

Order of Service
December 8, 2024

Sometimes, the emptiness left by a loved one's absence is more powerful than their presence ever was.
~Simon Van Booy

Prelude *"It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" — Meredith Willson*

Welcome, Opportunities, & Today in Religious Education

Greeting One Another

Kindling the Flame of Community

We light this chalice for the warmth of welcome, the light of hope, and the fire of service.

Opening Words

Rev. Carol Meyer

Opening Hymn

#1051 We Are ...

Advent Candles

Rosemary Morrison

Time for All Ages

The Memory Tree, Britta Teckentrup

Singing the Children to their Classes

Reeb's Children Benediction

Announcements

Receiving the Offering

½ Plate Recipient: Good Samaritan Hospice
[Donate online](#), Text "Fund" to 844-909-2617, or use the Vanco Mobile App

Offertory

"Nocturne in E ♭ Major, Op.9, no.2" — Frédéric Chopin

Sharing Our Joys & Sorrows

submit your joy or sorrow to be read aloud [here](#)

Candles of Hope and Remembrance

Meditation

For Grief, John O'Donohue

Meditation Hymn

#1001, Breaths

Reading

This, Too, Belongs, Rev. Kari Kopnick

Homily

The Presence of Absence

Ritual of Remembrance - A Memory Tree

"Clair de Lune" — Claude Debussy

Closing Hymn

#412, Let Hope And Sorrow Now Unite

Benediction and Extinguishing Chalice

Minister: Rev. Pam Philips; Worship Associate: Gretchen Luke

Director of Lifespan Faith Development: Rachel Craine; Piano: Jared Gibbs

Songleader: Jim Flowers; Chalice Lighter: Lucia Kogan; RE Announcement: Diana Zaldivar

Flowers: Bonnie Moreno; A/V Team

Sanctuary Greeters: Lisa Evanylo, Liz Craine, Gloria Heath, Fred Piercy, Laura Robinson, Robin Cooley

Zoom Greeters: Akiko Nakata, Vicki L. Mauer, Bruce Turner

Our Mission

Inspire spiritual and ethical growth.

Create compassionate community.

Transform our community and the world through courageous love.

Land Acknowledgement:*The Tutelo/Monacan people are the traditional custodians of the land on which we work, live, and worship. We recognize their continuing connection to the land, water, and air that we consume. We pay respect to the Tutelo/Monacan Nations, and to their elders past, present, and emerging.*

UUC Covenant

We covenant to create a place of respect and kindness, and to build a spiritual community based on reason and courageous love.

We will listen to one another respectfully, assume good intentions, use the power of our words with care, express gratitude, honor our differences, help one another, and welcome all.

We will communicate directly, honestly, and compassionately. When we hurt one another, we will forgive, make amends, and re-connect.

While we celebrate the words of our Mission Statement, and of this covenant, we affirm that our mission lives through our actions.

Opportunities this Week

- Second Sunday Potluck, Sunday after the service (Elarth)
- Men's Breakfast, Monday at 7:00 am & Women's Breakfast, Monday at 7:30 am (UUC)
- Surviving Spouses, Tuesday at 2:00 pm (Library)
- Inspired Elders, Tuesday 3:00pm - 4:30pm (Room 3)
- Meditation, Tuesday at 5:00 pm (Library or [Zoom](#))
- Caregivers Support Group, Tuesday at 7:00 pm ([Zoom](#))
- UUYA's - UU Young Adults, Tuesday at 7:00 pm (Elarth)
- Conversations on our Faith, Wednesday at noon ([Zoom](#))
- Yoga, Wednesday at 5:30 pm (UUC)
- Board Meeting, Thursday at 7:00 pm (Library & Zoom) -- contact president Laura Robinson to attend)
- Women's Lunch, Friday at noon (contact [Cynthia Luke](#))
- Parents' Covenant Group (dinner & discussion, free childcare), Friday at 5:30 ([register here](#))
- UUC Music Breakfast Club, Saturday at 9:00 am (Sanctuary)