



Building Community with Compassion, Service, Diversity, and Spirit

We express compassion through caring, love and support for others.

We serve by promoting our principles and purposes through leadership, giving and action.

We are inspired by diversity to accept, respect and celebrate differences and interdependence.

We grow in spirit through our religious experiences, inquiry, education, reflection and transformation.

Minister's Musings

Today I virtually tore up my ministerial record -- the one that is sent to other churches seeking a minister - churches that are larger, have more money, a full well paid staff and lots of kids.

Today I wished myself a Happy New Year as I watched the pages flutter into the recycling bin one at a time and disappeared into the void of cyberspace.

It was tempting to go back home to all that is familiar. It was a hard decision to make, to leave close friends and family, as I only expected to stay a year and then go home. But something else has beckoned me. It certainly wasn't the snow, or the incessantly cloudy days or the cold, or the fact my kayak is in Maine and my workshop is in North Andover MA. It was a different kind of warmth that comes from those who have worked so hard here to keep us viable, active and happy.

I discovered that I do believe in us at First UU as a critical presence in Syracuse. We have a wonderful staff and I believe that now we can work with May Memorial as two individual churches with much to offer each other and the community. The idea of merger has not been a topic of discussion among the leadership at our monthly meetings. That may in fact happen in some way, someday, but for now we both have too much to offer should we choose to do so. I have shelved my doubts and fears and now I turn to you, as growing our future will be an effort we all must embrace.

I do want to hear your dreams and doubts, your

concerns and past hurts that may have kept some of you at a distance. I hope you will not hesitate to seek me out to share your thoughts.

In the days and months to come, my New Years hope is that:

- ◆ The sign up sheets on the Big Board in the Fellowship Hall will be filled with signatures.
- ◆ Committees will be overflowing with enthusiasm
- ◆ Fear of serving on the Board of Trustees will become a thing of the past!
- ◆ Life at First UU will lose the label, "Our Lady of Perpetual Responsibility" because tasks will be shared by many, not left to a few.
- ◆ Our pews will be filled, church school overflowing and many will go home feeling better than when they came in.



It is with pleasure that I continue to serve this congregation and with much appreciation that I welcome this New Year -- of hope, of possibility and of much joy.

Have a Very Happy New Year!!!!

Sincerely, Holly

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF SYRACUSE

FIRST NUWS

Phone: (315) 446-5940 / Fax: (315) 449-0874

Email: firstuu@twcny.rr.com

Church Office Hours: 8:00 - 2:00, Tues.- Fri.

Consulting Minister:

Rev. Holly Baylies (firstuurev@twcny.rr.com)

Secretary:

Ruth Yamaguchi

Music Director:

Rebecca Karpoff

Coordinator of Religious Education:

Tina Lesley-Fox

President:

Susan King (pilasters@gmail.com)

Vice President:

Diana Bellini (dianabellini@yahoo.com)



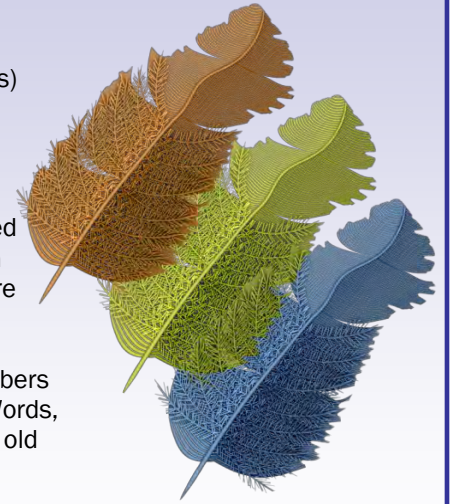
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SUNDAY MORNINGS AT FIRST UU

SERVICES START AT 10:30 AM

- Jan. 2** "Caravans" Rev. Betsy Spaulding preaching and service coordinator for the Worship/Music Committee. Come celebrate the opening service of the New Year with us!
- Jan. 9** Rev. Holly Baylies preaching (see note below - Sermon Titles: Tricky Little Things)
- Jan. 16** Rev. Holly Baylies preaching
- Jan. 23** "Embracing Our Light " " Lynda Myers, preaching. Service Coordination provided through the Worship/Music Committee. Lynda continues her active association with First UU. She is a former Board Trustee, now residing near Ithaca, NY where she runs Lynda Myers Designs (<http://www.lyndamyers.com/>).
- Jan. 30** "Immigration and the American Dream " This service will be presented by members of the Worship Committees of First UU Society and May Memorial UU Society: Words, music and the dilemma of legal and human rights – will be spoken by new and old immigrants.



Holly's sermons are available. Please email her at firstuurev@twcny.rr.com to request a copy.

Minister's Weekly Schedule

(Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 8:00 am - 2:00 pm)

- Monday:** Holly's sacred day off!
- Tuesday:** AM Staff meeting and available for appointments, meetings
- Wednesday:** Church Office and appointments, meetings
- Thursday:** Sermon Prep at home
- Friday:** Church Office and appointments, meetings
- Saturday:** Office at home
- Sunday:** Church and afternoon appointments

*To schedule an appointment with Holly
e-mail: firstuurev@twcny.rr.com or revholly1@aol.com
Office phone: 446-5940
For emergencies: Holly's cell phone is 617-548-5113*

Holly's Holiday Schedule

Holly will return from Winter vacation on January 4th.

From January 20th to the 27th Holly will be attending the annual meeting of "The Fraters of The Wayside Inn." The Fraters is an association of Universalist ministers founded in 1904 who gather yearly at Longfellow's Wayside Inn in Sudbury Massachusetts. This annual event is a week long study group to focus on the past and future of Universalism and Unitarianism. Holly will be presenting a paper this year on "The Past, Present, and Future of Universalist Worship." In case of an emergency she can be reached by cell phone at 617-548-5113.

Sermon Titles: Tricky Little Things

Sometimes, choosing the right sermon title can be one of the most challenging endeavors of message preparation. Balancing the need for relevancy, piquing curiosity, and provoking the appropriate response, can sometimes become muddled by the perpetual desire to arouse attention. But choosing the title before the sermon is written can sometimes be restrictive as to the theme and content of the sermon. To allow more flexibility, the titles of Holly's sermons will not be listed a month ahead of time.



**THE
CARING TEAM
NEEDS
YOUR INPUT**

First UU is a compassionate community of people who reach out to each other in time of need. The Caring Team serves as a conduit for information about those among us who are sick, shut-in, or in need of a kind word of consolation or encouragement. Please contact Diane Case, Nancy Clausen, or Rev. Holly Baylies so that the Caring Team can reach out to those in need.

President's Report

Now that the holidays have passed, we turn our attention to our goals and projects for the second half of the year.

A new and exciting initiative is "SUUP" [Syracuse UU Partnership], a cooperative venture between First UU and May Memorial. I want to make it very clear that this initiative is not intended as a plan to merge the two congregations. It is a recognition that we are all UUs and so ought to explore our shared interests. The ministers, directors of religious education, and presidents of the two congregations meet every month to plan and encourage activities for both congregations to carry out together.

The goal is for members of both congregations to become better acquainted, have fun, and discover common interests. So far, the emphasis has been on fun – the teens have had several lunches and a party together, and the young people expanded the Halloween party to include all ages.

Our newest plan is to have two potlucks, in January and March, one at each building. We will combine fun and good food with half a dozen activities after dinner. The activities are more serious, the goal being to encourage thinking about who we are as UUs and what we might do together for the greater good of the community we live in. The poster with details of the after-dinner offerings is on our door and on the office window. The first potluck is on Saturday, January 15 at May Memorial. Please plan to attend!

We will soon hold an event to showcase our new, smaller, and more efficient group of committees. The plan, of course, is to entice you to get involved. We promise not to eat up all your spare time!

In the meantime, we need coffee hour hosts and usher-greeters every single week. Both jobs are fun, are done on Sundays when you're here anyway, and need not be repeated week after week if we all take a turn. There is a sign-up sheet for both jobs on the wall next to the coffee bar.

Board of Trustee Meeting Highlights December 2010

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS from the December 2010 meeting

Welcomed Zane Suttmore as the Youth Representative to the Board

- Approved the employment contract for Tina Lesley-Fox, Coordinator of Youth Religious Education
- Approved funds to pay our custodian to shovel snow Mondays through Fridays
- Approved the revised organizational chart for staff and committees
- Heard about several recent fundraising activities
- Heard about cooperative activities with May Memorial
- Began planning for a Board retreat to work on policies and leadership skills

UUA Chalice Lighter Call

The St. Lawrence District Growth Committee announces a unique opportunity to share Unitarian Universalism by financially supporting the founding of a new congregation in our district.!

We are so very pleased to announce that the District Board of Trustees has approved our recommendation that the entire amount received for the Fall 2010 Chalice Lighter Call be awarded to the new congregation being established in the Clifton Park area north of Albany. The new congregation is being started with the help and support of the Capital Region of Unitarian Universalists of New York (CRUUNY) a group of four congregations in the Capital District: the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Glens Falls, and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs. CRUUNY has been meeting and planning for several years and they have named this project as their highest priority. They have laid a foundation for sharing Unitarian Universalism in the area with a major media campaign in which Chalice Lighters played a part last fall.

If you wish to make a one time gift, please send your check to: St. Lawrence District, UUA, PO Box 1045, Buffalo, New York 14240-1045 (indicate this is a one time gift for the new congregation.) If you wish to join Chalice Lighters at this time, check out their brochure at http://www.sld.uua.org/conggrowth/CL_brochure.pdf .

Thank you for your generosity.

Community Activities and Calendar



SATURDAY WINTER SUUPERS

Dinners and Conversation with the Syracuse UU Partnership (SUUP)

At May Memorial on Saturday Jan 15, 2011
And at First UU on Saturday March 2, 2011

Potlucks begin a 6:00pm

Breakout Discussion Groups at 7:00- 8:30 Childcare activities will be provided during Adult Discussion groups.

TOPICS INCLUDED in one or both potlucks: (complete topic descriptions, speakers and group leaders will be announced when they are finalized)

► **UU PARENTING** - Raising children with UU values; understanding demands and dangers of modern social interaction texting, "sexting" emails and use of websites and web cams. Speakers: Crystal Collette and staff from "Real Life Real Talk"

► **THE FUTURE OF UUISM IN SYRACUSE** - Facilitators: Rev. Jean Wahlstrom and Rev. Holly Baylies. Share your thoughts and dreams about what UUism will be in the future years in and around the Central New York region. What would you like to see? How can we make our future a bright one?

► **SMALL GROUP MINISTRY** - This personal exploration with a small group is known by many names including Spiritual Enrichment Groups and First UU Chalice Circles. If you are thinking about giving one of these groups a try, consider taking part in a typical session this evening.

► **SING-ALONG** - Spend some time with the new hymnal singing informally with others. When was the last time you spent this kind of an evening?

► **VIDEO DISCUSSION** - (more info to come)

Please join us for a wonderful evening of food, fellowship and discussion with our sister church.

Look for more information and sign up sheets in the Fellowship Hall, Big Board for both pot lucks.

2 (Sun)	10:30 am 12:15 pm	Worship (S) Chalice Circle (P)	<p>Key:</p> <p>P=Parlor S=Sanctuary FH=Fellowship Hall ER= East Room (room at the end of the RE Wing hall) K=Kitchen MR=Music Room N=Narthex TR=Teen Room L = Library (room behind sanctuary)</p> <hr/> <p>Deadline for submissions for next issue: Friday, January 21, for the issue that will cover events from February 1, to February 28, 2011, at firstuu@twcny.rr.com, or in the office.</p>
5 (Wed)	1:15 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Chalice Circle (P) Green Sanctuary Meeting (P) Young Adults (TR)	
6 (Thur)	7:00 pm	Folk Dancers (FH)	
9 (Sun)	9:15 am 10:30 am	Adult Dialogues Coffee & Conversation (P) Worship (S)	
11 (Tues)	7:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting (P)	
13 (Thur)	7:00 pm	Folk Dancers (FH)	
15 (Sat)	6:00 pm	Potluck at May Memorial	
16 (Sun)	9:30 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm 12:15 pm 7:00 pm	Adult Dialogues Coffee & Conversation (P) Worship (S) Chalice Circle (P) God Rest Ye Merry GentleWomen (P) Junior ProArts (S)	
17 (Mon)	7:00 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting (P)	
18 (Tues)	7:00 pm	PFLAG (P)	
20 (Thur)	1:15 pm 7:00 pm	Chalice Circle (P) Young Adults Meeting (P)	
22 (Sat)	10:00 am	Binghamton UU Meeting (P)	
23 (Sun)	9:30 am 10:30 am	Adult Dialogues Coffee & Conversation (P) Worship (S)	
27 (Thur)	7:00 pm	Folk Dancers (FH)	
30 (Sun)	9:30 am 10:30 am	Adult Dialogues Coffee & Conversation (P) Worship (S)	



GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEWOMEN JANUARY 16, 2011 AT 5:00 PM IN THE PARLOR

THE THREE WISE GENTLEWOMEN ARE ARRIVING A BIT LATE THIS YEAR. THEY'VE BEEN HELD UP BY ALL MANNER OF TASKS PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS AND SHOPPING FOR GIFTS MORE USEFUL AND MORE FUN THAN GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, OR MYRRH. SO, JOIN US!

WE'LL GATHER HERE AT FIRST UU IN THE PARLOR.
A TREAT NOT TO BE MISSED!

ALL FUUS WOMEN - PLEASE COME! BRING A GIFT (NOT MORE THAN \$10.00) AND A DISH OR TREAT TO PASS. THIS ANNUAL EVENT HAS BECOME A TREASURED TRADITION - ALL FUUS WOMEN ARE WELCOME. (SORRY, GUYS, THIS IS A HEN PARTY!)
PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE BIG BOARD, OR SEE JOYCE HOMAN, LORA MCCOOEY OR KATHY SMITH.

WHERE DO UU COME FROM? REACHING IN AND REACHING OUT WITH OUR UU FAITH



Youth Religious Education News

What's been happening in YRE?

In November we focused our energy on Guest at Your Table and Louder Than Words. We had a beautiful children's chapel service to kick off our Guest at Your Table campaign. The children had the chance to set a table and learn about the program. The children also got to choose among four stations where they learned more about people from other countries, built houses and made a collage. The next week we continued our discussion of GAYT and the children had the pleasure of having Barry Lentz come give a presentation about the UUSC and the work that they do. He gave the children information about the history of the chalice and about people the UUSC is supporting with the money raised. We finished off the month by making "rough patch baskets" for people in the congregation who needed a little cheering up.

In December Peri Nelson shared two weeks of history, information and games about Chanukah and we worked on pulling together the intergenerational service focusing on Chalica and Christmas. The service was lots of fun and the kids were thrilled to see Santa. We will be taking two weeks off from YRE programming while families are out of town etc. for the holidays. When we return to classes on Jan 9th we will be on a new schedule. Rather than have the children join the congregation at the beginning of service they will go directly to their classes and begin at 10:30. We will end classes at 11:45 rather than go until noon. Once a month the children will join the beginning of service (as they have been doing) for "together time".

I am looking forward to the next six weeks of classes. We have some excellent teachers lined up to lead classes and the kids are excited to get back to their regular classes.

-Tina Lesley-Fox



The Young Adult Group welcomes new members ages 18-35 to join in biweekly discussion, games, and spiritual downtime.

We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 7-9 pm.

For more information, please see the "UU Young Adults of Syracuse" group on Facebook.

reminder

TO ALL WHO USE FIRST UU:

- ▶ If you are the last to leave the room, turn down the thermostat to 60 and turn off the lights. Thank You!

BOOKENDERS

May Memorial Bookenders '10-'11

Meetings are held at May Memorial in the Memorial Room on the designated Thursdays at 1:30. If you have questions, call Vicky Schipper at 479-5751.

⇒ ⇒ Jan. 27 The Golden Spruce: A True Story of Myth, Madness, and Greed by John Vaillant



On Behalf of the Green Sanctuary Committee:

Our Green Sanctuary group wishes everyone a very good green year in 2011.

We'll be increasing our efforts to get all of the congregation involved in participating in our Seventh Principle action to leave a better world for coming generations. We plan to focus on the need for pure water for everyone. We're grateful for our lives in the Northeast where we have such water, even when it's white and fluffy. We will welcome all who wish to join us as part of the Green Sanctuary.

Our group is small and we could use YOUR help! We look forward to working and having fun together.

ADULT DIALOGUES TO BEGIN IN JANUARY: 9:30 to 10:15

These sessions, for interested adults, will meet in the parlor from 9:30 to 10:15 on Sunday mornings. Two former First UU Board of Trustees members will facilitate the dialogs. Professor Grant Reeher from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University will participate in January and Professor Richard Kendrick from SUNY Cortland will lead four Sundays, two in February and two in March.

JANUARY DIALOGUES BEGIN SUNDAY THE 9th

Professor Grant Reeher, from the Political Science Department in the Maxwell School at Syracuse University will facilitate four sessions in January, beginning the 9th. Professor Reeher is Director of the Alan K. Campbell Institute for Public Affairs. He can be heard weekly on "The Campbell Conversations" WRVO Public Radio Fridays at 12:00 noon or at 4 p.m. on Saturdays. It is suggested that Sunday participants listen to one of the broadcasts before the Sunday sessions. For more information about Grant and "The Campbell Conversations" check, <http://www.wrvo.fm/campbellconversations.html>

On January 7th the "Campbell Conversations" will air an interview with Ann Marie Buerkle. As mentioned above, it airs Friday at noon and Saturday at four. In addition, if you missed the program on Dec. 17th with Dave Valesky it is available as a podcast. You can find the program if you scroll down and follow directions on the above mentioned web site.

FEBRUARY - MARCH DIALOGUES BEGIN SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6th

Professor Richard Kendrick teaches sociology in the Sociology/Anthropology Department at SUNY Cortland. He is the founding director of SUNY Cortland's Institute for Civic Engagement. He has taught courses on civil society, social conflict, and research methods. He will facilitate 4 discussions in February and March on the topic: *Habits of the Heart* Revisited. Participants may be interested in reading the book, but it is not necessary. *Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in American Life* discusses the tensions between the emphasis on individualism and ideals of community in American society, and thinking about the questions raised by *Habits of the Heart* should make for an interesting discussion of the role of religion in general and Unitarianism/Universalism in particular in a society awash in the "first language" of individualism. Although originally published in 1985, its analysis of our society rings as true as it ever did. The discussions will take place Feb. 6 and 13 and March 13 and 20. Before the first session, Richard suggests that participants review Rev. Bailles' sermon from October 10th entitled "Does your GPS Know What Your Auto Pilot is Doing?" Copies are on the web or may be picked up in the church office.



Serving Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Central New Yorkers As They Age

Sage Upstate's Newsletter is now available on our website

www.sageupstate.org



The Church Mouse



Thank you for your help!

Thank You

- To our Decorating Team for the great job they did adorning the church and Fellowship Hall for the Holidays...they include: Marge Mellor, Randy Irish, Diana Bellini, Betsy Spaulding, Marcia Rand, Peggy Flanders, Liz Kalish, the Montgomery family, and Joyce Homan.
- To Tina Lesley-Fox and the Youth for their participation in the Sunday service on Dec 19th - Especially to Joel Bowman who made the children's day as a wonderful Santa.
- To Marge Mellor who is coordinating Ushers and Greeters during December and January.
- To Nancy Clausen who coordinated the holiday flower donations and deliveries. Her helper elves were Diana Bellini, Jerry Clausen and Holly.

Usher & Greeters for December:

Thank you to:

Elna Gordon, Margaret Richards, Bettina Frisse, Marge Mellor, Dave Dickenson, Cliff Mellor, Paul deLima, Barry Lentz, Julie Piato, Nancy and Jerry Clausen

Around the Block

- ▶ Karen Bowman, who had surgery last week and faced the possibility of colon cancer, was seen in church this Sunday with a clean bill of health! Our prayers and candles worked!
- ▶ Susan Ferris a friend of the congregation and Director of the Rec. Gen program for many years is in St. Joseph's has suffered several heart attacks and has had a by-pass. She is awaiting another surgery for a defibrillator. Susan has been instrumental in keeping the Rec Gen program going. Many thoughts and prayers go with her for a speedy recovery.
- ▶ We still miss Mary McLatchie, who is recovering from hand surgery.
- ▶ It was wonderful to see Jerry Trexler in church Sunday. He is still recovering from multiple surgeries this summer and fall.



Coffee Hour Helper for December

Thank UUs to:

Eileen Taveniere, Jerry Clausen, Margi Nasemann

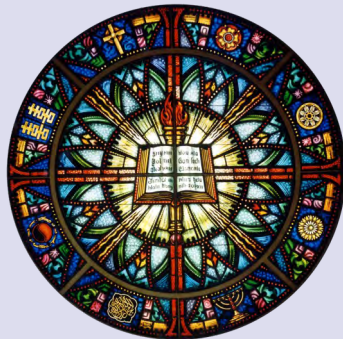


Grateful Thanks to the Sponsors of Christmas Flowers:

Diana Bellini in memory of my father Calvin Jobe; Marge & Cliff Mellor in memory of Helen & Clifford Mellor and Katherine & Rudolph Loth; Nancy & Jerry Clausen in memory of Florence Jean Clausen and in honor of Martha

Munson; Tim Rice in memory of Susan L. Rice and Joanne C. Rice; Margaret Richards in memory of Clark Richards and Dr. & Mrs. J. Gordan Gilkey; Peggy Flanders in memory of Helen Tobias Sperber, who would have been 99 on Dec. 18th, and in honor of Helen & Bernard Sperber's marriage on Christmas Eve 1933; Randy Irish in memory of family; Justin, Cynthia & Dave Kieber-King in memory of Lois King and Robert and Priscilla Kieber; Janet & Jack Mallan in memory of Rev. Charles Howe; Georgina Gregory in memory of Rachel Gregory; Diane Case in honor and appreciation of Rev. Holly; Eileen Taveniere to celebrate the season; Felice & Dennis Killian-Benigno; Mary Gail Perkins in memory of Donald Brown and Cookie Perkins; Lee Murray in memory of Gib Casanova – treasurer of the society for 40 years; Dana Sovocol and Brian Gruninger in memory of Thelma Story and Angeline Paratore;

Margi Nasemann in memory of Rev. Raymond Nasemann; Holly Baylies in memory of John & Evangeline Baylies; Paul deLima; Janet Petrou in memory of Kevin and Evie Hundshamer; Carolyn and John Coit in memory of our mothers Catherine Coit and Nina Inglehart, whose birthdays are both on December 14; Carol Davenport in memory of my parents Paul and Ethel Fryer, and my son Jeff Davenport; Marcia Tupper – remembering our families; Randy and Liz Kalish; Elna H. Gordon in honor of my Mom, Mavis L. Hedlund.



The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse - The Chancel Window

Around the outer circumference of the window are the symbols of the world's great religions.

- ◆ The Cross of Christianity - often seen as symbolizing the Tree of Life. It, of course, also represents the means by which Christ died in order to give others new life.
- ◆ The Mystic Rose - usually thought as representing the Virgin as the purest, most beautiful thing in the Creation.
- ◆ The Wheel of Doctrine of Buddhism; its eight spokes represent the noble eight-fold path which if followed, leads one to the outer circle of enlightenment.
- ◆ The Lotus Flower of Hinduism - representing the creative source of all being.
- ◆ The Menorah of Judaism - its seven candlesticks can be seen as the seven branches of the Tree of Life, and its candles giving off the light of freedom and hope.
- ◆ The Sacred Shield of Islam - the Moslem creed inscribed upon it in Arabic: "There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is His Prophet."
- ◆ The Yin-Yang - represents Taoism signifies that the contrasting sides of reality are not in conflict, but rather complement each other, giving rise to the creativity that leads to all existence.
- ◆ The Double Ladder of Joy of Confucianism, with its five rungs suggesting the five duties that Confucius taught. The fact that these ladders are placed side by side, is symbolic of the great Confucian principal of reciprocity: "Do unto other as you would have them do unto you."
- ◆ The open book in the center of the window can be thought of as representing either the Judeo-Christian Bible or the sacred scriptures of all the great religions- the revelations of the past.
- ◆ The Torch behind it symbolizes the ongoing nature of revelation and the light of new truth- the revelations of the past and the future.
- ◆ The Maltese Cross, with its arms reaching out from the center of the window to the four cardinal points, serves to bind the whole together and symbolizes the inter-relatedness of unity of all Being.

The window in its entirety can be regarded as a symbolic representation of contemporary Unitarian Universalism - evolutionary nature, its inclusiveness, and its openness to all sources of wisdom and truth, both ancient and modern.

FIRST  NEWS

NEWSLETTER NEWS

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[RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED](#)

We're on the Web!

www.firstuusyr.org

