



First Church Vision

December 2019

Working toward a peaceful and just world, guided by Love

First Comes the Waiting

This is the season of endings and beginnings,
when the small signs of dawn pierce through the night and something new is
born.

But first comes the waiting.
First come the lessons of endings and beginnings.

The Presence of Life, the sheltering Spirit of Love,
grieves with those sweeping up the debris of loss;
waits with those who restlessly reach out for change;
grants us courage in the night to guard each other's dreams for this holy, wondrous universe.

Grant us, oh Universe unfolding in mystery, a sense of your timing.

May we loosen our grip on that which doesn't serve us,
leaving behind that which we have outworn and outgrown.

Teach us the lessons of beginnings.
Remind us that such waitings and endings may be a starting place,
a planting of seeds which bring to birth what is ready to be born –
something right and just and different;
a new song, a deeper relationship, a fuller love –
in the fullness of time.

- The Rev. Erika A. Hewitt



Shared Ministry Team

Betsy Moran: Congregation President and Parish Committee Chair

Worship Coordinator: Stephanie Trudel

Minister Emerita:

The Rev. Dr. Susan Suchocki Brown

Upcoming Worship Dates and Sermon Topics



- Dec. 1st:** "Honoring World AIDS Day"
- Dec. 8th:** "Darkness in the Season of Light"
- Dec. 15th:** "Bill of Rights Day", Rabbi Yaakov
- Dec. 22nd:** "The Night before the Night before Christmas"
- Dec. 24th:** "Christmas Eve Candle Lit Service"
- Dec. 29th:** "New Years Labyrinth Ceremony"

Notes from the Parish Committee



Happy December!

Not too much happening in our PC meetings, things are pretty quiet, and we are doing the normal, predictable things. We are watching our finances, building use and hoping for more quiet times to come.

In November's meeting we reviewed the performance and management of our Endowment portfolio with the Endowment Committee and our representative from Edward Jones Investments. Things seem steady for now, but we always keep an eye on the financial future and market trends. We also heard a proposal for regular building use which is still under advisement.

As we head into the last month of the year, we remain steady and look forward to keeping things that way!

Until next time.....

"Honoring World AIDS Day" Dec. 1st

On the first we will honor those lives were taken by the AIDS Pandemic, as well as learn about the LGBTQ activists that countered this terrible disease.

"Darkness in the Season of Light" Dec. 8th

The holiday season is filled with joy, happiness and hope. Except when it isn't. The Holidays aren't happy for everyone. Please join us in exploring how loss and grief affect us during this season, and how we can better support those we love.

"Bill of Rights Day" Dec. 15th

Bill of Rights Day is the topic brought to us by Rabbi Yaakov Trek Reef. We are pleased to welcome him back to join us in worship!

"The Night Before the Night Before Christmas!" Dec. 22nd

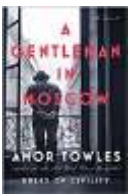
Join us for a fun filled holiday service, where we appreciate the Joy of laughing at yourself!

"Candle Lit Christmas Eve Service" Dec. 24th

Join us for Our Traditional Candle Lit Service, beginning at 7pm.

"New Years Labyrinth Ceremony" Dec. 29th

Join us for a meditative ceremony where we will discard what no longer serves us, in order to begin the year anew.



The book group will not be meeting in December, however they will be reviewing A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles on Jan. 24th, 2019.



Ladies Benevolent Society

We will meet on **December 9th** at 6pm at an offsite location for our annual Holiday dinner. Questions? Please contact Chris at cauhlig2002@yahoo.com or at church on Sunday.

We have a table at the Winter Stroll on December 7th from 12 to 5pm. We hope you will stop by and do a little holiday shopping. There will be hand painted lighted bottles, gnomes, decorated boxes, snowmen wreaths and a large variety of ornaments for sale.

These are examples of the crafts the "B's" are working on.



Lady B's Plant Sale

Like last year, the Lady B's will be having a fundraiser these holiday months selling Cyclamens and Poinsettias in 4", 6" or 8 "pots. The prices are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 4" Poinsettia \$5 | 4" Cyclamen \$6 |
| 6" Poinsettia \$10 | 6" Cyclamen \$11 |
| 8" Double Poinsettia \$20 | |



The deadline to order is on **Dec. 1st**. We will decorate the church with the flowers on either Dec. 8th or Dec. 15th depending on availability. The flowers can be taken home also on that date. There will be an order sheet available at Sunday services or you can place an order by contacting Chris Uhlig.

Looking for "Member Musings" Writers

Are you interested in sharing your thoughts, a story, a poem that you wrote? Then consider writing for the "Members Musing" article on the front page of our newsletter. Please submit any articles to 1stchurchoffice@verizon.net or cauhlig2002@yahoo.com

First Church Unitarian Universalist Mission Statement

We are an open and accepting community working for justice and equality for all through nurturing relationships and providing service to each other and in the greater community

Contacts:

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Attention!! Newsletter via E-Mail

We are no longer doing a hardcopy bulk mailing. If you would like to continue receiving a copy or know someone who would like a copy, please contact the office and let us know your email address. Contact the office at 1stchurchoffice@verizon.net Subject: add to newsletter email

If you need a hard copy please call the office and give us your address.

Newsletter Contributions

If you want to contribute anything for January's newsletter, please send it to cauhlig2002@yahoo.com by

December 18th.

Dates to Remember

December

Dec. 1st: Deadline for Ordering Poinsettia and Cyclamen Plants

Dec. 7th: Winter Stroll, 12-5pm

Dec. 9th: Lady B's Holiday party 6pm

Dec. 12th: PC Meeting 6:30pm

Dec. 13th and 14th: Christmas Concert With Mark Marquis and Friends

Dec. 18th: Membership Committee meeting 6:30 pm

Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve Service, 7 pm

No Book Group Meeting in December

Every Saturday: Community Lunches, 1 to 3 pm in the downstairs hall except for Dec. 7th.



December Birthdays

Connor Greene.....Dec. 8
Mary Pariseau.....Dec.9
Rick Flammia.....Dec.10
Wendy Aldrich.....Dec. 15
Pat Robinson.....Dec. 20
Page Winterberg.....Dec. 27
Lynn Radford.....Dec.29



The Church with the Lighted Window

With the upcoming holidays many of us try to find unique and special ways to remember a loved one's memory, birthday, anniversary, or celebration of a special occasion. One thoughtful way is to honor them by lighting the church's beautiful stain glass window on West St.; the dedication will be noted in the order of service and in the newsletter. Please contact the office if interested in reserving. We are requesting a small donation fee of \$40.00 for a month.



Grains and Greens Food Pantry

Winter is here!

We are in desperate need of winter coats, skull hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and boots.
We also need soup and other canned goods!

All Donations Are Greatly Appreciated !!



The Most Peaceful Night of the Year

Christmas Concert

With

Mark Marquis and Friends

December 13th & 14th

(snow date Sunday 15th)

7:00pm

\$10.00 at door

Membership Committee

Next Membership meeting will be **Dec 18th** at 6:30 in office. We will be beginning the development of a handout on, "Ways to become involved in First Church". Interested in helping? See Diane, Stephanie, Betsy, or Jodie.

We are excited to announce that Mia Caesar will become a new church member during our service on Sunday, **January 5.**



On Dec. 22nd through Dec. 30th,
we wish *Happy Hanukkah* to all those who celebrate it.