

## **Transforming Lives**

**Liz Komar** 

(Member since January 15, 2017)

My favorite part of every service at First Unitarian is the opening – say it with me: "Whoever you are, wherever you're from, whomever you love, whatever the source of your faith, you are welcome here."

Those are radical and transformative words! Radical and transformative love permeates this place. And, incidentally, radical and transformative love is how I define God.

I've felt embraced by that love from the moment I first heard those opening words. I arrived here isolated and so tired, but between choir, the Young Adult Ministry, and Queer Caucus, within a month I was struggling with the wonderful problem of potluck over-commitment. I feel like I've found something wild and precious here – true friends and community. A home.

And I love that this congregation continues to work to open our doors even wider – by committing ourselves to accessibility, becoming an immigrant sanctuary, and fighting white supremacy.

Thanks to Rev. Ana and Adam and everyone else on the staff here, every Sunday, I receive the spiritual sustenance and inspiration I need for my work on criminal justice reform. Here, I find hope. And from hope, springs resilience.

That's why congregations like First Unitarian matter. To borrow some words from the Book of Amos: having this space where we can pray, sing, mourn, and dream together "until justice rolls down like a river," will give us the strength to fight "until righteousness flows like a mighty stream."