



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO January 2019 Newsletter

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

You Were Born to Be Free Range Rev. Teri Schwartz

Sweet Darkness by David Whyte

When your eyes are tired
the world is tired also.

When your vision has gone
no part of the world can find you.

Time to go into the dark
where the night has eyes
to recognize its own.

There you can be sure
you are not beyond love.

The dark will be your womb
tonight.

The night will give you a horizon
further than you can see.

You must learn one thing:
the world was made to be free in.

Give up all the other worlds
except the one to which you belong.

Sometimes it takes darkness and the sweet
confinement of your aloneness
to learn

anything or anyone
that does not bring you alive

is too small for you.

In this season of short days and long dark
nights in cold Chicago, we find ourselves
indoors most of the time. Yet, we turn the
wheel of the secular calendar to a new year.
It's our cultural practice to look to the prior
year, and take stock of what our lives held.
What do we wish to release from our lives?
What do we wish to change? What do we
hope for in the year ahead? For ourselves?
For our church? For our world?

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While we may physically be inside, our spirits call us forth to expand beyond the comfort of the present. This growth may be quiet; it may start as a hunch, and be a risk known only to you. We each have potential—but too often we miss the door and stay content in the relatively small confines of our lives. Maybe, if we slow down to look, we might find a door we never

noticed before. There might be space and possibility on the other side.

What doors might open themselves to you? What doors might you open for yourself? Or maybe you've hit a wall and it's time to cut a door and walk through it. In this season of cold and darkness, remember the poet's words:

Sometimes it takes darkness and the sweet confinement of your aloneness to learn

anything or anyone that does not bring you alive

is too small for you.

Blessings for the New Year,
Rev. Teri

Looking Forward and Back in the New Year Betty Holcomb, President of First U

It's a New Year! Welcome to January and our plans for 2019!

In December, we enjoyed our Hanukkah observation, the Mitten Tree Pageant, the Christmas Eve Vesper Service, the Christmas Eve Communion Service, the Winter Solstice and Kwanzaa celebrations. We grieved the death of member Herga Mae Taylor, mother of our super volunteer, Grace Latibeaudiere, and we celebrated the 100th birthday of our 62-year member, Timuel Black, which was arranged so well by Board Member Joseph Harrington. One of the most enjoyable parts of my membership at First Unitarian Society of Chicago is the observation of diverse occasions that enrich me. I trust that is the same for you.

January offers us continued observations and celebrations: the nationally-recognized

(FINALLY) holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and our Chicago Sinfonietta group outing.

We look forward to completing our Capital Campaign, planning our Annual Talent Auction and preparing for the sabbatical of our Senior Co-ministers. As your President, I view these as opportunities to strengthen and coalesce our First U community of wonderful members and friends.

Please email me with your thoughts and comments.

In faith and in service,

Betty
president@firstuchicago.org

This Month in RE

Beth Moss, Director of Religious Education (RE)

I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone who participated in the holiday pageant and in the drive this year. Bringing this story to life with the kids was an absolute joy and having everyone share in the message of the story via the drive was fabulous. A special thank you goes out to:

Our Pageant Readers: Eloise Verdun, Cole Verdun, Keiran Eatinger, & Quinn Eatinger

The Boy in Blue: Lex Biggers

Sarah: Mickaela Bradley

Bus Driver: Josie Schwartz

Other Children: All First Unitarian RE Sunday School Kids

Social hour hosts: Lisa Martin-Eatinger, Lorraine Richardson, Mary Jo Mckesson, Alina Negomireanu, Michael and Kathleen O'Connor, Leslie Davis, & other RE families

RE Counsel: Alina Negomireanu, Lorraine Richardson, & Barbara Randolph

Thanks so much to everyone for their hard work, dedication, bravery, and generosity.

I am looking forward to sharing a great new year with you all.

In peace,
Beth Moss



January RE Schedule

Jan 06: Regularly Scheduled RE

Jan 13: Regularly Scheduled RE + COA date

Jan 20: Regularly scheduled RE

Jan 27: Regular RE + Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for COA

Sabbatical Update

First UU Sabbatical Committee

The word 'sabbatical' comes from the biblical concept of Sabbath, which means to rest or to cease. The Unitarian Universalist Association recommends ministerial sabbaticals to provide time for rest, study, and reflection, so ministers may return to work refreshed and renewed in body, mind, and spirit—and that the congregation might have an opportunity to strengthen itself as well. Ministerial sabbaticals have a long

history in both our denomination and our own congregation, one that we plan to share with you as the church prepares for our own upcoming ministers' sabbatical.

The Board of Trustees granted Rev. Teri and Rev. David a sabbatical leave in accordance with their contract of one month per year of service, to be taken this spring, from March until mid-August. The members of the

Sabbatical Committee— Kristina DeGuzman, Kristin Faust, Liz Harris, Jean Hester, and Jim Proctor—hope you will join us in warmly wishing our Senior Co-Ministers a restorative and reflective sabbatical period. Look for announcements, emails, and First Forums in the next few months.

The committee is also pleased to announce that the Rev. Jason Lydon has accepted an offer from our Board to serve as the Sabbatical Minister for the duration of our Senior Co-Ministers' sabbatical. The

congregation will also have a chance to meet with Rev. Jason at the First Forum on February 3.

We know there may be questions, concerns, and curiosity about this first ministerial sabbatical that our congregation has experienced in a number of years. Please feel free to reach out to Rev. Teri, Rev. David, and the members of the Sabbatical Committee with any questions or concerns you may have.

Ring, Sing, and Dance in the New Year

Jeff Hamrick, Music Director

Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh, in his book *Being Peace*, writes: "As individuals, we feel helpless, despairing....[I]njustice is so widespread, the danger is close." Many of us surely feel increased anxiety and sadness in the face of so much chaos, hatred, and strife in our nation and around the world. But rather than surrender to feelings of hopelessness and panic, the master advises that "We need to remain calm, to see clearly. Meditation is to be aware, and to try to help."

On January 6, as we observe the beginning of 2019, we will invite calm and clarity of vision into our bodies and our beloved community as we "Ring, Sing, and Dance in the New Year!" In a departure from our typical format, we will be devoting blocks of time to three forms of alternate worship, meditation, spiritual practice—however you name it.

We'll begin by learning several Dances of Universal Peace songs, taught by Barbara Randolph, who will lead us in singing and the hand/arm movements for these songs' corresponding dances. According to the Dances of Universal Peace website, "The Dances...are spiritual practice in motion. Drawing on the sacred phrases, scripture, and poetry of the many spiritual traditions of

the earth, the Dances blend chant, live music and evocative movement into a living experience of unity, peace and integration. This taste of our true nature—as Universal Peace—opens to the possibility of a deep spiritual revolution within the person."

Following this "spiritual practice in motion," I will then lead the congregation a few simple songs by rote that are part of the Singing Meditation repertoire. Singing Meditation involves singing chants, rounds, and other simple songs repetitively, until the songs sink deeply into your heart. Songs are alternated with undirected intervals of meditative silence. (You do not need to have a strong singing voice or any musical skills to participate in, or benefit from, Singing Meditation.)

Building on the physical grounding of these first spiritual practices, we will then sit in contemplative silence as Patricia Walton guides us even deeper into meditation with her unique offering of Sound Meditation using various instruments, notably, singing bowls.

To paraphrase Lao-tse, if there is to be peace in the world, there must be peace in our

cities, our neighborhoods, and our congregations. And, above all, there must first be peace in our hearts.

Come create peace with us on Sunday, January 6. We'll see you in church!

January Worship Services

January 6th, 10 AM
*Ring in the New Year: Meditation in
 Vibration, Music, and Movement*

See Music Director Jeff Hamrick's column on the preceding page for a full description of this service.

January 13th, 10 AM
Give it a Rest
 Rev. Teri Schwartz

Since the invention of the lightbulb and the industrial revolution, we've increasingly given up our daily and weekly rest. Our on-the-go lifestyles have only accelerated in the Information Age, so much so that after a cordial greeting of "How are you?," it's almost a badge of honor to say the truth, "I'm tired!" Come take a break from the week to explore how we might be more and experience more—in mind, body, and spirit—by doing less.

January 20th, 10 AM
Are We Yet Not Able?
 Rev. Dr. Pamela Lightsey, Revs. Teri and David Schwartz

We will be exploring our ability and willingness to receive the prophetic words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rev. Dr. Pamela R. Lightsey is the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Meadville Lombard Theological School. The first out African American queer lesbian ordained elder of the United Methodist Church, Dr. Lightsey has served within the ranks of activist movements across decades. Her most recent work with Black LGBTQ persons including those within the #BlackLivesMatter movement is documented via Livestream.com and her manuscript, *Our Lives Matter: A Womanist Queer Theology*. As a womanist scholar, Dr. Lightsey has lectured at campuses across the country and events across the globe, yet her favorite place to be and work is right in Chicago.

January 27th, 10 AM
All Souls Sunday
 Rev. David Schwartz

The spiritual legacy of our Universalist ancestors is not hell but hope. What does it mean or matter to be saved here and now?

January Meetings and Events

Global Studies Group Meeting
 1/6/2019 Sunday 11:45 AM
 VOV Library
 The Global Studies Discussion Group has decided to read Madeleine Albright's

Fascism: A Warning. We will be discussing the first three chapters at our January meeting. Please join us.

For more information, please contact Bobbi Campbell at rlammer@luc.edu or Ellen LaRue at e.larue@att.net.

Denominational Affairs Committee Meeting

1/8/2019 Tuesday 4:00 PM

The Denominational Affairs Committee meets regularly at 4 pm on second Tuesdays. For more information, please contact Marie Cobbs at marie.cobbs@att.net.

Second Mayoral Candidate Forum

1/8/2019 Tuesday 7:30 PM

Co-sponsored by First U and Indivisible Chicago-South Side. Second of a series of forums.

Confirmed participants for our second Mayoral Forum are:

Paul Vallas
Ja'Mal Green
John Kozlar

Criminal Justice Task Force Meeting

1/10/2019 Thursday 6:45 PM

Chris Moore Parlor

Our guest at this meeting of the Criminal Justice Task Force will be State Representative Barbara Flynn Currie. We are honored by her participation in our meeting. We will strategize actions in 2019 for drug sentence reform as well as for eliminating all money bail in Illinois. We need to end incarceration of the poor and drug addicted in Illinois! All are welcome.

For more information, please contact Evan Freund at 773-624-0333 or evan17@evanfreund.com.

O Freedom: The Day of Jubilee

Rehearsal 1/11/2019 Friday 6:30-8:30 PM

1st Show 1/12/2019 Saturday 7:00-8:30 PM

2nd Show 1/13/2019 Sunday 11:45 AM-1:30 PM

Chris Moore Parlor

Join us for this special pageant in three acts celebrating 156th anniversary of the signing

of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. This pageant, now in its 23rd year, involves dramatic re-enactments (featuring such characters as Benito Juarez, Abraham Lincoln, and Harriet Tubman), music, and audience participation. A free will donation will be asked to benefit the Racial Justice Task Force.

If you are interested in participating in this performance, join us! We need narrators, dancers, audience participants. This is readers' theater, so no prior experience is needed.

For more information, please contact Finley Campbell at 773-752-4019 or finleycampbell5222@comcast.net.

Family Playdate

1/13/2019 Sunday 11:45 AM

Garden Room

Bring your kids to a playdate with other First U families at this, the first of what we hope to develop into a regular event in the new year. Families with children will meet after services on the second Sunday of every month for some unstructured play time.

If weather permits, the group will head to a nearby park 20 minutes after assembling. Feel free to bring indoor toys and games to share in case of inclement weather.

For more information, contact Mary Callis at mary.callis@gmail.com.

Long Strange Trip: A Series on UU History

1/13/2019 Sunday 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Chris Moore Parlor

Join Allan Lindrup for this Unitarian Universalist history series. *Long Strange Trip* is a six-part video series by Ron Cordes that explores the history of Unitarian and Universalist thought and practice from the early, liberal strands in faith at the beginning of the Christian era to what we know today as Unitarian Universalism. Each session of

this series includes the showing of a one-hour video followed by discussion.

The sessions will take place every second Sunday through February 2019.

For more information, please contact Allan Lindrup at uusj@sbcglobal.net.

First U Humanists

1/14/2019 Monday 11:30 PM–9:00 PM

Chris Moore Parlor

Join this special group for some enlightened conversation on the issues of the day.

For more information please contact Hank Henriques at mrgonwa@hotmail.com.

MLK Tribute Concert (and Pre-Concert Outing)

1/21/2019 Monday 7:30 PM

Join our annual multiracial unity outing to the Chicago Sinfonietta's MLK Tribute Concert in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, at Symphony Hall. Requests for group seating will be honored if they are available, but cannot be guaranteed. Tickets are \$30.00 for seats in the lower balcony with an excellent view of the stage. For more information, please visit the Social Justice Council table or contact Dr. Finley C. Campbell at finleycampbell5222@comcast.net.

Note: The First U Men's Group will be hosting their annual pre-concert meal. Those interested in joining this traditional pre-concert gathering should also sign up at the SJC table for this event. For more

information, please contact Joseph Harrington at 773-768-8983.

Memorial Service for Herga Taylor

1/26/2019 Sunday 10:30 AM

First Unitarian celebrates the life of our member and friend, Herga May Taylor, who passed away peacefully on November 28, at the age of 103. Herga volunteered in the office and is remembered for cooking her favorite Jamaican dishes for the Talent Auction. We are grateful for her legacy.

A repast will follow the service.

First Forum: Sabbatical for Revs. Teri and David

1/27/2019 Sunday 11:30 AM

Chris Moore Parlor

Meet and talk with Revs. Teri and David to learn more about their upcoming Sabbatical.

For more information, please contact a member of the Sabbatical Committee: Kristin Faust, Jim Proctor, Liz Harris, Jean Hester, and Kristina DeGuzman.

Environmental Book Club

1/27/2019 Sunday 11:45 AM–1:00 AM

Chris Moore Parlor

The Environmental Book Club is sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Group. Join this insightful group of concerned and action-oriented members and friends for their monthly readings and discussion. Attendees will read and discuss *How Culture Shapes the Climate Change Debate* by Andrew J. Hoffman. This month's discussion focuses on chapters 5 and 6.

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
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