

FIRST UNITARIAN
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY
BR  **KLYN**
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Transforming Lives

Elizabeth Ellis

(Member since January 15, 2017)



My earliest memory of religion is being terrified to go to bed, after 12 hours of being told I was going to burn in hell every Sunday. I was four years old. The messages didn't change as I got older, and I was excommunicated at age 20. I was certain I would never trust another place of worship or religious leader. 10 years later, my family was pushing hard for me to raise my amazing, sweet toddler in the same faith. I decided it was a good time to head to Brooklyn.

The first time I approached First U, I was living in a homeless shelter; daily searching and hoping for a home. Little did I know, before getting one for my body, I would find a home for my spirit. As I came up Pierrepont, I felt the energy shift in the air outside the building. There was a zing of excitement, and the building drew me in. Greeted warmly and showed to the nursery for Libby, I found a seat and fidgeted my nerves away. During the service, a small dog ran in, and Reverend Ana integrated it into the service. Any place willing to include a random dog in their service was a place I wanted to be.

I returned on a weekly basis and was encouraged to talk to Ana about my fear of religious leaders. Nine months after I started attending, and a few months after I'd become a member, I sat down with Ana. Talking to her finally allowed me to address the fears still residing within and confirmed that at First Unitarian, I've found my spiritual home. They have helped me through tough times and have helped me grow into a person I am proud of. I hope First U will become your spiritual home as well.

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