

# FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF LUBBOCK

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION OF THE UUA



*Welcome to a Religious Home for the Liberal Spirit*

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## ⊕ The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Lubbock is a stimulating experience of religious community.

We would like you to feel at home with us. We welcome diversity and promote the full participation of all people in our activities without regard to place of national origin, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, or creed. We want you to feel welcome and join in any of our activities that interest you. Set your own pace; observe, question, and comment if you wish.

## ⊕ We Are...

...a religious community of free minds.

...a fellowship of seekers.

Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion with no creed. It advocates freedom of belief and the search for truth within the contexts of reason and responsibility. We of the fellowship avow the use of conscience, the democratic process, justice and compassion in a never ending search for truth. We affirm the worth and dignity of every human being and encourage the personal growth of all friends and members.

...a different kind of church.

Being a Unitarian Universalist means taking personal responsibility for your own religious and spiritual life. No one will try to remake you religiously. We won't offer you "final and absolute truths" or rigid dogma. Instead, we provide a stimulating and congenial atmosphere in which you may seek answers...in which you are free to discover the best that is in you.

## ⊕ Our Church Is...

**A vibrant, growing, caring, and welcoming church.** The First UU Church of Lubbock is one of more than 1,200 UU congregations

worldwide. Our faith has a rich heritage that dates back over 400 years to the Reformation. In 1961 the Unitarian and Universalist denominations merged, recognizing their shared liberal religious philosophies. We are members of the national Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and the Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference.

The First UU Church of Lubbock traces its origins back to 1950 and became a member of the UUA on May 5, 1954. Our first permanent home was a small building on 36<sup>th</sup> and Avenue U. In 1979 we moved to our present location and are proud to own this building debt free.

In October 2004 our church celebrated 50 years as a liberal religious congregation in Lubbock, Texas. We continue as an active participant in the local community and enrichment of members and friends lives.

## ⊕ We are a Welcoming Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

A Welcoming Congregation is one that commits to being inclusive and expressive of the concerns of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons at every level of congregational life—in worship, in programs, and in social occasions—welcoming not only their presence, but also the unique gifts and particularities of their lives as well.

Citing the principles of our UU faith, especially our affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of every person, the 1989 General Assembly of the UUA, voted to initiate the Welcoming Congregation program. Shortly thereafter the UUA Office of GBLT Concerns was established to administer the program and provide information and resources for congregations.

The First UU Church of Lubbock conducted a year long program of workshops, services, and educational programs designed to heighten our awareness of issues and appreciation of the lives of GBLT people. In May 2008, the members of our congregation voted

unanimously to become a Welcoming Congregation. We are proud to have committed to this living tradition in our church.

## ⊕ Who runs the First UU Church of Lubbock?

**We do!** And you are welcome to join us. Our church is thoroughly democratic, governed by its members. All important matters of church policy are decided by a vote of the members at the annual meeting.

We are a lay led congregation. All of our programs are organized and carried out by the Board of Trustees, various committees, members, and friends. The work of the church is supported by pledges and contributions from both members and friends and generous donations of time.

## ⊕ How can you get involved?

**Worship, Study, and Service** are central to our religious faith. We come together in many ways to offer mutual support on our journeys. We welcome you to join in any or all activities that we offer.

- Coffee and conversation happens every Sunday before religious education classes and before worship service
- We build community through our classes and groups. Adult and children's religious education is held at 10 am and include Intersections and Forum for youth and adults and Spirit Play for children.
- We worship each Sunday at 11 am as a way to nourish our minds and hearts through reflection, through the connection with one another and through our reverence for the mystery and beauty of life.
- We hold a potluck on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.
- Throughout the year we have social activities, nature hikes, and camping.
- We participate in community groups like the West Texas Organizing Strategy, Lubbock Interfaith Fellowship for Equality, the Interfaith Ecumenical Group, and the Interfaith Dialog

## ⊕ If you want to know more...

- Stop at the Welcome Table following a Sunday service
- Call the church office at (806) 799-1617
- Email us at [firstuu@nts-online.net](mailto:firstuu@nts-online.net)
- Visit our webpage at <http://pages.suddenlink.net/uulubbock/>
- Talk to any of us

## ⊕ We would especially like to ...

- Mail you our bi-weekly newsletter (leave your contact details in the guest book, email, or phone the church)
- Visit with you after the service in the Fellowship Hall
- See you at any of the church social, study or worship activities.

## We the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

## The living tradition we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed by all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life.
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves.
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science and warn us of the idolatries of mind and spirit.
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered religions, which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



The chalice symbolizes the warmth of our community and the light that comes with pursuit of truth and meaning. When we light the chalice in our worship service it symbolizes our many lights forming one flame.