

BROOKLYN

The First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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Dear First U Community,

My name is Tasha Brownfield, and I am a second-year seminarian at Yale Divinity School. I am delighted to have the chance to serve as your new intern minister!

I was born and raised in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh, where I have been involved in the arts, dance, theatre, and band since elementary school. My love of the arts continued into my undergraduate instruction, Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. I stayed in the marching band while pursuing a B.A. in Psychology and Religious Studies and a minor certificate in philosophy. During this time, I also became a licensed mushroom forager in Appalachia, and I have been an exotic animal caretaker at my local animal sanctuary. In the past three years, I also lived abroad in Argentina and Italy and studied on board the MV World Odyssey with Semester at Sea.

Before coming to seminary, I have been a primary speaker at the fully lay-led congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Smithton, Pennsylvania. The opportunity at UU Smithton helped me actualize my calling towards ministry, where I am now an aspiring minister in the Unitarian Universalist tradition. While UU is the organization from which I religiously operate, I am spiritually pluralistic, specifically towards pantheism. My calling towards ministry led me to Baltimore, Maryland, where I am working as a chaplain at the Johns Hopkins Hospital for the summer.

I have yet to visit Yale Divinity School due to COVID-19 health restrictions, but I am looking forward to my move in the fall to meet the humans that comprised the little zoom boxes for the past year. I am equally eager and humbled to work with your community at the First U Church of Brooklyn.

My first service at First U will be **on Sunday, August 29th**: I would love to see you there and have the chance to meet you over zoom before meeting in the fall. The service is about finding the beautiful and infinite intersection between our pasts and our futures- the infinitely spiritual “right now” moments of life. The sermon, inspired by the

cosmic perspective of Carl Sagan, will be titled “Our Time Together on the Pale Blue Dot.”

I am looking forward to the time we will have together, the intersection of our lives for the next two years while serving as your intern minister. I am honored for every second that I get to share with you all.

Until zoom in August, and eventually in the flesh,

—Tasha Brownfield (she/they)