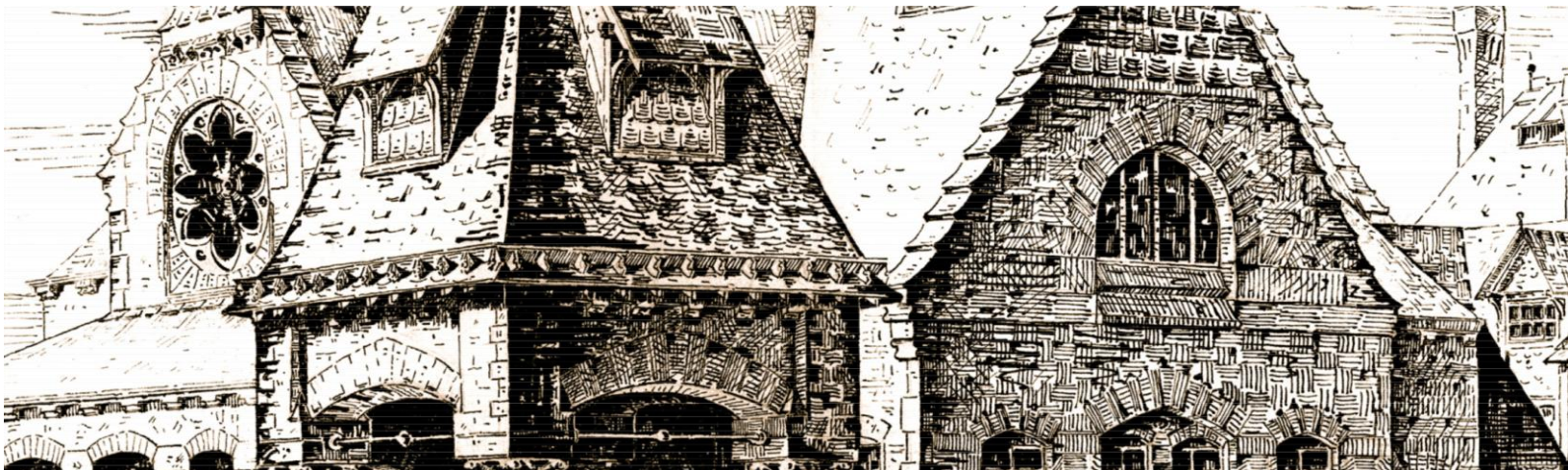


The Beacon

The Monthly Newsletter of the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia

October 2017



October Worship Services Theme: Forgiveness

Broken Tablets

Sunday, October 1, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: Reverend Abbey Tennis

As Jewish communities around the world engage in rituals of atonement in observance of Yom Kippur, we too reflect on forgiveness and right relationship. When trust shatters, how can we restore our faith in one another?

**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 and CRE will host a thirty minute children's music class after service.*

How Many Candles

Sunday, October 8, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: Rev. Andrew Weber, Guest Preacher

When people commit acts of violence we often respond with lighting of candles and reading the names of those who were killed. But do we light a candle for those people who carried out the attack? Our Unitarian Universalist principles affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person. What does that affirmation mean for people who are perpetrators of violence stemming from hate?

**Children's Religious Education (CRE) will start in the Joseph Priestley Chapel, located directly in front of the side entrance.*

Rev. Andrew Weber is a proud, life-long Unitarian Universalist, raised in the suburbs of Philadelphia. He currently lives in Newark, Delaware with his wife and two small children. Rev. Andrew's calling is to empower others to reach their full potential and create space for transformation, self discovery and new energy!

What Are We Fighting For

Sunday, October 15, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: Reverend Abbey Tennis

As we approach the anniversary of the raid on Harpers Ferry, where the white abolitionist John Brown attempted to lead an armed slave revolt, we gather to reflect on our true purpose. How can we hold our deepest purpose – in our justice work, in our spiritual lives, and in our relationships – when distracted by so many internal conflicts?

**Children's Religious Education (CRE) will start in the Joseph Priestley Chapel, located directly in front of the side entrance.*

Failing and Forgiving

Sunday, October 22, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: Reverend Abbey Tennis

Though we may try to do our best, we can still fail over and over again. The higher our standards, the bigger the failure. When someone has failed us, or we

have failed ourselves, how can we find forgiveness without lowering our expectations?

Making It Right

Sunday, October 29, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: Reverend Abbey Tennis

Being human ensures that we will both hurt others and be hurt ourselves. Join us as we reflect on ways that cultures around the world approach reconciliation. How do we find healing for our wounds and the wounds we inflict on others?

** Children's Religious Education (CRE) will start in the main sanctuary. Children are invited upstairs to CRE after "A Time for All Ages." Children and Families (and everyone!) are invited to wear costumes!*

Vespers Services

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

Contact Rev. Abbey at minister@philauu.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

Website News

MK Dean, Membership & Communications

communications@philauu.org

Perhaps you have noticed that our website is in need of some TLC. In the past couple weeks, we have had some spam, some confusion about worship times - particularly as we transitioned from a summer schedule to our usual program year service schedule, and a host of other issues. The good news is that we are actively working on it! We have a wholly new site in progress, that will look better, function more smoothly, and be much more accessible to everyone whether they are new to First Unitarian Church or have been a part of this space for many years. We are working on revamping our bios and showing off the

beautiful building to make for a much better experience for everyone!

We are looking for your **PICTURES** to help us with this endeavor! Pictures of Sunday services, of details of the building, of your children in Children's Religious Education, of your weddings and child dedications and memorial services (with permission from your photographer if necessary) Please email any high-quality photos you have to MK! The sooner, the better, but there will definitely be space for updating, so keep us in mind as you photograph your First Unitarian Church experiences.

Legacy Team News

Our church has proud advocate of liberal religion values in Center City Philadelphia for more than two hundred years. It has provided a tradition and a place where deep friendships and fellowship, spiritual growth, ethical grounding and action are nurtured. Carrying forward that legacy is our responsibility.

To that end, we are launching a Legacy giving campaign which will extend through this church year and beyond. Legacy giving does not support the current church budget; rather, it is secured to address long term needs, such as building improvements. 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 designation.

However, at this time, our denomination the Unitarian Universalist Association, is offering incentive for Legacy giving which can have 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 Development Working Group. Any immediate questions or offers of assistance can be addressed to Luana Goodwin at 215-235-2343. Trusted members will be initiating meetings to present Legacy opportunities to church members and friends beginning in October.



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, October 1, following Worship, Sanctuary

Sunday, November 5, following Worship, Sanctuary

Sunday, December 3, 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

Wednesday, October 11, 6:00-8:00pm, Sanctuary

Saturday, November 11, 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, October 22, 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

- ❖ October 18, 2017
- ❖ November 15, 2017
- ❖ December 20, 2017

Choir Rehearsal

Contact John B Hedges at musicdirector@philaun.org

- ❖ **First Unitarian Choir** (main adult choir):
Thursdays 7:30-9 & 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!

- ❖ October 2 - The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers. Facilitated by Kim Balaschak at the home of Christine Lussier. christine.m.lussier@gmail.com or 610-306-4312
- ❖ 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

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.

Board Game Bonanza

RSVP with Kathy Bell at bellkatbrynm@gmail.com

Jennifer Frericks at jennifer.frericks@gmail.com

Suggested donation: Adults \$10 and Kids \$5

Sunday October 15th 1:00 - 4:00p.m

Location: Community Room at John Fox Towers (around the corner from the church on 22nd St.)

Have fun and raise funds for First Unitarian!! Enjoy a classic game or something brand new -- about 30 games will be on offer including Ticket to Ride, Taboo, Bananagrams, and MANY more.. Bring a bag lunch & we'll supply snacks & drinks!



Ministry Teams

Membership Ministry Team

Email membership@philaun.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.

Ushers & Greeters Needed

Greeter training October 10

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! Ushers and greeters participate in an essential ministry of welcoming members and visitors. They set the tone in greeting worshippers and welcoming them to our historic church, and they are usually the first congregational members that new people will meet. Sign up sheets are available on the Welcome Table.



Children's Religious Education

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

This year, in an effort to intentionally build community across generations, and meaningful curricula, CRE will explore the same monthly themes as the larger congregation.

Concurrent with the worship calendar, the theme for October is forgiveness. CRE will reflect on the meaning of forgiveness. What does forgiveness look like? How does forgiveness connect with Unitarian Universalists' principles? How do we forgive others when we are feeling hurt? CRE will investigate these questions and more!

Please be sure to look out for our October 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

October 1, 2017

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

October 8, 2017

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

October 15, 2017

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

October 22, 2017

CRE will start in the **main sanctuary**. Children are invited upstairs to CRE after the New Member Welcome Ceremony!

October 29, 2017

CRE will start in the **main sanctuary**. Children are invited upstairs to CRE after "A Time for All Ages." Children and Families are invited to wear costumes!

Adult Spiritual Development

Join a Small Group Ministry!

Contact Carol Peterson (carolspeterson@gmail.com) or Steven Oliver (stephen@brcvision.com)

"What is a circle of trust? It is the kind of carefully created space that invites the soul to make itself known. This kind of space where we can practice the paradox of 'being alone together,' a space that welcomes our inwardness even as it connects us to the gifts and challenges of community, and to the larger world." - Parker J. Palmer
(A Hidden Wholeness)

Small Group Ministries are groups of ~10 congregants who gather monthly throughout the year to reflect on spiritual issues in our lives and the world. Groups covenant to support each other rather than debate, to speak from the heart as well as the intellect, and to care for each other, including honoring each other's confidentiality. If you are looking for a way to deepen your own spirit and build meaningful relationships with others at First Unitarian Church, sign up after church or online! Groups will begin in November, meeting at a variety of locations and times throughout the city.

Check your email for online registration, or sign up at coffee hour!

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:

- ❖ October 15, 2017
- ❖ 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 later this year.

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

12:30pm in the Chapel



Social Justice Ministries

Rally for Redemption to End Death By Incarceration

Martha Copithorne: mvcopi@gmail.com, 315-751-2124

To register for a seat on the bus: www.decarceratepa.info/oct25
October 25, 2017

There are over 5000 people serving Life Without Parole sentences in PA. These severe sentences tear apart families and communities, cost the state millions, do not improve public safety, and disproportionately impact people of color and poor families. Join the Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration (CADBI) in Harrisburg at the State Capitol Building in support of House Bill 135, which would grant parole eligibility to people serving life sentences.

Community Tutoring Opportunity

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

This upcoming school year will be 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.



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

Travis Barton, Jonathan Blount, Jim Devenney, Hye Sung

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
