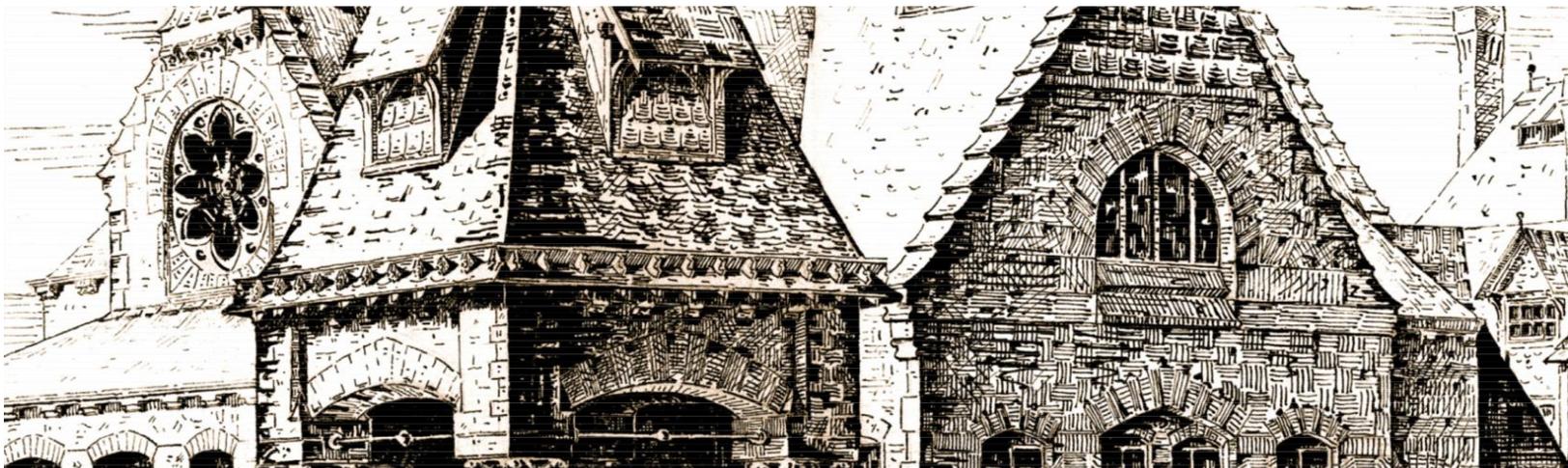


The Beacon

The Monthly Newsletter of the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia

June 2017



June Worship Services

That You Might Know One Another

Sunday, June 4, 11:00 AM, Sanctuary

Led by: Reverend Abbey Tennis

Yo-Yo Ma once said, “When we enlarge our view of the world, we deepen our understanding of our own lives.” How can our lives be enriched, and the world transformed, by leaning into what makes us different from one another rather than simply celebrating what we have in common?

Evening Vespers

Wednesday, June 7, 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.

Commit to What Matters. Forget the Rest.

Sunday, June 11, 11:00 AM, Sanctuary

Led by: Reverend Abbey Tennis

Our lives can take us in infinite directions, yet our time on earth is limited. What commitments can we make to give our short lives deeper meaning? What commitments must we break to savor our one wild and precious life?

Endless Oneness

Sunday, June 18, 11:00 AM, Sanctuary

Led by: Reverend Abbey Tennis

Join us for our annual flower communion service, as we explore how beauty can give shape to a life of integrity. In this intergenerational service, we will celebrate father’s day, LGBTQ Pride, and the end of our formal church year before shifting to our Summer schedule on June 25th. Bring a flower or two to share in our communion ritual!

Reminder!

**Summer Services begin on
Sunday, June 25 at 10:00 AM
in our air-conditioned
Parish Room**

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, June 4, 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

Pathways classes will resume in the Fall!

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, June 11, 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, June 21

Upcoming Events & Programs

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, June 5- 7:30 PM *In the Darkroom* by Susan Faludi. Facilitated by Donna Cotzen in the home of Diane Rukavina. Please confirm attendance and get directions to Diane at dianeruk@gmail.com or 215-732-1828.

Small Group Ministry

Monthly, Second Sundays, June 11, 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. 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.

Architectural Tours of First Church

Fourth Sundays of the Month

Sunday, June 25 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.

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. You can also email membership@philauu.org to sign up!

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

Calling All Artists: The Spring Art Show!

Sunday, June 4, Coffee Hour, Parish Room

You probably have noticed that First Unitarian Church is full of artists, professional and amateur, working in all media. Our bi-annual art show (now in its third decade!) encourages all who make and attempt art to bring their work together to share with each other and our congregation. Whatever your media: photographs, paintings, sculpture, fiber art, prints, ceramics, graphic

design--anything that can be displayed, done by any member of the First Unitarian community: members, friends, and staff, please bring your work! All media and all themes will be welcome. Work is to be brought to church the morning of June 4th (before 10:00 AM if possible), ready for hanging (or for leaning, standing, or whatever suits the work). Everything is to be taken home after Coffee Hour - the show will be short but sweet. Contact Richard Frey, 215-735-7156 email richardfrey@dca.net, if you'd like to know more or to lend a hand.

UUA General Assembly In New Orleans, June 21–25

Every summer, UUs from around the country gather for General Assembly, four days of workshops, worship, service, music, and discovery. Registration is currently open. Visit uua.org/ga for more details. All are welcome to attend and participate.

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 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.

Looking to the Summer

Submit Summer *Beacon* submissions to Julia at communications@philauu.org by **June 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

Executive Staff

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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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Amy Hillier Fraatz Wendy Jastrzab
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