

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

Hope and the Cycles of Life

December 28, 2025

*Children will head directly upstairs for Spirit+Ed at 11am.
Nursery care is available for our littlest ones starting at 10:45am.*



Prayer Candles

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

Prelude

Chris Gignac

Call to Worship

Randy Newswanger

Opening Hymn

The Ceaseless Flow of Endless Time #350

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

Andrew Selke, Worship Associate

Anthem

Fugue in G minor

FUIE

(J.S. Bach, arr. Kurkowski)

Announcements

Andrew Selke

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



Prayers of our Hearts

Randy Newswanger

Hymn *Spirit of Life* #123

Silent Meditation

Offertory *Hope*
(Rebecca Solnit) Randy Newswanger

Sermon Randy Newswanger

Offering Reflection Andrew Selke

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 *Hard Times (Come Again No More)* Fred Tipson
(Stephen Foster) & Tim Lulofs

Closing Invitation Randy Newswanger

Hymn *Come and Go With Me to That Land* #1018

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 Randy Newswanger

Postlude Chris Gignac

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