



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

February 2018 Newsletter

First Unitarian Society of Chicago 5650 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago IL 60637 (773) 324-4100

Ten Commandments for Church Members

Rev. David Schwartz

Earlier this year I had the chance to spend a day in the Meadville Archives learning about church history in Chicago. Every church has a file folder of official correspondence with the American Unitarian Association (a predecessor of the Unitarian Universalist Association). Mostly those folders are full of mundane things: logistics around borrowing money or sending money to the annual appeal; correspondence around finding ministers to serve; the occasional complaint letter about something happening within the church.

But every so often there a gem, and among the papers of People's Liberal Church of Chicago (also called the First Universalist Society of Englewood, founded in 1878, located at 65th and Stewart), I found a mimeographed paged called "TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR CHURCH MEMBERS" from the 1940s, whose slightly tongue-in-cheek approach to membership appealed.

Here's the list:

- I. Thou shalt not take it for granted that the church work will be done by someone else if thou failest to do thy share.
- II. Thou shalt not charge thy brethren with the responsibility of seeing that the temple is filled if thou abidest elsewhere.
- III. Thou shalt not say thy church is unfriendly if thou dost not thyself contribute to its friendliness.
- IV. Thou shalt not look only at the machinery and mechanics of thy church, but look beyond those and behold its mission as an uplifter of men and a changer of life-currents.
- V. Thou shalt remember that thy church consisteth of thee, they brethren, and those who minister, and these jointly are responsible for success or failure.

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- VI. Thou shalt give as thou hast prospered so that the endeavor to bring in the Kingdom of God [by which they mean what we today might call “beloved community”] may prosper also.
- VII. Thou shalt speak well of that which is good rather than discourage others by talking loudly only of what has not been so hot, or it shall profit thee nothing.
- VIII. Thou shalt occasionally say, “Here I am, send me.” [Meaning: volunteer from time to time!]
- IX. Thou shalt occasionally bring others with thee that new friends may be made for thy church.
- X. Thou shalt not be absent from meetings and services excepting for reasons that would keep thee from other meetings also.

I appreciate knowing that the people who sat in our chairs before we came along weren't

all that different than us. Like us, they sometimes grumbled, and sometimes failed to show up, and sometimes loved their church so much they forgot to invite anyone else to join them here. Like those deeply involved in leadership today, they struggled sometimes to balance doing the work of making the church machinery run with getting personally fed and uplifted by that church.

And like us, they knew that the substance of the church—the thing that endures, the thing that is real—is the relationships between its people. The mission points us a way, and the building make a space, but the life of the church is lived only by its members and friends.

I'm grateful to be here with you all who lives these commandments, and sometimes falling short, of course, and picking ourselves up, and setting joyfully to work again.

In Hope,
Rev. David

From Your Intern Thom Thomas

Take this quiz without referring to Google:

Name two of the five wealthiest people in the world.

Name one of the last five Heisman trophy winners.

Name one person, other than Barack Obama, who has won the Nobel peace prize.

Name any two of the last six Academy Award winners for best actor or actress.

Name the World Series winners for 2015.

How did you do? Few of us remember the headliners of yesterday. The individuals you

were trying to remember in this exercise were not second rate achievers. They are tops in their fields. But the applause dies, awards tarnish, achievements are forgotten.

Now, try this quiz:

Name one teacher who made a difference in your life.

Name one adult, other than your parents, who helped form you into the person you are today.

Name one person who served as a mentor for you when you really needed it.

The people who make a difference in our lives are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones that care. Children don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

In far too many congregations, religious education is seen as something that should be done only by those who have children in the program. The truth is, the more adults who are in the program, the better it runs.

If you want to do something that will make a real difference to the church, and to the future of the world, you should consider sharing some of your time with our next generation. Being a teacher or a mentor can be the most rewarding thing you ever do, for you and for the children whose lives you touch. Getting involved in the most lasting work of the church is as easy as contacting Beth Moss, our Director of Religious Education.

This Month in RE: Persevere

Beth Moss, Director of Religious Education (RE)

This month's theme is perseverance. Whether age 4 or 14, most children have not had to persevere through as many difficulties as adults have, but this skill becomes more and more important as they age. One place to start to approach the topic is through reading, "The Little Engine that Could." This old story's lesson on the power of trying again when you don't succeed and practicing positive self talk make this tale relevant even today. But not everyone has those first hand little engine moments that make this book relatable. What then? What about with for the child who has yet to struggle, especially academically?

The parents of children with an aptitude for academics have good reason to teach the value of perseverance directly. The research discussed in Carol Dweck's book, *Mindset*, reveals why. If for years and years the verbal adult response to a student's success has been related to raw intelligence (i.e., adults have told them they are "so smart,") the student comes to believe their academic excellence arises from a predisposition bestowed upon them. This can lead to a belief that positive outcomes are unrelated to their efforts. Because of this, when they reach a new, not-so-easily-surmountable challenge—as one day they will—they may stop and not persevere. This happens

because when they cannot accomplish a task, they believe it is just because they are not smart enough. This is the effect of having a fixed mindset, and the result can be a stagnation in development.

I can't stress enough the importance of our words. Dweck and other educational researchers recommend that adults change the type of feedback they give kids to change this thinking. Instead of praising raw intelligence, praise the incredible efforts and progress you see a child making. This will help them come to see the value of hard work and perseverance, creating a growth mindset. The child comes to believe that intelligence isn't something you are born with, but something you acquire by gaining skills that make you smart—that ANYONE can become intelligent through hard work. People who *think* they can, can rise to meet great new challenges. Here is to trying, and trying again, until we make it.

February Schedule

February 4: Regularly scheduled RE. Chalice children continue to learn about the gifts of the UU faith through Wonderful Welcome. Upper elementary and middle school youth are working on social justice via Harry and UU. They continue to learn about food

insecurity and they are working towards a service project (see Feb 17).

February 11: Regular RE continues. OWL class at First U. *Speakers wanted!* This week the OWL class will be learning about diverse sexuality and gender orientation. LGBTQ individuals are warmly invited to be a part of a speaker's panel from 2:00–4:00 PM. Students will be presenting the panel with adult reviewed questions, and may be asked to share about life experiences as an LGBTQ individual.

February 17 (Saturday): First U will be hosting an Oxfam Hunger Banquet®, an interactive experience that teaches guests about food distribution and hunger throughout the world. This is especially important as global hunger is on the rise after a steady decline for over ten years.

The Oxfam Hunger Banquets® have helped people understand the reality of hunger for over 40 years at thousands of events attended by more 875,000 people around the country. Before the event, guests draw

tickets at random that assign each to a high-, middle-, or low-tier based on current statistics of people living in poverty. Each income tier receives a meal that corresponds to their income level. Afterward, a discussion will be held.

According to a new United Nations report, approximately 815 million people suffer from chronic hunger worldwide—more than the population of the United States, Canada and European Union combined. Currently, conflict and drought have pushed four nations to the brink of famine. South Sudan, Nigeria, Yemen, and Somalia are facing catastrophic humanitarian crises, where millions are at risk of starvation. The Oxfam Hunger Banquet® is tailored to support and highlight the famine crises because of the dire consequences of hunger faced by this population. Any funds raised will be donated to alleviating starvation.

February 18: Regular RE continues.

February 25: Regular RE continues. OWL class at Hobart.

February Worship Services

February 4th, 10 AM
#MeToo, Now What?
 Rev. Teri Schwartz

Women have persevered and forged a new public consciousness and discourse about women's equality and rights over the last year. From Senator Elizabeth Warren persisting on the Senate floor (*#Neverthelessshepersisted*), to Representative Maxine Waters reclaiming her time (*#Reclaimingmytime*) to *#MeToo* and *#Timesup*, this has been a landmark year. These movements are another step in a more just world, but can also be a source of inspiration for everyone.

February 11th, 10 AM
Perseverance vs. Perseveration
 Rev. David Schwartz

What's the difference between sticking with something through thick and thin (perseverance), and doing the same ineffective thing over and over (perseveration)?

Our annual state of the church meeting follows the service.

February 18th, 10 AM
Go Fast Alone, Go Far Together
 Rev. Teri Schwartz

A proverb states, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." We often think of perseverance as gritting our teeth and forging a path as rugged individuals. But to persevere for the long haul, we've got to go together.

February 25th, 10 AM
The Sisyphus Effect
 Thom Thomas, Student Minister

There is an old curse that goes, "May you live in interesting times." How many marches have you attended since last January? How many petitions have you signed? How many phone calls have you made? How can you possibly keep going, and for how long? Haven't we already fought these battles? How do you find the strength to keep fighting the same battles over and over?

Emancipation Weekend Recaps

What a weekend! This was my reaction to our Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, which began with a dress rehearsal for the Pageant of Freedom, *The Day of Jubilee*, on Friday, January 12—our annual celebration of the official declaration of the Emancipation proclamation of 1863—and ended with the Sinfonietta Concert celebration of Brother Martin Luther King's birthday on the 15th. In between we had two pageant performances, a Sea Scout Freedom Brunch, a pre-concert dinner sponsored by the First U Men's



Initiated by First Unitarian member Skipper Richard Snow and continued by First Unitarian member Skipper Reginald K. Rush, our annual **Sea Scout Freedom Brunch** serves as an example of cooperative racial progress in the Chicago area and within our congregation.

Group, and an incredible (though often puzzling!) concert based on an epic poem about black life by Langston Hughes. Gubernatorial candidate Bob Daiber was my guest of honor. To use the old phrase, a good time was had by all.

More later,
 Dr. Finley C. Campbell
 Program Coordinator
 Racial Justice Task Force



These pictures of Sea Scouts, now and then, compare Chicago's history of racial segregation and discrimination as practiced in its Scout troops, beaches, and yacht clubs to the more open doors of today.

(Former) First Mate Betty V. Holcomb
 Sea Scout Ship 5212

Rising Up in Song

Jeffrey Hamrick, Music Director

On **Saturday, March 31** (time TBD), we are delighted to welcome Windborne, a dynamic quartet from New England that achieved great recognition following the release of their widely shared video featuring them singing in protest outside Trump Tower in New York following the inauguration of Donald Trump.

Over the past decade, Windborne has sought to study a variety of vocal music from masters of traditional singing styles in the US and around the world. Through these collaborations, they have developed the vocal agility and authentic sound for which they are known. Their dynamic concert

programs include songs from Corsica, the Republic of Georgia, Bulgaria, Quebec, and Basque country, as well as traditional and original American folk music. They believe deeply in the power of music to change hearts.

We'll be sharing more information regarding Windborne's visit to First Unitarian as plans are finalized. Provided that there is sufficient interest from our congregation, we hope to schedule a late afternoon singing workshop, followed by a performance by the quartet. For more on Windborne, please visit www.windbornesingers.com.

Updating Church Policies: Board of Trustees Report

Joan Pederson, President, First Unitarian Church

During fall 2017, the Board continued work that it began last year to review and update the [policies](#) of the congregation. The policy manual has been reformatted to allow updates to appear on the website shortly after each revision is adopted. For a printed copy of the current edition of the manual, just ask the church office: (773) 324-4100, ext. 11, or 1stuchicagovolunteer@gmail.com.

Policies, which are adopted by the Board, are one of three kinds of tools that guide the governance and operations of our congregation. Our policies generally address ministry, finances, employment, and the safety and well-being of the congregation. When a situation arises that is addressed by an existing policy, our ministers and staff, the board, and each affected council, committee, or other group are to address the situation in the way described by that policy. Policies may be revised or rescinded by the Board. The other tools are the *Bylaws*, a legal document adopted and amendable only by

the congregation, that addresses the enduring purposes of the congregation and defines its membership, structure, and financial principles; and *practices*, adopted by various entities in the congregation for lending guidance and consistency to their operations.

Last church year the Board adopted a new policy on Gift Acceptance (page 13 in the manual), embracing a practice widely used by other congregations, and the latest Personnel Policies manual (pages 19–28), which is regularly reviewed and updated under the leadership of our Director of Operations, Michael Knowles. This fall the Board revised the Policy on Disruptive Behavior (pages 6–7) and added a new Policy on Misrepresentation (pages 8–9).

The scope of the Policy on Disruptive Behavior was expanded to include not only disruption of church activities, as it always had, but also disruption “by an individual affiliated with the congregation of activities

of an organization to which the congregation belongs” and “of public events where the individual is a representative of or otherwise identifiable with the congregation.” Terms and language throughout the policy were clarified. The procedure for addressing disruptive behavior with a progressive, three-stage set of sanctions may no longer be abbreviated without the advance consent of the Board under narrowly defined conditions.

Under the new policy on misrepresentation, individuals may represent themselves as holding responsible positions of First Unitarian Church of Chicago only if they actually hold those positions. It aims to promptly halt potential and actual damage to the congregation and/or its reputation due to an act of misrepresentation, and to rebuild right relationship between the offending

person and the congregation. It requires investigation of alleged misrepresentation by a Board-appointed committee. Allegations found true trigger a progressive, three-stage set of sanctions.

It is important to note that both the Policy on Disruptive Behavior and the Policy on Misrepresentation address behavior, not expression of thought, belief, opinion, or ideas of any other sort. Both were triggered by actual situations faced by this congregation. The Policy on Disruptive Behavior has been applied to about half a dozen different people over the years.

To learn more about the policies of the congregation, including the older ones, please speak with me or any other member of the Board, pictured below.



2017–2018 Board of Trustees, from left: Jim Proctor, Christine Harrell (alternate), Joan Pederson, Dennis Koehn, Margot Horn, Joe Harrington, John Eatinger. Missing: Beverly Bennett. Photo by John Eatinger.

Your Next Chance to Be Present, Be Involved, and Be Vocal in the UUA

Joan Pederson, President, First Unitarian Church

First U is a member of three levels of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). The *Chicago Area Unitarian Universalist Council* (CAUUC) includes the active UU congregations in the city of Chicago and its Illinois and Indiana suburbs, and focuses on local activity. The *MidAmerica Region* includes the congregations located from the Rockies to the Great Lakes and from the Canadian border to the central plains and Ohio River valley. The *UUA* includes all UU congregations in the United States.

The annual meetings, or assemblies, of all three levels offer rich programming in social justice, leadership development, church operations, resources for religious education and worship, and more. They also include business meetings where delegates take part in making decision-making and debate. The most rousing debates generally involve social and environmental justice. For a change of pace, there are worship services, lectures, late-night dancing, early-morning politicking, and numerous chances to make common cause with other UUs from across the area, region, or country.

Information on the number of delegates First U may have at each meeting and, if available, registration info for MidAmerica and CAUUC and the verified date and location of CAUUC will appear in the March newsletter.

Nominating petition forms issued by the Board of Trustees for all three events will be available starting February 4 from the church office and during Social Hour. Delegates must be members of the congregation. Nominating petitions require the signatures of 15 members and must be returned to the Board by April 15. Delegates will be elected during the congregation's Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 20, with top vote-getters for each meeting being designated as delegates and up to an equal number as alternates.

First U is unable to pay or reimburse the cost of registration fees, meals, lodging, and transportation, and all attendees are responsible for completing their own registration. These expenses may be deductible, although only for delegates; consult your tax advisor.

For more on becoming a delegate, get in touch with the Board of Trustees. For more on the issues being considered at each meeting, get in touch with the Denominational Affairs Committee.

UUA 2018 General Assembly (GA)

Kansas City Convention Center
Kansas City, MO
Wed. June 20–Sun. June 24

Registration dates & fees: March 1–April 30: \$395 adults, \$225 high-school aged youth, \$150 off-site; May 1–June 24: \$450/\$260/\$175. One-day on-site registration: \$150/\$95, \$170/\$110

Note: Delegates to GA may serve either on-site in Kansas City or off-site from home or elsewhere. Only delegates with on-site credentials may be replaced by alternates, who must also be on site.

MidAmerica Region Annual Business Meeting

Kansas City Convention Center
Kansas City, MO
Fri. June 22

Note: With GA occurring within the region this year, soon after the usual Annual Assembly date, this year's assembly has been cancelled. This year's Annual Business Meeting will occur at GA.

CAUUC Annual Meeting

Chicago area (specific location TBD)
Sat. May 12 (tentative)

February Meetings and Events

Criminal Justice Task Force

Criminal Justice Task Force Meeting
02/01/2018 Thursday 6:45 PM
Chris Moore Parlor

At this meeting, Rev. Karen Mooney will be our guest to discuss the UU Prison Ministry program and collaboration with the Criminal Justice Task Force. We will also discuss the establishment of an advisory council including family members of justice system-involved people. All are welcome.

Dances of Universal Peace

02/04/2018 Sunday 2:00 PM -4:00 PM
Hull Chapel

Come celebrate Imbolc, Candlemas, and the Moon of the Seer, halfway to spring, still with time for peering inward, and time for clearing out to make way for the new!

Dances of Universal Peace bring people together in joyous and meditative dance circles. The dances are easy to learn and open to all. We join our voices in singing sacred phrases from many spiritual traditions while moving rhythmically to simple circle dances and walking meditations. You are invited to bring photos and other memories of departed beloveds for our Dance altar. Refreshments provided. For more information, please contact Barbara Randolph at 773-391-1292 or brandolph@colum.edu.

State of the Church Report

02/11/2018 Sunday 11:30 AM

Mark your calendar for this set of short updates from committee chairs and staff on what's happening in all the church's different programs. You'll gain perspective on parts of church life you might not otherwise come across.

First U Christian Group

02/13/2018 Tuesday 7:00 PM -9:00 PM
Chris Moore Parlor

Welcome. Our meetings are open to all church members and friends—of any religious beliefs—with an interest in learning more about the Christian faith.

For the remainder of 2017-2018, the group will continue its study of world Christianity. We will view the opening lectures of a Teaching Company course, *The History of Christianity in the Reformation Era*, taught by Brad S. Gregory, Assistant Professor of History at Stanford University. We will also begin a Bible study, focusing on the *Gospel of Matthew* and the *Gospel of Luke*. For more information, please contact Phiefer Brown at PhieferBrowne@comcast.net or Finley Campbell at FinleyCampbell5222@comcast.net.

Soup Lunch

02/18/2018 Sunday 11:15 AM

Hull Chapel

Soup Lunch happens every third Sunday of the month. Everyone is invited! This is a wonderful time for all members and friends to gather and learn a little more about each other. Please bring a pot of your favorite soup. You can bring it at room temperature and we can reheat it in crockpots in Hull Chapel.

Not bringing soup? Please consider contributing bread, salad, bread, drinks, or sweets, or offer to help with the coordination. For more information, please contact Lisa Martin-Eatinger, lisaeatinger228@gmail.com.

SJC First Forum: Community Violence Abatement

02/18/2018 Sunday 11:45 AM -1:00 PM

Chris Moore Parlor

These forums sponsored by the Social Justice Committee are held after the service on the third Sunday of most months.

This month's topic, sponsored by the Criminal Justice Task Force, is Community Violence Abatement.

History of the Rise and Triumph of Neo-Racism in U.S. Culture

2/18/2018 Sunday 1:00 PM—2:00 PM

The Nature of Racism is an annual offering by lay member Finley Campbell, with a different focus or theme each year. This course reflects his personal views and analysis of the personal/historical nature and impact of neo-racism within the UUA, with some impacts that reach further.

Sponsored by the Racial Justice Task Force. For more information, please contact Finley Campbell at finleycampbell5222@comcast.net.

First U Men's Group

02/19/2018 Monday 7:00 PM -9:00 PM

RE Resource Room

This group is open to men at least 18 years old. Men in the group come together to share their experiences, help each other work through problems, and identify opportunities to support the church and its individual members. Some discussion topic for meetings have been "Politics in Chicago and Illinois," "God Is a Question, Not an Answer," and "The Beloved Community."

For more information, please contact Joseph Harrington at joseph_harrington@att.net.

First U Book Club

1/16/2018 Tuesday 7:30 PM

Home of Joanne Michalski—please email for directions .

The purpose of this group is to share thoughts about the book read, to get to know each other, and to have fun. Members come when they are able. We read non-UU books, both fiction and non-fiction. Books are selected by club members. Our February book is *Calling Me Home* by Naomi Klein.

For more information, please contact Joanne Michalski at jomichal@sbcglobal.net.

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Co-Ministers' Office Hours

Rev. David Schwartz, by appointment on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday

Rev. Teri Schwartz, by appointment on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday

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5650 S. Woodlawn Ave
Chicago, IL 60637

Phone: (773) 324-4100

Fax: (773) 324-1136

Email: administrator@firsttuchicago.org

Website: www.firsttuchicago.org

Editor: Tim Arehart
timarehart@gmail.com