



The Flaming Chalice

THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE • RADICALLY INCLUSIVE • JUSTICE CENTERED
Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | July 2024 Newsletter

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July Worship Services:

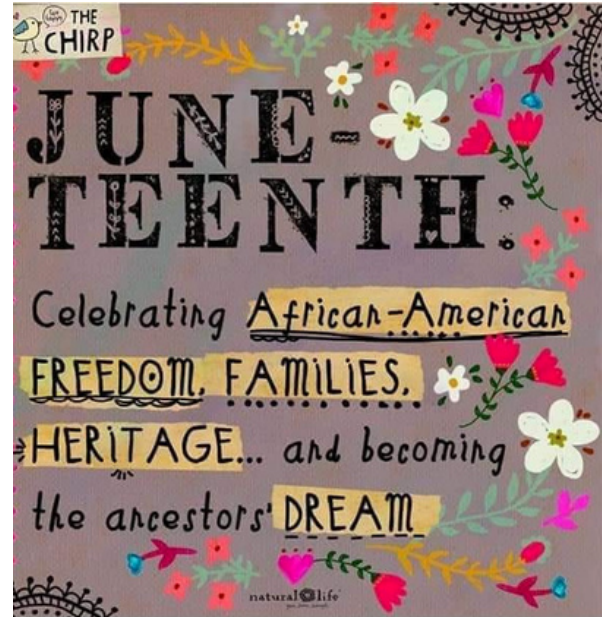
Please see [our website](#) for an updated listing of our upcoming worship services.



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June Highlights



With liberty and justice for all.

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From the Minister

Rev. Elizabeth Sollie

In the autumn, we will be busy.

- We will do our part to save Democracy
- The entire congregation is invited to partake in a 12-session class called “Create Theology Together.” This is a large, but important commitment—so leave room in your calendar!
- The Search for your next minister will get underway (a little bird tells me you have a superlative search team).
- We will continue to grow into the Beloved Community
- Each of you will arrive with your plan about how to grow the church numerically by one person.
- Each of you will arrive with a creative proposal for how to balance the work to be done with the number of volunteers we have—how can we lighten the load and increase the joy?
- Each of you will arrive with the knowledge that you too are a leader and an inkling of what you want to lead.
- We will continue to delve into what it means to be the church in this age. What time is it?
- We will continue to live into our values and principles with grace and elan.

But it isn't autumn yet. Now it is summer time. The minister is on vacation. Most committees are taking time off as well. The church is transitioning into a more relaxed schedule. I would encourage all of us to take a deep breath and relax. Let this summer be a time of respite and restoration. We will be so much more effective in the fall if we have taken a much-needed rest. A much-needed deep rest.

Maybe turn off the news for a week. Maybe try intermittent fasting with the news. Maybe set down all those things that are gnawing at your ankles, clamoring for your attention—those things that are sucking the joy out of your life. Take some days where you don't plan to do anything and then absolutely do nothing and feel great about it. Be idle. Maybe channel your inner child if your childhood self had summers of expansive freedom. Lay on your back and look at the stars (all 15 of them you can see in the city).

Immerse yourself in some water. Snack on something you haven't eaten in years as you read a novel just for fun (my go to was a stack of saltine/margarine sandwiches consumed behind the couch as I lost myself in a book—the margarine extruding out the little holes). Let your mind wander. Let your body wander. Nourish yourself. One minister preaches that it isn't self-care if it doesn't feel a little indulgent.

From the Minister

Rev. Elizabeth Sollie (cont.)

If summer can't be a time of rest for you because of your health or your job or your family or your current dumpster fires, then I wish you strength and perseverance until you are in another season again. And for all of us, may there be moments of joy, peace and wonder this season.



Announcements

Love at the Center: New UU Statement of Values Passes after Momentous General Assembly Delegate Vote

The UU World News reported:

After a democratic process involving thousands of Unitarian Universalists discussing the faith's values and core theology over the past three-plus years, delegates at General Assembly 2024 voted decisively to approve [a new statement of values and beliefs for Unitarian Universalism](#).

"This is a historic moment for Unitarian Universalism, as we move our living tradition forward to focus on shared values that will help promote liberation, radical inclusion, and communal care both within our church and across society," said [UUA President Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt](#).

Thousands of UUs put in countless hours of hard work to discern, discuss, and debate the direction of our faith tradition. This work was done carefully, thoughtfully, and thoroughly. And that is something that all UUs can and should be proud of. Additionally, this demonstrates how functioning democratic processes can be used to create change that is just and equitable. Everyone who wanted to be involved had the opportunity to provide input and make their case. This language of shared values is all the stronger and more reflective of who Unitarian Universalists are today because it was a shared process. Thank you to all who were a part of this process.

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The faith's new expression of shared values was adopted by a vote of 2,025 (80.2 percent) to 499 (19.8 percent) with 21 abstaining at General Assembly 2024, held online June 20-23. The new values are Equity, Generosity, Interdependence, Justice, Pluralism, and Transformation, centered around Love.

UUs at congregations across the country engaged with the proposal over the past several years, including through GA workshops, small-group meetings, board workshops, board meetings, and the [Amplifying the Charge program](#), launched in early 2024 to prompt dialogue and intentional study about the proposed bylaws changes. The UUA offered several resources for congregations as they considered what was most vital to the faith.

The Seven Principles are the foundation of the Values.



Announcements

(cont.)

Unitarian Universalist Values and Covenant Approved at UU General Assembly June 2024

Interdependence

- We honor the interdependent web of all existence. With reverence for the great web of life and with humility, we acknowledge our place in it.
- We covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation. We will create and nurture sustainable relationships of care and respect, mutuality and justice. We will work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

Pluralism

- We celebrate that we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology.
- We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.

Justice

- We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive.
- We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregations, our Association, and society at large.

Transformation

- We adapt to the changing world.
- We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

Generosity

- We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.
- We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

Equity

- We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness.
- We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.

For full text of Article II <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/final-proposed-revision-article-ii>

From the UU World News: <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/uua-article-ii-passes-general-assembly-result-unitarian-universalism-bylaws-vote-values-statement>

Announcements

(cont.)

Memorial Service for Jo Murdach
Sat, July 27th, 2:00 pm

Jo-Ann Jeannine Murdach
July 3, 1937–May 18, 2023

Jo was a long-time and dearly loved member of Starr King UU Church. Our hearts are with her family: beloved husband, Al, and their two children, Charlie and Joey.

Donations can be sent in Jo's name to the Southern Poverty Law Center. All Starr King members are welcome.

News from The Board: Minister Search Team Members Appointed

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that the following members have been chosen to be the Search Team for our next selection of our next minister:

Chairperson, Diane Meyerson, Bob Britton, Keith Lewis, Zelma Nunez-Borja and Grace Wengermarsh.

We know that they have our full support for the opportunity before us.

In faith and service,

Mileva Saulo Lewis,
President

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, 4:00–5:30 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 7:15-8:15 pm. (Paused June–August) 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	Check our website for upcoming opportunities: https://starrking.org/adult-programs
