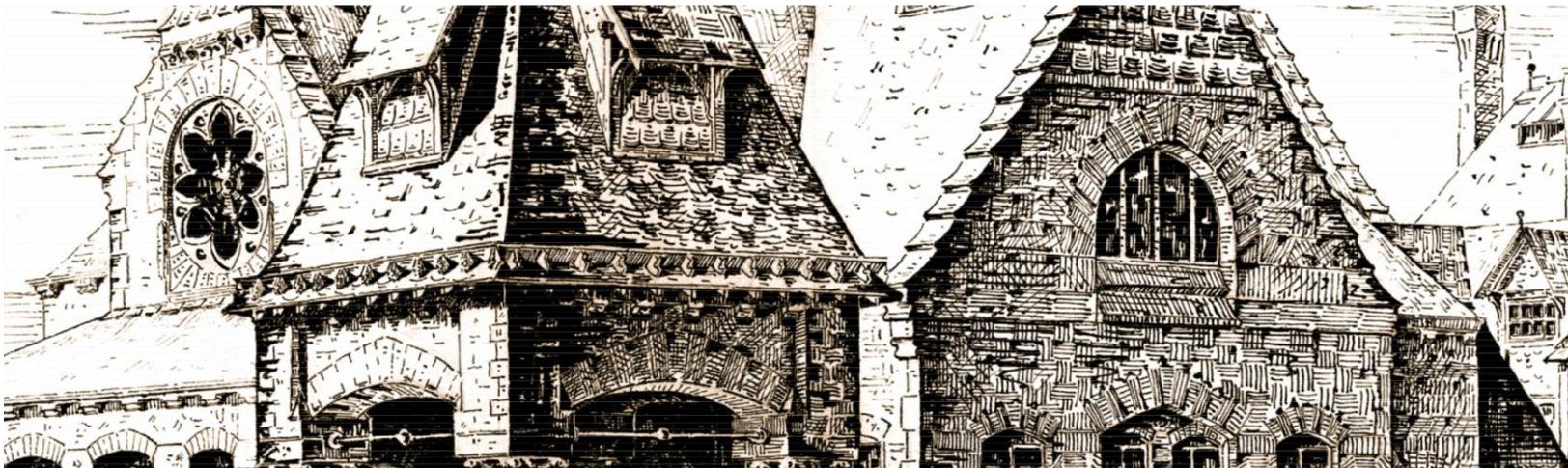


The Beacon

The Monthly Newsletter of the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia

February 2018



February Worship Services Theme: Interdependence

Defined by Our Multiplicities

Sunday, February 4, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: Rev. Abbey Tennis

Each of us has many sides to our personalities and increasingly, our racial, ethnic, and religious identities too have many sides – we may be a Jewish Unitarian Universalist, an Irish-American Atheist, or a Lebanese-Swiss pagan. What does it mean for us to be people with hyphenated identities, and multiple loyalties? What hope for our culture lies in our increasingly complex selves?

**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.*

Crazy or Canaries?

Sunday, February 11, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: Rev. Abbey Tennis

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said he was 'proud to be maladjusted' to the evils of society; that he would never want to become adjusted to things like segregation, discrimination, religious bigotry. How do we stay 'maladjusted' to oppression so pervasive that we can barely imagine what life would be like without it? How can we create the kind of world where difference is not demonized?

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

The Many Faces of Love

Sunday, February 18, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: Rev. Abbey Tennis

Valentine's Day has come and gone, but the challenges of love remain with us. How can we open ourselves to true love – whether romantic, familial, or friendship – when we have been hurt before? How do we prepare ourselves to offer the kind of love to others that is life-giving rather than controlling, or codependent? What must we give in order to get the loving relationships we want?

**Children's Religious Education (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.*

Guest Preacher - TBA

Sunday, February 25, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: Guest Preacher

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

Vespers Services

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

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 and Notes!

Legacy Campaign Update

Contact: Luana Goodwin, luanagoodwin@gmail.com;

Norman Fouhy, Business Administrator,

norman@pbilauu.org

WakeNowOurVision.org

We excitedly launched our Legacy Campaign in November. This campaign is a part of the Unitarian Universalist Association's "Wake Now Our Vision" challenge to members to make "legacy" gifts to First Unitarian Church or other UU entities (e.g. UU Service Committee, seminaries, etc.). In return for those promised gifts, the UUA will give an immediate award to our church (or other entities) of 10% of that amount (up to \$100,000). We then have access to that up-front money, which we can put to good use - and nobody has to tap present resources in order to make it available.

To date, four such legacy gifts have been made by members of our congregation, and others are in the pipeline! The donors have used existing and revised wills, IRAs, or life insurance beneficiary designations to make these gifts.

To receive further information about this opportunity, contact Luana Goodwin of the Legacy Team or Norman Fouhy in the church office. Look for the Legacy table at Coffee Hour. Let's Float Our Boat!

Recap of the January 28th Congregational Meeting

Rev Abbey and the Board of Trustees are delighted that the Congregational Meeting was attended by approximately 75 congregants. The agenda included business updates, a vote for members to affirm the ordination of Connie Simon, and an opportunity for congregants to personally engage in the mission of this church.

To the 20 members who do not receive the weekly e-Beacon, the Board sincerely apologizes for mistakenly failing to notify each of you by mail. We recognize that this is a violation of our By-laws and, more importantly, we missed having you at the meeting.

Key business items included a financial update and an informational overview of the "Wake Now Our Vision Campaign." Please read below for details regarding these two items.

Connie Simon shared the impact that this church had on her decision to become a minister. For Connie, First UU is her "home" and thus the place where she chose to be ordained. Two of what could have been many congregants shared their admiration of Connie recognizing her talents, passions and all that she will add to this faith as a minister. The 52 members in attendance unanimously voted to affirm Connie's Ordination. Joining First UU in ordaining Connie is the Unitarian Society of Germantown where Connie has been a ministerial intern for the past two years. **Save the date: June 10th at 4 PM!**

The meeting established a new paradigm by extending the usual business agenda to include a focus on the missions of this church, one being justice work. Blanca Pacheco and Mary Strand from the **New Sanctuary Movement** joined us as we formally recognized our engagement with New Sanctuary, an interfaith organization focused on immigration justice. Blanca led congregants in a guided meditation encouraging each to contemplate their first recognition of injustice. She followed with information about opportunities to learn about the work of New Sanctuary.

2017-2018 Financial Update

What's Going Well!

- ❖ Generosity!
 - Pledge Commitments are exceeding \$200,000 Pledge Goal and Pledge payments are being made in a timely manner
 - Several special restricted gifts designated for Operating Costs, Accessibility, LaFarge Window Completion and other key areas
 - Employee Holiday Bonus Drive and Christmas Eve Collection exceeded expectations
 - Two Successful fundraisers to date have raised \$4700 towards \$23,000 goal
- ❖ Expense Savings - Reductions in Insurance, Trash, Telephone/Internet, Personnel Costs

What Could be Better!

- ❖ Plate collections down by 14%
- ❖ Rentals down by 10%
- ❖ Risks in achieving \$23,000 Fundraising Goal - *Most needed: a few members to co-coordinate two fundraising events!*

Overall Forecast

- ❖ Tight Financial Year with Wonderful Bursts of Generosity
- ❖ On Track for a Balanced Budget while Achieving Targeted New Initiatives

For more information or details, please reach out to Norman Fouhy, Business Administrator and/or Debby Schultz, Treasurer.

Legacy Update

Luana Goodwin reported on the progress of the Legacy campaign to date. Four legacy pledges in the form Wills, new and recently written, IRA and life insurance beneficiary forms, have been submitted to Boston to be eligible for the 10% match from the Unitarian Universalist Association. Others are in the pipeline.

A generous and anonymous donor has come forward to offer a doubling of the 10% match up to \$50,000. So legacy gifts made known to the church and UUA will receive an immediate and upfront 20% match, enabling donors to see the effects of their gifts while they are still among us.

First Unitarian Church
is beginning a process of building
a powerful **mission and vision**
--- together.

And we want YOU to be a part of it!

Save The Date:

April 14th, 2018, 9:00-3:30
at First Unitarian Church

Congregational
Mission & Vision
Summit

More details coming soon!

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, February 4, following Worship, Sanctuary

Sunday, March 4, following Worship, Sanctuary

*Sunday, April 15, 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.

**Note date change!*

Pathways to Membership at First Unitarian Church

Saturday, March 10, 10am-12pm, Sanctuary

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, February 11, during the worship service

After you have gotten to know this congregation a little, or a lot, if you are ready to put down roots and officially join, please let our Membership Ministry Team and Rev. Abbey know so we can help you with this important choice!

Upcoming Events & Programs

Board Meeting Schedule

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

- ❖ February 21, 2018
- ❖ March 21, 2018
- ❖ April 18, 2018

Choir Rehearsal

Contact John B Hedges at musicdirector@philauu.org

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

Our Whole Lives

Sundays, 6:30-8:30, Parish Room

Contact: Director of Religious Education, Shantala Thompson, dre@philauu.org

First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia is pleased to offer [Our Whole Lives: Lifespan Sexuality Education](#) for youth in grades 7-9. OWL has been described as “a sexuality education program for youth that models and teaches caring, compassion, respect, and justice. A holistic program that moves beyond the intellect to address the attitudes, values, and feelings that youth have about themselves and the world.”

Prayer Shawl Ministry

First Sundays after service.

February 4, 2018. 12:30, Olympia Brown Room

March 4, 2018. 12:30, Olympia Brown Room

Contact: arieger@wellesley.edu

The prayer shawl ministry is on a roll! In the Catholic tradition, prayer shawls are shawls or lap blankets thoughtfully created by congregants and blessed for people who are facing a physical health problem or emotional crisis. We will be meeting at least once this month (and every month in the future!) to share prayer/positive thought ideas, stitches/designs, and each other's company. You can also learn the basics of crochet at this meeting - no prior experience necessary! Knitters, crocheters, quilters, weavers, and all aspiring textile artists are welcome. Please bring any supplies that you would like to use for yourself, and any supplies that you could donate to the group.

Glorious Breakfast Brunch with Games

Sunday, February 25, 12:30-2:30, Parish Room

Donations: Adults \$5; children over 6 \$2

Contact: Luana Goodwin, luanagoodwin@gmail.com

The feasting and fun will begin right after our worship service. There will be French toast, pancakes, eggs, and oatmeal. We will have games, conventional and electronic, at all tables and some tables set up especially for the more challenging games. This is a combined fun and fund-raising effort.

Join the Preparations Crew for this event on **Saturday, February 24, 12:00 - 3:00pm**. We will be prepping pancake batter, making signage, and we may even try out some games.

Women's Book Club

Contact: Coordinator, Ginny Beier [215-309-2636](tel:215-309-2636)

We think you'll enjoy the 11 books we chose at our last meeting! We are planning our annual get-together dinner which will take place in El Azteca Restaurant on Monday, March 5.

- ❖ **Feb. 5th, 7:30**, Discussion of [Homegoing](#) by Yaa Gyasi, facilitated by Ginny Beier and held in the home of Martha Copithorne. RSVP to Martha at [315-751-2124](tel:315-751-2124) or mwcopi@gmail.com.
- ❖ **Mar. 5th - 6:30**, Discussion of [The Rent Collector](#) by Cameron Wright, facilitated by Donna Cotzen (preferably not Oprah Winfrey's annotated version). This annual dinner meeting will take place in at [714 Chestnut St.](#) Questions and details being worked out with Priscilla McDougal. Contact her at pmcd200@icloud.com or [215-925-3585](tel:215-925-3585).

Architectural Tours of First Church

Fourth Sundays of every Month

Sunday, February 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 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.



Ministry Teams

Children's Religious Education (CRE)

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

Volunteers Needed!!!

Our programs are **growing**, and we need your help! Religious Education is looking for amazing volunteers to work with our nursery, CRE, middle school (Grades 7-9) *Our Whole Lives: Lifespan Sexuality Education*, and high school programs. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Shantala Thompson at DRE@philauu.org to get involved.

Please note that some volunteer positions will require a PA child abuse and criminal clearance.

Descriptions:

- ❖ **Nursery** runs concurrently with worship service; volunteers are needed to assist the Nursery Director with supervision of babies and toddlers, 5 years old and under. Commitment is one Sunday per month.
- ❖ **CRE** runs concurrently with worship service; volunteers are needed to teach prepared lessons to children in grades K-3 or 4-6. Commitment is one Sunday per month.
- ❖ **Middle School OWL** will run most Sundays 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Commitment varies. Volunteers are needed in the following capacities:
 - Coordinate dinners for OWL students and facilitators.
 - Prepare and deliver dinner
 - Chaperone an overnight event.
- ❖ **High School:** Interested in coordinating a high school centered event? Let us know!

February Theme: Interdependence

CRE will focus on the theme of interdependence for the month of February. Adapting lesson plans from the Unitarian Universalist Association *Moral Tales* curriculum, children will explore the following question: “How do, or how might, emotional connections with strangers inspire you to work for social justice?”

Our Schedule

February 4, 2018

*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.

* OWL 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

February 11, 2018

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

*OWL - 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

February 18, 2018

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

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

*OWL - 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

February 25, 2018

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

*OWL - 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Adult Spiritual Development

Guided Meditation

Contact: 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 spring are:

- ❖ February 18, 2018
- ❖ March 18, 2018
- ❖ April 15, 2018
- ❖ May 20, 2018

Daring Democracy Events:

This year, UU congregations around the country are reading together *Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want* by Adam Eichen and Frances Moore Lappe. *Daring Democracy* traces the history of our democracy and its methodical erosion over the past several decades by money in politics, gerrymandering, and barriers to voting. We are hosting co-author Adam Eichen for an engaging workshop on **March**

3rd, 2018 and are offering several other opportunities to engage with the book and larger issues in our democratic process.

Join us for one or all as we explore and empower ourselves to take back our democracy!

Copies of Daring Democracy available for sale at bookstores and at First Unitarian before and after services for \$12.

Sunday February 18, 12:30pm, Chapel:

Contact: Edwin Greenlee (Edwin.Greenlee@gmail.com)

Discussion of Daring Democracy book with other First Unitarian congregants. Join to share your reactions to the book and process what you learned with others.

Saturday March 3, 1:00-4:00pm, Sanctuary:

Contact: Murielle McCarthy (Murielle319@aol.com)

Adam Eichen, co-author of Daring Democracy, and Rabbi Michael Pollack, Executive Director of March on Harrisburg, are barnstorming across 22 Pennsylvania UU churches to inspire, train, and mobilize us to end corruption and restore democracy through our combined efforts. Adam and Rabbi Pollack will conduct a Daring Democracy community workshop that will provide many avenues for involvement in this broad movement to take back our democracy, including a citizen lobbying training to contact our State Representatives for a meeting on two pieces of anti-corruption, pro-democracy legislation.

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 vhbeier@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.

Membership Ministry Team

Email membership@philauu.org to sign up!

Or call the church office at 215-563-3980.

Sign up for the Usher Team!

Our Usher Team is a fun, vital part of the ministry of First Unitarian Church. Joining the Ushers is an easy way to get to know people in the congregation and be a part of the service! Ushers pass out Orders of Service, help people to their seats, and are the first faces newcomers see when they enter the church. This mission is so important, and so easy!

Sign up online at:

<https://goo.gl/27DXkq>

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.

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**

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
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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

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Mike Tomalin
