

Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to
get it right.

~ Oprah Winfrey

GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY

- ◆ Ringing the Tibetan Bowl
- ◆ Call to Community
A New Year for Beloved Community
by Debra Haffner**
- ◆ Chalice Lighting
Into Many Coming Years
by Mary Shelden**
- ◆ Spoken Affirmation
*Love is the spirit of this church and service is its law.
This is our great covenant to dwell together in peace,
To seek truth in freedom and to help one another.*
- ◆ Lighting the Peace Candle

EXPANDING OUR UNDERSTANDING

- ◆ Opening Thought
*A Ritual of Letting Go, Cleansing, Intention,
and Hope*
by Lois Van Leer
- ◆ Song - 350
The Ceaseless Flow of Endless Time ,
Performed by First Universalist Church of Yarmouth, ME

EMBRACING OUR LIMITATIONS

- ◆ Practices - *with words, stillness, music*
Words: *This New Year*
by Addae Ama Kraba **
Stillness: Quiet Sitting for a Moment
Musical Response: *Be Still and Know*
Composer unknown; Performed by Benjamin Esh
- ◆ Special Music
The Four Directions
Words: Gay Holcomb; Music: *Beech Spring* a Sacred
Harp Song from 1844 arranged by Tull Glazener
Singing: The Choir

DECLARING OUR POSSIBILITIES

- ◆ A Ceremony for the new year
*A Ritual of Letting Go, Cleansing, Intention,
and Hope* by Lois Van Leer
- ◆ **South: Fire** ~ Release:
Fire by Lois E. Van Leer
Background Music: *Relaxing with Candles*
written & performed by Relaxing with Jeff

- ◆ **West: Water** ~ Cleansing & Make New:
Water by Rumi
Background Music: *You and Me*
written & performed by Peder B. Helland
- ◆ **North: Intention** ~
Reading is by an unknown author
Background Music: *Healing Hearts* by Soundings
of the Planet Dean Evenson, flute; Volodymyr
Solianyky, piano
- ◆ **East: Candle** ~ New Beginnings:
Candle Reading by Barbara Kingsolver
Background Music: *Relaxing Music with Candle
Flame* by Asha Lightbearer Music

CONFIRMING OUR FAITH

- ◆ Giving
Offertory: *Best One-Minute Music*
Composer and performer unknown
- ◆ Song - 331
Life Is the Greatest Gift Of All
Performed: Katy Taylor, vocal; Sheila Harwood, piano
- ◆ Benediction
Carry Each Other into the New Year
by Beth Monhollen*
- ◆ Extinguishing the Chalice
*We extinguish these flames 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.*
- ◆ Postlude
Reprise of the Offertory

PROGRAM NOTES

This special Morning Assembly was created by our Worship Team, who researched multiple sources to weave together a Ritual for the New Year.

Spiritual Perspectives delayed their return from last Tuesday, due to the cold weather. They will start on Tuesday evening – 6:30 – 8.

WHO'S DOING WHAT THIS MORNING

- ◆ January board representative:
- ◆ Greeting us at the door: *Susie Norris*
- ◆ Worship Associate: *Paula Jennings*
- ◆ Leading today: *The Worship Team*
- ◆ AV crew: *Carole Harner, Jim Holmes, Liz Rapp*
- ◆ RE leader: *Jack Bolerjack*
- ◆ Caring Circle: *Susie Norris, Paula Jennings, David Dyer*

WELCOME VISITORS

We are Unitarian Universalists. We are brave, curious, and compassionate thinkers and doers. We are people from many backgrounds who have different beliefs, but shared values.

Grounded in more than two hundred years of thoughtful, spiritual communities, we are people of many generations, ethnicities, genders and sexualities, and spiritual backgrounds. People engaged in making the world a better place. People focusing on what really matters - love, justice, integrity, and hope.

We are a lay-led congregation. Lay-led congregations have no minister which means members of the congregation manage the various aspects of our church life. Unitarian Universalism has a proud tradition of lay-led churches. We have different beliefs, but shared values.

We are Unitarian Universalists, and at the same time we may be Muslim, pagan, atheist, believers in God, and those who just let the great mystery be. The diversity of beliefs you'll find in our church community is one of our strengths - we're always learning how to see the world from a distinct perspective.

Learn more about us at your leisure by downloading our mobile app 'Red River UU' from Google Play or the Apps Store (or use the QR code below.) This is who we are. We are glad you joined us today because all of who you are is welcome here.

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024

10 am - Adult Forum

11:15 am - The Morning Assembly

Freedom as Liberating Love

The Rev. Renee Ruchotzke, *video message*

The results of the November 2024 election have shown that many of our neighbors don't share the same vision of what kind of world we want to live in. Christian Nationalism has been on the rise and democracy is under attack. In this service, we explore how the recently adopted UU Shared Values can help us model a compelling alternative. The Rev. Renee Ruchotzke, UUA Congregational Life Staff, Central East Region. We encourage you to read Renee's resume in this week's UPDATE (or on the church website, tap/click the ON SUNDAY box on the home-page, or our mobile app.

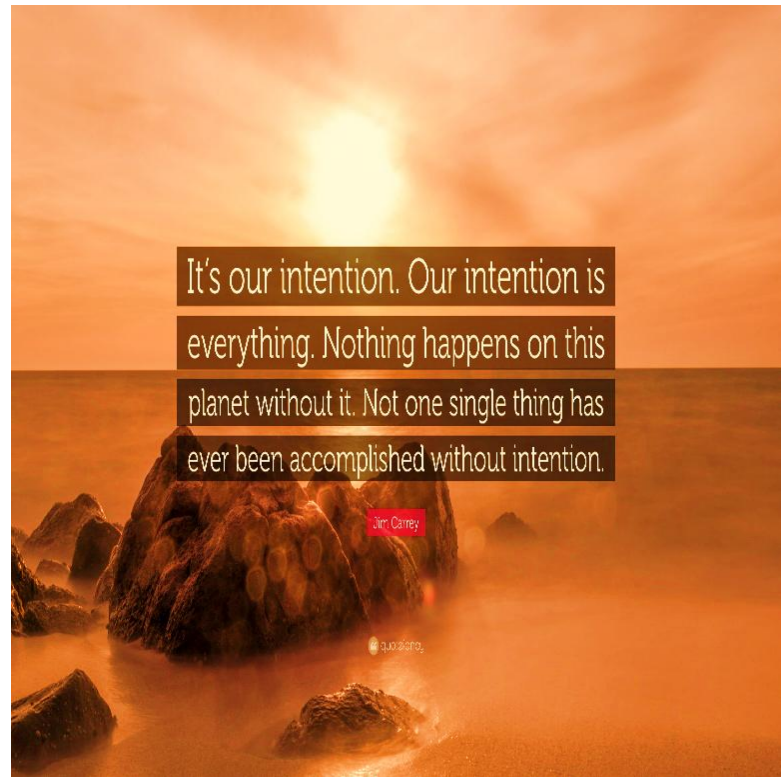
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QR to our mobile app

THE MORNING PROGRAM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025



WE ARE . . .



SPIRITUALLY ALIVE
JOYFULLY INCLUSIVE
JUSTICE CENTERED