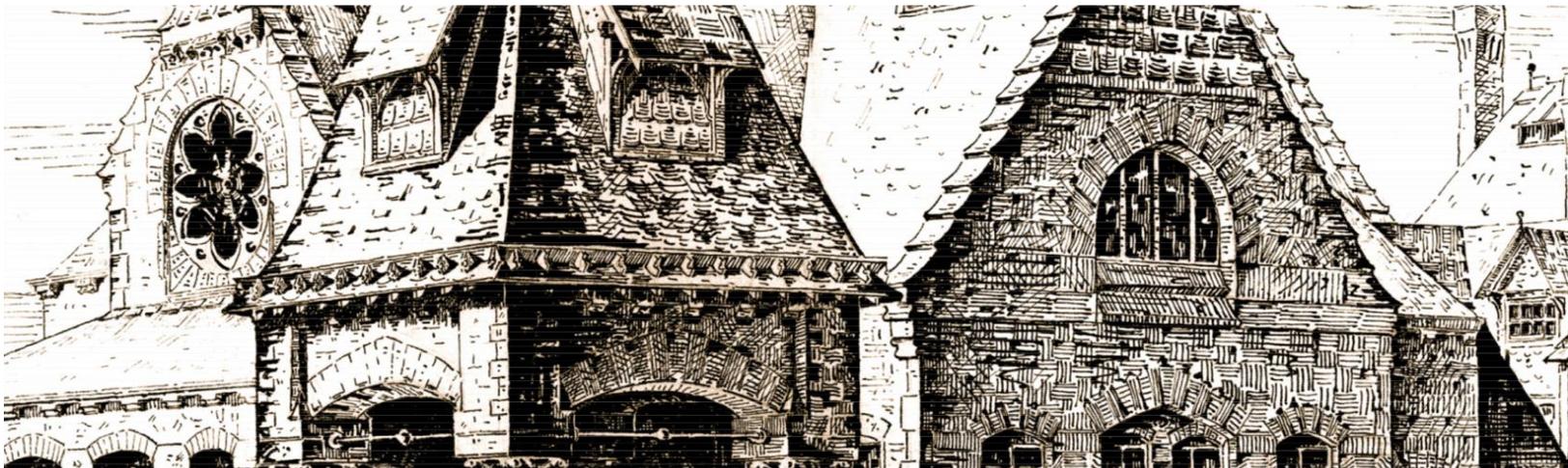


# The Beacon

*The Monthly Newsletter of the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia*

*May 2018*



## May Worship Services Theme: Faith

### God Without Power

*Sunday, May 6, 11:00am, Sanctuary*

*Led by: Rev. Abbey Tennis*

We all have some idea of who or what God is – whether it is a God we believe in, a God we don't believe in, or something that we're not sure about. How can we understand the power that God has in our lives and culture – whether it's "God, the idea," "God, the Being who loves us" or "God, the myth?" Where is God powerless?

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

### Tell the Truth, but Tell it Slant

*Sunday, May 13, 11:00am, Sanctuary*

*Led by: Rev. Abbey Tennis*

We are a people who cherish doubt alongside truth, and seeking alongside knowledge. If nothing is certain, if understanding is ever-unfolding, how can we have faith?

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

### In My Path

*Sunday, May 20, 11:00am, Sanctuary*

*Led by: Rev. Abbey Tennis*

In a life where each of us makes around 35,000 decisions a day, how can we trust that we are making the right ones? Can we untangle ourselves from second-guessing and regrets? How can we find peace with our complicated web of choices?

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

*\*First Church Voices will meet from 12:30-1:30 in the Sanctuary.*

### The Gift of Finitude, Let's Have the Conversation

*Sunday, May 27, 11:00am, Sanctuary*

*Led by: Guest Preacher, Rev. Sage Olnick*

Rev Richard S. Gilbert, Unitarian Universalist Community Minister, writes, "How desperate is our need for one another. Our silent beckoning to our neighbors. Our invitations to share life and death together. Our welcome into the lives of those we meet. And their welcome into our own." Join Rev Sage Olnick to explore the ways our Unitarian Universalist faith can inform our decisions about facing death with life.

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

## Vespers Services

Wednesday, May 2, 2018, 7pm, Sanctuary

Wednesday, June 6, 2018, 7pm, Sanctuary

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.



## News and Notes!

### First Unitarian Church Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 20, 12:30pm, Sanctuary

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, May 20, for First Unitarian Church Annual Meeting. This is an important meeting for our congregation and our democratic process, as we collectively make vital decisions that shape the substance and scope of our work together for the coming year. In addition to voting on the budget, we will also be voting on the nominees for the board of trustees, and the nominating committee.

### Interfaith Iftar Dinner: Unity in Diversity

Sunday, May 2, 6pm doors open, 7401 Limekiln Pike

CAIR-Philadelphia, Masjidullah, and Philadelphia Masjid invite you an evening of food, festivity, and faith, celebrating the breaking of the daily fast during the Sacred Month of Ramadan, and its fortuitous coinciding on May 20th of this year with the Jewish festival of Shavu'ot and the Christian festival of Pentacost. Event is free and by invitation only. **Please RSVP by May 10th at: <https://pa.cair.com/iftar/>** We request you bring 3 cans of food with you to donate.

### 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!

## 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.

## Not Your Grandmother's Church Auction a Great Success!

On Saturday, April 21st, we hosted our umpteenth annual auction, and we raised over \$12,000!!! This was considerably more than last year, and this was also the first year we had a entertainment, provided by our own talented members. Thank you to everyone who came out, to everyone who volunteered their time, and to everyone who donated!

## **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.

## **POWER Update: Live Free Team Meeting**

*Thursday, May 17, 6pm - 8pm, 1429 N. 11th St.  
Contact: Martha Copithorne at 315-751-2124 or  
mwcopi@gmail.com*

This justice team is focused on criminal justice reform in the city, currently police accountability and oversight. First U supports POWER financially - lets support with our presence!

## **The Gospel at Colonus, a Play**

*May 18 - June 9, Thursdays - Sundays, at First Unitarian Church*

In partnership with Coatesville Cultural Society, First Unitarian is hosting a four-week run of the myth of Oedipus in the tradition of the African-American Church. Members and friends should have received a special offer about tickets this past week. **If you would like to see the play for free, you may sign up to usher! Contact Lee Hiers at 610-563-3393, or leehiers@hotmail.com with what date(s) you would like to usher.** For more information on the play, to view dates to usher, or to purchase tickets directly, please visit [www.colonusinphilly.org](http://www.colonusinphilly.org)

## **Ordination of Connie Simon - Help Needed!**

*Sunday, June 10, 4pm, First Unitarian Church  
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! Join in the fun of celebrating this milestone in Connie's life by being part of the hospitality team. Please contact Phyllis for more info and to know if you would like to volunteer by May 13th.

## **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, May 6, following Worship, Sanctuary*

*Sunday, June 2, 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

*Tuesday, May 15, 6pm-8pm, Sanctuary*

***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

- ❖ May 16, 2018
- ❖ June 20, 2018
- ❖ July 18, 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.

May 6, 2018. 12:30, Olympia Brown Room

June 3, 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)

- ❖ We present a diverse assortment of books for all women to read monthly. We meet on the 1st Monday at 7:30 P.M. for hospitality and at 8P.M. for facilitated discussions of member selected books. **May 7th - 7:30pm:** Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the F.B.I. by David Grann facilitated by Christine Carlson. We will meet in the home of Camille Pane. Please call Camille at [camillepane@gmail.com](mailto:camillepane@gmail.com) or [303-968-6553](tel:303-968-6553) to let her know you are coming and to coordinate rides (difficult parking).
- ❖ **June 4th - 7:30pm:** The Meursault Investigation by Kamel Daoud and John Cullen facilitated by Christine Lussier to be held in the home of Donna Cotzen. Please contact Donna at 215-238-1262 or [dcotzen@icloud.com](mailto:dcotzen@icloud.com) to RSVP and for directions.

### 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!

### May Theme: Interdependence

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

#### May 6, 2018

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

\* OWL - 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

#### May 13, 2018

\* CRE will start in the sanctuary for a “Time for All Ages.

\* OWL - 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

#### May 20, 2018

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

\*OWL - 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

#### May 27, 2018

\* CRE will start in the sanctuary for a “Time for All Ages.

\*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:

- ❖ May 20, 2018
- ❖ June 17, 2018
- ❖ July 15, 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 in May or June!

Our Usher Team is a fun, vital part of the ministry of First Unitarian Church. Joining the Ushers is an easy way to get to know people in the congregation and be a part of the service! Ushers pass out Orders of Service, help people to their seats, and are the first faces newcomers see when they enter the church. This mission is so important, and so easy!

Sign up online at: [www.philauu.org/ushers](http://www.philauu.org/ushers)

### 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**

Heather Speirs    President  
Rebecca Ortenberg    Vice President  
Debby Schultz    Treasurer  
Nancy Pasquier    Secretary  
Erika Parker    Trustee  
Doug Watts    Trustee  
AnneMarie Vaeni    Trustee

**Congregational Moderator**

Mike Tomalin

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