

## ***Some FAQ's about Sundays at First UU***



### ***When does the service start?***

Our Services at 11:00 am. It's always good to arrive a bit before this to find your way around.

### ***When you arrive...***

You will be greeted at the door by our Welcoming Team (Greeters and Ushers) , who can answer any questions you might have. We'll ask you to fill out a Visitor form so that we can keep you informed about 1stUU

### ***What happens during the worship service? What are the sermons like?***

Our sermons strive to offer personal and thought-provoking ideas on a topic so that you can determine your own beliefs about it. Sermons are offered by our minister, church members, or invited guests. Most Sunday's we follow a fairly tradition "Order of Service" which includes music and hymns; a time for sharing milestones; readings and reflections or prayers, all in addition to the message (a sermon, homily or other presentation).

### ***Can I bring my children?***

Of course - you and your children are very welcome. Our Religious Education program is often why people first come to a Unitarian Universalist congregation in the first place! The goal of our Children's Religious Education program is to nurture the spirit of each child, fostering ethical and faith development in our children so that they will be empowered to become free-thinking individuals who know and respect themselves and others, contribute to their human and natural communities, and make informed decisions regarding their spiritual paths. We provide a Sunday School with age-appropriate programs for young children up through young teens, and child care for the very young. You are welcome to have your children take part in our Program when you visit. See the **Religious Education** page for more details.

### ***Will I be welcome?***

Yes, absolutely. We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person and in acceptance of one another and encouragement to the spiritual growth of all. We have members from many different occupations, cultural heritages, and religious backgrounds. *No matter the color of your skin, your heritage, age, ability, economic status, sexual or affectional orientation all are welcome and included here.*

### ***What if I'm part of an interfaith family?***

Many families have roots in more than one religion, and specifically choose our congregation because we honor and celebrate many religious traditions.

***Will I be welcome if I'm agnostic or atheist?***

When we say our spiritual traditions are diverse, we really mean it! Within our congregation are agnostics, atheists, humanists, theists, Buddhists, people who follow the earth-based religions, and others rooted in traditional Jewish or Christian beliefs.

Our aim is to give people a safe place to explore and grow spiritually, wherever they start from and wherever they journey. We provide religious education for their children, teaching them how to make informed and ethical choices. We provide a larger forum for making a difference in the world through social action. And we provide a vibrant social community.

***What should I wear?***

Attendees generally wear attire best characterized as “business casual”, with a greater emphasis on the “casual” in many cases. Please wear whatever makes you comfortable.

***What happens after the service?***

Immediately after every Sunday Service, we host what is traditionally called “Coffee Hour” - a time for refreshment, conversation and fellowship. Beverages (coffee and tea) are offered, along with snacks such as bagels, muffins or sometimes other fare.

On occasion there are other activities or meetings happening at this time. And often there are potluck luncheons! Information about these are found in our Newsletter or the weekly Announcements.

***Will I be pressured to join or convert?***

We do try to be friendly, but we do not ask visitors to join our congregation right away. We believe that you should take the time to see whether we are a good fit and to consider our covenant. Membership conveys certain privileges, such as voting rights, and responsibilities, such as involvement and financial support, but there are a number of congregants who are very active in the life of our community but who have never signed the membership book.

***What holidays are celebrated?***

We celebrate many of the great religious holidays in some way that speaks to our Unitarian Universalist faith. These include Christmas, and Easter, the Jewish High Holy Days, Day of the Dead, Passover and Hanukkah. Other religious traditions’ holidays and holy times are marked or honored each year as well.