hello Breeze!

WHO CARES?: Everybody who uses Church DB. If you make recurring donations in the old DB system (such as Pledge Payments), you must set up new recurring donations in Breeze. If you use the CUUC website to make payments, to access the directory, forms, or official reports, you will need to create new credentials in Breeze.

WHY: ChurchDB is going out of business.

WHAT: Breeze replaces the old system and provides many new features. It integrates the directory, donation page and website security with a single log-on.

WHEN: Breeze is up and running; you can create a new ID now. You can make donations using Breeze even if you have not yet set up your ID. Use this link while we are getting the buttons on the website changed:
<https://cuucplano.breezechms.com/give/online>
Recurring Pledge Payments must be converted now to ensure continuity into 2024.

HOW: Breeze account set up:

Go to the link in this article, then click on "Create Account" at the bottom of the dialogue box.

Enter your name and the email address on record with the church. (If your email has changed, call the office to update your record.)

Be sure your password is unique (do not reuse an existing password) and strong (be sure it is hard to guess.)

WELCOME TO BREEZE!



Earthspirit:

Learn about & celebrate earth-centered holidays and traditions. People from all backgrounds, traditions, and faiths are welcome. Whether you are a practitioner of Wicca, or another tradition of the Craft, enjoy Celtic Spirituality, Women's/Goddess Spirituality, or just want to celebrate the changing seasons, you will feel comfortable with us. All of our seasonal celebrations are open to the public, including children.



Mission Statement of Earthspirit

We, the members of Earthspirit, acknowledge the power of spirit, the importance of living in harmony with Earth's cycles, and the vast resources found in the many traditions of pagan spiritual practice, do covenant and affirm our commitment to one another to work together to create and maintain a safe and loving space within which to share our spiritual quests in beloved community.

Towards this end, we commit our combined actions and resources to:

- Celebrating the practice, increasing awareness and understanding of the Pagan and Earth-centered spirituality within the Unitarian Universalist Association.
- Enabling networking among Pagan-identified Unitarian Universalists.
- Celebrating interfaith dialogue.
- Encouraging the development of theological and liturgical materials based on Pagan and Earth-centered religious and spiritual perspectives.
- Providing an opportunity for spiritual growth, exploration, and education in Pagan and Earth-centered spirituality for all practitioners.
- Encouraging creativity, unique expression, and personal interpretation within each individual's spiritual path.

CONNECTIONS: ONGOING GROUPS & EVENTS

Adult Choir – Rehearsals every Wednesday night from 7-9pm in the Sanctuary

Women's Alliance – First Sat at 10 am online; Women@UUPlano.org

Harvest Garden Social – 2nd Sat, 9:30am to 11:30 am offsite; Harvest@UUPlano.org

Women's Fellowship Breakfast 3rd Sat at 8:30am, Poor Richard's Café in Plano; womens-fellowship@UUPlano.org

Men's Fellowship Breakfast – 3rd Sat at 8:30am, Poor Richard's Café in Plano; Men@UUPlano.org

EarthSpirit – First Sun at noon in Classroom C; EarthSpirit@UUPlano.org

Metaphysical Meanderings – 2nd Sun at 2 pm, online; Meta-Meander@UUPlano.org

Bridge Players 3rd or 4th Sun at 1:30pm Bridge@UUPlano.org

HoUUse Jam – Some Mondays at 6 pm; HoUUseJam@UUPlano.org

Literary Ladies Book Group 3rd Tues at 7 pm, online; LiteraryLadies@UUPlano.org

First Friday Folksingers – First Fridays at 7 pm in Founders Hall; Folksingers@UUPlano.org

Friday Flicks – Selected Fridays at 6:30pm in Founders Hall; Flicks@UUPlano.org





North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations (NTUUC) consists of the twelve UU congregations in North Central and NE Texas. We work to support and grow our congregations, and to promote UUism.

The organization was founded in 1969 to build affordable housing using a federal program through Housing & Urban Development (HUD). Raible Place, in Irving, was the first integrated apartment complex in North Texas, and was considered HUD's ideal project; it was the reference for presentations in other cities. It had on-site healthcare and social workers, along with parenting and GED classes.

HUD approved the last project in 1974, and ended the program in the '90s. NTUUC sold Raible Place in 2002, and used the proceeds to establish an endowment which now funds our programs. We offer financial support for those wishing to attend our programs, regional and national UU conferences, and other leadership trainings; we also provide networking opportunities for congregation officers to learn from and support their counterparts.

We are rebuilding the great tradition this church has accomplished in educating children in religion the Unitarian Universalist way. Below find our history as told by founding member Nancy Barlow, our first volunteer RE Director, and the our first employed RE Director, Anne Smith:

The early history of Religious Education at UU Fellowship North is a story of commitment and perseverance beginning in early 1975 when a group of members at Richardson UU Church left to found a new congregation. Joe and Nancy Barlow, with three young children, were part of that group. Organizational meetings took place at the home of Jim and Sue Collins. Jim Collins took responsibility of organizing an RE component, identifying UUA curriculum that was suitable for our mostly young children. At the start, Nancy, Suzie Nicholson and others served as teachers. Within a few months Nancy became the RE Director and a board member. During the next few years, the Barlow's station wagon serviced as portable RE supply storage. We first met in rooms at the Marriott Hotel at Coit and LBJ. From the hotel, we moved into the Student Union building on the property of the bankrupt University of Plano. The Congregation bought a part of the property, but not the building where we were meeting. We were evicted. So, we moved again. We taught classes in the cafeteria at Aldridge Elementary School on Custer with the promise we would leave in a year or two. Needing a permanent location, the congregation chose to begin building our church home. There may have been another upheaval or so before completion and settlement, but through all those years many, many innovators and people dedicated to religious education for our children formed fond friendships and became the foundation of the community that followed. In 1980, Nancy joyfully passed RE responsibility to Anne Smith.

Chet and Anne Smith joined CUUC, then called UUFN (Unitarian Universalist Fellowship North), in the winter of 1978. They had known many of the congregation through summer camps and cluster acquaintances. In 1980 Anne agreed to be an Interim Director of Religious Education. This role involved directing the church school program, maintaining curriculum, supervising volunteer teachers, and coordinating events with other church staff. She also maintained records both registration and financial, communicated with church members and friends and served on the Religious Education Board. In 1983 Anne was selected to be the part time paid RE Director. In 1991 she left this position but later returned to co-direct the program with several different people including Courtney Holland and Robin Gary. She left this position in 2005 after many wonderful years. One memory that stands out to her is the largest number of children & youth in our RE program came to be 120 or so back in the former church building on Custer Road (half our current square footage). We are all hoping to return to some larger numbers of children & youth in the future.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) for High School Students

We will offer OWL, a comprehensive sexuality program, to High School students on Sundays after church January 21 through May 26 at 12-2pm.

For more information, please contact owl@communityuuchurch.org.



Our Whole Lives

Community Unitarian Universalist Church

A Welcoming Congregation

2875 East Parker Road, Plano, TX 75074 ■ 972.424.8989

www.CommunityUUChurch.org ■ www.UUPlano.org

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Rev. Dr Aija Duelm (She/Her) *Minister*
Minister@CommunityUUChurch.org

Deb Bliss (She/Her) *President*
President@CommunityUUChurch.org

Krista Benesch (She/Her) *Director of Music*
Musicdir@CommunityUUChurch.org

John Elder (They/Them), *Congregational Administrator*
Cuuc-office@CommunityUUChurch.org

Cas Boone (They/Them), *Sexton*
Sexton@CommunityUUChurch.org