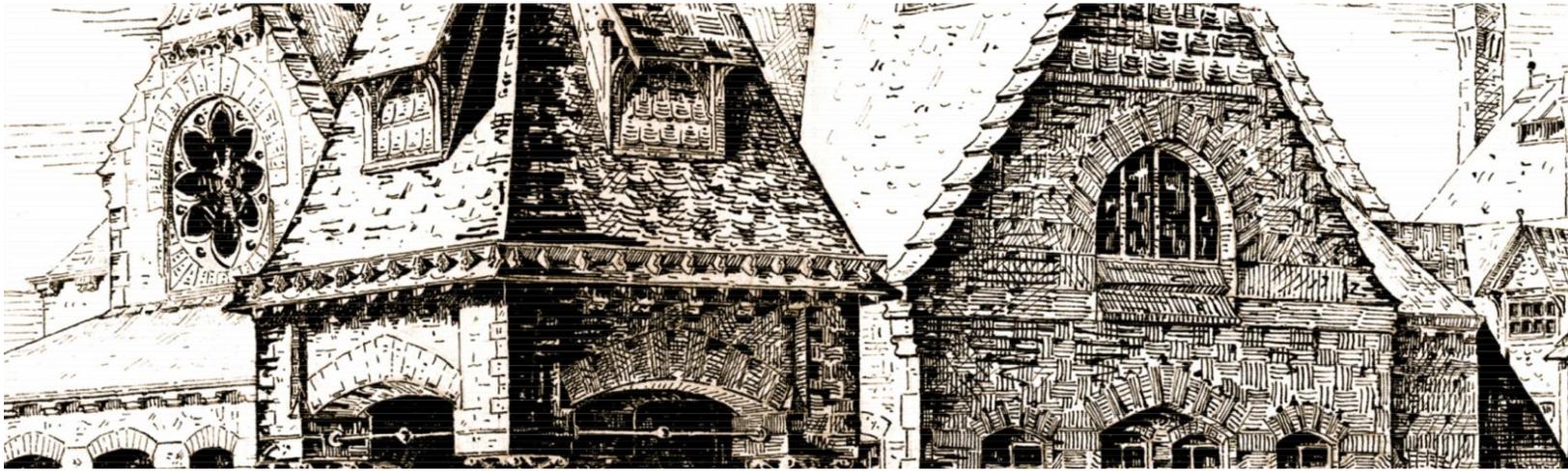


The Beacon

The Monthly Newsletter of the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia

October, 2018



October Worship Services Theme: Blessing

A Negativity Bias

Sunday, October 7, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: Rev. Andrew Weber

As humans, we have an inclination to react to and remember negative events as opposed to positive ones. The thought is that through natural selection, it was more advantageous for our ancestors to know what could possibly harm or kill them. The positive in our ancestor's lives wasn't as pressing and therefore we have an evolutionary bias toward remembering negativity. We will explore this month's spiritual practice of trying to pay more attention to the positive and blessings in our lives.

**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 lives in Newark, Delaware with his wife and two children. Rev. Andrew's calling is to empower others to reach their full potential and create space for transformation, self discovery and new energy! He currently leads personal and group athletic training and is very interested in the intersection of faith and fitness.

For They Shall See God

Sunday, October 14, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: Rev. Abbey Tennis

Every week, we gaze at the stained-glass Angel that hangs above our pulpit, proclaiming the words from Jesus's Beatitudes "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." These words, like many well-known sayings in our culture, can feel inspirational, troubling, or cliché. How can we find new meaning in old words?

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

A Wound and a Blessing

Sunday, October 21, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: Rev. Abbey Tennis

In a well-known story from the Hebrew Scriptures, Jacob wrestles with God all night, only letting go after he received both a wound and a blessing. Like Jacob, Unitarian Universalists are known to be people who wrestle with God. Join us as we explore the wounds and blessings on the path of spiritual growth.

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

Bewilderment

Sunday, October 28, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: Rev. Abbey Tennis

When most of us are confused, lost, or disoriented, our first instinct is to return to solid answers, something we understand, somewhere that makes sense. Yet there are blessings to be found in the bewildering places. What might we gain from staying in the unknown?

** 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 are invited to wear costumes!*

Vespers Services

Contact Rev. Abbey at minister@philauu.org

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 6PM with your voice or an instrument for a drop-in musical rehearsal prior to the service, or to help set up.
Next Vespers Service: Wednesday, November 7, 7PM



News and Notes!

New Member Ceremony

10:00am, Parish Room for reception, and during 11:00am Service, Sanctuary

Are you feeling ready to join? If you have found your spiritual home here, we invite you to officially become a member on October 14! Those considering membership are encouraged to attend a UU & You and "Pathways" Class, and email membership@philauu.org, but all who feel ready are welcome. New members should arrive at 10:00am for a reception in the Parish room and sign the membership book prior to the ceremony taking place during service.

Building Work Party

Saturday, October 13, 9am-3pm, lunch provided

Join us as we come together to help care for our historic building, archives, and garden! Work parties are a great opportunity to get to know new people and make a tangible contribution to caring for our beautiful space. We will have PLENTY to do for people of all ages and abilities - from cleaning pews and furniture, to organizing the kitchen, to combing through the precious historical treasures in our archives, and working on painting and repairs. Please join us for any amount of time to help out - we'll have pizza and snacks! Questions or interest in organizing a work team? Contact Building Superintendent Nic Tenaglia superintendent@philauu.org.

Small Group Ministries Sign-Up

Coordinators: Kathy Bell, bellkathryn@gmail.com,

Christina Servetnick: random6x7@yahoo.com.

Small Group Ministries are groups of ~10 people who meet once a month to discuss a spiritual theme, with the guidance of facilitators and a short collection of readings. It's a great way to get to know people beyond Sunday coffee hour. Please register online (link in E-Beacon), or contact the coordinators. Groups will begin meeting in October. If you have any further questions, please contact the coordinators!

Circle Supper Sign-Up

Coordinators: Kathy Bell, bellkathryn@gmail.com, and

Sharon Egan, patsbaronegan@gmail.com

These are groups of 8-12 people who like to eat and have fun at each other's homes once a month, with each participant taking a turn to host during the church year. All are welcome, whether you're a newcomer or long-timer to the church! We organize groups to make sure all needs can be met, regardless physical ability, dietary restrictions, and whether your home has space to host. Sign up online (link in E-Beacon). Questions? Contact the coordinators!

Adult Spiritual Development Ministry

Looking to Grow!

Coordinator: Heather Speirs, hmspeirs@gmail.com

The Adult Spiritual Development Ministry Team works with the congregation and staff to create programming that enlives and inspires our spirits. We would like 2 or 3 interested members to form a group to provide outreach, coordination and oversight as First Unitarian Church increases its offerings. We are also looking for people to lead a thirty minute meditation (guided or silent) once a month from 9:15-9:45 in the chapel. Please contact the coordinator if you are interested!

Make a Meal for the Winter Shelter!

Contact: Coordinator Valerie

Flower, valerieraeflower@gmail.com

We will once again host Winter Shelter every third Friday beginning in November. Winter Shelter is a cooperative association with the Community Outreach Partnership (CORP) programs at Trinity Memorial Church (22nd & Spruce) to feed and serve the 15-20 men who spend the night there from November through April. We need volunteers to provide a complete home-cooked meal with vegetables and dessert as well as serve it from 6-8:00 PM. You do not need to be a member to volunteer to participate. Please register with Valerie Flower in advance. A sign-up sheet is available at the Welcome Table at the back of Sanctuary now. Contact Valerie with any questions.

Announcing Friends of 2125

Friends of 2125 Chestnut Street, a recently-founded 501c3, will raise awareness of our building's importance and fundraise for its preservation and modernization. We have recently received approval from the Commonwealth and have submitted for our tax-exempt status. The Board of Directors will have church and non-church membership, all appointed by the Board of Trustees of the church. The founding and current Board members are Luana Goodwin, President; Caroline Winschel, Treasurer; and Anthony Campisi, At Large. They will report further as this process moves along.

First U Improv is Back!

First Unitarian Church, Parish Room, Second and Fourth Tuesdays, 6pm - 8pm

Contact: Jo at 408-636-8383, or David at 215-760-5782

Join us for a fun and free weekly community improvisation group! All ages/ abilities and drop-ins welcome! Come take risks, be silly, and maybe try something new, all in a safe, supportive environment. Find us on Facebook: First U Improv.

Caring Cards Ministry Team

Following service, Parish room

Laura Tipson, tipson@comcast.net, 908-930-9720

Today, and during upcoming coffee hours, The Caring Ministry Team will be offer cards that congregants can sign or add a message, for members who are having health concerns, celebrating special occasions, or are homebound and would appreciate hearing from church friends. We will supply cards and get them in the mail right away. To support this program, consider donating greeting cards or stamps, or volunteering to sit at the table one Sunday to prepare the envelopes for mailing. Thank you!

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 4, 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" Class

Tuesday, November 6, 6pm - 8pm, Sanctuary

Childcare provided (please give advance notice)

Contact: 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. Email membership@philauu.org with any questions!

New Member Welcoming Ceremony

Sunday, October 14 10am reception in Parish room, and during 11am worship service

Have you been considering membership at First Unitarian Church? If you feel like you've found your spiritual home here, we invite you to officially join on April 14th! Those considering membership are encouraged to attend a UU & You and "Pathways" Class, and email membership@philauu.org, but all who feel ready are welcome. New members should arrive at 10:00am for a reception in the Parish room and sign the membership book prior to the ceremony taking place during service.

Upcoming Events & Programs

Board Meeting Schedule

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

- ❖ October 18, 2018
- ❖ November 15, 2018
- ❖ December 20, 2018

Choir Rehearsal

Contact Nate Bergey 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): 2nd 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.

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

December 2, 2018. 12:30, Olympia Brown Room

Contact: Aggie Rieger, 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 or donate.

Women's Book Club

Contact: Coordinator, Christine Carlson, 215-732-0308 or christine.carlson333@gmail.com.

All women Bibliophiles invited to join in monthly discussions of previously chosen books in members homes. Come at 7:30 to meet and socialize with discussion facilitated by member to follow. Contact coordinator for Host instructions as well as answers to questions or to receive list of future readings.

Nov. 5th - 7:30 P.M. Discussion of Manhattan Beach by Jennifer Egan facilitated by Nancy Pasquier at the home of Diane . Please call Diane Rukavina to let her know you are coming and to get directions at dianeruk@gmail.com or 215-732-1828.

Dec. 3rd - 7:30 P.M. Discussion of Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight; An African Childhood by Alexandra Fuller facilitated by Priscilla McDougal at the home of Ginny Beier. Due to Ginny's illness, everyone is asked to bring a snack to share. Please call Ginny at 215-309-2636 to register you are coming and to get directions.

Architectural Tours of First Church

Fourth Sundays of every Month

Sunday, October 28, following services, Sanctuary

Contact: Richard Frey, richardfrey@dca.net

Join an informal tour designed to give you an understanding of the architecture and decoration of the church, designed in 1883 by Frank Furness. Tours will be 30-45 minute guided tours to all parts of our great historic building. All are welcome. Our guide will be Richard Frey, a professional guide who has been studying the church since he joined 37 years ago. Meet 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!

October CRE

October 14, 2018

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

October 21, 2018

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

October 28, 2018

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

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:

- ❖ October 21, 2018
- ❖ November 18, 2018
- ❖ December 16, 2018

Social Justice Ministries

New Sanctuary Movement Update

Contact: Rebecca Ortenberg (bill.ortenberg@gmail.com)

Since our kick-off in January, First UU has stepped up its involvement with the New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia. Here are a few of the things we've been up to:

- ❖ We attended the latest general meeting, where we heard about recent NSM activities and brainstormed ways in which congregations can support families that need physical sanctuary due to their immigration status.
- ❖ We took part in a New Sanctuary Movement-sponsored rally at ICE headquarters in Philadelphia. The goal of this march was to deliver a petition for refugee status from Carmela Hernandez, who has been living with her family in sanctuary at the Church of the Advocate.
- ❖ We are contributing to a new New Sanctuary Movement working group Divesting from White(ness), which is working to leverage the power and privilege of allied congregations in reaching voters in state Rep. Martina White's district about immigration issues. The group is planning a variety of voter registration, voter education and Get Out the Vote activities between now and the general election in November.

Membership Ministry Team

Email membership@philauu.org to sign up!
Or call the church office at 215-563-3980.

Sign Up to Usher during October and November

We are in need of ushers and greeters for our Summer worship series. Please find the sign-up form on our website: philauu.org/ushers OR you may fill out a paper form in the back of the sanctuary. Remember, Summer services begin at 10:00am!

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

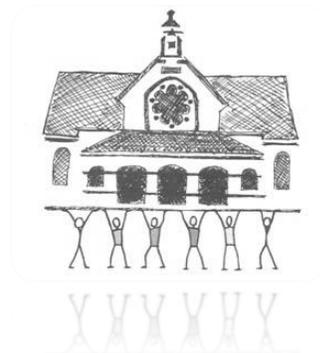
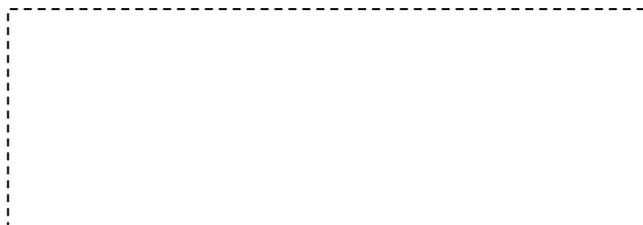
Celebrate, Honor and Beautify

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 2018-2019 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
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
Nic Tenaglia Building Superintendent

Program Staff

Benjamin Kuss Communications and Membership Director
Shantala Thompson Director of Religious Education
Nate Bergey Interim Music Director

Sextons

Jonathan Blount, Jim Devenney, Hye-Sung Gehring

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Congregational Moderator

Mike Tomalin
