



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

June 2017 Newsletter

First Unitarian Society of Chicago 5650 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago IL 60637 (773) 324-4100

When Should I Call My Minister? Rev. Teri Schwartz and Rev. David Schwartz

As your ministers, we believe we can help you at times to navigate the challenges of life transitions, difficult choices, or grieving a loss. We may not have answers to all of life's persistent questions, and we're not therapists, but we are pretty good listeners. Sometimes we find the right questions to ask, and sometimes we can provide a good resource. We want to be helpful, whether you face a spiritual crisis, think you might benefit from a chat or advice, or simply need a listening ear.

Know these things: You're not bothering us with your problems. You're not taking our time away from more important duties. You are important. One of the main reasons you have a minister is to be of help to you; that is what our time is for!

A minister cannot know when she is needed; you need to tell her. Don't hesitate to be in

touch with us, and don't assume we're clairvoyant enough to know what's going on with you without being told, even if—sometimes especially if!—other people know already. For example, hospitals won't call us if you are admitted, nor can they verify that you're there; federal patient privacy laws prevent them. So please give us a call! Our cell phone numbers are in our email signatures, and you can also phone or email the office for our numbers: office@firstuchicago.org, 773-324-4100.

We've made a list of a few instances when you might call us. This list isn't exhaustive, but it is a beginning. For some of you, this may be new! For others, it may be a reminder. We like to share these ideas with you periodically, to let you know we're always here. (Continued)

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1. When you have an important choice to make: education, career, relationship, reproductive choices, etc.
2. When you have personal problems, job loss, family difficulties, a new diagnosis, mental health problems, or financial strain.
3. When you are at a transition or turning point.
4. When your conscience is troubling you.
5. When you want to talk about religion or you're wrestling with a spiritual issue or your spiritual path.
6. When you need encouragement, or perhaps prayer or a blessing.
7. When you wish to celebrate a success and express gratitude.
8. When you need help finding your way at the church, getting involved, or making friends here at First U.
9. When you have children to be named, dedicated, or blessed.
10. When you want to get married.
11. When you have marriage or relationship problems, especially lasting more than a month. Often we wait until our relationship drastically deteriorates before reaching out—reach out early!
12. When you or a loved one is going into the hospital or is going to be, whether it's routine or an emergency visit.
13. When you can't come to church for a prolonged time and you'd like a visit.
14. When there is a death or pregnancy loss in the family.
15. When you wish to discuss funeral arrangements ahead of time.

10 AM Sunday Services

June 4th

Fasting for Ramadan
Rev. David Schwartz

Active, intentional spiritual practices open doors for transformation, different ways of being in the world. As our Muslim neighbors and friends enter the second week of Ramadan, we explore the hard wisdom of fasting.

The annual Celebration of Membership will be held after the service, at 11:30 AM in the Hull Chapel. Come to this luncheon to welcome our newest members and honor the commitment, the nurturing, and the stewardship of our longer-term members who are reaching milestone membership anniversaries. Hear their stories, and find out about the passions and commitments that steer their lives inside and outside this church.

June 11th

Flower Communion:
A Multigenerational Service,
Rev. Teri Schwartz & Rev. David Schwartz

Please bring a flower to share as we celebrate the beginning of summer in this beloved annual Unitarian service, featuring dancers from the Hyde Park School of Dance.

The origin of Flower Communion goes back to Norbert Čapek, the founder of the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. He saw a need to unite the diverse congregants of Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish faiths in his church. For this reason, in 1936, he honored the universal beauty of nature by having a communion of flowers instead of the Eucharist.

There will be a churchwide picnic immediately after the June 11 service, until about 12:15 pm, Finley C. Campbell and Joanne Michaelski will serve as coordinators. This will be a potluck with grilled meats and vegetarian meat substitutes provided. We will also be honoring our Acting Director of Religious Education, Rev. Karen Mooney, who will be moving on to higher ground after her wonderful work this church year. For more information and to volunteer, contact finleycampbell5222@comcast.net.

June 18th
Father's Day
Rev. Elizabeth Harding

Father's Day is our day to celebrate all kinds of fathering, whether biological or adoptive, whether through companionship or friendship. It is also a day to acknowledge the challenges of masculinity in our culture. What does it mean to be a nurturer? How do we help each other lean into that identity when old patterns of masculinity are ever-present in our culture? How do our UU values help us expand this idea of taking care of all?

Elizabeth Harding grew up Unitarian Universalist at the Second Unitarian Church of Chicago, where she was ordained in 2007. She obtained her degrees from Meadville Lombard Theological School and the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration. Elizabeth works as a bereavement counselor for JourneyCare, the largest non-for-profit hospice and palliative care provider in IL. Formerly, she has been a hospice and hospital chaplain, and a parish minister. She is married to Kevin O'Reilly, and together they have their son, Lucas, and three fish.

June 25th
When I Knew
Rev. Teri Schwartz

As Chicago celebrates Gay Pride weekend, our worship service will feature voices from the LGBTQ community and stories of when and how they came to know themselves. Through stories poignant, painful, and witty, we will lift up the inspiration of hard-won odysseys of identity and meaning in our culture. We witness to these testimonies that we might all better know ourselves and work for a world of justice—celebrating who we are and whomever we love.

Call to Song Jeff Hamrick

Later this summer, on August 20, I invite you to join me and members of the choir for a hymn sing worship service in Hull Chapel, followed by a potluck supper or, weather permitting, a picnic on the grounds).

I believe that singing is a way for any congregation to sing its highest aspirations. In traditional Christianity, hymn singing is considered a form of praise—the oft repeated adage (misattributed to Augustine) reminds us that “They who sing, pray twice.” For UUs, hymn singing can be a corporate and corporeal form of worship.

One of my ongoing goals as your music director is to help our First Unitarian members and friends to become a more confident and competent singing congregation. Many of you are already there: The church has a long and celebrated history of excellent music, and many current members are fortunate to have come from musical backgrounds. Others, however, have not had the benefit of a musical upbringing or the experience of singing in church.

To complicate matters, worship styles in America have been changing over the years

(as they always have), and our faith has in the last decade or so embraced and incorporated a greater diversity of songs that reflect not only the plurality of beliefs among UUs, but also the many cultures from which we draw inspiration. In particular, our hymnal supplement *Singing the Journey* has many wonderful tunes that we have yet to discover, or, if we have sung them, we might learn to sing more comfortably.

It's not essential that we embrace the new at the expense of the tried and true, however.

The "gray hymnal," *Singing the Living Tradition*, offers the best of the old (drawn from many sources in Judeo-Christian hymnody) and "newer" (the hymnal is now nearly three decades old!). So many songs, but so few worship services . . . a hymn sing service allows us the luxury of just singing.

Come add to your beautiful voice to the mix on August 20. It won't be the same without you!

Did You Know?

According to UU World ("Now let us sing," May 20, 2013), these are the ten most popular UU hymns, as recorded in a Facebook poll at the time:

- | | |
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| 1. <i>Blue Boat Home</i> (#1064) | 6. <i>Let It Be a Dance</i> (#311) |
| 2. <i>Spirit of Life</i> (#123) | 7. <i>Meditation on Breathing</i> (#1009) |
| 3. <i>This Is My Song</i> (#159) | 8. <i>Gathered Here</i> (#389) |
| 4. <i>Come, Come, Whoever You Are</i> (#188) | 9. <i>Morning Has Broken</i> (#38) |
| 5. <i>Come, Sing a Song with Me</i> (#346) | 10. <i>Voice Still and Small</i> (#391) |

Charles G. Staples Day: May 3rd, 2017

Joan Staples

Many First Church members and friends know Chuck Staples, who has been a member since 1954, and who volunteers at the Chicago Cultural Center. They also know that he led the campaign to save the building that is now the Cultural Center, that was the Main Library of the Chicago Public Library. The City of Chicago has finally officially recognized Chuck's leadership of that campaign, which lasted 8 years.

Chuck, who moved to Chicago from Providence, Rhode Island to attend the School of the Art Institute, became interested in architecture and the preservation of historic buildings through the Art Institute and his travels in Europe. In 1967, after efforts

to save buildings such as the Garrick Theater and the Old Stock Exchange failed, the director of the Chicago Heritage Committee, Tom Stauffer, asked Chuck to represent the Committee in a campaign to save the Chicago Public Library Main Building. The effort included not only extensive letter-writing (no computers, then) and petitions, but equally important, collaboration with Chicago architects, journalists, the city Landmarks Commission, the Library Board, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and patriotic organizations such as the GAR, because of the GAR Civil War Memorial in the Library Building. Chuck prepared a Library History (now in the Chicago Historical Museum) and nomination papers

to submit for national landmark status. He also led a media publicity campaign.

These efforts made a difference. Alteration suggestions which would have negated some of the building's best features were set aside, and Mayor Richard J. Daley finally named a "blue ribbon committee" which decided to preserve the building. In late 1971, the Landmarks Preservation Council (now Landmarks Illinois) was formed and the Chicago Heritage Committee merged with it. Chuck became their representative on the Library Campaign. In the spring of 1973, the city agreed to not only preserve the building with some restoration, but to turn it into the Chicago Cultural Center. (The Harold Washington Library downtown is now the site of the Main Library.) Chuck was MC at the ceremony to celebrate this outcome. All of these activities are documented in a 4-volume archive that will be placed in a facility, such as the Burnham Library of the Art Institute of Chicago. Since then, Chuck has volunteered at the Cultural Center, mainly now as a Welcomer at the Washington Street Desk, but also leading tours of the building.

The Mayoral Proclamation making May 3, 2017 Charles G. Staples Day in Chicago is especially significant because a short time after the campaign was concluded, the Daley Administration claimed that the savior of the building was the Mayor's wife, Eleanor. A

reporter once asked her what she thought of the building, and she said she hated to see such buildings torn down, but she was never a part of the campaign. Nevertheless, city officials including the current Mayor tried to change the name of the CCC to the Eleanor Daley Cultural Center. This effort has been thwarted so far, but Mrs. Daley was declared the savior of the building on the CCC's website until recently. Even tour guides from the prestigious Chicago Architecture Foundation gave out inaccurate information.

Mark Kelly, the new Commissioner of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, after verifying facts with participants as well as with Chuck, realized that the real story had been hidden for over 40 years. A *Chicago Reader* article by Deanna Isaacs told the real story, including Eleanor Daley not wanting her name to be on the building. Chuck is now the longest-serving volunteer at the Cultural Center, and that fact was also recognized. Yes, the real victory was the saving of a beautiful place, now a jewel of Chicago. However, it is important to recognize the victory of the people who challenged the powers that be.

Years later, when there was a threat not to the building, but to the survival of the Cultural Center, other people stepped in to support the "People's Palace." The building is now a Chicago Landmark, and recognized nationally.

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Co-Ministers' Office Hours

Rev. David Schwartz, by appointment on
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday

Rev. Teri Schwartz, by appointment on
Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday

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