March Worship Services
Theme: Grace

“Once our daily actions are infused with a sense of the sacred, we hear the rhythms of grace.” — bell hooks

We Will All Be Received In Graceland
Sunday, March 8, 11:00am, Sanctuary
Led by: Rev. Hannah Capaldi

Many of us join a religious community searching to ease the ache of loneliness. We are searching for connection and community and a reminder that we are here for a reason. This Sunday, we will share stories of transcending isolation and alienation, of moments of grace, when we felt connected to something larger than ourselves.

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

Wherever You Go, There You Are
Sunday, March 15, 11:00am, Sanctuary
Led by: Rev. Abbey Tennis

When life feels hard, many of us fantasize about leaving all our problems behind and re-starting somewhere else. But as many great spiritual teachers remind us, true change begins within. If we are seeking to turn a corner in life, how can we begin without finding ourselves back where we started?

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

Recovering Balance
Sunday, March 22, 11:00am, Sanctuary
Led by: Rev. Alison Cornish

The spring equinox – when the length of day and night is nearly equal in all parts of the world – invites us to consider how we might recover balance in the ways we live on Earth. The Rev. Alison Cornish is the Affiliated Community Minister at First Unitarian. Her ministries include serving as the Executive Director of Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light, and Director of Seminary and Training Initiatives at Interfaith Philadelphia.

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

Transformation is Always Disruptive
Sunday, March 29, 11:00am, Sanctuary
Led by: Rev. Abbey Tennis

Children's Religious Education (CRE) will start in the main sanctuary. Children are invited upstairs to CRE after our "Time for All Ages."
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! Those considering membership are encouraged to attend a UU & You and “Pathways” Class, but all who feel ready are welcome.

UU & You

Sunday, March 8, 12:45 pm, the front of the Sanctuary
Contact: 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

Sunday, March 22, 12:45 pm
Contact: Rev. Hannah Capaldi, revhannah@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, April 5, 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 5! 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.

Send announcements for First Unitarian Church's monthly newsletter, The Beacon, to communications@philauu.org.

The deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month.
Upcoming Events & Programs

Choir Rehearsal
Contact: Chase Castle, Music Director, at musicdirector@philaau.org

- First Unitarian Choir (main adult choir): Thursdays 7:30-9:00pm & Sundays at 9:45am
- First Church Voices (intergenerational choir - all ages and levels): 4th Sunday of each month, 12:30-1:30
  - Rehearsals: March 22
  - Performance: March 29

Board Meeting Schedule
All are welcome to attend! Meetings generally occur on the third Tuesday of every month, beginning at 6:30pm.
- Upcoming: March 17, April 21,

A Planet to Win: Why We Need a Green New Deal
Tuesday, March 17, 6-8pm, in the Sanctuary
Contact: 350 Philadelphia at 350philadelphia@gmail.com

What could a Green New Deal look like across the country and right here in Philly? How can we tackle the climate emergency by replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy at an urgent pace while building economic and racial justice? What will it take to bring a Green New Deal into being? Join a conversation with Kate Aronoff and Daniel Aldana Cohen, two co-authors of the new book A Planet to Win: Why We Need a Green New Deal. Books will be available for sale. You can RSVP online at the link included in the E-Beacon.

Holly Near: More Than Ever!
Wednesday, March 25, 7:30pm, Sanctuary
ANNA Crusis Womens Choir, the oldest existing feminist choir in the U.S., cordially invites members of First Unitarian Church to join Holly Near in More Than Ever! on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 7:30pm. Holly Near will perform in concert here at the church with Tammi Brown, Jan Martinelli and Tory Trujillo with Special Guests Crys Matthews and ANNA Crusis Women's Choir. Holly Near has been singing for a more equitable world for well over 50 creative years. She is an insightful storyteller through her music, committed to keeping the work rooted in contemporary activism. We use a sliding scale for concert tickets because we value accessibility and inclusivity. Tickets are available in 3 tiers: $10, $20 or $35. We won’t turn anyone away! Doors open at 7:00 pm. Tickets can be purchased online at the link included in the E-Beacon.

Voter Registration event on March 28th!
We will be kicking off our #UUtetheVote work with a full day of voter registration work on March 28th in partnership with other congregations (UU and interfaith) from Philly, New York, and more. Do you want to help make sure that all Philadelphians who are eligible to vote are registered? Do you want to help amplify the voices of the people of Philadelphia in local, state-wide, and national elections? Join us on March 28th! This will be the first of several opportunities to do non-partisan voter registration work with First Unitarian Church in the coming months.

Active Hope Workshop:
How to Face the Climate Mess We’re in Without Going Crazy
Saturday, March 28, Parish Room. 9:00am-12pm, Parish Room
Led by: Rev. Alison Cornish
How can we respond to the crisis of sustainability unfolding in our world when it seems overwhelming? How do we deal with the pain, grief, and despair the accompanies our witnessing of environmental devastation? Active Hope addresses the challenges of climate change and will offer tools to help us face these challenges, to find strength, and to build community. The workshop draws on the work of the eco-philosopher Joanna Macy developed since 1970s. When our responses are guided by the intention to act for the healing of our world, the mess we are in not only becomes easier to face but our lives become more meaningful and satisfying. No prior experience or reading is required.

Who is the workshop for?
The workshop is for anyone who is looking to re-ignite a sense of hope, care, passion and purpose to be able to respond to issues of concern in four community and planet. If you are already involved in climate activism and looking to feel re-inspired in your efforts, or you are searching for ways to
personally and meaningfully respond to the challenges of climate change, or simply curious about the work, you are welcome. All are welcome, whether or not you are a member or friend of First Unitarian Church. There is no charge, but please register by signing up during coffee hour or sending an email to Kate Uraneck at k82did@gmail.com. Space is limited. Coffee and bagels will be provided.

Save the Date: Disco Daze on April 25!

For all the disco queen wannabes and those who weren’t even alive in the 70s, now is the time for you to make your Dyn-o-mite mark and contribute your inspired item(s) for auction. In the past people have offered child care, pet care, themed dinners, knitting instruction, hikes, pies and cakes, or entertainment for a special occasion! The list is endless and quite varied. You can record your auction items online through the church website at philauu.org/auction or on paper during Coffee Hour. Admission is free! Deadline for donations is April 7. With questions or to volunteer your services, email Luana Goodwin at luanagoodwin@gmail.com.

From auction organizer Luana Goodwin:

“I did a better job last May of bidding and bagging at the Jazz Age Auction. As a result, I have enjoyed my purchases and winnings throughout the year. There was the fabulous Beer Dinner hosted by the Wells and Wommer/Wittenberg families. The food was Indian gourmet with a silky pumpkin pie finish. Then I used the Cheesecake Factory coupon I had won in the Raffle to take a friend to a delicious pre-concert dinner, gifted by Phyllis Belk. Next, I was a guest in the Orts household for a Tea and Chocolate tasting event. I had never given much thought to the possibilities of that combination before but they were delicious! And finally, I recently joined a small party for a tasty spaghetti dinner prepared by Harvey Anderson. Some of these offering are Auction standards and some were new this year. Hoping you will join us at this year's Disco Daze Auction on April 25 for an evening of fun that can extend throughout the year.”

First U Improv

Parish Room, Second and Fourth Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm
Contact: Keri at 215-630-6744 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.

❖ Upcoming: March 10 & 24

Young Adult Brunch

Sunday, March 15, following service
Every third Sunday, back of the Sanctuary
Contacts: Peter Crouch and Bailey Hartge, youngadults@philauu.org

Do you identify as a young adult (under 35-ish)? Then please join us for a low-key brunch and hangout after Sunday service. We'll gather in the back of the Sanctuary after service ends, decide on a close-by place and go!

Architectural Tours of First Church

Fourth Sundays of every Month
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 47 years ago. Meet after the Sunday service, at the bust of Joseph Priestley, on the west wall near the organ.

❖ Upcoming: March 22, April 5 & 12

Morning Meditation

First and Second Sunday, 10am, Chapel
Contact: Beth Ralston at elizabethralston123@yahoo.com or 215-222-9507

Would you like to include meditation as part of your Sunday morning worship experience? Join Beth Ralston for a half hour of silent meditation prior to the regular service. No experience necessary!

❖ Upcoming: March 8
Ministry Teams

Group Forming to Address Climate Change Concerns
Contact: Thessaly McFall, thessalymc@gmail.com and Kristina Victoreen, kme2006@gmail.com

Worried about climate change and want to do something about it? Come talk to us! We can provide you information on opportunities with local climate action groups. Whether you want to promote legislative solutions, educate your community, or participate in protests, we’ll help you find a way to get plugged in. You can also join our Google Group to connect with other First UUs involved in climate action. Worried about other environmental issues? We welcome you to the discussion. We want to develop action and support based on voiced interests.

Small Group Ministry
Contact: Christina Servetnick, smallgroups@philauu.org

Small Group Ministry organizes small groups that meet monthly to discuss the congregational theme more deeply. This year, we are accepting new group members throughout the year. If you are interested, please Christina Servetnick for the list of groups that are open.

Hospitality & Light Treats Needed!
Please bring cookies, fruit, cheese and crackers, or other light treats for Coffee Hour to provide a special welcome to visitors. Contact the Membership Ministry at membership@philauu.org with any questions.

Sign Up to Usher for Sunday Services
Our Usher Team is a fun, vital part of the ministry of First Unitarian Church. Signing up to usher is an easy way to get to know people in the congregation and contribute to the service! Ushers greet members and newcomers, pass out Orders of Service, help people to their seats, and set a tone of "radical hospitality" in welcoming all. This mission is vital, and yet also easy. Try it! No advance training needed. Learn more and sign up for an upcoming service at www.philauu.org/ushers

Get Involved with POWER
Contact: Beth Lazer at bethlazer@comcast.net

First Unitarian Church is a member of POWER, an explicitly nonpartisan interfaith organization committed to bringing together people across lines of race, income level, faith tradition, culture and neighborhoods to build broad-based advocacy for policy change. Over 50 congregations throughout Southeastern and Central Pennsylvania, including First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia, participate in POWER’s work, believing that faith can bring us together more than it can divide us and that our varied faith traditions call on us to bring justice to our neighborhoods and our nation. POWER campaigns for Criminal Justice Reform, Fair Funding for Public Education, Economic Dignity and Climate Justice. Each campaign team meets regularly to determine its agenda and goals. You can be part of a team at any level of participation – set strategy, attend a legislative meeting, participate in a rally, or contact your legislator as needed.

Learn more at www.powerinterfaith.org.

Connect to the Caring Ministry Team

The great twentieth-century Rabbi Abraham Heschel wrote: “Just to be is a blessing. Just to live is holy.”

Our Universalists first principle—the inherent worth and dignity of each person as a given of faith—an unshakeable conviction calling us to self-respect and respect for others—offers a guide for living life as a "blessing" and a call to practice what is "holy."

The Caring Ministry programs offers congregants a means of living out this first principle. By volunteering to help with Caring Ministry programs Congregants are letting Members and Friends know their lives are valued. The below options offer Members and Friends opportunities to Care.

Card Ministry
1) At the Caring Table, almost every Sunday, we set out cards for you to sign as a way to show your support for congregants marking special milestones in their lives—joys, gratitude or loss—the whole spectrum of situations affecting Members and Friends.
2) Donate your time by sitting at the Caring Table, one Sunday a month, to help gather signatures.
3) Donate cards or a roll or partial roll of stamps. There is a basket at the table for your convenience.

**Helping Hands**
This is a network of Members and Friends who volunteer to respond to simple requests from congregants in times of short-term needs. Requests range from making phone calls to homebound congregants, rides to a doctor, or preparing a meal for an ill Member or Friend. In every situation, we maintain confidentiality of those requesting help—their specific need is sent to all volunteers—their identity given only to the person responding to the request. As a Helping Hand, you need only respond to needs within your capabilities and schedule. Sign Up for Helping Hands at the Caring Ministry Table. Or email caring@philauu.org to indicate your interest in being contacted about Helping Hands.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**
Help with knitted, crocheted and hand sewn gifts offered to congregants experiencing significant events in their lives—celebrating a new baby or facing physical or emotional health crisis. All knitting, crocheting, or sewing skills are welcome—mentors available! Yarns, materials, needles also available. Contact Kathy Bell, prayershawl@philauu.org with questions.

**Joys & Concerns – Sunday Service**
Please use our confidential email caring@philauu.org to request that your intention be included in Sunday’s Joys and Concerns.

Please use our confidential email, caring@philauu.org to alert our Ministers and Caring Team of specific needs that you may have.

**Beacon Bits!**

**A Note of Thanks for Breads and Spreads**
Thanks to all the Helping Hands who brought "Breads and Spreads" and more for our coffee hour on Sunday, February 23. Thanks to Katherine Huseman for helping with organizational suggestions and Phebe Shinn for helping with cards.

**An Opportunity to Represent First Unitarian Church at General Assembly**
First Unitarian Church is allowed up to five delegates to represent us at the Unitarian Universalist Association’s General Assembly in Providence, Rhode Island, on June 24-28. Delegates may attend workshops, concerts, programs, and worship services, while meeting Unitarian Universalists from across the country. Then, too, there is the sight of thousands of UUs gathered together!

As a delegate, we ask you to attend general sessions and vote on matters before the Association. Delegates are responsible for their own expenses but there is financial aid available. If you’d like to represent First Unitarian Church as a delegate this year, please email Anne Slater at slater.anne@gmail.com. To learn more about GA and this year’s events, visit the UUA’s General Assembly website at www.uua.org/

**Accessibility Project**
Research continues in an effort to provide the most feasible interim Van Pelt Street Entrance ramp solution. Two options are being explored. The first is the most desirable solution consisting of an aluminum ramp with a hinge or a removable solution allowing the red Van Pelt Street doors to be closed at night and at other times when the Church is not open. The second is a standard aluminum ramp with temporary doors replacing the current red historic doors. Proposals for each option have been requested.

Modifications to the current 3-car parking area are being researched and proposed. In order to provide a four-foot wide accessible entry and exit path from the garden gate to Van Pelt St., the parking area will accommodate only two spaces for cars which will be reserved exclusively for church staff. Various barrier options are being considered to ensure a safe accessible entrance and exit area.

Should you have questions please contact Building Superintendent Nic Tenaglia (pronouns they/them) at 215-563-3980.

**Combating LGBTQ Youth Homelessness**
Do you want to join the fight to end LGBTQ youth homelessness? Using the funds from the President’s Engagement Prize, a 2019 Penn graduate is building a community-based response to the crisis of LGBTQ youth homelessness in Philadelphia, and you can help! All you need is a spare bedroom and a
willing heart. If you’re curious to learn more, visit www.homewardinitiative.org or email Brendan@homewardinitiative.org.

First Unitarian Church member Amy Hillier (ahillier@upenn.edu) is serving as the faculty mentor for this project.

**Learning Together About Systemic Racism**

March 27-29, 2020, Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County

Do you wish to nurture our congregation’s multicultural future in the face of opposing cultural currents? Do you wish to deepen your understanding of how race and ethnicity play out in our institutions and our daily lives?

Jubilee Anti-Racism Training helps participants understand what is involved in nurturing a multicultural community and working against racism in all of its forms. The workshop requires a weekend commitment; and it is worth every minute of that commitment.

FEE: $160 per participant (includes cost for trainers, meals and materials). Contributions in support of this work are welcome. Enrollment is limited to 40 participants, so sign up today at www.greaterphillyuu.org

**2020 CER Seaway Gathering**

Seaway Gathering: Sources of Hope will be held April 17-18, 2020 in Syracuse, NY. The keynote speaker is Rev. Megan Visser, speaking on Building Safety in the Body. This event includes the Gould Lecture on Friday evening and workshops and a keynote presentation. Registration opens mid-February. All are welcome! For more information contact cer@uua.org

**UUMAC Week-long Gathering in July**

UUMAC, or the Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Community, gathers together for one week each year to build community and deepen their Unitarian Universalist faith through fun, friendship, music, dancing, learning and worship. They are an intergenerational community that uses this time to more thoroughly get to know each other. They meet July 12-18, 2020, on the campus of DeSales University near Allentown, PA. Registration opens soon! Learn more at www.uumac.org

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**Welcome our New Members!**

*First Unitarian Church welcomes its new members who joined on Sunday, February 23. Get to know a little more about them*

**Alexis Werner** is from Pittsburgh originally and came to Philadelphia to go to Temple University. She joined First Unitarian Church in hopes of finding a community of like-minded individuals. She enjoys art, social justice work, and eating her way through restaurants around town.

**David Mazzone** is an active runner, passionate Phillies fan, and inept gardener. He works for a law firm and lives in Narberth with his wife, three children, and two cats.

**Kristina Victoreen** is originally from this area and was raised as a Quaker, but began attending Unitarian Society of Germantown and Restoration UU Church. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2017 with a Masters in Environmental Studies after working in Computer Engineering and Operations for 20 years. Kristina is looking for new work in her field, volunteers as a crew leader with Friends of the Wissahickon, and is on the Steering Committee of the Citizen’s Climate Lobby’s local chapter. She loves singing in the choir here, and enjoys writing music (mostly in her head), hiking, and making stuff. She lives in Chestnut Hill with the two best cats on Earth, Alfred and Mogget.

**Beth Lazer** has been a UU for over 40 years, having first joined a small fellowship on Long Island when her daughter was ready for Sunday School. She previously belonged to UU congregations in Oyster Bay NY, Montclair NJ, Charlotte NC, Asheville NC, and most recently the Mt. Airy neighborhood of Philadelphia. She has retired after working for the IBM Corporation as a technical marketing rep and manager. In retirement, she spends her time in a variety of volunteer roles. Here in Philadelphia, she volunteers at Penn Hospice, the Free Library Central branch, and represents First Unitarian with POWER’s Education Strategy Team. She enjoys traveling, knitting, and reading along with taking advantage of the museums, and theater and music performances here in our city.
The First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia
A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

2125 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Church Office 215-563-3980
Office Hours 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday-Friday
www.philauu.org • info@philauu.org

Church Staff

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 Sextons
Jonathan Blount, Jeff Klebaskas, Jim Devenney, Hye Sung Gehring

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