

From our Associate Minister, Rev. Aaron White

This is a big moment in the life of our church. Many of you joined us this past weekend as we threw a party to launch our Love First campaign. Over 600 of you celebrated what our church has been able to accomplish thus far and what is coming in the next chapter of our lives together. The Love First campaign is how we will fund the vision that our congregation has come up with over the past two years, and it is a big vision!

In many group sessions, focus groups, and one-on-one conversations, church members said that they loved this place and wanted it to be more visible, welcoming, and impactful for others. Your feedback and hopes informed a strategic plan that is, without a doubt, ambitious. Our church signed off on a vision that says this:

- (1) **We will get rid of our debt** so we can focus on ministry right now.
- (2) **We want to make sure we have facilities which are flexible** and big enough to host the needed work of progressive organizing here in Dallas.
- (3) **We want to educate young children in our faith values** of inclusivity and justice each day at church.
- (4) **We want to expand our reach** to thousands more people online.
- (5) **And, we want to use our strengths in comprehensive sexuality education and advocacy for women** to tackle issues that face our neighbors in this community.

We are calling this campaign, Love First: Deep in the Heart of Dallas, because you as a church have asked this congregation to step up once again and act on our primary spiritual and ethical value: Love. You've asked us to put Love First when we educate, gather, and share our faith with others.

And here's the really good news: We have already raised over \$6,020,300 before the campaign even officially launched! We are over halfway to our goal. Now we know that we can do this, but we can't do it without each and every one of you.

Personally, I'm excited to be a part of this campaign, because I know that decades from now, I will get to look at this strong, vibrant congregation and know that during a difficult time in our society, we doubled down on our progressive values. I'll know that we planted our roots deeper and raised our lamp higher in our city in a way that will affect generations of people here and beyond. I will be able to see tangible results of my donations and know that this place, and this city, is better off for it. I hope you join me in this effort, because it really will be amazing to look out on a better community and know you played a part in it. When we are an even more vibrant center for progressive values in the city, it will be because of you. When we are known far and wide for our values, it will be because of you. When children are nurtured in a place that teaches them justice and inclusion, and when young girls in this city avoid the cycles of teen pregnancy and poverty through education we helped promote, it will be because of you.

What a great time to support a progressive place that transforms lives. What a great time to double down on our values and keep this place strong for generations to come. What a great time to put Love First: Deep in the Heart of Dallas!

In faith,

Aaron



coming up this month . . .

WEDNESDAY, FEB 1

Navigating Grief begins, 7 PM, Room 305

THURSDAY, FEB 2

Gentle Yoga, 9:30–10:30 AM, Room 305 (meets weekly)

UU Playtime Group, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Nursery (meets weekly)

SATURDAY, FEB 4

Love First Campaign Kickoff Party, 6–9 PM, Dallas Arboretum

MONDAY, FEB 6

Mindfulness Meditation, 6:30–7:30 PM, Raible Chapel (meets weekly)

TUESDAY, FEB 7

Women’s Day Alliance Meeting & Lunch, 10:30 AM, Raible Chapel and Channing Hall

THURSDAY, FEB 9

Men’s Discussion Group, 12 PM, Room 303

SATURDAY, FEB 11

EAT Dinner Group, 5 PM, Channing Hall

SUNDAY, FEB 12

Film: From Selma to Stonewall, 5 PM, The Texas Theater (sponsored by Interweave & NTUUC)

TUESDAY, FEB 14

Women’s Evening Alliance, 6 PM, Channing Hall (contact: paularose2000@hotmail.com)

WEDNESDAY, FEB 15

Roots Class with Rev. White, 7 PM, Room 304 (register at dallasuu.org)

SATURDAY, FEB 18

Volunteer at North Texas Food Bank, 12:45 – 3:30 PM (contact: susan.thrower@gmail.com)

SUNDAY, FEB 19

Blood Drive, 8:30 AM–2:30 PM, Preston Patio (contact: smisk@verizon.net)

Pints & Ponderings Game Night, 4 PM–6 PM, Parlor (for young adults in their 20s & 30s)

TUESDAY, FEB 21

Women’s Day Alliance Friendship Group, 11 AM, Channing Hall (more at wdauu.org)

SUNDAY, FEB 26

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), 6–8 PM, Sanctuary

TUESDAY, FEB 28

Movie Matinee (more info at wdauu.org, or contact smisk@verizon.net)

— For more information about church programs and events, visit dallasuu.org or call 214-528-3990. —

SUNDAY MORNING

Worship at 10:00 and 11:30 AM

- Feb 5:** Dr. Kanter “Inherently Good”
Music: Kindred Voices
- Feb 12:** Rev. White “What We Aren’t Allowed to Love”
Music: Sanctuary Choir
- Feb 19:** Dr. Kanter “Trust Me?”
Music: Flutist Don Bailey
- Feb 26:** Rev. Dana “Humility and Humor”
Music: To be announced

SUNDAY MORNING

Classes for Adults

- **9:00 AM**
Sunday Morning Meditation, Room 302
- **10:00 AM**
Spiritual Practice 101, Room 301
UU Learning Community: Why Liberals Win, Room 305
- **11:30 AM**
Inquirers’ Series, Church Parlor
Adult Discussion Group, Room 304
Young Adults: Virtue Ethics, Room 302