



The Flaming Chalice

THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE • RADICALLY INCLUSIVE • JUSTICE CENTERED
Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | July 2023 Newsletter



Interim Minister

Rev. Ruth Rinehart
(Through July 9)

Rev. Elizabeth Sollie
(Beginning Aug. 1)

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July 2

Faithfully Becoming, Family Ministries

Starr King has deeply committed to its children, youth and families. Join us today for an Intergenerational Service, as we celebrate our Family Ministry and volunteers.

Rev. Ruth Rinehart leads.

July 9

Thresholds

Thresholds and doorways provided some of the most powerful images from Cambodia, as Rev. Ruth took study leave in February, studying sacred space and place. Join us as she says goodbye to Starr King, reflecting on thresholds in life.

Rev. Ruth Rinehart leads.

July 16

Toward the Beloved Community of Unitarian Universalism

The late civil rights activist John Lewis called us to: "Not get lost in a sea of despair and to never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble." Week after week, year after year, Unitarian Universalists gather to build the Beloved Community that centers people from the margins, fosters collective liberation, and reminds us that we are not alone in our quest for life saving liberal religion. Come and get in good trouble with me!

Kevin Mann, MDiv. leads.

July 23

Soul on Deck

Clarissa Pinkola Estes writes: "One of the most... powerful actions you can [take] in a stormy world is to stand up and show your soul. Soul on deck shines like gold in dark times." Come explore how we can shine up our souls and become brighter beacons of healing, justice, and love.

Rev. Peter Farriday leads.

July 30

Failure and forgiveness

Though we have broken our vows a thousand times before, come, yet again come. Join us to explore this valuable and emotional topic. Featuring the sermon: "Failure to Forgive" written by John A Buehrens.

Glen Jacob leads.

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June Highlights



From the Minister

Rev. Ruth Rinehart

Beautiful Starr King, our time together draws towards its ending, on July 15th. This is my last Flaming Chalice article for you. I have recommended this article to you before, and I encourage you again to read [After Running Through the Thistles the Hard Part Begins](#), by Rev. Dr. Mark D. Morrison-Reed, in his 2000 Berry Street Lecture. This is a series of ministers speaking to other ministers; it is open to the public as well.



This essay describes so poignantly the relationship of the minister to the congregation: the minister is replaceable. The congregation remains while ministers come and go.

One of the sections is entitled: *You Will Love Your Parishioners With All Your Heart But Never Befriend Them*. This is the “cruel irony,” that ministers can be “friendly but not friends.” In the age of Facebook, several of you have “friended” me, and sadly, I will unfriend all of you on July 15th. That is a parting ritual I do not relish. This is part of the ethical covenant that my colleagues have crafted in order to best support one another. Departing ministers honor this boundary because we care so deeply for the congregations we are leaving that we want to ensure there is emotional and practical space for the new ministry to take root and grow. I trust in your upcoming two years with the Rev. Elizabeth Sollie. I will no longer be your minister.

The most important relationships are between you and the other congregants. Yes, you are in a search for a new settled minister. And, the ministries of all ministers come to an end. Each individual ministry is mortal.

Mary Oliver’s poem “In Blackwater Woods” describes what is required:

“To live in this world you must be able to do three things: to love what is mortal, to hold it against your bones knowing your own life depends on it, and, when the time comes to let it go, to let it go.”

You are a shining star, Starr King! What a beautiful time I have been gifted with you, in this past church year. I will leave soon, but you will always be in my heart, and I will also always be a part of Starr King UU Church. I treasure this time we have had, this connection. I trust in your future.

–Rev. Ruth Rinehart (she/her/hers)

minister@starrking.org

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You may schedule appointments with me by clicking [this link](#).

Announcements

Welcome Rev. Elizabeth Sollie, Interim Minister

On behalf of the Interim Search Team (Diane Meyerson, Kirk Klausmeyer, Stephanie Smith, Johanna Zinsli and Mileva Saulo Lewis), we are pleased that the Rev. Elizabeth Sollie, who prefers to be called Elizabeth, will join us on the August 1st as our Interim Minister. For those who are interested in learning more, you may want to visit her website, <https://elizabethsollie.com/>

Hello good people!

My name is Elizabeth Sollie and beginning August 1st, I will be your next interim minister. I am from Colorado though I have not been home for quite a while now. It is merely coincidence that Rev. Rinehart and I are from the same state. Truly, other states produce interim ministers as well.

Starr King will be my third interim ministry. At each transition, I get questions about when I might be eligible to become a “real” minister—meaning a settled minister. Interim ministry, however, is my calling and I look forward to many more years of serving our denomination in this way.

I have two grown sons, a daughter-in-law and one grandchild. I am also blessed to have one of those energizer bunny UU mothers who is still busy saving the world.

I very much look forward to the work we will do together and to the fun we will have. I feel like you are a gift waiting to be unwrapped and look forward to the time when I know your names and your stories and we can't imagine we were ever strangers to one another.



Announcements

What happened at General Assembly?

by Ben Ogilvie

The UUA has a new President! The delegates resoundingly affirmed the selection of **Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt** as the next president of the UUA, with 2320 delegates, or 95.5%, voting for her. She ran unopposed because the other candidate dropped out when they saw who they were running against! Her [campaign statement](#) is worth reading. I think she'll be fabulous. I've admired her for years.



The revised Article II Proposal was approved, with some amendments, for more consideration and final vote next year. 86.3% of the delegates voted yes. This does not guarantee a 2/3 majority next year, but does indicate a strong interest in staying in the conversation. Of the 13 amendments considered, the ones that involved keeping parts of the 1985 language intact (ie the existing principles and sources) were voted down, all by 70% or more, a sign that a strong majority of the delegates are ready to move forward. The new draft Article II with the approved amendments hasn't been released yet. We'll share the link when it is.

The divestment proposal put forward by UU Young Adults was voted down. This was to divest the UU Common Endowment Fund of all fossil fuel stocks and use the funds generated for reparations. Our PJAT team helped get this proposal on the GA agenda, not because we were certain it was a good idea as stated, but because we were certain the young people deserved a hearing. They deserved to have their proposal given serious consideration. Rev. Sofia, in an interview, was asked if she supported this proposal. Her clear strong answer was that she absolutely supports the goals of the proposal -- she's an environmental ethicist -- but she didn't support the language of the proposal as written. She promised to work with the young people on this effort. After the discussion of the proposal in the general session, the young people staged a demonstration.

There was lots more at GA, but these are some of the highlights. As the UUA makes documents and recordings available, we'll pass them along.



Soulful Family Ministry

July Highlights

Sharing a Thought...

Being in the classroom has taught me to redefine the conventional. I was concerned I did not have circle time this last Sunday, but then I began to look around and observed our children at play. They were taking turns, compromising with others, older youth helping the younger ones, sharing thoughts and ideas among themselves, creating original sewing projects, "stepping over" gender expectations, voicing their opinions, being a hostess to our children visitors, and "Do What the Spirit Says Do." So I ask you, "Did I not in fact have a circle time?"

Classroom

Three words: busy, busy, busy, with wood working, unconventional painting using fly swatters and a leaf blower, fantasy play with face painting and costumes, sewing with hand stitches and machine, exploring the chemical reaction of baking soda and vinegar, (erupting volcanoes), painting garden bricks and of course our on going dramatic play. The family has grown from two babies to six or more babies! The children have been exploring child care. LOL.

Family Ministry Council Up Dates:

We continue to interview for a part time DRE. We have one candidate scheduled for a second interview. We have also been discussing our summer plans. Possible ideas: Performing Arts camp theme, inviting guests to share their art, i.e. dance, music, improv, cooking/baking, song and more. We can do some simple fund raisers for a cause the children decide on and fun family field trips. Perhaps a couple of sleepovers at the church.

With all of this summer fun, we will need a few extra hands. Keep in mind it does not have to be on a regular bases, just a few Sundays during the summer. Please consider. People who have volunteered in the class have really enjoyed it. Thank you for your support.

Gratitude

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Family Ministry very much appreciates all of you who volunteer in our classroom, especially the regular ones, Lea, Grace, Amy, Laurie, Terry and Mary Lou. We are fortunate to have you!!

—Lorie Miller



Ongoing Activities

- Masks are optional.
- Eating & drinking are permitted in the Fellowship Hall
- Singing without masks is permitted
- Encourage gathering in all indoor and outdoor settings.

We will continue to provide:

- Virtual worship as an option as well as for meetings
- KN95 mask for your use

Evening Meditation	Every Wednesday 7:00-8:30 pm, on Zoom. Open to all. Visitors welcome. Contact: Diane Meyerson
Board Meeting	First Tuesday of the month, 3:30–5:00 pm on Zoom. Open to all. Contact: Mileva Saulo Lewis
Peace and Justice Action Team	Second Sunday of the month after worship (after a 15-20 minute break) in a hybrid model via Zoom using the same link as the service.
Starr King Singers	Sundays before the service from 9:30-10:00 a.m.
Starr King Choir	Every Monday 7:00-8:00 pm. Contact: Linli Wang at music@starrking.org
Small Group Ministry	Contact: Terry Hunt (hunt.terence@gmail.com) or Mileva Saulo Lewis (milevalewis@comcast.net)
Adult RE	(On hold) Contact: Mileva Saulo Lewis at milevalewis@comcast.net

We would love to celebrate your Birthday in The Chalice. If your special day is not already listed, please let us know the day and month of your Birthday. Send information to ddmeyerson@gmail.com.



July Birthdays



July 3 Jo Murdach

July 15 Evelyn Cormier

July 27 Laurie Matthews

July 4 Will Fitch

July 19 Corina Vasaure

Grace Wengermarsh

July 7 Liz Nelson

July 21 Jessica Ringlein-Doerr

July 28 Natalie Forrest

July 9 Jim Otermat

July 30 Barbara Ryan