

Order of Service
January 25, 2026

Joy is a revolutionary force. We need it as much as we need anger because it is joy that will help keep us in these bodies long enough to enact justice. ~Evette Dionne

Prelude *Billie's Song, Valerie Capers*

Welcome

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 *Britton Gildersleeve*

Opening Hymn *#109 As We Come Marching, Marching*

Time for All Ages *Daniel's Good Day, Micha Archer*

Receiving the Offering *½ Plate Recipient: [Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry](#)*
[Donate online](#), Text "Fund" to 844-909-2617, or use the Vanco Mobile App

Offertory *Strange Fruit, Abel Meeropol*

Accepting the Offering

Sharing Our Joys & Sorrows *submit your joy or sorrow to be read aloud [here](#)*

Candles of Hope and Remembrance

Meditation *A Prayer for When Everything Crumbles to Dust, AJ van Tine*

Meditation Hymn *#318, We Would Be One*

Reading *A Brief for the Defense, Jack Gilbert*

Sermon *Creativity and Joy as Resistance*

Closing Hymn *We Are a Gentle, Angry People - Holly Near*

Benediction and Extinguishing Chalice

Postlude *Imagine, John Lennon*

Minister: Rev. Pam Philips; Worship Associate: Britton Gildersleeve;
Music Director: Jared Gibbs; Director of Lifespan Faith Development: Rachel Craine
Zoom Greeters: Akiko Turner and Gail Dutchess

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 -- depending on road and UUC parking lot conditions --
check with organizers to make sure groups are meeting before venturing out

- Men's Breakfast, Monday at 7:00 am & Women's Breakfast, Monday at 7:30 am (UUC)
- Surviving Spouses, Tuesday at 2:00 pm (Zoom)
- Inspired Elders, Tuesday 3:00pm - 4:30 pm (Room 6)
- Meditation, Tuesday at 5:00 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 (Elarth)
- Women's Lunch, Friday at noon (Library)
- Responding to the Anti-Trans Movement, Saturday at 9:00 (Library, register [here](#))
- Karaoke Night with the Board, Saturday at 6:00 (Elarth)