



Newsletter - December 30, 2016

Welcome to the Amarillo Unitarian Universalist Fellowship!

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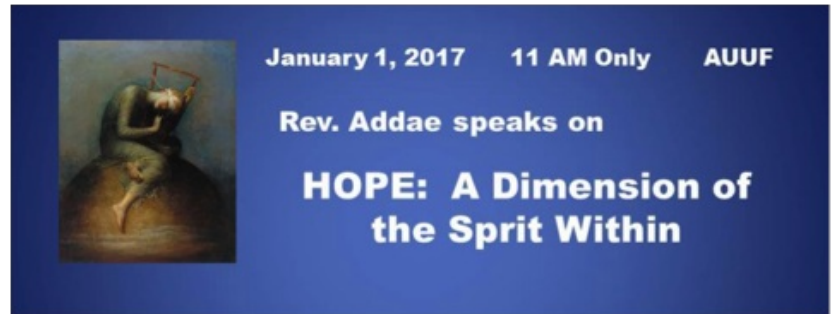
[Rev. Addae's Recommended Books](#)

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- [Did You Bring Joy? Did You Find Joy?](#) by Rev. Addae Ama Kraba - December 11, 2016
- [In Gratitude](#) by Rev. Addae Ama Kraba - November 13, 2016
- [Our Beloved Community -Our Future](#) by Minnie Venable - October 23, 2016

Sunday Worship - 9:30 & 11 AM



January 1, 2017 **11 AM ONLY**

Rev. Addae speaks on **HOPE: A Dimension of the Spirit Within**. There is risk in vulnerability, but living an inauthentic life without hope for love and light deadens our spirit. When we are fully living, we are transformed. **This Sunday there will be no 9:30 AM service.**



January 8, 2017

Rev. Addae speaks on **Forgiving and Letting Go**. If we are committed to spiritual growth, taking initiative to engage in self-examination helps us turn toward right relationship with ourselves, with our community and the world.



January 15, 2017

David Lovejoy speaks on **The New Civil Rights Movement**.

Upcoming Events:

State of the Fellowship



Sunday, January 1, 11 AM service only
After Rev. Addae's sermon and the offering collection, Bruce Fielder will present the State of the Fellowship.

**Rev. Addae
Office Hours
10 AM – 2 PM
Tues. & Thurs.**

Rev. Addae Kraba holds office hours in the Fellowship on Tuesday and Thursday each week from 10 AM to 2 PM, or by appointment if necessary. Home visits are made upon request.

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Children's Religious Education Update

Our Children's Religious Education program is divided into two groups by age. In CRE, which meets each Sunday at 11 AM, we challenge our children with interactive studies about religion and science. The nursery group topics change according to individuals who attend and cannot be listed in advance, but they fall under the curriculum **Tapestry of Faith**.



For the next 2-3 months elementary students will be working from **Tapestry of Faith** an intergenerational curriculum. All 8 sections are called "Mirades." They will also do special classes for each of the upcoming holidays. Children's RE has its own Facebook page with more specific topics and activities outlined. See their page at [AUUF Children's RE News](#).

Contact: **Lydia Miller**, Coordinator of Children's RE

Happy New Year!



January (derived from Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and endings) celebrates its



Please join us at **10 AM** each Sunday. All are welcome. No advance reading is necessary and no test will be given.

We have begun a series on **Archaeology: An Introduction to the World's Greatest Sites**. We have elected to alternate the series with one entitled **Emerson, Thoreau, and the Transcendentalist Movement**.

Jan. 1: Emerson, Thoreau, et al.: Lecture 5

Jan. 8: Archeology: Lecture 6

Jan. 15: Emerson, Thoreau, et al.: Lecture 6

Jan. 22: Archeology: Lecture 7

Jan. 29: Emerson, Thoreau, et al.: Lecture 7

Contact: **John Gay**

Monthly Potluck Lunch



Sunday, January 1, After 11 AM Service
Bring your potluck dishes and join other members of the congregation to share in the camaraderie and dining pleasures this first Sunday in **January** in Chandler Hall. If you don't have a dish to bring, join us anyway for good food and great friendships.

Contact: **Rosemarie & Bill Kirkland**

Yoga Classes Begin January 2



Monday, January 2, 5:30-6:30 PM
Maggie Taylor begins yoga classes starting January 2 with regular hour-long sessions each Monday and Wednesday at 5:30 PM at the Fellowship with a fee of \$8 per person/session.

Insights at Standing Rock, N.D.



Thursday, January 5, 6:30 PM
Amanda Ramsey reports to the Fellowship on her trip to Standing Rock, North Dakota.

Meet the Artist: James Lee Baker



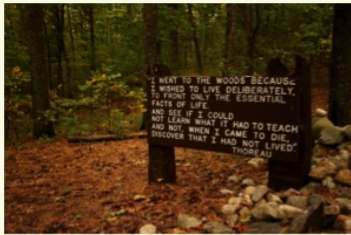
Tuesday, January 10, 7:00 PM
On January 10 Meet the Artist presents James Lee Baker, songwriter and performer, at the Amosville Unitarian



endings) celebrates its birthstone (garnet) and flower (carnation) as well as its fruits and veggies, including tangerines, dried

cranberries, sun dried tomatoes, raisins, yucca root, jicama, taro root, and water chestnut. Observances this month include National Mentoring Month, National Glaucoma Awareness, Cervical Health Awareness, National Blood Donor Month, and Birth Defects Prevention Month. This is also a month of events, including the Pasadena Rose Parade, Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, Golden Globe Awards, and U. S. Presidential Inauguration. January 20 is also the beginning of the sign of Aquarius, the Water-Bearer.

Just Saying



"All memorable events, I should say, transpire in morning time and in a morning atmosphere. The Vedas say, 'All intelligences awake with the

morning.' Poetry and art, and the fairest and most memorable of the actions of men, date from such an hour. All poets and heroes, like Memnon, are the children of Aurora, and emit their music at sunrise. To him whose elastic and vigorous thought keeps pace with the sun, the day is a perpetual morning. It matters not what the clocks say or the attitudes and labors of men. Morning is when I am awake and there is a dawn in me. Moral reform is the effort to throw off sleep. Why is it that men give so poor an account of their day if they have not been slumbering? They are not such poor calculators. If they had not been overcome with drowsiness, they would have performed something. The millions are awake enough for physical labor; but only one in a million is awake enough for effective intellectual exertion, only one in a hundred millions to a poetic or divine life. To be awake is to be alive. I have never yet met a man who was quite awake. How could I have looked him in the face?

"We must learn to reawaken and keep ourselves awake, not by mechanical aids, but by an infinite expectation of the dawn, which does not forsake us in our soundest sleep. . . . It is something to be able to paint a particular picture, or to carve a state, and so to make a few objects beautiful; but it is far more glorious to carve and paint the very atmosphere and medium through which we look, which morally we can do. To affect the quality of the day, that is the highest of arts. . . . I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear, nor did I wish to practice resignation, unless it was quite necessary."

—Henry David Thoreau, **Walden**.

The Second Coming



performer, at the Amarillo Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (4901 Cornell St.) at 7 PM. Refreshments will be provided and the concert is open to the public free of charge.

Originally from Amarillo, James Lee Baker began his songwriting endeavors at 17-years-old. He has since produced three full-length albums and two EPs, performed in well-known venues such as the Whisky a Go Go in Los Angeles, won several songwriting contests, and has been mentioned as a commercially viable artist by the Nashville Songwriters Association International.

Currently, he is in the process of writing and recording an upcoming project expected for release in late spring 2017.

Meet the Artist will have programs on March 14, June 13, and September 12 of 2017 rather than monthly programs. Ideas for presenters are always welcomed.

Contact: **Pam Mayes** 352-0942, **April Myers** at office@uamarillo.org, or **Ann Hicks** at annhicks@suddenlink.net.

Family Game Night



Friday, January 13

The Family Game Night for January 13, 2017, is being **cancelled**. Many who normally attend expressed their opinion that they've been so busy in December that they'd rather skip the January gathering and reconvene in February. So watch this space in late January for details about the February Family Fun Night. For information, contact [Janda Raker](mailto:Janda.Raker@uamarillo.org).

NAACP/Community Relations Committee



January 14, 2017, 10-11 AM, Southwest Branch Public Library

I want to give you advance notice of the next Community Relations Committee meeting that will be held on January 14, 2017, at the Southwest Branch Public Library, 6801 SW 45th.

Our speaker will be Ed Drain, Chief of Police for the city of Amarillo. Chief Drain will talk about his past experiences, his vision for the future, changes he has made in the police department, and long and short term goals. He will also answer questions you may have. Because of a hip injury in October I probably will not be at the meeting but Alan Abraham has graciously consented to act in my place.

I also want to inform you that this will be our last meeting. I very much appreciate all of the participation and support you have given me. Unfortunately I keep getting older and my body keeps telling me that I must slow down. I have enjoyed chairing this committee and if any of you wishes to take it over I can send you the listserve and be a consultant whenever necessary.

Once again, thank you to all of you. Have a wonderful Christmas and a safe New Year.

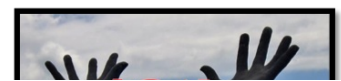
I'll be sending another notice of the meeting in January.

Contact: **Myrna Raffkind**

13th - A Documentary Film

Saturday, January 14, 7:00 PM

The film is about the 13th Amendment, which

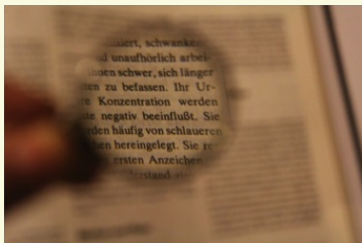




Turning and turning in the widening gyre
 The Falcon cannot hear the falconer;
 Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
 Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
 The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
 The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
 The best lack all conviction, while the worst
 Are full of passionate intensity.

Surely some revelation is at hand;
 Surely the Second Coming is at hand.
 The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out
 When a vast image out of Spiritus Mundi
 Troubles my sight; somewhere in sands of the desert
 A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
 A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,
 Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
 Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.
 The darkness drops again; but now I know
 That twenty centuries of stony sleep
 Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
 And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
 Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?
 —W. B. Yeats
 (published in The Dial in 1919, foretelling the
 totalitarianism of WWII)

Newsletter Print is Too Small?



No, you do not need to use a magnifying glass on your computer screen. If the newsletter appears as a band down the center of your monitor, you can zoom in to

make the newsletter as large as the screen itself. Just click on the little cogwheel, the settings icon, on the far right top corner of the newsletter frame. You can zoom to 150% or even 175% of normal (100%). The letters and photos will be larger and more readable. However, when you are finished reading the newsletter in this grandiose imagery, be sure to go back to the settings icon to return to 100% or subsequent pages will be too big to fit on your monitor. Now isn't that easier than locating a magnifying glass?

Newsletter and Website Submissions



As always, we are eager to publish information regarding committees, boards, Adult RE, CRE, events, and services, but we need your help.

abolished slavery, and today's mass incarceration, which is in itself a form of slavery. A discussion on the criminal justice system follows the film. A **New York Times** review is available [here](#).



Martin Luther King, Jr., March



Monday, January 16, 9:00 AM, MLK Park

People will begin gathering at 9:00 AM at MLK Park (on Amarillo Blvd. about 3 blocks west of N. Hughes St.). The march will begin from there at 10:00 AM and end at 11:00 AM at the Potter County Courthouse. Following the march, there will be several community speakers talking at the courthouse lawn. Transportation will be provided for those who are unable to walk the distance. Chairs will be available at the courthouse to sit in while listening to the speakers. We encourage as many UUs as are capable to join in the march this year. **Mark your calendar NOW!**

MSC Update



The Ministerial Search Committee is anxiously looking forward to Monday, January 2, when we will first get to see the list of UU ministers who might be interested in serving as our next full-time minister. The

Search Committee will spend the next week examining the Ministerial Records of each one, deciding who we want to consider more closely, then will begin scheduling interviews with them via conference call, Skype or FaceTime. The next three weeks will be a tremendously exciting time for our Fellowship. The congregation will be kept apprised of how many ministers are on our lists, but NOT the names of those ministers, in order to maintain confidentiality. Some of those ministers may not have yet informed their own congregations that they are searching for a new position or may also be considering positions with congregations other than ours. As the Search Committee continues to make progress, our members will be kept informed as fully as possible, within the confidentiality guidelines.

In addition, the Search Committee will provide every interested minister the password for our Ministerial Packet, which contains additional information about our Fellowship and about Amarillo. At the worship service on New Year's Day, the entire congregation will be provided the password enabling them to access that Ministerial Packet. Nina Stein has devoted innumerable hours to compiling this information and putting it into a useable format. The link to the Ministerial Packet is on our Fellowship website at uamarillo.org.

Contact: **Larry Campbell, MSC Secretary**

Protecting Our Communities



It's time to stand up for our values and our communities and to draw a line in the sand. Last week UUA President Rev. Peter Morales [issued a call](#) to all clergy to prepare to provide sanctuary and to resist. A broad

The website and Facebook page can be

updated daily, but the newsletter cannot. New information needs to be submitted (submissions@uuamarillo.org) by noon Wednesday if you want it to appear in the Friday morning newsletter. If you need an event placed on the website calendar, you may submit that request with description, image (or we can provide one), starting and approximate ending time, specific location, date (or dates for a recurring event), and name of contact person. Help us help you get your message out in a timely manner.

PLEASE, EVERYONE CAN MAKE ALL THESE COMMUNICATIONS MORE EFFECTIVE BY READING THEM EACH WEEK--ESPECIALLY THE WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER!

Welcome

We invite you to explore our Fellowship, a place of belonging where you are welcome regardless of who you are, what you believe, your background, or whom you love.

Worship

Join us every Sunday at 4901 Cornell St. for either the 9:30 or 11 AM service.

Childcare is provided during both services; school-age Children's Religious Education is provided during the 11 AM service only.

With welcoming arms for all,
The AUUF Beloved Community

Our Mission

To be an inclusive progressive community for spiritual, intellectual and social transformation.

Our Vision

A world without borders where all are valued and supported.

In addition to the events described in this newsletter, you can find a complete listing by clicking on the [Calendar](#) icon above.

Want more detail? Check both the News and the Events sections of our website, uuamarillo.org Also on our website, you can learn more about our Fellowship and our faith, Unitarian Universalism.

All events are held at the Fellowship, 4901 Cornell St., unless otherwise noted.

If you are unsure how to reach any of the individuals



coalition that includes United We Dream, National Domestic Workers Alliance, Center for Community Change, FIRM, SEIU and others has come

together to take coordinated action on Saturday, January 14th in support of undocumented immigrants, refugees, Muslims and all who have been targeted by the incoming Trump administration. The UUA is partnering with this effort.

Around the country, marches, rallies, and events will be held calling for the protection and defense of our communities. The voices of those most impacted will be centered with faith communities and local leaders and organizations joining in solidarity. In sanctuary cities we will be calling on elected officials to stand with us and to stay firm in their commitments and to expand sanctuary to include all who need it. And in cities and towns that are not yet sanctuaries we will be calling them to join the movement. We will also be supporting sanctuary congregations, schools, and community centers.

You can find an event near you [here](#) (and keep checking as events are being added daily).

You can also sign up to host an event and receive a toolkit and an invitation to organizing calls [here](#).

Susan Leslie
Congregational Advocacy & Witness Director
UUA Multicultural Growth & Witness

Heart to Heart



The Bridge to Acceptance Happy New Year!

Whenever we do something in life with an expectation of how we'd like it to turn out, we risk experiencing disappointment. When things don't go the way, we had envisioned, we may feel a range of emotions from slightly let down to depressed or even angry. We might direct our feelings inward toward ourselves, or outward toward other people or the universe in general. Whether we feel disappointed by ourselves, a friend, or life in general, disappointment is always a tough feeling to experience. Still, it is a natural part of life, and there are many ways of dealing with it when we find ourselves in its presence. As with any feeling, disappointment has come to us for a reason, and we don't need to fear acknowledging it or feeling it. The more we're able to accept how we're feeling and process it, the sooner we'll move into new emotional territory. As we sit and allow ourselves to feel the disappointment, we might want to write about the experience of being disappointed in the situation that preceded it, acknowledging what we were hoping would happen, and what happened. The gift of disappointment is its ability to bring us into alignment with reality so that we don't get stuck for too long in the realm of how things might have been. As we consider other disappointments in our life and how we have moved past them, we may even see that in some cases what happened was better in the long run than what we had wanted to happen. Disappointment often leaves us feeling deflated with its message that things don't always turn out the way we want. However, the gift of disappointment is to bring us into reality so we don't get stuck in the realm of how things might have been.

It provides us a bridge to its other side where the acceptance of reality, wisdom, and the energy to begin again can be found. Welcome to 2017, a new year with a new beginning!

From my Heart to Yours,

Rev. Addae Ama Kraba



If you are unsure how to reach any of the individuals named as contacts, please email the [AUUF office](#) or call our Office Administrator, April Myers, at 806.355.9351 and leave a message. She will return your call during her office hours, which are Tuesday - Friday from 9 AM to noon.



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BELIEVE IN GOOD.

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