



First Unitarian Church of Des Moines

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STAFF:

Rev. Mark Stringer, *Minister*

Deb Dessert, *Dir. of Finance & Administration*

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Lori Emison Clair, *Dir. of Congregational Life*

Sheri Michaels, *Communications Coordinator*

Connie Price, *Bookkeeper*

Moira Leu, *Music Coordinator*

JoLynn Evans, *Office Assistant*

Ricky Klein, *Ministerial Intern*

Paul Francis, *Custodian*

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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.*

December 27, 2009



ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday, December 27, 2009, 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Bruce Martin, pianist



“Storytelling is the art of live narrative performance
dynamically shaped by audience response”
Northlands Storytelling Network

Intoning the Chime

Call to Gather

Susan Jellinger

Chalice Lighting

Leader: Life is a gift for which we are grateful.

Susan Jellinger

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 #55** *Dark of Night*

Welcome

Katie Allen

Sharing a Story

Story from O’Henry, “The Other Wise Man”

Jane Bibber

Meditation

Jane Bibber

Sharing our Abundance

Responsive Reading #447 “Rekindle the Spark”

Responsive Reading #543 “Winter”

Story “Who’s gonna tell?”

Kevin Voeckholt

Special Music

Susan Jellinger

Story Solstice Stories

Susan Jellinger

*** Hymn #118** *This little light of mine*

*Closing Words

* 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** *Hymn of Valor* (inside back cover of Hymnal)

**Please stand as you are able.*

Thank You to all Service Participants and Today's Hospitality Team

Hospitality Teams:

Marge Graves, Carolyn Spencer, Michelle & Rob Heater, Kathie Karpinen, Joel Gesaman, David Ross, Walter Tomlinson, Amy Campbell-Fleming

Next Week's Services:

"You Make the Call Weekend" with Rev. Mark Stringer

Saturday, January 2, 4:30 p.m., Auditorium

Sunday, January 3, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., Auditorium

At this November's church auction, member Mike Delaney was the highest bidder for the chance to choose a sermon he would like to hear Mark deliver again, and he has selected "Free and Responsible Truthiness". Originally presented in September of 2008, this sermon offers a consideration of our UU principle of affirming and promoting a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning" mingled with the Biblical textual criticism of Bart Ehrman, the transcendentalism of Ralph Waldo Emerson, and the wit of television satirist Stephen Colbert.

Announcement: Des Moines Area Ecumenical Committee for Peace will hold a Prayer Service for Peace on Monday, December 28th at 7:00 p.m. at Urbandale United Church of Christ, 3530-70th Street, DM. Co-sponsored by First Unitarian International Peace and Justice Group.

Second Basket

Your generous Second Basket contributions will be divided between *Children & Families of Iowa* and *Passageway*.

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.