



First Unitarian Church of Des Moines

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STAFF:

Rev. Mark Stringer, *Minister*

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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.

October 31 & November 1, 2009



ORDER OF SERVICE

Saturday, October 31, 2009, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 1, 2009, 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Bruce Martin, pianist



“The highest tribute to the dead is not grief but gratitude.” –Thornton Wilder

Intoning the Chime

Call to Gather

(Sun) Choral Response *UU Children Are Singing* by Joe Schafer

Chalice Lighting Leader: Life is a gift for which we are grateful.
People: *We gather in community to celebrate the glories and the 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.*

***Hymn #361** *Enter, Rejoice and Come In*

Welcome

Hymnal Drive

Doxology From all that dwell below the skies
(tune: Old Hundreth #371) let songs of hope and faith arise;
let peace, good will on earth be sung
through every land, by every tongue.

Introducing the Theme *Day of the Dead*

Hymn *Gathered Here*
Words: Gathered here in the mystery of the hour
Gathered here in one strong body
Gathered here in the struggle and the power
Spirit draw near

Sharing a Story *The Soldier and Death--A Russian Folktale* **Ricky Klein**

Ricky Klein

**Fifth Principle Singers
Chalice Choir**

(Sun) Lackmann Family

(Sun) Kate Allen

Rev. Mark Stringer

Chalice Choir *Danza* Words by Susan Bentall Boersma,
Music by David Lantz III.

**Karen Kraemer,
Director**

A Legacy of Abundance Words about our Endowment

Steve Herwig

Sharing our Abundance *Second Basket goes to Passageway and
Children & Families of Iowa*

Reflection

Rev. Stringer

**Lighting Candles of
Remembrance for Our
Church Family**

(Sun) Choir *The Bridgebuilder* by Will Allen Dromgoole
Lyrics on back of service guide

UU Choir

Introducing our Ritual

Rev. Stringer

**Sharing and
Lighting Candles**

**Recorded
Music Meditation** *Every Little River Must Run Home to the Sea*
(trad.)

Dwight Saunders

**Responsive Reading
#720** *We Remember Them*

***Reprise Hymn** *Gathered Here*

**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 #123** *Spirit of Life*

***Please stand as you are able.**

Children & Families of Iowa (CFI) is restoring hope, building futures and changing lives. Passageway provides a place where individuals with mental illness can find personal support and have employment opportunities and training.

The Bridge Builder

poetry by Will Allen Dromgoole (1860-1934)



An old man going a highway lone,
Came at the evening gray and cold,
To a chasm, vast and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

“Old man,” said a fellow pilgrim near,
“You are wasting your strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again shall pass this way;
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide-
Why build you a bridge at the eventide?”

The builder lifted his old gray head:
“Good friend, in the path I have come,” he said.
“There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm, that has been naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pit-fall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim,
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him.”

Thank You To All Service Participants And Today’s Hospitality Team:

Hospitality Teams: *Saturday: Tara and Bill Ross*

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Team Leader: Mary Hays, Kirk Martin, Sarah Ekstrand, Gloria Edwards, Alan Billyard, Linda Andersen, Amy Knudson, Bob Anderson, Larry Schlatter, Del Ratcliffe. Special dessert from Bob Baker. ***Sunday 10:30 a.m. Team Leader: Bill Paxson***, Chris Paxson, David Witke, Jim & Lyn Fox, Mary Ann Hicks, Wendy Wilson, Sharon Ancell, Bill & Katie Allen, Kim Alanis, Charles Carnes.

Next Week’s Service:

From What, By What, For What? with Rev. Stringer

Saturday, November 7, 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, November 8, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., Aud.
On a weekend when we welcome another group of new members to our congregation, a sermon grappling with the concept of salvation. If, as our Universalist forbears preached, universal salvation remains the destination of this life, from what, by what, and for what might we be saved? What might this destination require of us in the meantime?