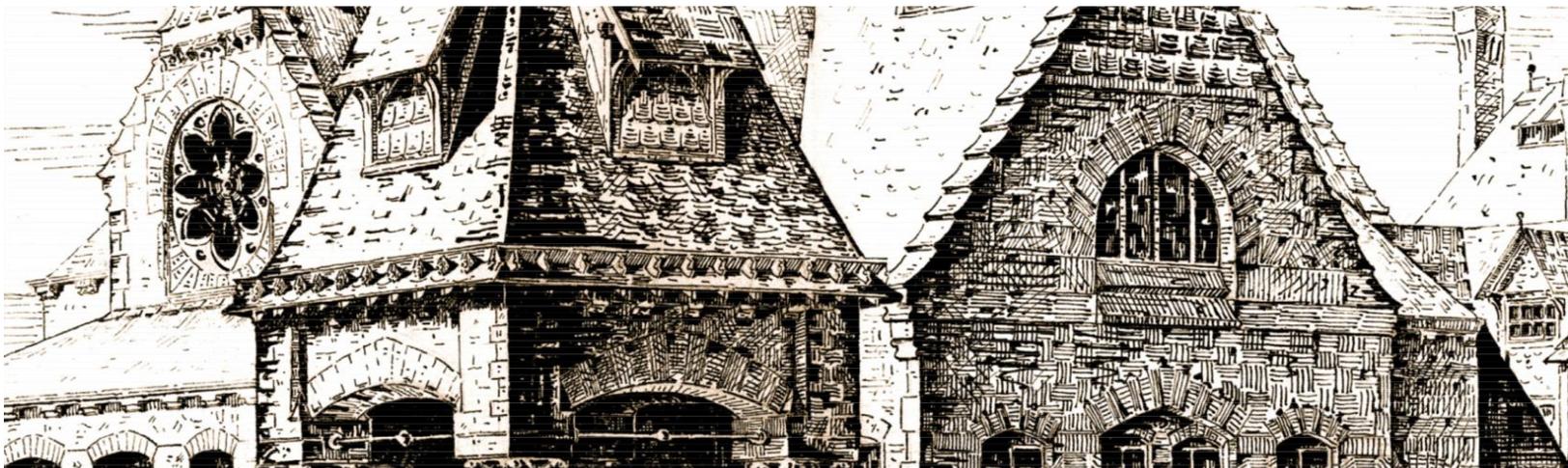


The Beacon

The Monthly Newsletter of the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia

March 2017



March Worship Services

Evening Vespers

Wednesday, March 1, 7:00 PM, Sanctuary

Led by: Reverend Abbey Tennis

Join us for our monthly contemplative evening worship services, a time to rest from the demands of the world and immerse ourselves in the beauty of singing meditation and a candlelit Sanctuary. Feel free to join us at 6:00 PM with your voice or an instrument for a drop-in musical rehearsal prior to the service. Volunteers are needed to help set up, usher and clean up, and to help vision and build this new ministry of the church. Interested? Email minister@philauu.org.

Already Worthy

Sunday, March 5, 11:00 AM, Sanctuary

Led by: Rev. Abbey Tennis

In our “self-improvement” culture, so many of us are constantly trying to make ourselves ‘better’ than we are. Yet some days, “trying to become better” can feel more like “still not good enough.” How do we connect to our own inherent worth when the uncertainties around us and the insecurities within us leave us feeling inadequate?

The Grace of Listening

Sunday, March 12, 11:00 AM, Sanctuary

Led by: David Dubbeldam

The art of listening is an act of grace. It has the potential and the power to open hearts and minds.

David Dubbeldam is a Ministerial Candidate on the path to becoming a UU chaplain. Since arriving in Philadelphia 11 years ago, David has completed a B.A. in Religious Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, a M.Div. at the Lancaster Theological Seminary, and extensive chaplaincy training at both Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. David is a member of the UU Church of the Restoration in Mt. Airy.

The Armful

Sunday, March 19, 11:00 AM, Sanctuary

Led by: Reverend Abbey Tennis

As Americans, we are often tempted to pile more and more onto our plates until either we, or our lives, falls apart. How might we cope with a culture that makes stress a competition and rewards overwhelm? How do we find balance again?

Carbonated Holiness

Sunday, March 26, 11:00 AM, Sanctuary

Led by: Connie Simon

Author Anne Lamont says “laughter is carbonated holiness.” It can be hard to find laughter in the midst of uncertainty and injustice. When we do, we also find that which is holy. Connie Simon reflects on ways to reclaim our joy – our “fizz” - in these challenging times. Connie Simon has been a member of First Unitarian since 2009. She is a second year seminarian at Meadville Lombard

Theological School and Intern Minister at the Unitarian Society of Germantown.

Welcome Newcomers!

Welcome to the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia! We are an intentionally diverse religious community inspired by our historic urban ministry: we seek to be guided by the wisdom and experience of people of all genders, theologies, ages, abilities, colors, classes, and sexual orientations. We aim “to lead meaningful lives, to love one another without prejudice, and to build a just and sustainable world.” If this congregation has become a religious home for you, we encourage you to become a member. We invite you to join us as we move into our third century as a center of liberal religious thought and action in Philadelphia.

Let's Be in Touch!

Following each Sunday Service, we invite newcomers to join us during the Coffee Hour in our Parish Room for refreshments and conversation. While there, please fill out a Visitors' Form so we can keep in touch.

Membership

Have you been attending Services regularly and find yourself in sympathy with the Principles of Unitarian Universalism and the goals of this congregation?

- Do you feel "at home" here with this group of people and wish to deepen your connections to them?
- Do you want to keep growing spiritually and intellectually—expanding your heart and mind?
- Would you like to find ways to offer service to the larger community and work to make the world a better place?

If you respond positively to these questions, we invite you to consider joining as a Member! First Unitarian Universalist Church is happy to have visitors and friends as part of our community, but our congregation really comes alive through the commitment of our Members.

Please contact the Membership Ministry Team membership@philauu.org for more information!

Membership

To become a member of the First Unitarian Church, you must be 18 years of age and have attended one of our UU & You orientation sessions (see below), or met with the minister in a scheduled appointment or belonged to a UU church elsewhere. Members are expected to take part in our congregational activities and to make a financial contribution according to their means. If you wish to join, contact membership@philauu.org.

UU & You

Sunday, March 5, following the worship service, Sanctuary

Sunday, April 2, following the worship service, Sanctuary

Come to an informal informational gathering - UU & You - especially designed for those who want to know more about us and our liberal religious movement! This roughly hour-long get-together offers attendees an opportunity to get to know one another and this congregation better, and includes a quick tour of Unitarian Universalist history and the story of this congregation. Contact the Membership Ministry Team (membership@philauu.org) for more information.

Pathways to Membership at First Unitarian Church

Wednesday, March 8 6:00-8:00 PM

Have you attended a UU & You meeting and are considering joining First Unitarian Church? Come join us for a more in-depth "Pathways" class! We will get to know other newcomers, discuss our spiritual paths and the meaning of membership, and learn more about the history and vision of this congregation and faith. Contact Rev. Abbey with any questions (minister@philauu.org).

New Member Welcoming Ceremony

Sunday, March 19, during the worship service

Have you been considering membership at First Unitarian Church? If you have attended a UU & You and Pathways to Membership meeting, and have made your intention known to Rev. Abbey, you can be formally recognized as a new member of our congregation during this ceremony. More information is available through our Membership Ministry Team and Rev. Abbey.

Board Meeting Schedule

In all cases, meetings will begin at 6:30 PM at the Church

- Wednesday, March 15
- Wednesday, April 12
- Wednesday, May 10
- Wednesday, June 21

Caring Ministry

A member of our Congregation is experiencing a serious health issue and would greatly appreciate a weekly meal delivery and a weekly fruit delivery for her family of five. Volunteers are needed to bring one meal to the family during a chosen week. If you are interested and would like more information regarding this congregational act of caring and generosity, please contact Cameron (cameron23joel@gmail.com)!

Upcoming Events & Programs

100 Days of Action: Join Our Huddle

Sundays, following services

The organizers of the Women's March have launched a new initiative to support action on the issues that we all care about. The second action is to have a "huddle," or a gathering to share thoughts and brainstorm political action. We hope to see you there! More information about the 100 Days of Action initiative can be found online. (<https://www.womensmarch.com/100/action2>)

Questions regarding First Unitarian's involvement can be directed to Adrienne Prettyman and Monique Scott. (adrienne.prettyman@gmail.com / scott.monique@gmail.com)

Property Working Group Meeting

Monday, March 6, 7:00 PM, Church Offices

The PWG assists the Board in matters pertaining to our historic Frank Furness building and its contents. We meet monthly to collaborate with the Building

Superintendent and the Building Administrator in the care of our beautiful church home. Meetings are usually the first Monday of the month and alternate between morning and evening. We are always looking for additional group members and volunteers. For last minute meeting changes/announcements, visit us on facebook at <http://tinyurl.com/philauupwg> and click on Events.

Women's Book Club

Open to all women to join in discussion of previously chosen books held in members homes on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 PM for hospitality and 8:00 PM for facilitated discussion. A response to the hostess is needed to reserve your place and to get directions. Contact coordinator Ginny Beier (215-545-7831) for info.

- Monday, March 6, 7:30 PM "Vanessa and Her Sister" by Priya Parmar. Facilitated by Christine Carlson in the home of Martha Copithorne. Please confirm your attendance with Martha and to get directions at mwcopi@gmail.com or 1-315-751-2124

Small Group Ministry

Monthly, Second Sundays, March 12, 9:30 AM, Parish Room

Small group ministries are now up and running. In these facilitated groups, participants agree to engage with support rather than debate, to speak from the heart as well as the intellect, and to care for each other by keeping personal matters confidential and following up in ways that are comfortable. Groups gather to build trust, not to carry out tasks.

If you are curious about small group ministry, consider attending a drop-in session that will meet the second Sunday of each month in the Parish Room at 9:30 AM. We will meet for about an hour, and the topic for March 12th will be Grace. To enter the church, go to the side entrance and press the buzzer on the top left and someone will let you in. If you have any questions, contact Nancy Pasquier at ndpasquier@verizon.net.

Monthly Guided Meditation

Various Upcoming Sundays, 10:15 -10:45 AM, Chapel

The Adult Spiritual Development group is sponsoring monthly half hour guided meditations in the chapel. The meditations will occur on **March 19th, April 23rd, and May 21st** from 10:15 to 10:45 am. Ed

Greenlee, who is enrolled in the teaching certificate program with the Penn Center for Mindfulness, will lead these sessions. Beginners and experienced meditators are welcome.

Architectural Tours of First Church

Fourth Sundays of the Month

Sunday, March 26, following services, Sanctuary

Are you curious about the history of our First Unitarian Church Building? Join an informal tour designed to give you an understanding of the architecture and decoration of the church, designed in 1883 by Frank Furness. This 30-45 minute guided tour (which usually happens on the fourth Sunday of the month) takes you to all parts of our great historic building. All are welcome. Meet tour guide Richard Frey or Dane Wells after the Sunday service, at the bust of Joseph Priestley, on the west wall near the organ.

Social Justice Ministry Team

Social Justice Ministry Retreat

Saturday, March 4th, 1:00-4:00 PM, Parish Room

All are invited to join this retreat where we will ground ourselves spiritually in the world of justice-making, brush up on our skills in congregation-based justice organizing, and work together to build issue-oriented teams and develop our priorities for the next few months of justice work here at First Unitarian Church. If you have been doing justice work for a long time here, join us for new inspiration and new colleagues in the work! If you have just started coming here but have a good idea, join us and find others who will work with you! If you want to be involved, but don't know how yet, join us and learn more about what you can do to help transform the world! RSVPs are helpful for our planning, but all are welcome. Questions and RSVPs to Ed at edwin.greenlee@gmail.com.

Letter Writing with DecarceratePA

Fourth Saturdays, Saturday, March 25, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM, ICJ Office 1207 Chestnut St., Phila, PA

Every month DecarceratePA receives hundreds of letters from prisoners across the state with requests for information, submissions to the newsletter and

website, and contributions to developing our organizing strategies. This is a great opportunity for people who are interested in Decarcerate PA's work to learn more about their campaigns, as well as help do the powerful movement building work of connecting with our comrades on the inside.

Film Showing: The Pull of Gravity

Wednesday, March 22, 7:00 PM, Sanctuary

Join us for a screening of a documentary about returning citizens filmed in Philadelphia.

Kev, El and Andy are three men united by one struggle: they are trying to defy gravity. As part of the 700,000 prisoners released into society every year, they find themselves faced with a chilling outlook: 67% of ex-offenders re-offend within three years. What explains this invisible force that keeps former inmates in a seemingly unending cycle of incarceration? Filmed on the street over the course of two years, Pull of Gravity is an intimate portrait of these three men that confronts head-on the gritty details of lives cut short by poverty and drugs, where dealing is seen as the only route to economic prosperity, where using offers an escape from powerlessness, and where prison is too often the next stop. The film's unfiltered lens captures its subjects as they lay bare their stories, fears, and tentative dreams.

Save the Date: Let's End Cash Bail in Philadelphia

Thursday, April 6th, 7:00 PM, Sanctuary

Stay tuned for more information on this public forum! Want to get involved? Contact Martha - mwcopi@gmail.com

2016-2017 Winter Shelter Season!

Through April, Once a month

A few volunteers are needed for St. Patty's Day. Shantala Thompson, our RE Director, is working with the children to prepare a dessert treat for the Friday, March 17 meal. The main course still needed.

First Unitarian is committed to cooking for and serving the 22 men who come to the Winter Shelter (located in the basement of Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church located at 22nd and Spruce Sts.) once a month on the 3rd Friday of the month from November until April. Ideally, a team approach of cooking of a main dish, vegetables, and dessert is

best. We strive to match culinary and financial strengths to form a team to present a home cooked meal for the men. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary to let the coordinator know of your interest and availability. Please sign up and send your questions to Ginny Beier, coordinator of the project at vhbeier@hep.upenn.edu or 215-545-7831
Update: all volunteers working with on this project are required to have a criminal Background check. This is available for free from the state of PA. Nancy Delaura, the coordinator at Episcopal Community Services is more than happy to help you with any problems or to get you started. Call her at 215-851-1436 or email Nancyd@ECS1870.org

News from the Greater Philadelphia UU Cluster

The Greater Philly UU Cluster (GPC) (<http://www.greaterphillyuu.org/>) is comprised of 14 nearby UU congregations and is actively connecting these congregations to share our message, grow our faith and strengthen congregations. Here are some opportunities to get involved:

GPC - Jubilee: Learning Together About Systemic Racism (Racial Justice Training)

March 3-5, 2017, Main Line Unitarian Church

Are you ready to take a leading role to nurture your congregation's multicultural future in the face of opposing cultural currents? Do you wish to deepen your understanding of how race and ethnicity play out in our institutions and our daily lives? The Jubilee Workshop helps participants to understand what is involved in fostering a multicultural community and working against racism in all of its forms. The training includes presentations, discussions, videos, exercises, small group work, worship services, and shared meals. All welcome. Limited to 40 participants. A couple slots are still available. Register today! More info: <http://www.greaterphillyuu.org/events/jubilee-learning-together-about-systemic-racism/>

Legislative Advocacy Training

Sunday, March 12, 2017, 12:30-2:30 PM, Main Line Unitarian Church

PA Rep. Mary Jo Daley, UUPLAN Director Anita Mentzer etc al. will discuss best ways to engage in legislative advocacy and how to let out voices be heard as UUs. Lunch provided, so please RSVP at register@mluc.org (so organizers have an accurate headcount)

GPC - 21st Century Leadership Reset (Leadership Development Training)

Saturday, March 25, 2017, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (8:30 AM Meet and Greet), UUCDC

UU Congregational life is changing at lightning speed and how we recruit, train and support leaders requires new thinking and new practices. Patricia Hall Infante, Central East Regional staff, will focus on topics such as:

- how to recognize and equip emerging leaders
- practices to support and nurture existing leaders
- creating a "path to leadership"
- ideas for creating clear leadership succession plans

Please register online by March 15. More info: <http://www.greaterphillyuu.org/events/21st-century-leadership-reset/>

UUA Presidential Candidate Forum

April 1, 2017, 9:00 AM, Main Line Unitarian Church (live-streaming event)

This year, in June at the UUA General Assembly, we will elect a new president of the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association). There are three excellent candidates for this position, The Rev. Alison Miller, the Rev. Jeanne Pupke, and the Rev. Susan Fredrick-Gray. On April 1st, they will be participating in a discussion which will be livestreamed to MLUC. Doors open at 9am; there will be coffee and light breakfast food. The forum begins at 10am. We'll stay on for a discussion of the candidates, voting procedures, attending General Assembly in New Orleans this year as a delegate, and more. More info on Forum: <https://www.uua.org/central-east/programs/better-together-central-east-region-leadership-day-and-uua-presidential>

Membership Ministry Team

Ushers & Greeters Needed

Have you ever wondered how to give service to First Unitarian Church, but didn't know to start? Consider signing up to be an usher or greeter!

- It's Short! You only have to serve for one Sunday service at a time.
- It's Fun! You get to meet and greet many friendly and interesting visitors and members.
- It's Supported! You will always have help from other, more experienced usher or greeters.
- It's Important! Ushers and greeters play an essential role in welcoming members and visitors. They "set the tone" in greeting visitors, especially, to our historic church and are normally the first congregational members that new people will meet.
- It's Appreciated! People are always grateful for your service.

It's also easy to sign up. Sign-up sheets are available in the back of the sanctuary after every Sunday service.

Hospitality & Light Treats Needed!

Please bring cookies or some other light dessert for our Coffee Hour. Good coffee and something sweet encourages friendly conversation--and provides a special welcome for visitors. Please contact the Membership Ministry with any questions.

News & Notes

Volunteers Needed for Children's Religious Education Program

Children's Religious Education is looking for volunteers to work with our Sunday School program! The time commitment is one Sunday per month, approximately 10:45 am – 12:30 pm.

We are looking for volunteers for the following positions:

- CRE Lead Teacher: to assist in Children's Chapel and lead a K-2nd grade or 3rd-5th grade CRE class. Lessons will be provided in advance from the Unitarian Universalist Tapestry of Faith Curricula. Grades K-2nd will receive lessons from the Signs of Our Faith: Being UU Everyday curriculum, while grades 3rd-5th will receive lessons from the Toolbox of Faith curriculum.

We ask that volunteers have been official members of the congregation for at least one year, and pass background checks and clearances, which will be paid for by the church. If you are able to volunteer, please contact our Director of Religious Education, Shantala Thompson at dre@philauu.org or in the CRE classroom after church service.

Sermons Now Available!

Rev. Abbey has provided selected sermons from the last few months to publish on our website. You'll find them [here!](http://www.philauu.org/page/sermons) (<http://www.philauu.org/page/sermons>) More will be added as they are ready to be published.

Thank You!

Books Through Bars - Another successful Valentine's Day Packathon took place on February 11 with over 500 Book Packages sent. Thanks to **Debby Schultz and Arthur Salter** our book bin on the porch has been emptied and sent to the A-Space. Donations are again being received on our porch bin. Read the guidelines on our flyer as well as their web-site for the types of books they really need. info@booksthroughbars.org. There is also a link to Amazon requests of highly sought after books that they have to purchase with donations or monies raised.

Message of Inclusion - Hopefully people have noticed the inclusive posters of "We Support ..." in our lobby and in the neighborhood. If you would like to get and spread the message call Councilwoman-at-large, Helen Gym's office to request some copies. Rm. 692 City Hall or 215-696-8350.

Financial Status

7/1/16 - 1/31/17

	Actual	Budget	% of budget
Cash Sources			
Annual budget drive	98,898	92,557	32
FY'16 surplus	8,994	8,994	3
Facilities rental	123,122	122,210	42
Endowment draw	39,391	39,391	14
All other income	29,226	27,483	9
Total cash sources	299,631	290,635	100
Cash Uses			
Human resources	217,907	225,245	80
Property operations	36,334	39,476	14
All other expenses	15,011	15,752	6
Total cash uses	269,252	280,473	100

Looking to April

Submit April *Beacon* submissions to Julia at communications@philauu.org by **March 15**. Please send e-Beacon & printed announcement information by 9:00 AM on Wednesdays.

Word count guidelines for *Beacon* articles:

- announcements: 25
- church events: 50
- longer columns: 350

Flowers

Celebrate, Honor and Beautify

www.philauu.org/flowers

Donating flowers is a great way to honor a loved one or celebrate a momentous occasion while simultaneously adding the beauty and color of flowers to our church services. When the service is finished, take the flowers home with you to enjoy. You may also include a special message about the person you're honoring or event you're celebrating which will be printed in the order of service and read during the sharing of joys and concerns. We're accepting flower reservations for the 2016-2017 church year. The donation is \$30.00. **If interested, please visit www.philauu.org/flowers**



THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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DATED MATERIAL --- ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Minister

Rev. Abbey Tennis Minister

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Matt Miceli Building Superintendent

Program Staff

Julia Wierski Communications Director
Shantala Thompson Director of Religious Education
John B Hedges Music Director

Sextons

Travis Barton, Jonathan Blount, Jim Devenney, Jeff Klebauskas

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