

United First Parish Church

Order of Service

PRELUDE *By the Hearth* Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

WELCOME AND OPENING WORDS Rev. Rebecca Froom

CHALICE LIGHTING David Downs

*COVENANT Marie-Louise Jackson-Miller

As a free fellowship of this historic church,
We unite to lift our hearts and open our minds to a larger reality;
To accept, support, and encourage one another;
To seek the wisdom in all religions;
To cherish and sustain the web of life;
And to strive for justice, compassion, and peace.

*GREET YOUR NEIGHBORS

*HYMN #188 *Come, Come, Whoever You Are*

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Rev. Rebecca Froom
The Tale of Sankofa by April Rosario

*CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL *As You Go* By John Ruben Piirainen
As you go, may joy surround you,
As you go, go in peace.
Know our love is with you always,
as you go, as you go
(Children are invited to leave for their Spirit Circle programs)

JOYS AND SORROWS

MEDITATION AND PRAYER Rev. Rebecca Froom

*HYMN #128 *For All that is our Life*

REFLECTION *Remembering Your Story* Rev. Rebecca Froom

READING *Map of a Journey in Progress* By Victoria Safford

REFLECTION *Your Story This Year*

*Please Stand as you are able.

"Church of the Presidents"

Sunday, January 5, 2025

What story from 2024 do I want to release?
What story do I want to live in 2025?

MUSICAL INTERLUDE *Pavane* Paul Drayton (1944-)

READING *Here I Am* By Elaine Kiziah

OFFERING INVITATION Marie-Louise Jackson-Miller
Donations can be placed in the offering plates or can be made online at
ufpc.org.

OFFERTORY *Interlude* David Lord (1944-)
Your reflections on release can be placed in baskets during the Offertory.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION Words by Neil Gaiman Rev. Rebecca Froom

*SUNG BENEDICTION By Patricia Yates and Harold Brown
Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.

PROCESSIONAL POSTLUDE *Fuga* Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

FIRE CEREMONY

During social hour we will gather in the parlor around our fireplace for a ritual
of release; burning the reflections we wrote describing what story we will
release from the past year.

*SONG *Loosen, Loosen* By Aly Halpert
Loosen, loosen, baby
You don't have to carry
The weight of the world in your muscles and bones
Let go, let go, let go.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Music Director: Normany Corey

Greeter: David Bousquin

Ushers: Bill Westland, Albert Vaughn

Livestream: Karl DeBisschop

Childcare is provided.

Social Hour: Leslie Simpson, Marie-Louise Jackson-Miller
Flowers donated by Janine Mudge in memory of her mother Jane Mudge.

Note, on Sunday morning our lower level is for Spirit Circle programs for children. We ask the adults to remain upstairs between 10:45-11:45 am, unless they have a need to use the restrooms. Please join us for social hour in the parish hall following the worship service.

We are a Unitarian Universalist congregation where thoughtful and caring people from many faith backgrounds gather for spiritual growth and learning, to build community, and to live our values of love and compassion in the wider world. Here you will find companions for the journey. Bring your questions, your hopes, and your ideals.

Sunday worship is at 10:30 am in-person and over zoom, followed by an in-person social hour for continued conversation. Children participate in worship and in our Spirit Circle religious education program where they learn about mindfulness, the arts, and caring for the earth.

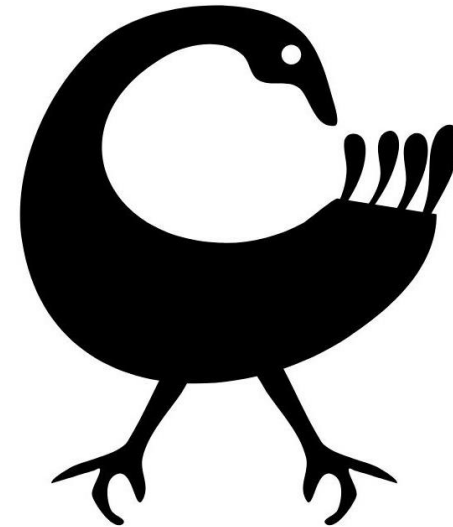
United First Parish Church has roots in two congregations who merged in 1958: First Parish Church founded in 1639 and Wollaston Unitarian Society founded in 1888. This magnificent building was designed by Alexander Parris; it is the fourth meeting house of the Church and was completed in 1828. John Adams and John Quincy Adams, the second and sixth Presidents of the United States, were life-long members of the Church and are entombed along with their wives First Ladies Abigail Adams and Louisa Catherine Adams in the Church's crypt. The church operates a History and Visitors Program from mid-April to mid-November, giving tours of the Presidential Crypt and our historic sanctuary.

Elected Leaders: Fiona Sankey (President), Jacqueline Rodriguez (Vice-President), Clyde Cortright (Treasurer), Erwin Schaareman (Assistant Treasurer), Patricia Sullivan (Clerk), Karl DeBisschop (Stewardship), Claire Fitzmaurice (Social Justice Action), Juan Ramos (Communications), Marie-Louise Jackson-Miller (Congregational Life), Peter Kovach and Andrew Carleen (Religious Education), Jordan Waterworth (Worship), Ann David Fallon (Committee on Ministry), Sarah Belfort (Nominating Committee)

Staff: Rev. Rebecca Froom (Lead Minister), Rev. Dr. Sheldon Bennett (Minister Emeritus), Elizabeth Foster (Director of Religious Education and Family Ministry), David Bousquin (Office and Property Manager), Norman Corey (Music Director)



United First Parish Church Unitarian Universalist



“Your Story This Year”

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