



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO November 2018 Newsletter

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

Where I'm From Rev. Teri Schwartz

With November here, the holidays are not far off. The change of the seasons asks us in ways subtle and overt: "Where are you from?" Sometimes our responses are joyful; sometimes painful. It's normal to have mixed emotions. Sometimes we may feel grief for joys that are no more, or grief for things that never were.

Yet, with each year there can be new happiness, and new experiences. We can even hold our memories of where we are from differently over time. As we grow and change, our understanding of our life's paths and ups and downs come into different perspectives. We might find each year that some of our responses are steadfast, and

some are living, and breathing, and changing understandings of where we are from, who we are, and who we might become.

On the next page is a fun exercise I was given at a professional conference. My colleagues and I were surprised by the unexpected beauty and depth that we found in a brief time from a simple exercise. I share it with you as you might reflect where you're from, and maybe share it with others, too, whether around a festive table or by email. May this season bring you abundance in what is most dear to you.

May it be so,
Rev. Teri



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Where I'm From

by _____

I am from _____,
(everyday item in your house)

from _____ and _____.
(product name) (product or everyday item in your house)

I am from the _____.
(home description including an adjective)

I am from the _____, the _____.
(plant, flower, tree) (plant, flower, natural detail)

I am from _____ and _____.
(family tradition) (family tradition)

from _____ and _____.
(name of family member) (another family name)

From _____
(something you were told as a child)

and _____.
(a song or saying you learned as a child)

I'm from _____,
(place of birth)

_____ and _____.
(a food item representing your family) (another food item)

From the _____,
(specific family story about a specific person and detail)

and the _____.
(another detail)

I am from _____.
(location of family pictures, mementos, archives, etc.)

Invitations to Song

Jeff Hamrick, Music Director

We are excited to offer two singing opportunities in the coming months for members and friends of First Unitarian Church of Chicago.

Great Choir

On Sunday, November 4, please consider joining members of the Choir of First Unitarian for "Great Choir," a one-hour drop-in choir experience. We'll be preparing hymns and an anthem, Holly Near's "I Am Willing," chosen especially for this service. As we enter into the remaining days of uncertainty and apprehension before the midterm elections, Near's timeless song reminds us that, even though "there is panic in the nation" (and "wailing the whole world round"), we must continue to move forward with hope. In spite of all the chaos swirling about us, in our singing together, we lift ourselves up "to the light of change."

Singer-songwriter and activist Holly Near (<https://www.hollynear.com/biography/>) is also the composer of one of our hymns to be sung on November 4: "We Are a Gentle, Angry People (and We Are Singing for Our Lives)".

Please consider joining us on November 4. We'll meet in the sanctuary at 9 a.m. sharp to learn the morning's music. We can't have too many singers, and we need YOU!

Sing Noel!

For our Christmas eve service (December 24 at 7 p.m.), we invite all interested singers to join members of the choir in preparing several pieces for the occasion. We'll meet on three consecutive Thursdays, December 6, 13, and 20, at 7 p.m. (with our pre-service warmup and rehearsal on Dec. 24 at 5:30 p.m.).

November Worship Services

November 4th, 10 AM

Give Us This Day...Our Biannual Ballot!

Rev. Teri Schwartz

Those who forget history are destined to repeat it—or so the saying goes. When we think of the history of voting rights, we may well bring to mind the suffragists and the civil rights movement. But much history has come to pass between the Voting Rights Act in 1965 and today. As Unitarian Universalists, our fourth principle is to affirm and promote, "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process." We'll explore voting rights since 1965 so we can better engage our UU faith in the public square—and in the ballot box on November 6.

November 11th, 10 AM

Finding Voice

Rev. Patricia Shelden and
Revs. Teri and David Schwartz

Every one of us has suffered loss. The loss of a part of oneself can be as devastating as the loss of a loved one. How do we move forward when we have lost a piece of us or when the loss is so personal that we do not feel we can share or be open about our grief? These are all parts of the sermon, "Finding Voice." In this sermon, the Rev. Patricia Shelden will weave together the issues inherent in both public and private losses, as well how to begin the painful task of moving forward. In this service, we will commission our new Pastoral Care Team.

The Rev. Patricia Sheldon is a Unitarian Universalist minister who has specialized in pastoral care and loss and grief counseling for the last 23 years. In addition to serving in community ministry as a chaplain in a pediatric hospital, she has also served as a parish minister and has had her own community ministry, *Living with Losses*, for 13 years.

November 17th, 6–9 PM
Thanksgiving Dinner Service

This annual event honors and lifts up gratitude for the many peoples of our American story: indigenous Wampanoags, English Pilgrims, and many more. We will share a catered dinner plus potluck beverages. For more information, contact Cindy Pardo at pardoquilts3@comcast.net or Cheryl Wegner at cherylwegner@sbcglobal.net.

November 18th, 10 AM
You Are the New Day
Rev. David Schwartz

Living in community is demanding invitation. It requires a constant remembering of who we are called to be and a constant remembering of who we are—and we live in

the space between. In this service we'll welcome our new members of Fall 2018.

November 25th, 10 AM
Gratitude as a Spiritual Practice
Rev. Michelle Lattanzio

In this sermon, I'd like for us to consider Gratitude as a spiritual practice. This is my primary spiritual practice, with my secondary being prayer. Professing gratitude and offering up prayer go hand-in-hand as spiritual practices: first, one identifies those things that have brought ease and beauty to one's life, then one offers up something (words, a song, burnt offerings) in recognition and thanks for all one has received.

Michelle Lattanzio is a former intern of The UU Church of Rockford and is currently serving as a Hospice Chaplain and Spiritual Care Coordinator in Skokie, IL. Michelle is in Preliminary Fellowship with the UUA and is a graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological

School. She holds a PhD in English from the University of South Florida and taught undergraduate classes at USF. Michelle loves spending time with her dog Axel, creating art, reading, writing, dancing, and rooting for her favorite roller derby teams.

November Meetings and Events

Come Sing with Us! – All Are Welcome!
11/4/2018 Sunday 9:00 AM–9:55 AM
Sanctuary
First U's Great Choir will convene to prepare an anthem for the morning worship service. This is a pick-up, one-hour choir experience ideal for those who love to sing but cannot commit to being part of the Choir of First Unitarian.

As we face the anxiety and uncertainty of various state and national elections, our music can help us voice our commitment to advocate for change. PLEASE consider joining us in order to make a joyful noise of protest and of peace—we need YOU!

For more information, please contact Music Director Jeff Hamrick at music@firsttuchicago.org.

First Forum: Opportunities for Adult Religious Education

11/4/2018 Sunday 11:30 AM–1:00 PM

VOV Library

The purpose of this forum is to generally acquaint church members and friends with all the various activities sponsored by the Adult Religious Education Committee. To this end, the facilitator of each group will give a short report on its activities. The purpose of this forum is to give general information on each group, and to invite membership and participation in them. For more information, please contact Phiefer Browne at phieferbrowne@comcast.net.

CAUUC: Building Religious Communities to Save Democracy

11/10/2018 Saturday 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

Countryside Church UU, 1025 N Smith St., Palatine, IL

All are welcome to attend the Chicago Area Unitarian Universalists Council (CAUUC) fall conference carried out in partnership with Meadville Lombard Theological School. We're coming together to engage with other Unitarian Universalists to best bring our religious values into the public square to save democracy.

Dr. Mike Hogue, Professor of Theology, Ethics, and Philosophy of Religion, is the keynote speaker. He will speak from his new book, *American Immanence: Democracy for an Uncertain World*, which calls for building democratic communities of responsibility, resistance, and resilience.

We'll take time to consider the practical and actionable steps we can take as individuals and as UU congregations to bring our values and voices into the local conversations on important, moral issues impacting our community.

Register online at <http://uuchicagoarea.org/workshop>. A \$5 donation is recommended to offset costs of the event. Lunch is potluck:

Names A–P, please bring a side dish to share. Names Q–Z, please bring a desert.

For more information, please contact Mike Gilley at chicagoareauu@gmail.com with any questions or special needs.

Class: Membership at First U

11/1/2018 Sunday 11:15 AM–12:45 AM

VOV Library

Calling all friends and visitors who want to become members! Come to the third meeting of the Fall 2018 new members' cohort of First U's *Pathway to Membership*. These sessions will provide deep understanding of the theological roots of our community, ways to engage with the First Unitarian Church community, how First U is organized, and what membership really means. Childcare will be available.

This four-session class will have a capstone session at the Thanksgiving Service and Dinner on Saturday, November 17.

Sign up at our Welcome Table or email Rev. David at david.schwartz@firstuchicago.org.

Long Strange Trip: A Series on UU History

11/11/2018 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 from September through February of 2019.

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

Dances of Universal Peace

11/11/2018 Sunday 2:00 PM–4:00 PM

Hull Chapel

Come celebrate Samhain, and All Saints, a time of endings and beginnings, a time of awakening and letting go, when the seeds fall to earth from the mother plant! Samhain is also a time to remember and honor ancestors. You are invited to bring a photo or a memento of your beloved for our dance altar.

To celebrate community, as a symbol of unity, Dances of Universal Peace bring people together in joyous and meditative dance circles that use sacred phrases, chants, music and movements. The dances are easy to learn and open to all. Join us on our beautiful wooden dance floor. Refreshments provided.

For more information, please contact Barbara Randolph at 773-391-1292 or brandolph@colum.edu.

Denominational Affairs Committee

11/13/2018 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.

Thanksgiving Service & Dinner

11/17/2018 Saturday 6:00 PM–9:00 PM

Sanctuary

It's time for First Unitarian's annual Thanksgiving service and dinner celebration! Revs. Teri and David Schwartz will officiate. We will share a catered meal plus potluck beverages.

Everyone is invited to this special First U tradition, so bring a friend. We will need hosts, help, and your presence. Look for more details in coming weeks, but put it on your calendar now! For more information, please contact Cindy Pardo at

pardoquiltsa3@comcast.net or Cheryl Wegner at cherylwegner@sbcglobal.net.

First Forum: Cook County Conservation

11/18/2018 Sunday 11:30 AM–1:00 PM

Chris Moore Parlor

Organized by the Green Sanctuary Group and sponsored by the Social Justice Council, this is an opportunity to learn about the Cook County Conservation@Home Program and other local habitat maintenance. For more information, please contact Allan Lindrup at uusj@sbcglobal.net.

Environmental Book Club

11/25/2018 Sunday 11:45 AM–1:00 PM

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. For more information, please contact Bill Bassin at wsb4248@sbcglobal.net, or Allan Lindrup at uusj@sbcglobal.net.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

12/01/2017 Saturday 9:00 AM–11:00 AM

Alley by the Church off 57th Street

Sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Group of First Unitarian Church of Chicago.

Hazardous items accepted (if properly sealed): mercury-florescent bulbs, used motor oil, oil based paints, gasoline, paint thinner, aerosol paints, car batteries, rechargeable batteries, herbicides, lawn chemicals, antifreeze, insecticides, pesticides, solvents, drain cleaners, pool chemicals, hobby and photographic chemicals, mercury thermometers, and household fire extinguishers. Computer electronics will also be accepted, but not non-computer electronics.

Not accepted: incandescent bulbs, appliances, alkaline batteries, biohazardous products and needles, commercial or industrial fire extinguishers, water based paints (such as latex or acrylic), freon, caulk, cleaning products, and items that you can clean up or dissolve with water.

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

Donations will be accepted to help defray the costs of renting a truck and driving the collection to the city of Chicago's hazardous waste collection site on Goose Island.

For more information, call 773-595-4921 or email uusj@sbcglobal.net (before Dec. 1.)

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