2024-2025 Annual Review



From the Minister Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer



A year ago, I was on sabbatical and Rev. Ruth was serving as Sabbatical Minister. I was nearing the end of my time away and ready to return, as well as holding on to the precious days of rest and re-creation.

I learned and reflected on many things during that time. How I love the natural world and the importance of State and National Parks to provide inspiration, conservation, and re-creation. I learned that other congregations are holding many of the same large questions we are – how to continue to be church in days of continual fear and threat to our values of justice, compassion, and love.

Since then, even more constraint has been placed on our work for a more just and loving world. And we need each other, more than ever, to protect

the things we cherish: each other, the earth (including those parks!), and our shared flourishing.

For generations, we have continued to make our way, in the spirit of hope and good cheer, because of the strength of those who came before us. We have deeply woven roots of resilience. Our church was named Grace just after the Civil War ended, in the throes of reconstruction to heal a broken, hurting country.

Some things are quite different, some things are too much the same. We are still in need of some balance of grace (offering each other the free gifts of compassion and joy) and justice (working for our shared liberation and flourishing).

As we end this program year, in which we have journeyed through many sorrows and many joys, we continue what we have always done: strive to be a welcoming community that nurtures spiritual growth and practices justice. We need it all: welcome, nurture, spirit, justice.

As we move toward summer, may you find moments of respite and re-creation, so that we might continue to create circles of communal care – filled with grace and joy. I leave you with these words of a UU minister and poet, the Rev. Lynn Ungar:

I don't know how this all turns out, and neither do you,

but I confess it doesn't look good.

I wish we were headed for a picnic, for a waltz in the park.

I wish we were not ruled by broken men

who want to damage everything that they cannot possess.

I wish I could tell you what we do now.

The street is littered with the petals of cherries

that bloomed before the big wind came.

Tonight there will be frost, and tender buds will burn.

But still, the woods are unfolding into green,

and just outside my door some frog is bellowing for all he's worth.

Who knows what happens next?

All I can tell you is that the fields are ablaze with dandelions who have never known the meaning of defeat.

From the Board Brianna Berg - Secretary

When I first planned my trip to Italy, I envisioned a secular feast for the senses: long, leisurely strolls with my partner through medieval cities, heaping plates of handmade pasta, frolicking through the Tuscan hillside, and, of course, ALL the gelato! I had attempted to curate our itinerary to focus on secular wonder and Googled lists of non-religious art, ruins, and plazas with breathtaking views. As a Unitarian Universalist and recovering Catholic, I thought I'd successfully escaped the Church long ago. I wasn't about to let a vacation become a pilgrimage.

However, we landed in Rome on the first day of the papal conclave, and the city was already thick with anticipation. Even as we traveled north to Florence, I felt the weight of it following us. And soon, it became impossible to ignore: crosses seemed omnipresent, saints stared down from centuries-old walls, and the



most breathtaking spaces—churches, basilicas, chapels—were steeped in Catholicism.

I'd been raised in a Catholic household and attended Catholic schools all the way through adolescence. I remember earnestly asking my parents, teachers, and even priests big questions: Whose chromosomes did Jesus inherit, if Mary was human and Joseph wasn't the father? If God is love, why would my Japanese exchange sister go to hell just for not being baptized? Why would God be on the side of the U.S. in war, and not other nations? These questions rarely sparked conversation; instead, they sometimes got me sent into the hallway. I was told I needed more faith. That word—faith—became both a burden and a boundary. Eventually, I stepped away.

So here I was, nearly two decades later, surrounded by the very imagery I'd tried to leave behind. But instead of recoiling, I found myself drawn to a familiar presence--not the Church, but a central figure within it: Jesus. Not the sanitized savior of Christmas pageants, but the man. The activist. The radically loving rebel who dined with outcasts, flipped tables in temples, and challenged empires with compassion. In unexpectedly rediscovering Jesus, not as a symbol of doctrine but as a source of moral inspiration, I found something stirring in me. Especially in today's turbulent political climate, his example of love as resistance felt urgent.

When it was announced that the new pope was from the United States, I didn't roll my eyes. Instead, I felt a strange glimmer of optimism. In a time when our country seems to export more fear and division than peace, the thought that we might contribute something potentially healing to the world brought a surprising sense of hope.

I won't pretend this trip turned me back into a practicing Catholic. But something shifted. The Jesus I remembered—the radical, justice-seeking rebel—now feels more relevant than ever. As a Unitarian Universalist, I don't follow dogma, but I do follow the call to act. His example will show up in the protests I join, the mutual aid I support, and the belief that love can be a force for change.

Elections For Church Leaders

Officers of the Board serve 1-year terms for up to 4 years in the same office. Directors and Nominating Committee members serve 2-year terms for up to 2 consecutive terms.



Paul Trewartha-Weiner President - Second year

My wife and I have been members of First UU for the last 4 years or so. However, since both our kids chose to come to UU for OWL and Coming of Age, we have connections that go back 10 to 15 years. I have participated as a Worship Associate, I have facilitated and been a member of many Chalice Circles, and most recently I have served as Board Vice-President. I cooked for you all on several Wednesday Tupper Suppers. I love being a part of this community. In our church I find a place for wide-open spiritual growth, friendships, and passion for making the community we live in stronger and more nurturing. I am hopeful I will be able to continue serving on the Board and contributing to First UU in new ways.

First UU Church has been my spiritual home and community for 27 years. I initially sought out this church as a place for my children to develop respect for the faith traditions of others, but stayed, needing nourishment for my own soul. Through service activities like Community Food Response and Hawthorne Helps, I've gotten to know and love our members. Through the years, I've also taught RE, been a sexton, washed Sunday coffee cups, participated in pledge drives, and sung in the choir. I was privileged to serve on the Search Committee that led to Rev. Luke's calling, the Shared Ministry and Nominating Committees, and now as a Board member for the second time, serving as liaison to the Social Justice Shared Ministry Team. With important work ahead, I am humbled to be nominated to join our leadership team as your Vice President.



Aleta Borrud Vice President - Second year

ElectionsFor Church Leaders

I was born and raised in Wisconsin as a reluctant Catholic and moved to Rochester to begin my career at Mayo in 2009. Shortly thereafter a Google search led me to discover First Unitarian Universalist, and I have since become an enthusiastic UU. Over the years I have facilitated and participated in Chalice Circles, sung with the Walden Hills Vocal Ensemble, and recently served as a member of the Board of Directors and the Social Justice Shared Ministry team. I hope to continue to serve on the Board this coming year as Secretary, during this exciting time of change and growth for our congregation.



Brianna Berg Secretary - Second Year



Jamie Bingner-Care Treasurer - Second Year

I grew up in Rochester, moved back in 2020, and have been a member of First UU since 2022. My children Charlie and Isaac have found their second home here, and our entire family (including my husband Matt Care, and my parents, long-time members Steve and Karel Bingner) have flourished with First UU as our spiritual home, as well as connections for art, gardening, and fellowship. This past year I was honored to be a part of the successful Building our Future Capital Campaign. I am a professional do-gooder by trade, serving as the Development Director of The Landing MN, an organization that provides low-barrier day shelter for those experiencing homelessness in town. I look forward to the opportunity to use my love of spreadsheets to serve as Board Treasurer during this time of transition and growth.

I have called First UU of Rochester my spiritual home since 2019, became a member in 2020, and am proud to be a lifelong UU. In our community I have enjoyed helping faith development, taking part in the writing group, co-facilitating the nonviolent communication practice group, and serving as a worship associate. I've been a voting delegate representing our congregation for one General Assembly and have also been lucky enough to go on the Boston pilgrimage! First UU gives me so much hope, connection, and energy—I look forward to giving back in a new way, as a member on the Board.



Stephanie Evan-Hanson First year of 1st term Board of Directors

Continuing Their Service As Church Leaders

A member since 1999, I have frequently served as an advisor to the UU Youth Group, served a term as Board member in the mid-2000s, and facilitated the Congregational Resolutions Committee to provide a process for our congregation to speak with one voice. I have also served on both the Welcoming Committee and the Auction Committee. I would be honored to serve the church again as a Board member, to help further our mission to be a compassionate, welcoming community that nurtures spiritual growth and practices justice.



Kim Edson Second Year of 1st term Board of Directors



John Tacinelli Second year of 2nd term Board of Directors

I was born in Hyde Park, New York, and came to Minnesota for graduate school in geology at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. I have taught earth science at RCTC since 1997. I came to the church through my wife Tammi, and together we raised our two daughters Kristian and Rose here. I am happy to have a community of friends who offer me support and spiritual guidance. I look forward to continue to serve the congregation on the Board of Directors.

My husband and I became Unitarian Universalists when we joined the church in 1989. During the years we were raising our two children, I taught Sunday School and was on the Religious Education Committee. I have sung in the choir for decades, and I have served on the Nominating, Fellowship, and Racial Justice Committees. In addition, I worked on the Pledge Team for many years and was recently a Visiting Steward.

I am just completing my first two-year term as a member-atlarge on the Board of Directors. My tenure has been filled with some surprises, challenges, joys, and inspirations. I am honored to continue contributing to our community by serving on the Board for a second term.



Jodi Edmonson Second year of 2nd term Board of Directors

Continuing Their Service As Church Leaders



Laurel Podulke-Smith Second Year of 1st term Board of Directors

I began attending the First UU Church of Rochester in 1978 at age 4 when my parents were drawn to Unitarian Universalism because of its progressive and inclusive values. Being raised in a liberal and compassionate religious tradition shaped the person I am and continues to guide and inspire my work in the world. Though I have lived in several other places and sought out UU congregations in Germany, Los Angeles, and Minneapolis, First UU Church of Rochester is my spiritual home. After college, work, and early life, I returned to Rochester in 2007 and have been very involved in our church since then. I've served in fellowship, fundraising, religious education, and youth mentoring. I now look forward to continuing on the Board during the coming year.

My partner, Jennifer, and I have been members of First UU since 2019, but I began participating in the choir and other music services in 2017. We feel very lucky to be a part of this amazing community with so many friends, and we are so grateful for all of the support we receive in raising our three children, Thea, Waldo, and Renzo. Professionally, I enjoy being a school counselor and currently serve in a support role for our other amazing school counselors. Within the church, I enjoy playing music, volunteering with religious education, serving as a member-at-large with the Social Justice Team, and finding solidarity and community with fellow UU parents and young adults. I also like researching options for the electric vehicle charging infrastructure at our future building, and I look forward to serving on the Nominating Committee again.



Alex Higano Second Year of 1st term Nominating Committee



Paula Horner Second Year of 2nd term Nominating Committee

I have been a member of First UU since 1992 and an RE teacher for many years. I was a "charter" member of the Disability Task Group, eventually becoming the chair and providing leadership for our congregation to become an AIM (Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry) congregation within the UUA. I have been active on the Social Justice Council, a long-standing member of the Caring Congregation, and a regular volunteer with Hawthorne Helps. I have participated with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and Community Food Response. Most recently I have been part of a core group supporting an Afghan family that our church sponsored through Catholic Social Services. The church has been a pivotal part of my life in Rochester. Not only have I found my spiritual home, I have made lifelong friends and appreciate the incredible support and community of so many like-minded people. I look forward to my continuing work with the other members of the Nominating Committee.

Continuing Their Service

As Church Leaders



My name is Abby Lohr, and I think I started attending First UU around age 11 or 12. I came of age in this church and signed the membership book in 2002. After 20 or so years of traveling and school, I returned to Rochester in 2021 and started attending First UU again - this time with my daughter Harriet. I love the sense of community I feel at church, the new and rekindled friendships, and the advocacy opportunities. I look forward to serving the church on the Nominating Committee.

Abby Lohr Second Year of 2nd term Nominating Committee

My name is Julie Larson Keller. My husband Jeff and I became members of this church in 1988, seeking a liberal spiritual environment for ourselves and our two children, Jesse and Jana. Additionally, our five grandchildren are engaged with the church community through Chalice Camp and various other events. Over the years, I have actively participated in several committees, including Religious Education, Social Justice, Poverty, and Nominating. Furthermore, I currently chair the Memorial Garden group.

I am grateful for the opportunity to continue serving this community as a member of the Nominating Committee.



Julie Larson-Keller Second Year of 2nd term Nominating Committee



Robin Taylor Second Year of 2nd term Nominating Committee

I have been a member of First UU since 1992. My husband, Joe Lobl, and I came because we wanted a religious education for our two daughters; we stayed because we found one for ourselves. The friendships and support we have found here continue to strengthen and sustain us through life's joys and challenges. Over the years, I have taught RE and chaired the Religious Education Committee and the Fellowship Committee. I have served on the Pledge Team, the Caring Committee, and the Congregational Life Team, and I was privileged to serve on the Search Committee that hired Reverend Luke. I have served on the Nominating Committee for the past two years and am happy to continue for another term.

Building Our Future: Beyond Ourselves

Site of Our Future Church Home



Congregational Vision

Welcome people with inclusive spaces and universal access.

Nurture spirituality and personal growth with beauty, art, and inspiration.

Practice justice with eco-restorative design.

Expand our community with flexible and multi-purpose space.

Create joy and resilience with places for play.

Care for sacred space to honor ancestors and nature.

Grow by embodying the intersection of public witness and preserved wilderness.

Building Our Future Teams

Core Team

Team members serve as an initial point of contact with project professionals, the congregation, and church leaders.

Team Members: Ann Hutton (co-team leader), George Huston (co-team leader), Gail Bishop, Greg Turosak, John Helmers, Walt Rothwell, Jean Murray, Dave Pesch

Generosity Team

Team members commissioned a feasibility study and designed, organized, and continue to run a successful capital campaign.

Team Members: Gail Bishop (team leader), Jamie Bingner-Care, Laurel Podulke-Smith

Location Team

Team members work with the city and county for various Viola land issues and needs. The team also works with the Realtor to monitor all activity and needs associated with the sale of the Walden Lane building and grounds.

Team Members: Greg Turosak (team leader), Dave Pesch, John Helmers, George Houston, Ann Hutton, Gail Bishop, Alex Mayer

Gratitude Team

Team members are working to catalog historical items to be displayed at the Viola church and are planning events to commemorate our time at Walden Lane.

Team Members: Walt Rothwell (team leader), Beth Atkinson, Kim Edson, Barb Foss, Ronice & Gary Donovan, Paul Scanlon, The History Committee

BUILDING OUR FUTURE: Beyond Ourselves



Building Update and Timeline

Update to the 2024-2027 Building Our Future Capital Campaign

Beginning June 1, 2025, we will be entering our 2nd year of our 3-year Capital Campaign for our future church home. A few months ago, the Building Our Future (BOF) Team told the congregation that we were pausing the architectural phase of the building process. This does not mean progress hasn't been made. The BOF team has been busy submitting the Site Development Plan (SDP) to the city to review. The plan has been returned for revisions (as expected).

We have extended our contract with our civil engineering firm, Widseth, to move us through the complete of the SDP.

The Capital Campaign is continuing. The new church year begins on June 1, 2025, and year 2 of the Capital Campaign begins June 1, 2025, as well. Our Financial Administrator, Amy Nelson, created the graphs below to illustrate where we are in the Capital Campaign process.

While the building process may have slowed down, it has not stopped. Your contributions are being spent on engineering needs, and all monies collected and not used are being invested into multiple CDs in staggered lengths of terms.

The BOF Teams are currently:

- Completing Easement Agreement with Jehovah's Witnesses
- Continuing the Site Development Plan approval process with the city

2025 and beyond (Dates/years are dependent on Walden Lane building sale)

- Permitting process with City of Rochester
- Negotiate Development Agreement with City of Rochester
- Begin preparation of construction documents
- Request construction bids from area builders
- Conclude negotiations for construction
- Groundbreaking and begin construction; anticipate 12 months
- Building dedication

TBD

- TBD Sale of Walden Lane building
- TBD Removal of stained glass for storage
- TBD Removal of organ for storage
- TBD Transition of spaces & materials, as needed
- TBD Rental of temporary space, as needed

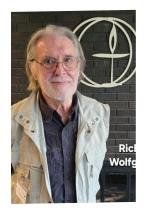
New Members

I feel incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to engage with those visiting First UU for the first time, and to help guide those who choose our congregation as their spiritual home. It's truly an honor to hear their personal stories of spiritual and religious growth, and a joy to welcome them into membership. The community at First Unitarian Universalist Church exemplifies what it means to be truly welcoming, embracing all beliefs and embracing all beliefs and identities, and creating a space of nurturing, acceptance, and love. Enjoy getting to know our new members! ~ Melissa Eggler, Coordinator of Congregational Life

Each member was asked to answer the following questions:

- 1. Please list your family members (of course pets are included!!)
- 2. What are your Hobbies and interests?
- 3. Why did you chose First Unitarian Universalist as your spiritual home?
- 4. What are ways you'd like to be involved at First UU?

These are their answers.



Richard Wolfgramm

- **2**. I am a retired architect, so of course the practice of architecture is an important hobby. My interests include aviation (my son Benjamin is a pilot), and food (my daughter Madeleine is a chef).
- **3.** I am a long time Unitarian, but new to UU Rochester since moving to southeastern Minnesota.
- **4.** I have enjoyed joining in conversation with members of the Writers Group at UU Rochester. It is challenging, fun, and rewarding.





- 1. Jana (Wife); Olivia, Gannon, Luca (Step-Children); Barney and Yeti (Cats)
- **2.** Vintage baseball, hockey, video games, bonfires, road trips, reading news, Dungeons and Dragons, board games
- **3.** My views were separating more from the Catholic faith. I wanted something that was more accepting and accommodating to all people regardless of their identity.



Addie Seabarkrob

- 1. Jeff and Addie Seabarkrob
- 2. Art, gardening, landscaping, swimming, writing, social activism
- 3. Inclusion rather than exclusion
- 4. Writing group, art workshops, social justice

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- 4. What are ways you'd like to be involved at First UU?

These are their answers.



Devon Penn

- 1. Kodie, Jess: Our pet cats: Persephone, Bunni, Auscka, Ren
- **2**. Reading, listening to spooky stories, thrifting, home improvement and organization projects, road trips, swimming and SO much more!
- **3.** Everything I've experienced and read about the UU church so far has been beautiful and just makes sense in my heart.
- **4.** More community engagement, volunteering with cooking, writing, finding others that would love UU, assisting in making eco conscious and sustainable changes at the church, gardening!



Natalie Arend

- 1. Andrew (husband), Haddie (daughter), Theo (son), Ziggy (dog)
- **2**. Yoga, photography, traveling, reading, hanging out with friends, hiking.
- **3**. Because we wanted a place to gather with like-minded people, I wanted my growing kids to have a community to learn from.
- **4**. Not sure but I'm always interested in sharing my gifts and helping in any way I can.



Tosca Wohl

- 1. Kevin (husband) & dog fur babies Al, Chyma, & Dicky
- 2. Reading & being outdoors.
- 3. It always has been since I was a kid.
- 4. Not sure yet



Jen Domnick

- 1. Husband Alan. Isiah (Jen's son) Ian and Annie & one yr old grandson Jago (Jen's son and our daughter in law) Isabella and JaCoby (Jen's daughter and our son in law) Cameron and Emerson (Alan's daughters, my bonus daughters) Bo our lab and JJ our cat!
- 2. Biking, hiking, spending time with family and friends, traveling
- **3**. I choose UU because they accept everyone and consider every human life to be sacred and speak/work for the good of all people.
- 4. Not sure yet but have started by taking a class.

Each member was asked to answer the following questions:

- 1. Please list your family members (of course pets are included!!)
- 2. What are your Hobbies and interests?
- 3. Why did you chose First Unitarian Universalist as your spiritual home?
- 4. What are ways you'd like to be involved at First UU?

These are their answers.





- 1. Michele (wife), Aspen & River (dogs)
- 2. Gardening, camping, speculative fiction
- **3**. The core UU tenets as I understand them appeal to me. I am agnostic about the existence of (a) God(dess), and need someplace where multiple perspectives are explored and encouraged. I also like that UU spirituality embraces or demands social justice action in the here and now. Most importantly, when we came to try out First UU, I cried big silent tears throughout Luke's sermon. I have since discovered Ruth's fire, and have been inspired by many of the lay congregational speakers as well. It feels like a community that can hold all of the emotions associated with these times on Sundays I allow the feelings in, which feels super important.
- **4.** I like to be involved in social justice work. I have connected with some of the immigration justice work and have started a social justice reading (support) group. I have enjoyed the Chalice Circle this year.



Mary Slack

1. I am the sole member of my household since my husband Jim died in December of 2011.

My family includes my 40 year old son Jason, who lives with his wife and two children near Bellingham, Washington, and my 38 year old son Ryan who lives here in Rochester with his wife and two children. My four delightful grandchildren are between 3-7 years old.

I also have 3 younger sisters living in Michigan. Various nieces and nephews in Michigan and beyond. Our parents both passed in 2021. Our sister who lived in Colorado passed in 2023.

- 2. I most enjoy being with my grandchildren and their parents. I have been attending exercise classes as a community member at The Club at Shorewood Senior Center since recovering from knee surgery. I enjoy slow-paced walking outdoors, looking and listening. I am an eclectic reader. I have had a yoga practice that I am working my way back toward. I appreciate live music and live theater, from preschool to professional efforts.
- **3**. UU values resonate. In my almost 70 years I have been a member of many congregations. And read about many other spiritual traditions. Sunday mornings here help me to maintain a positive sense of balance and connection.
- **4**. Thank you for the many opportunities offered.

Save the Dates

Summer 2025

Viola Land Workday 1st Saturday of the month ~ 9:30-11:30 am

Saturday, June 7 Saturday, July 5 Saturday, August 2 Saturday, September 6

Walden Lane Workday 3rd Saturday of the month ~ 9 am - 12 pm

Saturday, June 21 Saturday, July 19 Saturday, August 16 Saturday, September 20

UUA General Assembly Baltimore, MA ~ June 18-22, 2025

From June 18–22, 2025, the 64th UUA General Assembly will be a multi-platform event, with the main stage hosted at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore.

Chalice Camp July 14 - 18

We are excited to spend a week having a good time, with exploration, imagination, and play rooted in Unitarian Universalist values (children going into K-7 or equivalent for fall 2025 – must turn 5 by September 1, 2025). Camp hours are 9 am-4 pm with extended hours of 8am-5pm available.

Vote for our Viola Land Road Name July 14 - 18

Online and in-person ranked choice voting during Chalice Camp. All member household (including children) are invided to vote on the finalists!



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR FALL!

Sunday, September 7

Back to two services (9 am & 11 am) and Water Communion

Saturday, September 27 ~ 10 am-4 pm

UU Handcrafted Bazaar

Saturday November, 1 ~ 6 pm

Halloween Fun and Service Auction

NEEDED IN 2025/2026 Beginning August/September 2025

Small Group Facilitators – Do you have an idea for a faith development group at First UU or an interest in facilitating an already existing group? Contact Amy Nelson (dre@uurochmn.org) or any First UU staff member for more information.

Cook Team Leaders/Members - Interested in leading or becoming a member of a Tupper Supper cook team? Contact Melissa Eggler (congregationlife@uurochmn.org) or any First UU staff member for details on how to join.

Facilitators needed for 2025-2026 Chalice Circles

Contact Melissa Eggler (congregationlife@uurochmn.org) if you are interested in becoming a facilitator.

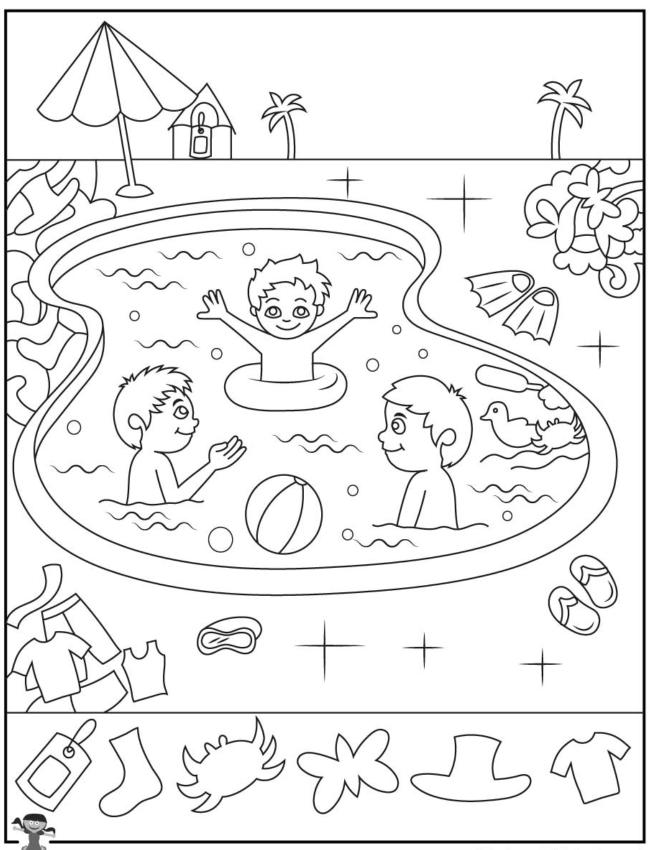
Chalice Circles, our small group ministry at First Unitarian Universalist Church, are small connection and discussion groups that use the church-wide "Soul Matters" curriculum and meet our needs for belonging and meaning. These groups, which meet monthly, build friendships and provide opportunities to contemplate the big questions of life. Chalice Circles are designed to enrich our community with the sort of conversation and attentiveness that can be difficult in the busy life of a growing congregation. When congregation members are having their needs for connection and spiritual deepening met, they want to give back to their faith community.

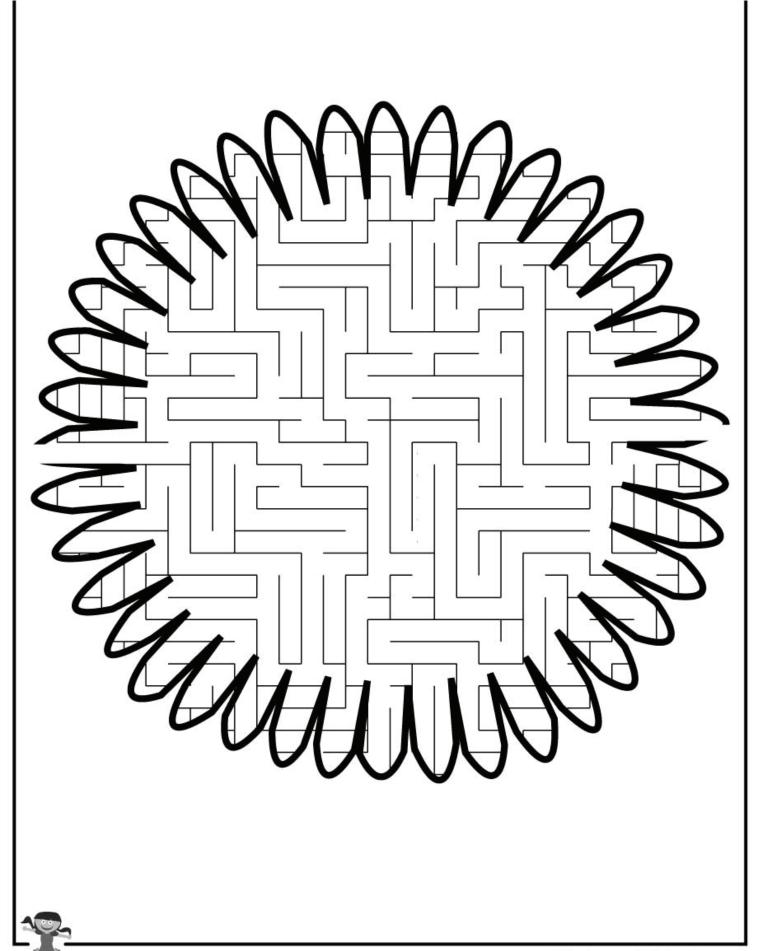






Activity Pages





Throwback Page

History Highlights of First UU



First UU congregants assembling the stained-glass window in celebration of our 150th anniversary in 2016. This is a portion of the window that is now hanging in our coatroom.

Church Staff

Paul Trewartha-Weiner Luke Stevens-Royer Rev. Ruth MacKenzie Amy Nelson Melissa Eggler Shelly Rohe Erika Fetterman Amy Nelson Rose Mish Joe Mish

Derik Robertson Chantelle Feddersen Nick Woolums

Board President

Minister

Sabbatical Minister

Director of Faith Development Coordinator of Congregational Life

Social Justice Coordinator

Operations Director

Finance Coordinator

Co-Director of Music

Co-Director of Music

Coordinator of Faith Exploration

Assistant for Faith Development

Property Steward

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First Unitarian Universalist Church



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Sunday Services & Faith Development 9 & 11 am (10 am June-August)

Our publication title, Grace Notes, harkens back to the name of this congregation in the 1870s, Grace Church, and also refers to a grace note in music, which is an extra flourish, adding an additional element of expression to a melody. Each month, we create some space to highlight just a flourish, some extra notes, within the larger life of our church.