

~ **We Are a Welcoming Congregation** ~

We welcome all persons to participate fully, openly, and equally, in all aspects of our congregational life, in ever-widening circles of inclusion. We respect and affirm diversity and its gifts in race, ethnicity, national origin, affectional or sexual orientation, family or relationship structure, gender identity, gender expression, sex, abilities, neurodiversity, age, socio-economic class, political views, religious belief, creed, or interpretation of religion.

FREE PARKING: The parking lot off 4th Street next to the church is free all day Sunday. The lot off of York Street, across from the Library, is free until 1:30 pm.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER <http://www.firstulou.org/steepletalk>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS <http://firstulou.org/calendar>

OUR MINISTRY STAFF

Linette Lowe, *Dir. Religious Exploration
and Transition Team Leader*

Christe Lunsford, *Student Minister
and Choir Director*

SUPPORT STAFF

Ethan McCollum, *Accompanist*

Christina Roberts, *Childcare Coordinator*

Barbara Creasy, *Office Administrator*

Elena Meeks, *Childcare staff*

Earl Reynolds, *Building Supervisor*

NaQueesha Puckett, *Childcare staff*

Michael Purintun, *Bookkeeper*

and RE Assistant

TRANSITION TEAM MEMBERS

The Team members include Linette Lowe, Transition Team Leader; Christe Lunsford, Student Minister; Devi Pierce, Board President; Jill Sampson, Board Vice President; Kathy Thackeray, Ron Zorn, Debra Gilbert, and Jill Sherman. During the transitional time prior to the arrival of an interim minister, these Transition Team members will support the congregation. Feel free to contact them with any questions or concerns you might have during that time.

If you need to reach us, please call the church's main phone number 502-585-5110 and leave a message. If you have a ministerial emergency and need to reach someone on the transition team outside of regular church office hours, please leave a voice mail at 502-262-7470 and someone will return your call.

ZOOM INTO FIRST U

Want to stay home on Sunday and still “attend” the First Unitarian service? Through Zoom, we now livestream our services. Members and friends can sign into Zoom and access the service in real time. If you want to do this, here is the process:

1. Go to the website www.firstulou.org.
2. Click on the “Where Are We” tab
3. Click on “Livestreaming our Sunday Service”
4. Follow the directions
5. Enjoy the service!

First Unitarian Church of Louisville

~ A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations ~
(502) 585-5110

www.firstulou.org

We are grateful for those who serve this morning, including:

Worship Associate: Dianna Ott

Chancel Decoration: Christe Lunsford



December 25, 2016

BURNING BOWL

SPEAKER: CHRISTE LUNSFORD

~ **GATHERING** ~

Gathering Music

Bell Sound

Welcome

Transitional Moment

Prelude

Chalice Lighting

Call to Worship

+ **Hymn**

Dianna Ott
Christe Lunsford

~ **AFFIRMING** ~

Declaration (*unison*)

Christe Lunsford

We are a church of reason and spirit
that witnesses for progressive faith,
Nurtures our community and transforms our world.

Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law.
This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace,
to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

Joys and Sorrows (*unison*)

When I breathe in, I breathe in peace.
When I breathe out, I breathe out love.

Moment of Prayer and Meditation

Sung Response (*unison*)

Make us aware we are a sanctuary.
Each made holy loved right through
With thanksgiving we are a living sanctuary anew.

There's a truth beyond our knowledge.
There's compassion beyond our pain.
There's a spirit burning brighter;
There's a love to guide our way.

Invitation to Generosity

*With gratitude for the abundance in our lives, we give to the life
of this congregation and to the life of the surrounding community.*

Offertory

~ **EXPLORING** ~

Homily

Burning Bowl

Christe

~ **RETURNING** ~

+ **Hymn**

Extinguishing the Chalice (*unison*)

We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth,
The warmth of community, or the fire of commitment.
These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

Closing Words

Christe

Postlude

Benediction (*unison*)

Here, may you know that you are loveable, and that indeed you are loved.
And may you carry that love out into the world as a blessing.

+ *Please Rise in Body or in Spirit*

Infant and Toddler Care in the Nursery is available in room 214. The service is piped in to the library (the door by the organ) if you need to step out with your child. "Busy Bags" are available on the Usher Table or ask an Usher.

Join us Next Week, January 1, 2017

Celebration of Life 11:00 am

White Stone Ceremony

Speaker: Christe Lunsford

This is the day when we set our intentions for the rest of the year. This is not about New Years' resolutions, giving up chocolate or coffee, but a time of discernment where we focus in on the changes we wish to make in our lives. However you engage with the still small voice inside, whether you speak to the Divine, call upon God or Goddess, or summon your inner strength, there is real power and meaning in committing to your intentions for the year. Loving yourself into being your best.

Religious Exploration will not meet January, 8 but resumes the 15th.

Holiday Office Hours The church office will be closed December 26-January 2. If you need to reach us, contact the office by e-mail at office@firstulou.org or leave a phone message. If you have a ministerial emergency and need to reach someone, call 502-262-7470. Leave a message and someone will return your call.