



# FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

## May 2018 Newsletter

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

### When Should I Call My Minister? Rev. Teri Schwartz and Rev. David Schwartz

Each year we share this growing list of reasons for you to get in touch with us. The list isn't exhaustive, but it's a good starting point. Some of you are seeing it for the first time; for others, this is a reminder: We your ministers want to be helpful when you face a spiritual crisis, think you might benefit from a chat or advice, or simply need a listening ear.

As your ministers, we believe we might help you navigate the challenges of life transitions, difficult choices, or grieving a loss. We don't claim to have answers to all of life's persistent questions—and we're not therapists—but we are pretty good listeners, and often we ask useful questions or can provide a good resource.

We are not clairvoyant, however; we cannot know when we are needed unless you tell us. Even if—sometimes especially if—other people know about your needs, we still must

be told. This is especially true in the event of injury and illness: Given federal patient privacy laws, hospitals won't call us when our church members are admitted, nor can they verify that you're there.

Don't hesitate to be in touch! You're not bothering us with your problems; you are not taking time away from more important things. *You* are important. Helping you is one of the main reasons for us to be ministers; helping you is what our time is for!

Our cell phone numbers are in our email signatures. Also, you can call or email the office and they will give you our numbers: reach out to [office@firsttuchicago.org](mailto:office@firsttuchicago.org), or at 773-324-4100.

Our list of a few of the reasons why you might get in touch with us starts on the next page... (Continued)

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1. When you have an important choice to make: education, career, relationship, reproductive choices, etc.
2. When you have personal problems, job loss, family difficulties, a new diagnosis, mental health problems, or financial strain.
3. When you are at a transition or turning point.
4. When your conscience is troubling you.
5. When you want to talk about religion or you're wrestling with a spiritual issue or your spiritual path.
6. When you need encouragement, or perhaps prayer or a blessing.
7. When you wish to celebrate a success and express gratitude.
8. When you need help finding your way at the church, getting involved, or making friends here at First U.
9. When you have children to be named, dedicated, or blessed.
10. When you want to get married.
11. When you have marriage or relationship problems, especially lasting more than a month. Often we wait until our relationship drastically deteriorates before reaching out—reach out early!
12. When you or a loved one is going into the hospital or is going to be, whether it's routine or an emergency visit.
13. When you can't come to church for a prolonged time and you'd like a visit.
14. When there is a death or pregnancy loss in the family.
15. When you wish to discuss funeral arrangements ahead of time.
16. When you are arrested or in jail.
17. When you have a question, concern, or suggestion about something. Most questions can be cleared up by simply asking! While we can't implement every suggestion, your input does matter!
18. When you are angry with the minister or upset with something in the church.
19. When you have prospective members for the church in mind.
20. When you do not yet know the minister and would like to get acquainted.
21. When you simply want someone to talk with.

We're here with and for you,  
Rev. Teri and Rev. David

## Give Away the Basket: Seeking Nominations!

We give away our Sunday offering twice a month to agencies in the community who are working for the greater good. We select four recipient organizations who receive roughly six offerings each. All members and friends are invited to nominate potential

recipient organizations. At the annual meeting in May, all members vote to select the recipients for the coming year.

Recipient organizations must generally meet the following criteria:

- 501(c)(3) status.
- Can demonstrate fiscal responsibility and accountability; can provide annual reports, audited financial statements, etc., if requested.
- Operates with annual budget of less than \$500,000. There may be exceptions to this, particularly in response to a timely and critical problem; e.g. donation to Red Cross following a disaster.
- Organizations whose work contributes in some way to a more just, equitable, and compassionate community, in alignment with our mission and UU principles. (In addition, this church has preferred to support local South Side and Chicago organizations.)
- Recipients are not to be controversial or political in nature.
- Recipients are independent of the church or other UU organizations.
- Repeat gifts: an organization shall receive only one allocation from the church every two years. (Exceptions to be made by the board under unique circumstances.)

If you have a worthy recipient organization that meets these criteria, you may download and fill out the application form ([a Word document on our website](#)) with your nominated organization's information and the signatures of seven other church members or friends. Please note, signatures can be "virtual"—once you've received support, you may type in your supporters' names.

Send the form to [giveaway.nominations@gmail.com](mailto:giveaway.nominations@gmail.com) by May 6. Electronic applications are strongly encouraged, but you may also print the form and submit a hard copy to Rev. Teri's box in the church office.

Senior ministers retain the discretion to postpone a collection or reduce the number of Sundays designated to accommodate unexpected needs (e.g. large-scale disasters).

The selection process will be democratic and transparent. Nominations can be made at any time, by any member or friend of the congregation, by completing a nomination form, obtaining seven members' signatures in support, and submitting the completed application to Rev. Teri.

All nominations that are received by May 6, 2018 and meet the selection criteria will go before a congregational vote at the annual meeting. Congregants may also vote online before the meeting. Each voting member will get to vote for four organizations.

### **2018 Give Away the Basket Timeline**

**May 6:** Nominations are due. Electronic submissions are preferred.

**May 13:** A summary document of all received nominations will be distributed at church with the order of service, and by email.

**May 13–May 21:** Online voting.

**May 21:** Ballots will be distributed at the annual meeting

**May 28 & June 4:** Winning nominations announced!

Thank you so very much for your interest and your commitment to make our world a better place!

## Greetings from the DRE

### Beth Moss, Director of Religious Education (RE)

May 13th is Mother's Day. As many holidays are, this special day is easy for some and not for others. How each person chooses to celebrate or not is at their discretion, but here are some ideas to broaden your notion of what the holiday could be.

In 2011, Forward Together (an organization that works for rights, recognition, and resources for all types of families) started to call Mother's Day, "Mama's Day." This take on the day encourages people to give their attention to all kinds of mothers who are marginalized. Forward Together encourages us to think a little outside of the box about who we see of when we think of mothers, from immigrant women facing deportation to mothers in jail. To honor the less fought for, this organization recommends people to do service work to benefit these groups. There is much adults can do for those types of mothers with the help of kids.

Still thinking outside the box but focusing on the little things and back towards your life, who are the mothers in your child's life who might not have been placed by nature in the role of being a mom? Siblings, fathers, aunts, uncles, caring friends, and teachers? Certainly, anyone who helps a child grow, lends a kind ear, quiets in an encouraging word, or provides a shoulder to cry on when there isn't one is someone who mothers us.

If you are a mom or otherwise a parent who fulfills what our society would see as the mothering needs of your child, who helps you to be the parent that you are? Your wife? Your cousin? Your pets? Your child's school? No one could do it alone, and today is a great day to acknowledge what makes the love you are able to give possible. No matter

what, I hope it's a good day for you and your family, and from the DRE thank you to all the "mothers" of every variety. You do so much!

### **The Blessing of Creativity**

Rev. Barbara Wells

May you find the deep peace of creation flowing in your spirit.

May your senses awake to the creative spark that lives in you.

May you walk in beauty and seek to create beauty wherever you go.

May you take the risk of discovering the divine within you and around you.

And may the spirit of life bless you with courage and hope as you live creatively with others by your side.

### **May RE Schedule**

**May 5:** OWL overnight. 5:00 PM Saturday to 9:00 AM Sunday.

**May 6:** All Creatures of the Earth and Sky multigenerational service, no RE.

In this service, we will honor those furry, fluffy, scaled, shelled, and feathered friends who have been kind enough to grace us with their company. Please bring a photo of your beloved companions past and present to honor their memory, show gratitude for the joy we share with them, and to wish them bright futures.

**May 13:** Regularly scheduled RE.

**May 20:** Regularly scheduled RE. OWL last class – noon to 4 pm.

**May 27:** Regularly scheduled RE.

## May Worship Services

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM

*All Creatures of the Earth and Sky*  
Rev. Teri Schwartz and Beth Moss

In this multigenerational service, we will honor those furry, fluffy, scaled, shelled, and feathered friends who have been kind enough to grace us with their company. Please bring a photo of your beloved companions past and present to honor their memory, show gratitude for the joy we share with them, and to wish them bright futures.

May 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM

*Adventure Boldly and Explore*  
Rev. David Schwartz

The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism are part of a centuries-long journey trying to name clearly things commonly believed among us. Every generation has proclaimed, rebelled against, revised, and argued about how (and whether) to summarize our continually progressive faith. A service looking back to take us forward. After the service, gather for a forum and conversation on the proposed 8th principle.

May 20<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM

*This I Believe*  
Christine Harrell and Ivan Lappin

Each year we invite two church members of varied walks of life to share their personal philosophies, hard-won beliefs and basic values with the congregation. In 1951, Murrow wrote: "In talking to people, listening to them, I don't have a monopoly on the world's problems. Others have their share, often far bigger than mine. This has helped me see my own in truer perspective: and in learning how others have faced their problems—this has given me fresh ideas about how to tackle mine." We will also welcome our new members during the service.

May 27<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM

*Memorial Day and the Creative Spirit*  
Elizabeth Harding

This week, join us as we explore the history of Memorial Day and look at creativity as a spiritual practice that can help us deepen ourselves as spiritual people.

Elizabeth Harding is one of the affiliated community ministers at Second Unitarian Church of Chicago. She works as a bereavement counselor with Journey Care, the largest palliative care and hospice provider in the state of Illinois. She is married to Kevin O'Reilly, and together they have a son and four fish.

## May Meetings and Events

### American Immanence

5/1/2018 Tuesday 7:00 PM

Chris Moore Parlor

We will be hosting a book discussion by Dr. Michael Hogue, Meadville Lombard Theological School, on his new book,

American Immanence: Democracy for an Uncertain World. This event is hosted by Meadville Lombard, First Unitarian Church, and the Seminary Coop Bookstore.

In the book, Hogue opposes the dominant American theopolitical tradition, which has resulted in global social, economic, and environmental injustices, with a new form of political theology containing a radical democratic politics as the dominant feature. Drawing from a dissenting immanent tradition in American religious and philosophical thought, he articulates a political theology committed to democracy as an emancipatory way of life. Rather than seeking to redeem or be redeemed, Hogue argues that the vulnerability of life today calls us to build radically democratic communities of responsibility, resistance, and resilience. American Immanence integrates and immanent theology of, by, and for the planet with a radical democratic politics of, by, and for the people.

All are welcome. For more information, please contact Richard Pardo at [pardo.richard@comcast.net](mailto:pardo.richard@comcast.net).

### **National Day of Prayer Action with the Coalition for Police Contracts Accountability**

5/3/2018 Thursday 10:15 AM  
 CPD Headquarters (3510 S. Michigan Ave.)  
 Join the Community Renewal Society (CRS) for this major event: The National Day of Prayer action at the Chicago Police Headquarters (3510 South Michigan Avenue). We will gather at the McDonald's on 35th and Indiana at 10:15 am, and march over to CPD together.

CRS is a member of the Coalition for Police Contracts Accountability (CPCA). We are working with CPCA to reform the FOP contract so that police officers cannot lie or destroy evidence, and instead can be held accountable for their misconduct. This action will demand that all parties involved take responsibility for changing the code of silence made legal by these contracts. We chose the National Day of Prayer to bring our faith values to forefront of an issue that

impacts so many members from our communities.

For more information, please contact Evan Freund at [evan17@evanfreund.com](mailto:evan17@evanfreund.com).

### **Spring Fling**

5/5/2018 Saturday 6:00 PM–9:00 PM  
 Celebrate spring in unity at First U, with dancing, games, food, drinks, and the good company of our multi-racial, multi-generational, multi-cultural crew!

The Spring Fling Unity Party helps raise money for the Denominational Affairs Committee of First U's Social Justice Council. Funds raised will help pay for our participation in denominational activities sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association. The Unity Party is co-sponsored by the Racial Justice Task Force.

Join us for this Hyde Park wide celebration: Please attend and participate! Suggested donation of \$10. Childcare will be provided. Volunteers are needed for set up and clean up, beverages, potluck items, and ushering.

For more information, please call Finley Campbell at 773-230-3883 or email Nicholas Shifrar at [nshifrar@uchicago.edu](mailto:nshifrar@uchicago.edu).

### **First U Budget Hearing**

5/6/2018 Sunday 11:30 AM  
 Learn about the proposed church budget for the 2018–2019 church year. The Board of Trustees will take your feedback into account at its May meeting as it adjusts its proposal for adoption by the congregation at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 20.

For more information, please contact Joan Pederson at [joanpederson@yahoo.com](mailto:joanpederson@yahoo.com).

### **Global Studies Group**

5/6/2018 Sunday 11:45 AM  
 VOV Library  
 The Global Studies Group will start a discussion of *Soviet Fates and Lost*

*Alternatives: From Stalinism to the New Cold War* by Stephen F. Cohen. We will be discussing the introduction and first chapter. All are welcome.

### Dances of Universal Peace

5/6/2018 Sunday 2:00 PM–4:00 PM

Hull Chapel

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. Come and sing, chant, walk, and dance for peace. You are invited to bring photos and other memories of departed beloveds for our Dance altar.

For more information, please contact Barbara Randolph at 773-391-1292 or [brandolph@colum.edu](mailto:brandolph@colum.edu).

### UUs for Social Justice: Program and Meeting

5/6/2018 Sunday 2:00 PM–5:00 PM

Chris Moore Parlor

This month's gathering will start with a program focused on The Poor People's Campaign in Illinois (PPCI). Rev. Saeed Richardson, one of the co-chairs of the PPCI (and also Director of Policy for the Community Renewal Society) will speak about PPCI's goals and plans during the 40-day period beginning the second weekend of May. How can UUs (and others) get involved in our state? Time included for discussion and Q and A. Sheilah Garland-Olaniran will assist Rev. Richardson with the program. The program is organized and sponsored by the UUSJ Task Force on Economic Justice and Homelessness.

The UUSJ will have its quarterly board meeting the same afternoon, at 3:30 pm. All interested UUs are welcome to attend.

### First U Christian Group

5/8/2018 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 2018, the group will continue its study of world Christianity. First 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](mailto:PhieferBrowne@comcast.net) or Finley Campbell at [FinleyCampbell5222@comcast.net](mailto:FinleyCampbell5222@comcast.net).

### CRS Training: Faith-Rooted Organizing

5/9/2018 Wednesday 9:30 AM–4:30 PM and

5/10/2018 Thursday 9:30 AM–4:30 PM

SEIU Healthcare, 2229 South Halsted

The Community Renewal Society is hosting a two day training on faith-rooted organizing with Alexia Salvatierra at SEIU, HCII. Alexia is the author of the book *Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World* and will be the trainer for an in-depth introduction to this form of social action based on faith values and principles.

CRS is excited to welcome Alexia to Chicago, and we hope that our members and partners will join us at this training. Spots are limited. The cost is \$50 for members (the first 15 to register are free!) and \$75 for the general public. [Register online](#).

For more information, please contact Evan Freund, [evan17@evanfreund.com](mailto:evan17@evanfreund.com).

**Multiracial Unity Outing: BioBlitz**

5/12/2018 Saturday

The Racial Justice Task Force invites all you outdoor types to attend a new type of multiracial unity outing, a BioBlitz at the Loyola University Retreat and Ecology Campus in Bull Valley, Illinois.

The BioBlitz is a kind of fast-track search for interesting biological specimens in a wetland restoration area.

This event will be combined with a retirement party for Bobbi Lammers Campbell. Transportation to the site will be via the Metra to the Crystal Lake, Illinois station.

For more information, please drop by the Social Justice Council table, or call Bobbi at 773-752-4019.

**CAUUC Spring Workshop – Collaboration on Leadership Development**

5/12/2018 Saturday 9:00 AM–1:00 PM  
 Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist,  
 1025 N Smith Street, Palatine, IL  
 The Chicago Area Unitarian Universalist  
 Congregations are holding a spring  
 workshop on leadership development,  
 immediately prior to their Annual Meeting.

**CAUUC Annual Meeting**

5/12/2018 Saturday 1:00 PM–3:00 PM  
 Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist,  
 1025 N Smith Street, Palatine, IL  
 The Annual Meeting of Chicago Area  
 Unitarian Universalist Congregations. Want  
 to be a delegate? [Find out how online!](#)

**Conversations on the Proposed 8th Principle**

5/13/2018 Sunday 11:30 AM–1:00 PM  
 Chris Moore Parlor  
 Our Unitarian Universalist Seven Principles  
 were designed to be dynamic: not to be a  
 fixed creed, but a description that lives and

develops over time. Beginning in 2013, a group of UUs in Philadelphia argued that our existing principles lack a crucial statement of something we already believe, but act on too little. Dismantling systemic injustice, they argued, may be suggested by our current principles, but needs to be explicit if we're going to take it seriously. So, they proposed an 8th principle:

Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

In this conversation after the service, moderated by Rev. David, we'll learn history and background from Darrick Jackson and Kellie Kelly, two Chicago-area ministers who have closely followed the 8th Principle proposal. We'll hear different takes on it, positive and negative. And then we'll break out into small groups to discuss or consider our individual responses to it.

**183rd Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Society of Chicago**

5/20/2018 Sunday 11:30 AM  
 Sanctuary

We gather each year as a congregation to make vital decisions about who holds leadership positions, the budget for paying for church operations in the coming church year, which organizations receive the Give Away the Basket offerings that we collect twice each month, who will represent us as delegates to the UUA General Assembly in June, and two bylaw amendments--giving us more options for scheduling the Annual Meeting in future years, and simplifying the article on councils and committees.

Those who have been members for at least 90 days and have contributed at least \$50 of record during the 12 months preceding the meeting (or for whom the ministers have

waived that requirement this year) are eligible to vote.

Formal notice of the meeting will be sent by May 4, and will include the complete text of the proposed bylaw changes, which were the subject of a hearing on March 25. Attend the budget hearing after the service on May 6 to get a copy of the proposed budget, and to learn and ask questions about it.

### 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

### First U Men's Group

5/21/2018 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 topics 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](mailto:joseph_harrington@att.net).

### First Unitarian Newsletter

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