

Please silence cell phones as we enter into our worship time.

If you are new to First Unitarian Church - Following the service, please join us for Coffee Hour. If you would like to learn more about our congregation, Unitarian Universalism, or membership, we encourage you to say "hi" to an usher, grab a "How to Get Involved" Handbook, check out our website (www.philauu.org), or contact the Member Ministry Team at membership@philauu.org.

Accessibility: We have an integrated hearing loop system in the Sanctuary, which provides a magnetic, wireless signal that is picked up by hearing aids and helps those with hearing impairment enjoy the services and music better. To use the hearing loop, you don't need to change any settings, just sit in the center aisle of the Sanctuary and make sure your hearing aid is turned on. We also have large print Orders of Service at the Usher table.

Prayers of Our Hearts: All are invited forward before the service to light a candle of prayer at the altar. If you or a loved one is going through something hard and you wish to be lifted in congregational prayer, you are invited to email caring@philauu.org or call the church office at 215-563-3980 during the week.

Donating Flowers on a Sunday is a wonderful way to celebrate an occasion or remember a loved one and beautify the Parish. A tax-deductible donation of \$35 is asked. To reserve a date, contact info@philauu.org. Your donation can be recognized in the Order of Service or done anonymously.

Feedback: We welcome your thoughts about the worship service! Feel free to contact the Worship Team at worship@philauu.org.

Freedom Written on Heart & Brain

September 27, 2026

We invite children & youth to begin upstairs for Spirit+Ed. Nursery care will be offered starting at 10:30am in the Olympia Room (3rd floor).



Prayer Candles

*All are invited forward to light a candle
of prayer at the altar before the service begins*

Processional

*Ain't Gonna Let
Nobody Turn Me Round*

*Ain't gonna let *nobody turn me 'round,
turn me 'round, turn me 'round.
Ain't gonna let nobody turn me 'round,
I'm gonna keep on a-walkin', keep on a-talkin',
marchin' on to freedom land.*

Call to Worship

Rev. Abbey Tennis

Hymn

For All That Is Our Life

#128

Kindling the Chalice Flame

*May the light we now kindle inspire us to use our power
to heal with love, to help with compassion, to bless with joy,
to serve the spirit of freedom in the fullness of community.*

Welcome & Greeting

Siamac Yamin-Afshar, Worship Associate

Anthem

Music

First Unitarian Choir

*(John B Hedges, composer,
Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, text)*

Announcements

Rev. Abbey Tennis

*For all of what is happening in our community
this week, check out our E-Beacon newsletter:*



Prayers of our Hearts

Rev. Abbey Tennis

Hymn

Sanctuary

J. Thompson & R. Scruggs

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true;
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for You.

Silent Meditation

Reading

Sermon

Rev. Abbey Tennis

Offering Reflection

Siamac Yamin-Afshar

*To contribute to today's offering, you can put cash or
check in the plate as it passes, or text (215) 709-5095 to
give with a credit card. We are grateful for your
generosity!*



Offertory

Keep Marching
(Shaina Taub)

Amanda Strydio
(ft. First Unitarian
Women's Choir)

Closing Invitation

Rev. Abbey Tennis

Hymn

We'll Build a Land

#121

Extinguishing the Chalice

*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.*

Benediction

Rev. Abbey Tennis

Postlude

Amen (from Total Praise)
(Richard Smallwood)

John B Hedges

First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia

Congregational Covenant



As part of our commitment to loving kindness and justice, we seek to build and sustain a community that nurtures our physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Recognizing that the growth of this community requires intentional dedication, we covenant together to:

- Act in ways that acknowledge the inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Honor the differences that each of us brings, recognizing that our individual paths collectively shape our community and the wider world;
- Communicate with generosity, attentiveness, respect, and honesty, knowing that listening leads to learning;
- Respect each person's boundaries of mind, body, and spirit;
- Commit to a culture of loving accountability, where we work together for restoration when harm has taken place;
- Contribute to the growth of our community with our participation, our words, our public commitment, our gifts, and our money, as we are able.

Affirmed by the congregation, January 23, 2022