

# First Unitarian Church of Louisville

~ A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations ~

(502) 585-5110

[www.firstulou.org](http://www.firstulou.org)

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

Service Coordinator: Christe Lunsford

Worship Associate: Dustin Kavich

Chancel Decoration: Kay Powers



December 31, 2017

## KWANZAA

### SPEAKERS:

## MICHAEL TEE AND LINDA BERRY

## ~ GATHERING ~

**Gathering Music**

Ethan McCollum

**Bell Sound**

**Welcome**

Clare Gervasi

**Prelude**

Ethan

**Chalice Lighting**

Nate Candee

**Call to Worship**

+ **Hymn**

*Breaths*

#1001

## ~ 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

Clare

*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

Ethan

## ~ EXPLORING ~

### Moment for All Ages

#### Song for the Children

Come and go with me to that land,  
Come and go with me to that land,  
Come and go with me to that land where I'm bound. (x2)

There'll be justice in that land,  
There'll be justice in that land,  
There'll be justice in that land where I'm bound. (x2)

#### Sermon

*Kwanzaa*

Linda Berry and Michael Tee

#### + Hymn

*Spirit Says Do*

#1024

## ~ RETURNING ~

#### 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

#### Postlude

Ethan

#### 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: Sunday, January 7**

**Celebration of Life 11:00 am**

*"The Courage of My Convictions"*

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt

With a January worship theme of courage, this first service considers how we summon up courage in the face of an overwhelming challenge, and why--and how courage often comes with a willingness to fail.

**Religious Exploration** will not meet December 17-January 7

**FYI**

**Thank you!** To all of those that contributed towards our Vespers Preludes, Service, and Reception.

**Martha Latta** A memorial service for Martha Latta will be held at the church on Saturday, January 6, at 11:00, with a reception to follow.

**Recycle Your Old Christmas Lights** First U's Solar Array Project will take your old lights and turn them into cash which will be used to buy more solar panels for First U! Drop them into the SAP aluminum can receptacle in the courtyard (outside the kitchen door) or give them to Joe or Kathy Kremer. Questions? Email Joe (joe\_kremer\_99@yahoo.com).

**10th through 12th grade OWL** Do you know a 10th through 12th grader who would benefit from age-appropriate, values-based, scientifically driven sexuality education? If so, please contact Linette (dre@firstulu.org). Classes will begin in January.

**Winter Break for RE** All RE classes will be on Winter Break through January 7. RE classes will resume January 14 with *One Room Schoolhouse* for children and youth and new class offerings for adults. Did you have a great experience during fall RE? Be sure to let your RE Leaders know!

**Coffee in the Social Hall** Join us for a cup of coffee before or after the service! (If you are the one making coffee, please remember to just use one package per pot!) Contributions toward the cost are welcomed.

**2018 Calendars** CLCM clients can use your unwanted 2018 calendars!!! Bring them anytime and place them in the box on the volunteer desk.

**Social Justice Webinar Series** The UUA Mid-America Region and Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance are presenting a monthly six part Social Justice webinar series. Join us at First U Louisville at 7:45pm on the second Tuesday of the months January through June to view each webinar. The first viewing will be Tuesday, January 9, 2018, entitled "*Breaking Down the Silos: An Assessment Model for Social Justice-Rooted Congregations - Part 1/2*". There will be a pot of home made soup to share at 6:30pm, so bring a sandwich or whatever! Questions, contact Del (del.ramey@ieee.org) or Trish Ramey (tramey@alum.bu.edu).

More information on the entire series is at  
<https://www.midamericauua.org/resources/justice>

## **Beloved Conversations**

*Beloved Conversations* is a religious exploration curriculum. It is a large body of work that takes faith formation to another level, encouraging us to go deep into the dynamics and structures of racism in our communities and ourselves. It allows space to explore the deep-seated systems of oppression in which we participate and give us tools to disrupt racism.

This curriculum cannot be done in an hour on Sunday mornings and, as a result, will take a larger commitment of time -- separate from our Sunday morning RE. If interested, [send an email expressing your interest by January 31](#) to Christe Lunsford (intern@firstulou.org).



## Welcome to First Unitarian!

If you are a visitor to our congregation today, we trust you will find meaning in our service. First Unitarian Church is a liberal, self-governing, self-supporting church in covenant with the Unitarian Universalist Association.

**Children** of all ages are welcome to remain with their caregivers. Childcare is also available upstairs in room 214. If you find you need to step out of the service with your child, the service is piped into the library (the door by the organ).

**Free Parking:** The lot off 4th Street next to the church is free all day Sunday. The lot off York Street, across from the library, is free until 1:30pm.

**Calendar of Events** <http://firstulou.org/calendar>

### *~ 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.

### Our Ministry Staff

Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt, Interim Minister

Linette Lowe, Dir. Religious Exploration    Christe Lunsford, Student Minister

### Support Staff

Ethan McCollum, Choir Director	Christina Roberts, Childcare Coordinator
Barbara Creasy, Office Administrator	Elena Meeks, Childcare staff
Earl Reynolds, Building Supervisor	NaQueesha Puckett, Childcare staff and RE Assistant
Michael Purintun, Bookkeeper	Vantreasea Jones, Custodian
Brytner Evangelista, Accompanist	

### ZOOM Into First U

Members and friends can sign into Zoom and access the service in real time. Go to the website [www.firstulou.org](http://www.firstulou.org). Click on the “Worship” tab. Then select “Livestreaming our Sunday Service” and follow the directions. You can also go to [firstulou.org/online-service](http://firstulou.org/online-service). Enjoy the service.