

Meditation

Katie Allen

“Litany of Comfort for Blue Christmas” Debra Faulk

Please speak the response when you hear: "...this season brings forth many feelings"

Response: We find comfort in naming these feelings; we find some peace in being together

Silence

Story 1

Bill Allen

“6 to 8 Black Men” David Sedaris

*Carol

I'll Be Home for Christmas

Story 2

Bill Allen

“Christmas Story” John Henry Faulk

Closing Words

From Oren Arnold

*Extinguishing the Flame

Leader: I extinguish the symbolic flame of this gathering. May we carry its light into the world. *People: Let us go from this place, open to life, expecting to love, and prepared to serve.*

*Closing in Song

“Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas”

**Please stand as you are able*

Thank You to all Service Participants and to Today’s Hospitality Teams:

Hospitality Teams: Marge Graves, John Graves, Carolyn Spencer, Keri Kinard, Ruth Kearins, Joel Gesaman, Sue Huber, Denise Rathman, Shelly Kaldenberg, Kathie Dawley, Brian Browning, Mary Kay Reser

Walter Tomlinson, Suzie Stewart, Mary (Humphrey) Stewart, Janine Choudhury, Wynell Kisner, Beth Barnhill, Judy Walden, Michael Ream, Samantha Welsher, Heather Kiger, Don Severs, Amy Campbell-Fleming, Patty Notch, Meg Notch

Facilitator: Katie Allen

Sound Board Operator: Rob Malcomson

Hearing Impaired: radios may be found at the rear of the auditorium. Please tune to 107.9 MHz FM.

Visually Impaired: full page magnifiers may be found at the rear of the auditorium.

Second Basket: *Hawthorn Hill - New Directions Shelter* provides emergency short-term housing and support while *The Home Connection* program provides for up to two years of housing and family support, with a goal of permanent housing. *Iowa Refugee Support Project (IRSP)* builds community between Iowans and refugees through cultural interaction and volunteer-led education and support programs. Through our goal of hospitality, refugees and Iowans create friendships and deepen cultural understanding. We believe the relationships built through our program improve the refugees’ chances of success in their new lives.

White Christmas

I’m dreaming of a white Christmas,
Just like the ones I used to know.
Where the treetops glisten,
And children listen,
To hear sleigh bells in the snow.

I’m dreaming of a white Christmas
With every Christmas card I write
May your days be merry and bright
And my all your Christmases be white.

I’ll Be Home for Christmas

I’ll be home for Christmas
You can count on me
Please have snow and mistletoe
And presents on the tree.

Christmas Eve will find me
Where the love light gleams
I’ll be home for Christmas
If only in my dreams.

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Have yourself a merry little Christmas
Let your heart be light
From now on our troubles will be out of sight

Have yourself a merry little Christmas
Make the Yuletide gay
From now on our troubles will be far away.

Here we are as in olden days
Happy golden days of yore.
Faithful friends who are dear to us
Gather near to us once more

Through the years we all will be together
If the fates allow
Hang a shining star upon the highest bow.
And have yourself a merry little Christmas now.

Save the Date

Saturday, Jan. 28, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

A Roasting of the Reverend!

Celebrate Mark Stringer’s first decade with us.
Plan to attend the 2012 canvass kickoff pledge party!
Enjoy great food and a **very** fun show.
Then make your financial pledge to...

STEP UP TO THE NEXT DECADE:

Expanding our Capacity for the Future!



CALENDAR

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day Service 10:00 a.m., Auditorium (One Service Only)

“Torn Paper and Broken Toys” with Bill Allen

A service of stories to offer community and a change of pace from the previous few weeks. The holiday season with its obsession for compulsory joy and happiness, coupled with the apparent peace on earth good will to all mandate, sometimes steam rollers emotions and brings about anything but joy and happiness...or good will for that matter. In this heady season, full of gifts, parties and family, it can be easy to miss the opportunities for positive interactions with those who might not have some or any of these. (No child care will be provided. However, children are welcome in the service, or you may listen to the service from the nursery.)

January 1, 10:00 am (*one service only*), Auditorium

“Now Let Us Sing” with Moira Leu and your Religious Services Committee

Come be with your church family as we sing in the new year by singing favorites of your choosing from our hymnals. Just one service this week, so that we can fill the auditorium with song. Fun for all those who like to sing, and for those who like to listen!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office Closing for the Holidays

The church office will be closed through Monday, Jan. 2, 2012. The office will reopen for regular hours on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

Thank you for “Taking the Leap” in 2011

It is an exciting time at First Unitarian with new and old members alike coming together in many activities, committees and ministries. All these exciting happenings are occurring because of your generous spirit in “Taking the Leap” in pledging. As we approach the holidays and the close of 2011, remember to make your pledge payments to take advantage of the tax deduction for your 2011 income tax return. **Any pledge payments received AFTER Sunday, December 25 will be credited to next year.**

“Don’t Stop Believin’!” First Unitarian Video on YouTube!

Remember that fantastic energy surrounding the recording of our first music video in November? Now it’s available for all to see on YouTube and www.ucdsm.org. Thanks again to all who participated, especially Kent Newman, the Flames Choir, and Karen Kraemer! Check it out!

Outdoor Enthusiasts - It’s Not Too Late to Sign Up!

Join other UUs for a weekend of cross-country skiing at a secluded resort near Detroit Lake, Minnesota, Jan. 26-29, 2012. Other amenities include the largest hot tub in Minnesota, steam room, saunas, massage therapists, a library and game room, all-you-can eat gourmet meals, free beverage bar and a bottomless cookie jar. Ski lessons, snow shoeing, ice skating and kick sledding are also available. Make your \$100 per-person deposit soon to guarantee your spot. Contact Doug Aupperle to sign up: 277-1263 or dra427@mchsi.com.

Joys and Concern

To have a joy or concern shared during Sunday services, please e-mail joysand-concerns@ucdsm.org by noon on Friday.

Interested in receiving a weekly email from the RE program? Email Tracy Beck at dre@ucdsm.org to be added to the list.

Caring Ministry

Remember, the Caring Ministry Team is here for those in need of transportation, calls or visits, meals when recuperating and more. If you are in need, or know of someone who might be, or if you want to provide a service, please contact Mary Bourquin at 771-4484 or borkiniowa@yahoo.com, or Barb Martin at 288-3427 or barbmartin.dm@gmail.com.

Events

Windbreakers *Sunday, Jan. 1, 6:00 p.m., Channing Hall*
Join other Unitarian men at this monthly potluck social.

All Church Sledding Party *Wednesday, Jan. 4, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., at Sleepy Hollow Sports Complex \$5.00/person admission*
Regular Wednesday Night Programming resumes Jan. 11.

First Friday at 5 *Friday, Jan. 6, 5:00 p.m., The Continental (428 E Locust, DM)*
All church members and friends are welcome to enjoy some casual socializing at this Interweave-sponsored event. Interweave is a UU group for LGBT persons and straight allies that focuses on social activities, social justice work, and public education.

Bridge *Friday, Jan. 6, 7:00 p.m., Channing Hall*
Knowledge of the fundamentals of bridge is needed, but beyond that, skill levels range from novice to expert. Contact Wynell Kisner at 265-4442 or at mwk987@yahoo.com.

Young Adult Social Outing: Buccaneer's Hockey Game *Saturday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m., 95KGGO Arena (7201 Hickman)*
Join us for a Buc's ice hockey game! Tickets are \$19, but if we get a group of 20 people, ticket price goes down to \$10. Please RSVP no later than Jan. 3 to youngadultsuudsm@gmail.com

Energy & Justice Meeting *Sunday, Jan. 8, 11:00 a.m., Conference Room*

First Steps *Sunday, Jan. 8, 11:00 a.m., Peace Library*
For visitors who want to learn more about First Unitarian Church.

Interweave Potluck *Sunday, Jan. 8, 12:15 p.m., Conference Room*
Bring your enthusiasm and something tasty to share. Interweave is a UU group for LGBT persons and straight allies that focused on social activities, social justice work and public education.

Full Moon Ritual *Sunday, Jan. 8, 5:00 p.m., Patio/Channing Hall*
This is family friendly, and weather permitting, outdoors. For inclement weather, we will move to Channing Hall. If you have questions or are interested in collaborating for either night, please contact Cynthia Lee: cynthiale71@gmail.com.

Women's Potluck *Tuesday, Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m.*
Open to all Unitarian women as an opportunity to share food and conversation. Please bring a dish to share.

Board of Trustees Meeting *Thursday, Jan. 12, 6:00 p.m., Conference Room*
Members are welcome to attend.

Human Rights Action Group *Sunday, Jan. 15, 12:30 p.m., Conference Room*
Currently working to protect Marriage Equality and pass a Death with Dignity law in Iowa.

First Unitarian Church of Des Moines
A Unitarian Universalist Church
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Phone: 515.244.8603 **Fax:** 515.244.9761
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First Unitarian Church of Des Moines invites people into a respectful, authentic, and joyful religious community that nurtures meaningful connections, pursues justice, and inspires service.

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FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

of Des Moines

Open to Life, Expecting to Love, Prepared to Serve

A Unitarian Universalist Church

ORDER OF SERVICE

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
Bruce Martin, pianist

“People can't concentrate properly on blowing other people to pieces if their minds are poisoned by thoughts suitable to the twenty-fifth of December.” ~Ogden Nash

Intoning the Chime
Katie Allen

Call to Gather

“Christmas Spirit” by Donna Morrison-Reed

Lighting the Chalice

Leader: Life is a gift for which we are grateful.
People: We gather in community to celebrate the glories and mysteries of this great gift.
Leader: So let us kindle now the flame of our liberal religious heritage.
People: In its glow, may our reason and our passion lead us to be true to ourselves, true to each other, and true to what we can together become.

***Carol**

White Christmas

Welcome
Katie Allen

Doxology

(Tune: *Old Hundred* #371)
From all that dwell below the skies
Let songs of hope and faith arise;
Let peace, good will on earth be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.

Joys and Concerns
Katie Allen

[submit on Sunday or via joysandconcerns@ucdsm.org]

Sung Response

Comfort me (three times)...O my soul.
Sind with me (three times)...O my soul.

Sharing Our Abundance
Katie Allen

Recorded Story

“The Train” by Celestial Navigations

(go to ucdsm.org for more information on the events and announcements listed)

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