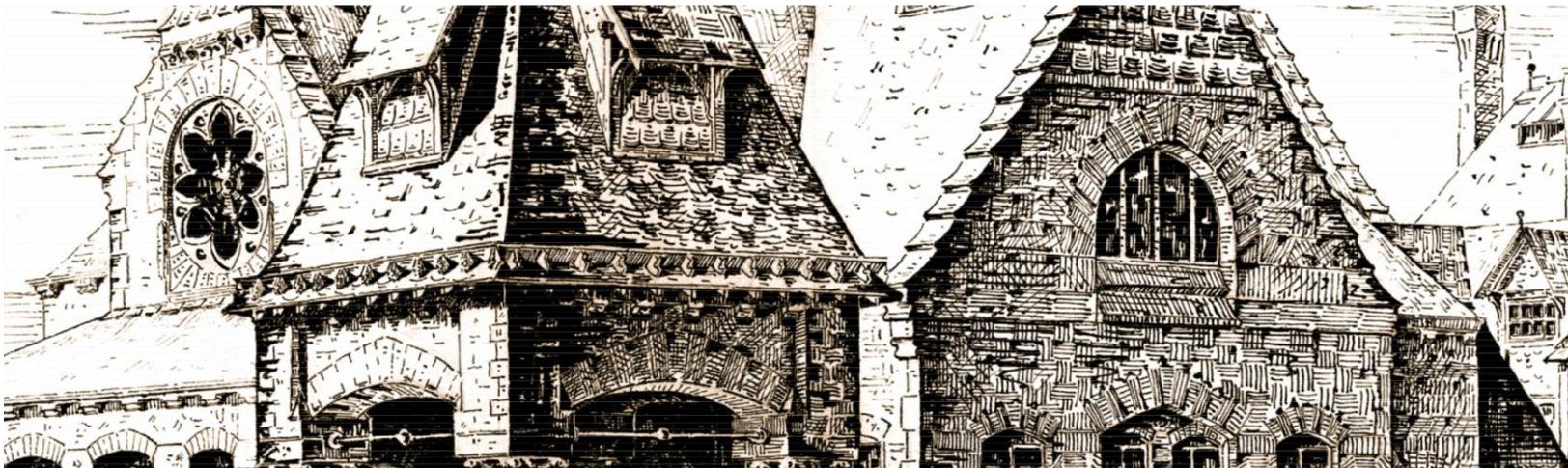


The Beacon

The Monthly Newsletter of the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia

November 2017



November Worship Services Theme: Mortality

Rise Up, Lazarus

Sunday, November 5, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: Reverend Abbey Tennis

The idea of “life after death” lies at the center of many religious traditions, and yet none of us truly knows what awaits us when our lives draw to a close. What makes our lives outlast our bodies? How can we find immortality in this impermanent world?

**Children's Religious Education (CRE) will start in the main sanctuary. Children are invited upstairs to CRE after “A Time for All Ages.”*

**CRE will host a thirty minute children's music class, in the CRE room, after service.*

Brighter In The Dark

Sunday, November 12, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: Rev. Abbey Tennis

To be human means to someday die. Death shows up in our lives as everything from “unexpected tragedy” to “welcome relief,” with none of us truly knowing how we will go. How can we combat our country's cultural avoidance of death? What gifts come when we face our own fears of the end?

This Sunday, we'll be joined by special guest musicians “Mouths of Babes” – the folk duo made up of Ty Greenstein (formerly of Girlyman) and Ingrid Elizabeth (formerly of Coyote Grace)!

www.mouthsofbabesmusic.com

**CRE will start in the Joseph Priestley Chapel, located directly in front of the side entrance.*

Finding Gratitude in Grief

Sunday, November 19, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: Reverend Abbey Tennis

Writer Thornton Wilder once said “the highest tribute to the dead is not grief but gratitude.” In truth, however, neither grief nor gratitude exists apart from the other. As Thanksgiving approaches, how do we bring our focus to gratitude when our lives, and this world, are often so filled with the pain of loss?

**CRE will start in the main sanctuary. Children are invited upstairs to CRE after “A Time for All Ages.”*

**First Church Voices will meet from 12:30-1:30 in the Sanctuary*

The Purpose of the UU Church: Saving Our Lives

Sunday, November 26, 11:00am, Sanctuary

*Led by: **Rev. Roberta Finkelstein - Guest Preacher***

Rev. Roberta Finkelstein uses the lens of her own personal experience of salvation, UU style, to reflect with gratitude on the life-saving capacity of our faith.

Rev. Roberta Finkelstein is a life-long Unitarian Universalist. After a first career in nursing and nurse-midwifery, she was awarded her M.Div. from Wesley Theological Seminary. She has served congregations in Virginia, Maryland, Florida, New Jersey, Vermont, and Connecticut. She is an Accredited Interim Minister currently serving as Developmental Minister

in Wilmington, DE. She has authored chapters in two books recently published by Skinner House: *In The Interim* and *Testimony: The Transformative Power of Unitarian Universalism*.

**CRE will start in the Joseph Priestley Chapel, located directly in front of the side entrance.*

Vespers Services

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Contact Rev. Abbey at minister@pbilauu.org

First Wednesdays, 7:00 PM, Sanctuary
Join us for our monthly contemplative evening worship service, 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, or to help set up.



News & Notes

Caring Ministry

Updates from our Caring Ministry! caring@pbilauu.org

Maryjane Emanuel

Late this past summer long time member Maryjane Emanuel sent word that her son Dana died suddenly on August 17, 2017. Maryjane, originally from Bridgeport, CT has arranged for Dana to be buried with his father, Matthias Emmanuel, in Bridgeport. Because her son had been her chief caretaker, Dana's death necessitated Maryjane's leaving her home on Locust Street and taking up residence at St. Ignatius House at 4401 Haverford Avenue, Phila., PA 19104. (Maryjane is on the fourth floor.)

Despite the loss of her son and her home, Maryjane retains the indomitable spirit that has sustained her throughout her life. On October 6th, she celebrated her 86th birthday with her family at the Olive Garden restaurant. Recently, Marge Strothers, a long time First Unitarian Church member, arranged to hold a meeting of their book club, "The Page Turners," at St. Ignatius House. Maryjane would welcome cards from church members.

Legacy Team News

Luana Goodwin, Legacy Team luanagoodwin@gmail.com

On November 5, we will launch an effort to encourage the practice of Legacy giving in our congregation. Legacy giving is not sought to support the current church budget; rather, it is needed to address long term needs, such as building restoration and renovation.

Usually Legacy gifts are not to be delivered in the short run but conveyed through the donor's estate in the form of cash, stocks, bonds, or beneficiary designations. Currently our denomination the Unitarian Universalist Association, is offering monetary incentive for Legacy giving which can have a more immediate impact. The **"Wake Now Our Vision"** campaign will provide a 10% match for all newly recorded Legacy gifts, the first payments to the congregation arriving in 2019.

The Legacy campaign is being launched by the Legacy Team of the Development Working Group. The current members of the Legacy Team are: Phyllis Belk, Carl Denlinger, Luana Goodwin, John Lehman and Portia Sperr. They will be initiating conversations with members and friends regarding Legacy opportunities after November 5.

First Unitarian Church Congregants Extend Their Generosity

Our recent Sunday morning special collection for the Hurricane Victims is just one more example of how this Congregation continues to extend our spirit of generosity beyond the doors of this Church. This church year is the first in many in which this Congregation voted to budget contributions to two Philadelphia Social Justice initiatives – POWER and New Sanctuary. It is heartening to see our Church increase its reach into the greater community and world. May the generosity of this Congregation continue to grow enabling us to live out our mission in today's challenging world.

With appreciation,

Debby Schultz, Treasurer

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

membership@philauu.org

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, 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 pledge according to their means.

UU & You

Sunday, November 5, following Worship, Sanctuary

Sunday, December 3, following Worship, Sanctuary

Sunday, January 7, following Worship, Sanctuary

membership@philauu.org

Come to an informal informational gathering 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.

Pathways to Membership at First Unitarian Church

Saturday, November 11, 10am-12pm, Sanctuary

Thursday, January 18, 6pm-8pm, Parish Room

Childcare provided!

minister@philauu.org

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!

New Member Welcoming Ceremony

Sunday, December 18, 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.

Upcoming Events & Programs

Board Meeting Schedule

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

- ❖ November 15, 2017
- ❖ December 20, 2017

Potluck Feast

Contact Luana Goodwin at luanagoodwin@gmail.com

On Sunday, November 12 we will share a potluck meal to honor the birthday of Frank Furness, a bold soldier, son of our first settled minister, architect of our historic building and the beginning of our Legacy campaign. Pasta dishes will be the centerpiece. Vegetables, salads, and other compliments, including dessert, are invited. We're counting on YOU!

Choir Rehearsal

Contact John B Hedges at musicdirector@philauu.org

- ❖ **First Unitarian Choir** (main adult choir):
Thursdays 7:00-8:30 & Sundays at 9:45
- ❖ **First Church Voices** (intergenerational choir - all ages and levels): 3rd Sunday of each month 12:30-1:30

Women's Book Club

Ginny Beier (215-309-2636) or vhbeier@hep.upenn.edu

Open to all women to join in discussion! We meet in members' homes on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 PM for hospitality and 8:00 PM for facilitated discussion. RSVP to the hostess!

- ❖ November 6 - The Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J.D. Vance. Facilitated by Christine Carlson in the home of Lisa Deats.
Lisa.deats@gmail.com
- ❖ Dec. 4- Exact time and place to be determined. Discussion of The Undoing Project: a Friendship That Changed Our Minds by Michael Lewis. Facilitated by Diane Rukavina . Book is now available in paperback.

Architectural Tours of First Church

Fourth Sundays of every Month

Sunday, October 22, 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 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.

Chestnut Street Singers

Contact Bryan Buttler, bryanbuttler@gmail.com

November 19, Sanctuary

The Chestnut Street Singers' 2017-18 season begins with The Northern Wild on Saturday, November 18 at the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill and Sunday, November 19 at the First Unitarian Church. The program will explore a fascinating modern repertoire inspired by the visceral feeling of standing in one's native wilderness. The concert will feature songs of earth under foot and sky over head, with music by Sibelius, Tormis, Elgar, and Ešenvalds. All tickets are pay what you wish.



Ministry Teams

Children's Religious Education

Director of Religious Education, Shantala Thompson
DRE@philauu.org

This year, in an effort to intentionally build community across generations, and meaningful curricula, Children's Religious Education (CRE) will explore the same (or similar) monthly themes as the larger congregation.

November Theme: Mortality /Honoring Our Ancestors

This month, CRE will reflect on mortality and honoring ancestors. How do we pay homage to our ancestors? What are some of the visuals and rituals we use to honor them? How do people from different cultures and religious backgrounds honor their ancestors? We will identify some Unitarian ancestors, who made it possible to practice this faith, as well as other figures who fought for a more just world. Please be sure to look out for our November display board, located near the sanctuary!

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.

Our Schedule

November 5, 2017

CRE will start in the main sanctuary. Children are invited upstairs to CRE after "A Time for All Ages."

**CRE will host a thirty minute children's music class, in the CRE room, after service.*

November 12, 2017

CRE will start in the Joseph Priestley Chapel, located directly in front of the side entrance.

November 19, 2017

CRE will start in the main sanctuary. Children are invited upstairs to CRE after "A Time for All Ages."

November 26, 2017

CRE will start in the Joseph Priestley Chapel, located directly in front of the side entrance.

Adult Spiritual Development

Guided Meditation

Ed Greenlee at edwin.greenlee@gmail.com

Ed Greenlee leads guided meditation before worship on the 3rd Sunday of every month! Guided meditation meets from 10:15-10:45 in the chapel! Dates for the fall are:

- ❖ November 19, 2017
- ❖ December 17, 2017

The 2017-18 UUA Common Read [Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want](#)

Authors: Frances Moore Lappe, Adam Eichen

Adult Spiritual Development will be offering a session discussing the 2017-18 UUA Common Read in February, as well as more events around this book! Stay tuned for more information!

This is an optimistic book for Americans who are asking, in the wake of Trump's victory, what do we do now? The answer: We need to organize and fight to protect and expand our democracy.

Mindfulness & Spirituality Workshop

November 19, 2017

Ed Greenlee at edwin.greenlee@gmail.com

12:30pm in the Chapel

During this program we will practice mindfulness meditation; share readings related to mindfulness from the Jewish, Buddhist and Christian traditions; and discuss how meditative and contemplative mindfulness practices can be enriched by engagement with these religious traditions. Sponsored by the Adult Spiritual Development Group. Refreshments will be served! Everyone is welcome.



Social Justice Ministries

Community Tutoring Opportunity

Sharon Tomalin (215-735-5047) or stomalin@att.net

This school year is the eighth year of our tutoring project at the Andrew Jackson elementary school at 12th and Federal Streets. No experience needed! Call if you're interested in volunteering or if you'd like to be mentored through the process of establishing a similar project in another school.



Winter Shelter

Ginny Beier (215-309-2636) or vbbeier@hep.upenn.edu

Winter Shelter Season has Arrived ! First Unitarian will continue our participation with this Neighborhood project on the 3rd Friday of every month until May. Please sign up at the back of the church and see the coordinator, Ginny Beier at Coffee Hour to find out how. A team of volunteers is needed with varying financial and culinary assets to produce a home-cooked meal for 22 men and to serve and join them from 6-8P.M. No criminal registration is needed this year but volunteers must be 18 years of age.

Holiday Regifting

Collection: Sundays November 26 and December 3

Holiday festivities: Saturday, December 9

Contact Luana Goodwin luanagoodwin@gmail.com

Last year we realized that many of us have gifts that we received or which we purchased with the intention to give to others, but that these gifts have instead languished, unappreciated and unused. We collected these - still desirable! - gifts and offered them for resale, with proceeds benefitting the church.

After last year's success, we are making this an annual event! We will be collecting items suitable for gifts on Sundays, November 26 and December 3. They will then be made available for sale at the church holiday festivity on Saturday, December 9.

So go through your closet and drawers and find those lovely, lingering items that you would like to pass along. They could be jewelry, gloves, scarves, craft items, kitchen tools, etc. Handmade items are also welcome. Do not restrict your search! We look forward to receiving your finds and converting them into a resource for the church.



Membership Ministry Team

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.

Meet our Membership Team!

Who gets those emails you send to membership@philauu.org? Our Membership Team! Meet Eric Orts and Brooke Kelly, Co-Chairs, MK Dean, Membership & Communications Director, and Butterbean the Goldendoodle, our mascot!



Pictured: MK, Brooke, Eric, Butterbean



Flowers

Celebrate, Honor and Beautify

www.philauu.org/flowers

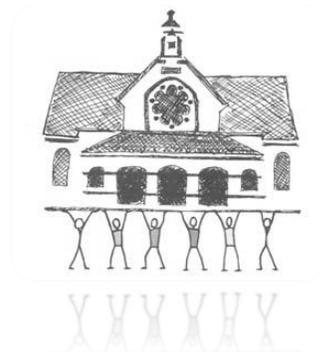
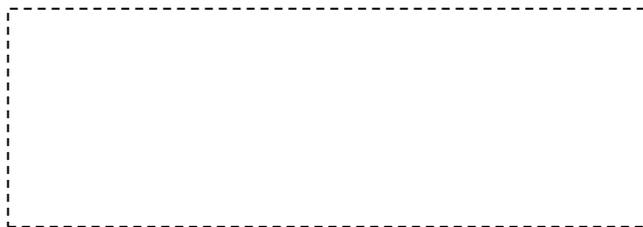
Donating flowers is a great way to honor a loved one or celebrate a momentous occasion while simultaneously adding the beauty and color of flowers to our church services. When the service is finished, take the flowers home with you to enjoy. You may also include a special message about the person you're 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 2017-2018 church year. The donation is \$30.00. **If interested, please visit www.philauu.org/flowers**

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If you have any questions about the calendar, or if you want to rent our beautiful Victorian building for your wedding or other event, contact our Business Administrator, Norman Fouby, at administrator@philauu.org

THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

2125 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Church Office 215-563-3980 Fax 215-563-4209
Office Hours 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
www.philauu.org • info@philauu.org



DATED MATERIAL --- ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Minister

Rev. Abbey Tennis Minister

Executive Staff

Norman Fouhy Business Administrator
Matt Miceli Building Superintendent

Program Staff

MK Dean Communications Director
Shantala Thompson Director of Religious Education
John B Hedges Music Director

Sextons

Jonathan Blount, Jim Devenney, Hye-Sung Gehring

Board of Trustees

Heather Spiers President
Rebecca Ortenberg Vice President
Debby Schultz Treasurer
Nancy Pasquier Secretary
Erika Parker Trustee
Doug Watts Trustee
AnneMarie Vaeni Trustee

Congregational Moderator

Mike Tomalin
