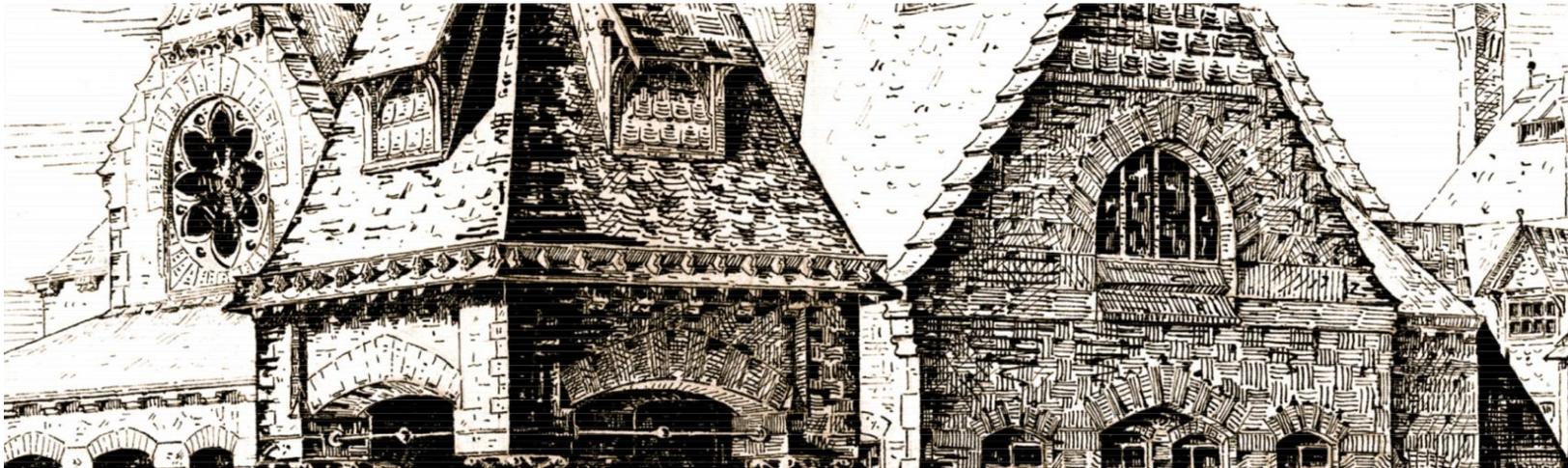


# The Beacon

The Monthly Newsletter of the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia

Summer 2018



## Summer Worship Services, June 24 - September 2, 2018 (Reminder: services begin at 10am in the Parish Room)

### Who Are You?

*Sunday, June 24, 10:00am, Parish Room*

*Led by: Crystal Mann*

There is a saying "the only thing constant is change," but often times we aren't ready for the shift in the tides. We are let grasping for new purpose with our old identity, or thrust into a new identity that changes our entire orientation. We are left asking ourselves "who are you?" and "What do I do now?"

*\*CRE is on Summer Break. Services are intergenerational*

### Building The Beloved Community: Who, Me?

*Sunday, July 1, 10:00am, Parish Room*

*Led by: Phyllis Belk*

What are the strands that help our church weave the interconnected web? Building a caring community is a spiritual challenge that needs ideas, experiences and efforts.

*\*CRE is on Summer Break. Services are intergenerational*

### A Meditation on Leaving

*Sunday, July 8, 10:00am, Parish Room*

*Led by: Douglas Watts*

In this service we will explore the spiritual side of leaving. What does it mean to walk away from someone, something, or someplace?

*\*CRE is on Summer Break. Services are intergenerational*

### A Beginner's Mind Is a Terrible Thing to Waste

*Sunday, July 15, 10:00am, Parish Room*

*Led by: Eliza Hammer*

The "Beginner's Mind" has a unique perspective. As we become experienced at something or hardened by the world it is easy to devalue the beginner's mind as naive or inexperienced. However, beginners have a unique ability to challenge existing knowledge and discover new points of view. Together, we will explore the beginner's mind and learn how we can appreciate it in ourselves and in others..

*\*CRE is on Summer Break. Services are intergenerational*

### Connected: Beyond What We Know/ In Celebration of John B Hedges, A Musician Extraordinaire

*Sunday, July 22, 10:00am, Sanctuary*

*Led by: Rev. Zemorina Brandon*

When unexpected events occur in our lives we may often think of them as coincidences or just a stroke of luck. However, whatever is occurring at that time serves a divine purpose aligned with the universe which is always trying to connect and get our attention through signs and symbolism; spiritual messages, experiences and people we encounter along our journey. Join us in worship as we tap into the power of our universal connection through

inspirational messages; uplifting music and song; sacred dance; spoken word/ poetry.

*\*CRE is on Summer Break. Services are intergenerational*

## **Emotional Intelligence**

*Sunday, July 29, 10:00am, Parish Room*

*Led by: Stephen Oliver*

What are the principles of Emotional Intelligence and how can we cultivate it in ourselves? This week Stephen Oliver will teach congregants to understand how emotional intelligence can make us more spiritually aware and better able to navigate relationships. .

*\*CRE is on Summer Break. Services are intergenerational*

## **How Do We Learn to Trust Ourselves Again?**

*Sunday, August 5, 10:00am, Parish Room*

*Led by: David O'Connor*

For many people, school has taught us many wonderful things, but has also taught us not to trust ourselves. How do we recognize the connection between our curiosity and our spirituality, and learn to trust ourselves again?.

*\*CRE is on Summer Break. Services are intergenerational*

## **Questions of Faith**

*Sunday, August 12, 10:00am, Parish Room*

*Led by: Rev. Abbey Tennis*

Rev. Abbey will be joining us to lead service this week. More information about the sermon will be forthcoming.

*\*CRE is on Summer Break. Services are intergenerational*

## **Faith or Fiction?**

*Sunday, August 19, 10:00am, Parish Room*

*Led by: Luana Goodwin*

What is the substance of our UU faith and what does it share with the professed faiths of our neighbors? We will do some looking at fable, myth and metaphor for answers.

*\*CRE is on Summer Break. Services are intergenerational*

## **Blessing of the Animals**

*Sunday, August 26, 10:00am, Parish Room*

*Led by: Rev. Abbey Tennis*

Join us for the annual service where we bless the animals who companion us through the world! Well-behaved pets are welcome on leashes or in crates. We will also bless a picture of your beloved animal, or your child's stuffed animal!

*\*CRE is on Summer Break. Services are intergenerational*

## **History as Social Justice and Spiritual Practice**

*Sunday, September 2, 10:00am, Parish Room*

*Led by: Rebecca Ortenberg*

William Faulkner once said, "The past isn't dead. It isn't even past." For historians dedicated to social justice efforts, a deeper understanding of the past has never been more alive, more vital, than it is today. How are marginalized groups, whose histories still so rarely appear in classrooms, museums, and our built environment, reclaiming their past as a source of power? How can a better understanding of sites of historical power - including our own church - ground who we are, help us question what we take for granted, and inspire us to create a more just world?

*\*CRE is on Summer Break. Services are intergenerational*

## **Vespers Services**

Contact Rev. Abbey at [minister@pbilauu.org](mailto:minister@pbilauu.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, September 5, 7PM



## News and Notes!

### Reverend Victor Carpenter, former minister at First U., passes away.

Rev. Victor Howard Carpenter, Age 88, died peacefully at home on June 1, 2018, with his family near his side. Victor was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on October 23, 1929 to Victor Carpenter, Sr. and Pauline Carpenter. He was an outspoken social justice activist, and lead the congregation here at First U. of Philadelphia during the trying times of the Vietnam War and Mayor Rizzo. Learn more about him from the uua website: <https://bit.ly/2NInVBr>

### 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 Sunday, October 14. Those considering membership are encouraged to attend a UU & You and "Pathways" Class, and email [membership@philauu.org](mailto: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.

### UU Community Weekend - Labor Day Weekend!

*Saturday, Sept 1 - Monday, Sept 3, Camp Canadensis in the Poconos*

This weekend getaway is a unique opportunity to play, exercise, and relax together with old and new friends from across the Greater Philly UU Cluster. It is a time of real vacation without having to cook, set the table, make the coffee, wash the dishes or hover over the kids. For more info and to register, visit <http://www.mluc.org/community/community-weekend> Separate from the registration form above, we at First Unitarian Church would like to extend this event to those who cannot afford the entire cost. Please consider contributing a suggested \$25 or more to help share this experience; contact [uuweekend.philauu@gmail.com](mailto:uuweekend.philauu@gmail.com) and Dan Widyono will coordinate that effort as well as ride sharing.

### Legacy Campaign Update - We're Moving On Up!

Contact: Luana Goodwin, [luanagoodwin@gmail.com](mailto:luanagoodwin@gmail.com);  
Norman Fouby, Business Administrator,  
[norman@philauu.org](mailto:norman@philauu.org)  
[WakeNonOurVision.org](http://WakeNonOurVision.org)

The Legacy Team is pleased to report that 21 of our members have said "Yes!" to our campaign, stating their intent to make a legacy gift to First Unitarian Church.

Several of these gifts, recorded in a Will or beneficiary designation, have already been forwarded to Boston to be eligible for the 10% match coming from the denomination. This amount will, in turn, be matched by generous church member. A legacy gift of \$10,000 would then yield the church a total of \$2,000 to be made available as early as 2019.

For more information about the Legacy challenge you can look for brochures in our information displays at the church or contact Luana Goodwin at [luanagoodwin@gmail.com](mailto:luanagoodwin@gmail.com).

### Caring Cards Ministry Team

*Following service, Parish room*

Laura Tipson, [tipson@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:membership@philauu.org) for more information!

## Membership

[membership@philauu.org](mailto: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, August 26, following Worship, Sanctuary*

[membership@philauu.org](mailto: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

*Classes will resume after Summer Session*

**Childcare provided (please give advance notice)**

Contact: [minister@philauu.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 Sunday, October 14th. Those considering membership are encouraged to attend a UU & You and "Pathways" Class, and email [membership@philauu.org](mailto: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

❖ August 15, 2018

### Choir Rehearsal

\*\*\*\*\* REHEARSAL WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER \*\*\*\*\*

❖ **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.*

*August 5, 2018. 12:30, Olympia Brown Room*

*Contact: Aggie Rieger, [arieger@wellesley.edu](mailto: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, Ginny Beier [215-309-2636](tel:215-309-2636)*

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.

**Aug. 6th - 7:30 P.M.**, Discussion of *Lilli de Jong* : A Novel by Janet Benton

### Architectural Tours of First Church

*Fourth Sundays of every Month*

*Sunday, May 27, following services, Sanctuary*

*Contact: Richard Frey, [richardfrey@dca.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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!

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## CRE IS ON SUMMER BREAK, AND WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER

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## Adult Spiritual Development

### Guided Meditation

Contact: Ed Greenlee at [edwin.greenlee@gmail.com](mailto: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 Summer are:

- ❖ August 19, 2018

## Social Justice Ministries

### New Sanctuary Movement Update

Contact: Rebecca Ortenberg ([bill.ortenberg@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:membership@philauu.org) to sign up!  
Or call the church office at 215-563-3980.

### Sign Up to Usher during Summer

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](http://philauu.org/ushers) OR you may fill out a paper form in the back of the sanctuary. Remember, Summer services begin at 10:00am!

### Coffee Hour Greeter Sign-Up

This is a new initiative by the membership committee, and the idea is simple: Bring our spirit of radical hospitality into coffee hour. Each week we will have 1 person volunteer to bring snacks to share, and 2 people to talk with visitors and newer congregants after service. Interested? Sign up on our website: [philauu.org/ushers](http://philauu.org/ushers), or fill out a paper form in the back of the sanctuary.

## 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](http://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](http://www.philauu.org/flowers)**

**THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA**  
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

2125 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
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Office Hours 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
www.philauu.org • info@philauu.org



*DATED MATERIAL --- ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED*

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**Minister**

Rev. Abbey Tennis    Minister

**Executive Staff**

Norman Fouhy    Business Administrator  
Nic Tenaglia    Building Superintendent

**Program Staff**

Benjamin Kuss    Communications Director  
Shantala Thompson    Director of Religious Education

**Sextons**

Jonathan Blount, Jim Devenney, Hye-Sung Gehring

**Board of Trustees**

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Mike Tomalin

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