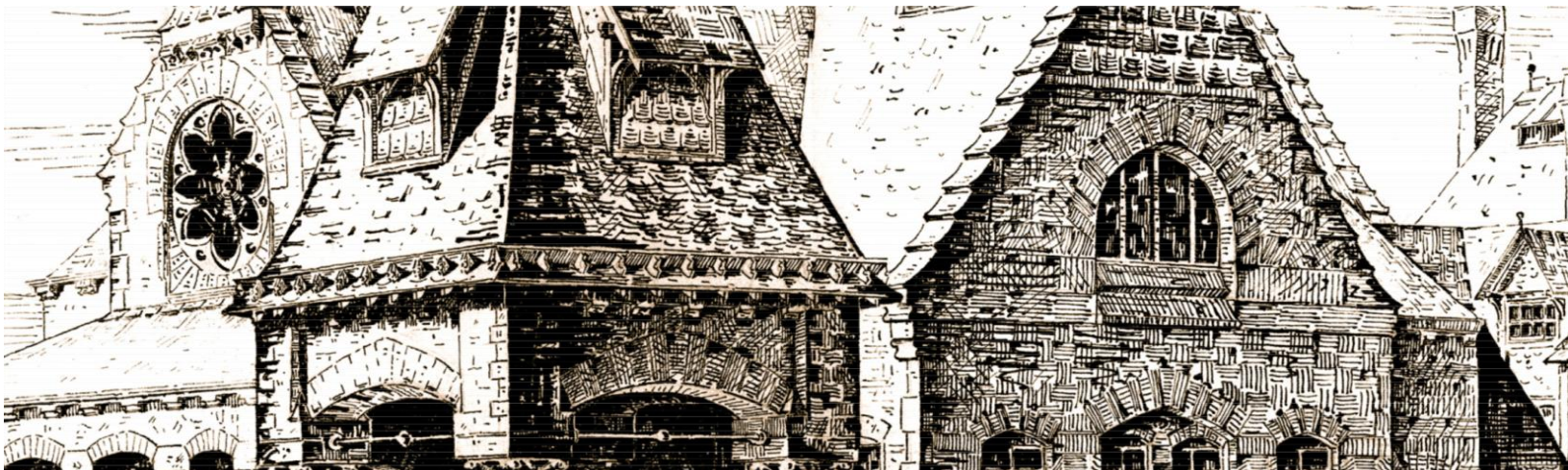


# The Beacon

The Monthly Newsletter of the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia

June, 2018



## June Worship Services Theme: Joy

### Fully Saturated Life

*Sunday, June 3, 11:00am, Sanctuary*

*Led by: Rev. Abbey Tennis*

What does it mean to live a full life? How can we pack meaningful experiences into our lives without getting too overwhelmed? How do we find a joy that does not ignore despair?

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

### Pride and Joy

*Sunday, June 10, 11:00am, Sanctuary*

*Led by: Rev. Abbey Tennis*

Pride is often considered a “sin,” and important parts of who we are make some people think we are “less than.” How can we reclaim parts of ourselves that have caused us pain, and turn them into joyful celebrations of our wholeness?

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

### Kissing the Joys as they Fly/ Flower Communion & Transition into Summer Services

*Sunday, June 17, 11:00am, Sanctuary*

*Led by: Rev. Abbey Tennis*

Joy is one of the most powerful human feelings, and yet like all feelings it can be fleeting. Join us this flower communion Sunday, the last Sunday before our summer service schedule begins, in celebrating the good times when they come, even when they do not always stay. All are invited to bring a flower to participate in the communion service, and we'll have extras on hand!

Additionally, we will celebrate the end of the year and transition with a slide show of our photographs. If you have any photos of joys, celebrations, gatherings, please share them! You may email them to Ben at [communications@philauu.org](mailto:communications@philauu.org), or you may drop them off. For inclusion, please send no later than Wednesday, June 13.

*\*CRE will be an Intergenerational Service. This is the last CRE before Summer Services. CRE will resume Sunday, September 30th.*

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**Summer Services begin Sunday, June 24th -  
August 26th. Worship begins at 10:00 in the  
Parish Room.**

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## Vespers Services

Contact Rev. Abbey at [minister@philauu.org](mailto: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, September 5, 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 April 29th! 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.

### Ordination of Connie Simon

Sunday, June 10, 4pm, First Unitarian

Contact: Phyllis Belk, [phyllis.belk@verizon.net](mailto:phyllis.belk@verizon.net), or 215-769-3553

First Unitarian Church's own Connie Simon is being ordained! All First Unitarian members and congregants are welcome to join in the fun of celebrating this milestone in Connie's life. Please help ensure the fullness of her celebration by making a gift towards her ordination fund. Checks may be delivered to the First Unitarian Church by mail or through the Sunday offering plate. Please write "Simon Ordination" on the memo line.

Give online here: <https://bit.ly/2sEfQp8>

### UUA General Assembly – Delegates Needed!

June 20-24, Kansas City, MO

Contact: Rev. Abbey, [minister@philauu.org](mailto:minister@philauu.org)

The General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our national denomination. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make decisions for the Association. We're looking for a few members to represent us there as delegates! Limited scholarships available.

### Mission and Vision Summit Report

On Saturday, April 14th, dozens of First Unitarian church leaders met to discuss the priorities of our spiritual work together. We were led by the incredibly gracious and world-renowned church facilitator and leadership developer, our own Larry Peers. Stay tuned for more information, as we continue discussion communally our values and putting them into action!

### First Unitarian at Philly Pride

June 10th, 12:30 PM

Contact: Eliza Hammer, [elizadhammer29@gmail.com](mailto:elizadhammer29@gmail.com), 609-213-5910

Are you interested in attending the Pride Parade? Please join us on the steps of the Church and we will travel together to watch the parade near 15th and Market Street.

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

Contact: Luana Goodwin, [luanagoodwin@gmail.com](mailto:luanagoodwin@gmail.com);

Norman Fouhy, 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).

## **Stewardship Campaign - Over 210K Raised!!!**

Contact: Christine Carlson ([christine.carlson333@gmail.com](mailto:christine.carlson333@gmail.com)) or Ted Newill ([ernewill@yahoo.com](mailto:ernewill@yahoo.com)), Stewardship Campaign Co-Chairs

THANK YOU to the OVER 120 members and friends of First Unitarian Church, who combined, pledged over \$210,000 for the 2018-19 church year! We are so close to our goal over \$240,000 for this year! Do you want to be part of making First Unitarian Church's mission real? Did you perhaps just forget to pledge before now? Pledge brochures can be found in the back of the pews, and near the nametags in the back of the sanctuary. Anything you pledge makes a difference! Contact Stewardship Co-Chairs Ted Newill ([ernewill@gmail.com](mailto:ernewill@gmail.com)) or Christine Carlson ([christine.carlson333@gmail.com](mailto:christine.carlson333@gmail.com)) with any questions.

## **First U Improv**

*First Unitarian Church, Parish Room, 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](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, June 10, 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 29<sup>th</sup>! 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

- ❖ June 20, 2018
- ❖ July 18, 2018
- ❖ August 15, 2018

### Choir Rehearsal

Contact John B Hedges at [musicdirector@philauu.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.

July 1, 2018. 12:30, Olympia Brown Room

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.

### 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 P.A 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!

## June CRE

This month CRE will focus on the 7<sup>th</sup> Unitarian principle “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” What does it mean to care for our planet earth and all living things? What does it look like? We will explore some general environmental justice themes, get our hands dirty and hopefully enjoy some warm weather!

## CRE Schedule

### June 3, 2018

- \* CRE will start in the Joseph Priestley Chapel, located directly in front of the side entrance.
- \* OWL - 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

### June 10, 2018

- \* CRE will start in the sanctuary for a “Time for All Ages.”
- \* OWL - 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

### June 17, 2018

- \* *Intergenerational service. (last CRE before Summer Services)*
- \* OWL - 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

## 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 spring are:

- ❖ June 17, 2018
- ❖ July 15, 2018
- ❖ 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  
John B Hedges    Music Director

**Sextons**

Jonathan Blount, Jim Devenney, Hye-Sung Gehring

**Board of Trustees**

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Debby Schultz    Treasurer  
Nancy Pasquier    Secretary  
Erika Parker    Trustee  
Doug Watts    Trustee  
AnneMarie Vaeni    Trustee

**Congregational Moderator**

Mike Tomalin

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