

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

Welcome Book

2021-2022



Friday, September 03, 2021

Welcome to First Unitarian

Statement of Purpose

The First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn is a joyful, caring, religious community that inspires and empowers people to

Grow spiritually,

Care for one another, and

Work for social justice and stewardship of the earth.

Adopted by the Congregation, May 17, 2015

About Us

Special Announcement During the Time of COVID-19

On September 12, 2021 our congregation will return to in person Sanctuary worship services. For the time being we are asking unvaccinated people over the age of 12 to continue to enjoy our services remotely on Facebook or Zoom (contact information@fuub.org for a zoom link) If you are fully vaccinated, you are welcome to join us in the Sanctuary at 11:00 on Sundays. Facemasks are required at all times while in the building. We will not be serving refreshments. More information on safety protocols here www.fuub.org/home/about-us/in-person-worship/

Welcome to The First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn. We were founded in 1833 and have been worshipping in our historic Gothic revival sanctuary since 1844.

We are located on Pierrepont Street between Monroe Place and Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights. We can be easily reached by Subway (2, 3, 4, 5, R to Court St. Borough Hall; 2, 3 to Clark Street; A to High Street; F to Jay Street). Street parking is generally available in the neighborhood on Sunday mornings.

We worship together on Sunday mornings at 11:00AM. From mid-June through Labor Day, services are held in the McKinney Chapel next door to the main church. These services are lay-led.

We welcome families of all types and sizes and offer a comprehensive lifespan religious education program for all, from childhood through adulthood (see more under religious education).

We are one of seven Unitarian Universalist congregations in New York City and over one thousand throughout North America. We are affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and are part of the Central East Regional Group (CERG). (more information: www.uua.org)

Our congregations practice congregational polity (self-governance). Authority and responsibility are vested in the membership of the congregation.

Friday, September 03, 2021

Unitarian Universalist Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, affirm and promote...

- ④ The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- ④ Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- ④ Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregations
- ④ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- ④ The right of conscience and the use of democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- ④ The goals of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- ④ Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



Unitarian Universalist Sources

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we deepen our understanding and expand our vision through...

- ④ Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life
- ④ Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love
- ④ Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life
- ④ Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves
- ④ Humanist teaching which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us gain the idolatries of the mind and spirit
- ④ Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

First Unitarian Right Relations Covenant

We are mindful that, as individuals and members of this spiritual community, we are each accountable for our words, deeds, and behavior. Therefore, whenever we worship, work together, or relate to one another, we agree to follow the following behavior covenant. I will strive to:

- Respect and cherish diversities of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual and/or affectional orientation, identity/gender expression, age, ability, beliefs and ideas.
- Assume good intentions. Trust in and speak well of one another. Give the benefit of the doubt. Examine my own intentions.
- Foster an environment of compassion, generosity, fellowship, and creativity. Smile and be welcoming. Share in the responsibilities of congregational life. Actively support the congregation's activities and pledge financial support.
- Express appreciation and gratitude for the rich variety of gifts and talents shared among us. Empower others.
- Speak the truth as I experience it with kindness, care, and respect.
- Make decisions democratically through agreed-upon processes. Promote fairness and decency. Speak out against injustice.
- Face others directly in agreement or disagreement. Act with respect and humility when I disagree with others.
- Be mindful that words and actions may cause unintended pain.
- Seek out understanding and wisdom in the presence of conflict. Resolve conflicts through intentional compromise and collaboration and, when necessary, request mediation. Understand that sometimes it is necessary to take "no" for an answer. Be forgiving.
- Practice self-care.
- Be open to hope.

Adopted by the Congregation - March 7, 2009

Staff Directory

Rev. Ana Levy-Lyons, Senior Minister
ana@fuub.org
Office Hours, T-Th 10AM-4PM
Or by appointment

Meagan Henry, Director of Education &
Family Ministries
meagan@fuub.org
Office Hours, Tu - Th, 10AM-4PM
Or by appointment

Adam Podd, Director of Music
adam@fuub.org
Office Hours, by appointment

Garnett Losak, Director of Congregational
Life
garnett@fuub.org, 646-456-4027
Office Hours., Tu, Th, 10AM-4PM or by
appointment

Wendy Russell, Office
Manager/Bookkeeper,
office@fuub.org, 718-624-5466
Office Hours

SU 1-4PM T, Th 10AM-4PM or by
appointment

Sophie Major, Religious Education
Assistant
Sophie@fuub.org

Tasha Brownfield, Intern Minister
intern@fuub.org
Office hours, Tuesday & Sunday by
appointment

Kevin Brunson, Director of Facilities
facilities@fuub.org, 347-451-3941

Bobby Blackman, Custodian
bobby@fuub.org

Nicole Tsuzynski, Ceremonies
Coordinator
nicole@fuub.org
Office Hours, by appointment only

Business Address:

48 Monroe Place

Brooklyn, NY 11201

718-624-5466 Website: www.fuub.org

Facebook: First Unitarian Universalist Society in Brooklyn, Twitter: @FirstUBrooklyn

Instagram: Firstubrooklyn, YouTube: First Unitarian Brooklyn

Please Note: Most staff will work from home on Wednesdays. We are available by email or cell phone on all workdays. The office is closed on Fridays. We strongly recommend calling ahead of time before visiting the office. Appointments are strongly recommended.

Board of Trustees & Officers 2019-2020

The Board of Trustees is the congregation's primary governing body. The Board is made up of 9 voting members of the congregation who serve three-year terms. Three members roll off and three members roll on every year. Trustees are elected by the congregation from a slate presented by the Leadership Development Committee (formerly the nominating committee) at the Annual Meeting held on the third Sunday in May. The Board elects its own president. The Clerk of the Society is elected by the congregation for a one-year term. The Clerk keeps Board and congregational meeting minutes and has additional administrative responsibilities as needed throughout the year. The Treasurer is appointed by the Board. The Treasurer ensures that fiscal policy is followed.

Class of 2022

Carolyn Ellis - Carolyn Ellis has been an active member of the Congregation for over twenty years, serving in various capacities, including President of the Board and head of the Finance Committee. Currently, she is a member of the Committee on Ministry and the group renegotiating the shared space agreement with Imagine, the church's long-time tenant. When she had a day job, she was a lawyer with the NYS Attorney General's Office. She is looking forward to the reopening of the Sanctuary on Sundays for congregational worship and an end to the languishing that afflicts so many of us. On the bright side, over the last year, she has spent wonderful time with her children and grandchildren who inspire her to work for a better future for our world.

Amit Mehta (co-president) - Amit was born in upstate New York to Indian immigrants who raised him Hindu. He grew up from the age of seven in the suburbs of Houston, TX. After a period of atheism, today he identifies loosely-spiritual Hindu-UU. Amit trained as a scientist, earned his PhD in Biophysics, and now works in managing machine learning efforts in banking. He commutes to work in midtown Manhattan on inline skates. Amit and his wife Marci live in Brooklyn with their mischievous twin daughters Artemis and

Aranyani, now toddlers whose naming ceremony, which included Hindu and Unitarian Universalist rituals was held at First Unitarian Brooklyn, their family's spiritual home. Amit is proud to be one of this year's lay worship leaders.

Colleen Olson (co-president) - Moving to Brooklyn in 2008 to be an active part in their grandchildren's lives, Colleen and her husband, Dwight, have lived in ND, WY, OK and OH. Each location included a different religious affiliation and quest to learn and connect. She and Dwight have two sons and 4 grandchildren. Colleen has an MS degree in Child Development and spent her professional life working with children, families and teachers. At First U she joined the Woman's Alliance book group and leadership board to promote the unique contributions and challenges of women. She coordinated the Women's Film Series for two years connecting the series with the women's studies/media department at St. Francis College. Since joining as a society member in 2015 she has helped with religious education, Phoenix Rising, Immigrant Solidarity and recently has focused on activism related to climate change.

Class of 2023

Megan Munroe - Megan is from northern New York and has been a member of First U for five years. She has worked as a baker, a crime reporter, and an interpreter in a cemetery in the Czech Republic, but these days she is a regular businesswoman working in medical translation services and technology. At First U, she has served on the membership committee, lay worship team, participated in small-group ministry and helped to launch the Bible study covenant group. Baptized at age 30, Megan also dabbles in local Quaker prayer meetings, and typically spends her free time cooking/baking, weightlifting, and watching horror movies, often fighting for couch space among her three cats.

Andrea Parkinson – Andrea began attending First Unitarian with her husband in 2010. Since then, she and her family have grown deep roots within the community. For the past several years, Andrea has volunteered as a teacher for religious education classes, eventually joining the Religious Education Committee. Andrea currently works for the NYC DOE as a middle school dance teacher. She is also a dancer/ choreographer, and fitness professional with over two decades of experience bringing movement and wellness to older adults. In her limited free time, Andrea has been learning how to write a novel. She is grateful for the strength of community in First Unitarian, and its commitment towards social justice

Matt Robinson (Co-President) - Matt started attending First U in 2015 and became a member in 2016. Originally from Indiana, he was raised primarily in Pennsylvania and Connecticut, attending a variety of churches throughout his childhood. After nearly two decades without a spiritual home, Matt is happy to have found one in the First U community. Matt

has a background in visual art and carpentry, and he now helps to run the Brooklyn-based Beam Center, a nonprofit organization that combines those interests with youth development. Matt lives in Kensington with his wife, Clare, and their son, Lucas. He is excited about the opportunity to serve First U in a deeper way.

Class of 2024

Mary Huhn (Co-President) – Mary was raised a Unitarian, having attended the Main Line Unitarian Church in Devon, Pa., with her mother. After a gap of several decades from being a member of a congregation, she discovered the joys of First Unitarian, where she has made many friends, worked at UniFairs and auctions, and participated in several discussion groups, such as “Walking and Talking with God,” a history of UU with Ethan Loewi and a discussion of “No Other Gods,” as well as one about Christian Unitarian Universalists with Rev. Dr. Kelly Murphy Mason. She is now facilitating her first small group on “Soul Matters.”. Mary has worked to make the world better – engaging in turn out the vote, participating in climate-change marches, and joining groups such as Weaving Social Justice. She is a somewhat retired journalist who spent most of the last year in the Catskills with her husband and teenage son, but returned to Brooklyn in the early spring, full of hope. Mary is the president of the PTA at her son’s middle school as well as president of Brooklyn Alliance of Neighborhood Gardens. She has experience with being on an executive board, budgets, and working with community members. She would be honored to be on the Board of Trustees.

Judith Sedaitis - Judith joined the congregation in 2017 a few weeks after Trump’s election, looking for a place of solace and solidarity. She wrestled with the ways in which the UU tradition departs

from the more orthodox Christian teachings so important to her and her ethnic enclave in Chicago. Her parents' families fled the Soviet invasion of the Baltic during WWII and their Protestant church was a lynch pin for their life in the US. Judith formally joined as a member two years later in the fall of 2019. She has since been an active in our Membership Committee and in Weaving Social Justice, recently helping to lead the effort getting First Unitarian's support for Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP). She is currently a mentor to a COA youth and has also worked on UUA campaign efforts last fall and with our own congregation's phonebank to Florida. An avid participant in our adult RE program, Judith led a book discussion in the Sacred Studies Program, and is a member of an ongoing support group meeting monthly. She teaches sociology at City Tech and lives in Brooklyn with her spouse and two cats.

Jayesh Sheth – Jay began attending First Unitarian in November 2016, when he and his wife Andrea were searching for a new spiritual home. At First Unitarian, Jay has contributed to the efforts of the Green Team, Coming of Age, the Immigrant Solidarity Committee and Weaving Social Justice. He has spent his professional career as a software engineer and, more recently in leading the protection of healthcare data. He has volunteered as a co-op board member and values the insights he gained from that experience. Jay is an avid gardener (in search of a garden!) and enjoys documenting the wonders of nature as part of the iNaturalist community. One of his majors in college was International Business, and he maintains an active interest in sustainable investing. One of Jay's favorite things is cooking lentil soup

for the congregation. Jay looks forward to the opportunity to serve as a Trustee at First Unitarian and is committed to investing his efforts and experiences in this service.

Moderator

Mike Alcott - Mike has been a member of First Unitarian Congregational Society for the past twenty years. He and his wife, Sara, have been active in the congregation throughout much of that period. Both of their children were raised in First U's religious education program. Mike has served as President of the Board of Trustees, on the Finance Committee, and on the Committee on Ministry. He is most proud of serving on two search committees that resulted in Ana Levy Lyons becoming our Senior Minister and Meaghan Henry becoming our Direction of Educational Ministries. Mike and Sara have lived in the Ditmas Park neighborhood of Brooklyn since 1999. He has worked for the NYC Department of Education for the past thirty years, including the past three as a high school Superintendent.

Clerk of the Society

Elees Woods – Elees was raised a Congregationalist but became a Unitarian 40 years ago. I have been attending First U for 6 years; becoming a member 2 1/2 years ago. She has volunteered at Uni-Fair and the spring auction and dinner and participated in the Beloved Conversations, enjoyed the congregational Thanksgiving dinners, and loved being an usher. Elees served as a cottage meeting host during this year's Stewardship Campaign and is working as a canvasser for the Capital Fund Campaign. She is really looking forward to being able to attend services once again in our beautiful sanctuary!

Deacons

10 longtime members serve the congregation as deacons – experienced elders. A Deacon is elected by the congregation for life or until resignation. Currently, there are two open positions.

Bob Bero

Connie Newsom

Tom Check

Lee Pardee

Liz Davis

Bruce Wilde

Edwin Lord

Nancy Wolf

Supporting First Unitarian

First Unitarian is completely self-supporting. Our revenue comes from building rentals, a draw from our endowment, and donations from members and friends. The last represents 40% of our operating income.

We gratefully accept monetary gifts of any size in support of our mission and purpose. Checks can be written to First Unitarian and dropped into the Sunday offering or mailed to the church office. Donations can also be made by credit card or bank transfer on our website (www.fuub.org) or by text (347-735-5264) Cash offerings made through the Sunday plate are shared equally with a justice making organization (see Share the Plate).

Worship and Music

Worship services include congregational singing and performed music, candle lighting, a prayer, a story for all ages and a sermon. Often there are additional elements depending on the theme for the day. The sermon will usually be delivered by our senior minister, Rev. Ana Levy-Lyons.

Rev. Ana is away one Sunday a month. On those occasions, we may have a guest preacher or an alternative style worship.

Unitarian Universalists draw from many different sources. We believe that there is truth to be learned from the world's great works of art including poetry, philosophy and liturgical texts from all faiths. Our music program, too, draws from many different disciplines. On any given Sunday, we may hear world music, jazz, classical, pop or show tunes, accompanied by a range of instruments including our historic pipe organ.

Most people dress casually for worship, but if you prefer to "dress up", feel free.

Worship is followed by coffee, tea and fellowship in the church basement, also known as the undercroft.

For more information about worship, contact Rev. Ana Levy-Lyons. For more information about music, Contact Adam Podd.

Lifespan Religious Education

We offer comprehensive lifespan religious education. Children from pre-k through 6th grade attend Sunday school classes three Sundays per month and children's chapel once a month. We hold Justice Sundays six times annually. Middle school children alternate between Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality programming and Coming of Age. Children 5 and older attend the first part of the worship service and are sung out to their classes after the Wisdom Story. High School Youth meet with their advisors after worship and design their own programming. Children age two and under are welcome in our professionally staffed nursery. For the safety of all, children and youth must be registered (see our website, www.fuub.org/home/religious-education).

Throughout the year, we offer faith development classes and programs for adults. Some classes meet on Sunday afternoons, others meet during the week, generally in the evenings. Past programs have included Our Whole Lives adult sexuality, credo workshops, Ethics for UU's and UU Theology. Some classes require advanced registration, but most can be joined at any time.

For more information about Religious Education, contact Megan Henry.

Membership

Discover More About First Unitarian and Unitarian Universalism

Unitarian Universalist Association
www.uua.org

First Unitarian Weekly E-News: To
subscribe, garnett@fuub.org

First Unitarian Website:
www.fuub.org

Facebook: First Unitarian Universalist
in Brooklyn

Twitter: [@firstubrooklyn](https://twitter.com/firstubrooklyn)

Instagram: [Firstubrooklyn](https://www.instagram.com/firstubrooklyn)

YouTube: [First Unitarian Brooklyn](https://www.youtube.com/FirstUnitarianBrooklyn)

Joining a spiritual community can be one of life's most rewarding experiences. When you become a member of First Unitarian, you will find a community of people who work together to create a better world inside and outside our walls. You will discover deep and sustained friendships that are based on common goals and you will have companionship in your spiritual journey. Members in good standing are entitled to:

Ⓢ free or low-cost rites of passage, including weddings, memorial services and baby blessing (see member policies on our website)

Ⓢ serve on the Board of Trustees and other committees and groups that guide the future of our congregation

Ⓢ serve as Lay Worship Leaders

Ⓢ vote at congregational meetings

Ⓢ reduced fees on adult religious education classes

Ⓢ The joy of knowing that you are not alone in your spiritual journey

If you have been attending worship services at First U for a while and feel a commitment to our

community and are in agreement with our Right Relations Covenant and Purpose Statement, you may be ready to complete an Intent to Join Form. Once completed, you will be connected with a canvasser who will help you to determine an appropriate financial commitment. At that point, you will be ready to sign our historic membership book and become a voting member of the congregation. While not required, prospective members are encouraged to meet with Rev. Ana. Appointments can be made by calling the Church Office (718-624-5466)

Intent to Join Forms and our **Right Relations Covenant** can be found on our website (www.fuub.org/home/community/membership) or picked up at the welcome table and may be dropped off at the welcome table on Sundays, mailed to the church office, or scanned and e-mailed to Garnett Losak. Garnett is also available to answer any questions you may have.

Getting Involved

A lot happens on Sunday morning to make our worship and fellowship experience meaningful. From the first handshake at the front door of the Sanctuary, to a friendly conversation at the welcome table, our friend and member volunteers ensure that our Sundays are warm, welcoming and accessible.

Here are some ways you can be part of the Sunday experience.

Ushers & Greeters

We often hear that our congregation is warm and friendly. Visitors and newcomers get their very first impression of our congregation from the greeting they receive at the front door. Ushers are available to help people find their way to classrooms and restrooms, provide a strong arm to those who need help with stairs and answer any questions that come up. No experience is necessary, only the ability to smile and arrive by 10:30AM. Contact: Melissa Quirk (melquirk@gmail.com)

Fellowship Ambassadors

Each week two members of the congregation service as hosts for our fellowship hour. These folks, who wear gold stoles so that they stand out are available to answer questions, help with directions, and simply be a friendly presence. Contact: Melissa Quirk (melquirk@gmail.com)

Altar Flowers

Sponsoring the altar flowers on Sunday morning is one way to enhance the beauty of our congregation and our worship service. Flowers can be dedicated to a loved one, in commemoration of a birth, anniversary or an historical event. Your dedication will be printed in our Order of Service. A \$60 donation is requested and the flowers are yours to keep after the worship service (please do not take the vase). Contact: Wendy Russell (office@fuub.org)

Religious Education Teachers & Volunteers

RE volunteers frequently tell us that they learn as much as they teach. Teaching Sunday school can be one of the most rewarding ways to participate in congregational life. Teachers generally volunteer for only 2 Sundays a month, so are able to attend worship services regularly. Contact: Meagan Henry (meagan@fuub.org)

Choir & Music

The choir is open to anyone who enjoys singing. A commitment to attend regularly is required. Professional and amateur musicians are also welcome to lend their talents on Sunday mornings. Contact: Adam Podd (adam@fuub.org)

Soup & Sandwiches

Many weeks we provide a delicious and inexpensive lunch through our soup and sandwich program. Volunteers make or prepare soup and supply sandwich fixings. Costs are reimbursed from the kitty and the profit supports our fellowship hour. Providing lunch allows congregants to stay for afternoon activities. Contact: Garnett Losak (garnett@fuub.org)

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Share the Plate

Each month, First Unitarian donates 50% of its Sunday cash offering to a justice making organization. Nominations for beneficiaries from members and friends of the congregation are welcome. An on-line nomination form and Share the Plate policy can be found on our website (www.fuub.org/home/justice/share-the-plate-2/). Contact: Garnett Losak (garnett@fuub.org)

Lighting the Chalice

Everyone is welcome to take a turn lighting the chalice at the start of our worship services. Children and their families are especially encouraged to participate. If you would like to light the chalice, just ask. Contact: Garnett Losak (garnett@fuub.org)

Activities and Programs for Newcomers

Newcomers are encouraged to complete a welcome card, available in the pews on Sundays or at the welcome table during coffee hour. These cards help us to connect you with the programs that interest you. Contact: Garnett Losak (garnett@fuub.org)

Fellowship Hour – We know that being in a room full of strangers can be stressful, but we hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy a cup of coffee, meet new friends and peruse our welcome table. Welcome Ambassadors are available to help you find your way.

Faith in Action Expo – Every September we hold our Faith in Action Expo. This is a chance for all members, friends, and newcomers to learn about program opportunities for the year ahead and sign-up for various volunteer positions.

Newcomer Orientations – Every month from October through May following worship and at least once in the summer, we offer this introduction to Unitarian Universalist history and theology and our congregation. This is a drop-in meeting. All are welcome. Contact: Garnett Losak (garnett@fuub.org)

Young Adult Ministry – We have an active YAM program that includes a monthly brunch, a monthly spiritual discussion with Rev. Ana, social events and outings. Reflections is a once a month evening potluck gathering with with Rev. Ana to discuss spiritual issues of interest to young adult Unitarian Universalists. General Contact: Parrish Turner (parrishturner@gmail.com) Reflections: Liz Komar (elijkomar@gmail.com)

Queer Caucus – The Queer Caucus is a safe space for LGBTQ identifiers to meet, socialize and connect. In past years, the group has organized First U's participation in the Brooklyn Pride parade, raised funds for victims and families of the Orlando shooting, led a summer worship service, and organized social events. Contact: Laura Manos-Hey (lmanoshey@gmail.com)

Adult Faith Formation Programs & Classes – We offer programs and classes to help our members and friends move more deeply into spiritual exploration. Some programs are one-time-only. Others may include multiple sessions. Most are free, but occasionally there will be a small charge to cover the cost of supplies. Please watch the e-news and the announcements in the Order of Service for information about programs throughout the year. Contact: Meagan Henry (meagan@fuub.org)

First Tuesday Group – This group meets with Rev. Ana on the second Tuesday of every month at 11:00AM from September through June. Discussion topics are chosen by members of the group and change from week to week. The group is especially welcoming to retirees and others with non-traditional work schedules. Contact: Kay Corkett (zendochip@aol.org)

Women's Leadership Alliance (WLA) – WLA is an independent organization within First Unitarian emphasizing the importance of women's issues and voices, supporting local and national groups who advocate for women's rights, providing educational and mentoring activities and supporting women as ministers. The WLA sponsors movie screenings, forums and the monthly discussion group, *In the Company of Women*. Contact: Pat Steele (pmsteele@me.com), *Book Club* Contact Langdon Holloway (langdholl@aol.com)

Meditation Group – All are welcome to practice silent meditation at 10:30 on Sunday mornings and 12:15 on Sunday afternoons from September through June. The group begins with an opening reading, followed by 20 minutes of seated meditation ending in time to attend worship. Contact: Mariasara Alcott (sara.alcott@icloud.com)

Pathways: Deepening your Relationship to First Unitarian – This 5-hour class is designed and strongly recommended for new members of the congregation and those who are interested in membership. Participants will prepare to become active, vibrant members of our community through exploration of their individual spiritual journeys and deeper understanding of UU history and theology. The class will include group activities and discussions, an optional tour of the building – even the dark, secret parts – and special guest appearances. This is also a great opportunity to meet and fellowship with other new members and prospective new members of our community. Contact: Garnett Losak (garnett@fuub.org)

Caring Ministry

An important part of the life of any religious community is care of people in need. Our minister provides pastoral counseling for members going through life transitions and losses. We also perform life cycle ceremonies for all rites of passage including weddings, baby blessings and memorial services held here in the church. Our lay Pastoral Associates reach out to provide practical assistance to those in crisis, struggling with health or physical challenges. To access pastoral care for yourself or a loved one, contact Ethan Loewi (intern@fuub.org). For weddings, memorial services or baby blessings, contact Nicole Tuszyński (nicole@fuub.org).

Note: pastoral care and counseling is not a substitute for professional medical or psychological treatment.

Our Building and History

The First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn was established in 1833, by a group of merchant sea families who had been traveling across the river to attend worship services in Manhattan. The Gothic Revival Sanctuary was erected in 1844 by the Architect, Minard Lefever, who was one of the premier church architect of the time.

The (mostly Tiffany) stained glass windows were added from 1894 to 1909. The Parker Memorial Mosaic Angel was designed by Louis C. Tiffany in 1915 for the Unitarian Church of the Messiah in New York City and purchased in 1936.

Over the years, the congregation has owned and sold several properties. The current complex is made up of 4 connected buildings.

48 Monroe Place Brownstone – ground floor classrooms, office and two apartment rentals

50 Monroe Place “Parish House” – Monroe Place hallway, Frances White Room, large kindergarten classroom, library, minister’s and religious educator’s offices and sexton’s apartment

Sanctuary – large church building, undercroft and kitchen

Chapel – smaller worship space east of Sanctuary

The original Hutchings organ with over 1,000 pipes was installed in 1899 and completely rebuilt by Mann and Trupiani in 1999.

How do I Find...

Church Office: 48 Monroe Place, ring the bell, our office manager, Wendy Russell and our Director of Congregational Life, Garnett Losak work in this area. This space also houses office equipment (copy and folding machines) and supply storage

Newcomer’s Lounge (sometimes called the Alcove) off of the Undercroft through the double doors next to the kitchen. This space is used for welcoming newcomers during fellowship hour and occasionally for small evening meetings.

Frances White Room (FWR) from 50 Monroe Place at the end of the hall, used for meetings and classes

Undercroft (Church Basement) from the Sanctuary: Down the spiral staircase, From the 50 Monroe door: immediate right down small flight of stairs, used for coffee hour and other large events

Library: from the Sanctuary: facing the pulpit, small door to the left, used for meetings and classes

Chapel: enter on Pierrepont Street to the east of the Sanctuary (big church). The Chapel can also be accessed from the Undercroft and the Frances White Room. Multi-Purpose space

Kitchen: from 50 Monroe: end of the hall right before double doors, down small flight of stairs

Patio (sometimes referred to as the terrace): Accessible from the office, used for social events and, in good weather, meetings or classes

Eastman Room (large upstairs classroom): immediately above the Frances White Room

Green Room: through the Eastman Room, mostly used for small meetings, the meditation group meets here

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Passthrough: Small storage room between the Chapel and the Undercroft

Sofia Fahs Room: Small room near the kitchen off the Undercroft that is used for Religious Education storage and supplies

3rd Floor: Megan Henry's, Adam Podd's, and Rev. Ana's offices are on the third floor. Use the back staircase entered from the Monroe Place hallway to the third floor. The Teen Room is also on this floor as well as an open space that is used as overflow office space, workspace for our intern minister and may be used for small meetings.

A Message from Garnett Losak, Director of Congregational Life

I spend a lot of time thinking about why some people seem to connect to First Unitarian so quickly and so deeply and others struggle to find a place here, even to the point of drifting away. If I had the recipe for the secret sauce, I'd publish it because I know from discussions with membership professionals all over the country that this is the most confounding part of our job.

As I've thought about it, I began to realize that I've made some basic observations about what seems to work. So, here it goes...

- 1) Come to fellowship hour. I know this is very challenging for some people. There is nothing worse than feeling alone in a room full of people. And I admit that we're not always good at making everyone feel welcome in that big, loud, empty space. We're working on it though. The hospitality team is there to talk to you and our newcomers lounge is staffed with people who want to meet you – that's why they're there. Bite the bullet. It can be hard, I know, but the coffee (or tea) is free, there's often a pretty decent lunch, and you may just make a friend.
- 2) Volunteer to do something. Anything! I could make a comprehensive list, but it would take up too many pages. Here are three things that I think a relative newcomer can do.
 - ☉ Usher. This is the highest impact, lowest commitment volunteer job we have. Show up at 10:30 on Sunday morning, smile, hand out orders of service, be a welcoming presence. You're done by 11:30AM. (contact, Garnett Losak (garnett@fuub.org) Added value: You get to hear the choir rehearse!
 - ☉ Anything in the kitchen. There are often opportunities to prepare food, help with clean-up, even run the dishwasher. Kitchen work is social, it's contained, and it's appreciated.
 - ☉ Light the chalice. I look for a chalice lighter (or lighters) every Sunday morning. If you want to participate in worship in this way, just ask. The job is yours. By the way, many children love to do this. We welcome families to light the chalice together.
- 3) Take a class. I hope everyone will attend a newcomers' orientation (first Sunday of every month), but I encourage you to sign up for any number of adult faith formation classes throughout the year. You'll learn something, meet new people, and connect with a minister or staff leader.
- 4) Read the weekly E-News and/or "like" our Facebook page. They are both packed full of information about what's going on at First U and how to get involved. If you're not a

subscriber, let me know. We are also on Twitter @firstubrooklyn and Instagram: firstubrooklyn

- 5) Make an appointment to meet with any member of our staff. We are all eager to get to know you and listen to your story. Our contact information can be found in this booklet or on our website (www.fuub.org).
- 6) Come to Worship!! I know this sounds obvious, but I can't stress it enough. There are so many activities that compete for our time and attention, especially on the weekends. But, just like anything else, if you get out of practice you'll lose the skill. People who attend worship regularly (at least 2-3 times per month) will know more people and feel more at home. When you're not there, your absence will be felt. If you have children, regular attendance at Sunday school is the key to raising children who embody Unitarian Universalist values and become lifelong UU's. You'll know you're hooked if you seek out the local UU church when you're on vacation (I do).

The membership committee and I are committed to making the experience of each and every person who walks through our doors welcoming and spiritually rewarding so, if you're a relatively new member or a newcomer to First Unitarian, let me know how it's going for you. I really want to know.

In Service,

Garnett Losak
garnett@fuub.org
646-456-4027

Friday, September 03, 2021

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

48 Monroe Place, Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-624-5466 www.fuub.org

**Whoever you are, Whomever you love,
Wherever you are on your life journey,
Whatever the color of your skin, or your country of origin,
Whatever your gender or the source of your faith,
You are Welcome Here.**

Rev. Ana Levy-Lyons, Senior Minister

Meagan Henry, Director of Education & Family Ministry

Adam Podd, Director of Music

Garnett Losak, Director of Congregational Life

Kevin Brunson, Director of Facilities

Wendy Russell, Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Bobby Blackman, Custodian

Tasha Brownfield, Intern Minister

Sophie Major, Religious Education Assistant

Nicole Tsuzynski, Ceremonies Coordinator

Stacey Anderson, Childcare