



September 19, 2021

*To What  
Have We Promised Ourselves?*

Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church  
Founded in 1821

Celebrating Diversity, Encouraging Spiritual Growth,  
and Promoting Social Responsibility

Please visit [www.A2U2.org](http://www.A2U2.org) to learn more about us!

**GATHERING MUSIC** Dale Churchill, Dir. of Music

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS** Tina Veilleux (9am) & Carey Rasco (11am)  
Members of the Board of Trustees

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**CALL TO WORSHIP \*** *On Claiming This Time for Renewal* Rev. Gretchen Haley

**INTROIT** *Letting Go* ~ Keith Prairie (9am) & *Sometimes I Feel Like Motherless Child* (11am)

**LIGHTING THE CHALICE** \*Words of Starhawk  
Chalice lighters: Celeste & Norman Stickney (11am)

**TIME FOR ALL AGES** \*\**Lizards Song*  
As Told by Emily C. Jones, Dir. Of Religious Education

**CHILDREN LEAVE FOR CLASS**

**BOARD COMMISSIONING (SEE PAGE 2)**

**RESPONSIVE PRAYER/MEDITATION** The Words of Lisa Friedman

ONE: Spirit of Life and Love, we live in a fragmented world that tempts us to despair.

**ALL: We would put it back together, piece by piece if it were ours to choose.**

ONE: But sometimes the fragments are enough. In a world of cruelty,

**ALL: there is still power in every act of kindness.**

ONE: In a time of doubt,

**ALL: there is still power in every act of hope.**

ONE: In an age of division,

**ALL: there is still power in every act of unity.**

ONE: May we remember that sometimes the fragments of meaning we make are just the right size to hold in our hands. I invite you into a moment of silence.

**JOYS & SORROWS**

**ANTHEM** *When Our Heart is in a Holy Place* Joyce Poley  
*Members of A2U2 Choir & Dale Churchill, Dir. of Music (9am)*  
*A2U2 Choir & Dale Churchill, Dir. of Music (11am)*

**READING** \*\**Spilling the Light* Rev. Theresa Ninán Soto

**OFFERING & MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

*Mycelial March Or the Fairies Ring* ~ Keith Prairie (9am)  
*I Wish I knew How* Billy Taylor and Dick Dallas (11am)

**REFLECTION** *To What Have We Promised Ourselves?* Rev. Donna Dolham

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

*The Mountain Brook* ~ Keith Prairie (9am)  
Impromptu Dale Churchill, Dir. Of Music (11am)

**BENEDICTION & EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE**

**POSTLUDE** *Reprise* Dale Churchill, Dir. of Music

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\*\*Adapted from a National Park Service website; used by permission of Wind Cave National Park

**Reflection Question:** In what ways does helping our church community nurture your spirit?

## **Board Commissioning**

**Minister:** Will the members of the Board please come forward. I invite the Congregation please rise in body or spirit and join in this act of Commissioning our Board of Trustees?

**Congregation:** We, the members of this congregation, charge you to be guided in your work by the vision we express in our Congregational Mission, Vision and by the Unitarian Universalist Principles we affirm in common.

**Right Side:** We charge you to affirm the dignity and worth of all persons and to champion the rights of children, youth, and adults; straight, gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, asexual, transgender and queer; old and young; all abilities, races and ethnicities that this might indeed be a "free church, open to all people."

**Left Side:** We charge you to cherish our spiritual diversity and to help us to live together so that we are strengthened rather than divided by our religious pluralism, so that we might truly "cherish the integrity of each individual and search for truth with reason as our guide."

**Right Side:** We charge you to honor our past without being bound by it, that we might be "mindful of our past yet draw on modern knowledge as we respond to the spiritual needs of persons."

**Left Side:** We charge you to hold in your hearts the needs of the wider community in which we live, so that we live out our devotion to "the common good in community, nation, and world."

**Minister (to the Board):** Members of the Board, you are charged with keeping sight of "the Big Picture," holding our vision, honoring Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church's past, and guiding this congregation toward the future. Are you ready and willing to accept this charge? [*We are.*]

**Minister (to the Congregation):** Do you, the members and friends of this congregation, affirm these leaders as volunteers who need your support, your participation, and your appreciation as well as your caring and concern? [*We do.*]

**Congregation:** Grateful for your willingness to take on these responsibilities of leadership in our community, we affirm your calling and vow to support your ministries in every way we can. We encourage you to take care of yourselves as you do this important work and remember that you are part of this community even while you lead us. We commit to engaging in the opportunities and activities you invite us into. We commit to supporting and nurturing you and your families as you serve in your roles over the next year.

**Board Members:** We thank you for your faith in us, and vow to do our best to live up to the charge you have given us. We promise, also, to remember that the ultimate responsibility for our Congregation lies with all of us, for this is our community. May we all do what we can to make it a congregation we can be proud of.

## About the authors for today's service

**The Rev. Gretchen Haley** is relentlessly curious about most things, especially the big stuff of theology, the magic of collaboration, and the great joy of pop culture. She has an audacious ambition for the liberal church, believing in its capacity to transform lives and our world by way of hyper-local relationships and partnerships that inspire the unleashing of courageous love. She finds solace in the trails in and around Fort Collins, Colorado, where she serves with the brilliant Rev. Sean Neil-Barron as one of the ministers of the Foothills Unitarian Church.



**Starhawk** is an author, activist, permaculture designer and teacher, and a prominent voice in modern earth-based spirituality and ecofeminism. She is the author or co-author of thirteen books, including *The Spiral Dance: A Rebirth of the Ancient Religion of the Great Goddess* and the ecotopian novel *The Fifth Sacred Thing*, and its sequel *City of Refuge*.

Her most recent non-fiction book is *The Empowerment Manual: A Guide for Collaborative Groups*, on group dynamics, power, conflict and communications.

The Rev. Lisa Friedman serves Developmental Minister at Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka, Minnesota.

She has 24 years of significant accomplishments, publications, teaching, mentoring, leadership development, preaching and pastoral care, leading congregations through major transitions of growth and service.



The **Rev. Theresa Soto** is the called senior minister of First Unitarian Church of Oakland, California, and the author of *Spilling the Light: Meditations on Hope and Resilience* (Skinner House, 2019).

**Today is September 19, 2021**

For links to all ONLINE meetings and programs, please refer to the [Breeze Calendar](#)

**SHARE THE PLATE FOR SEPTEMBER 2021**

Our Share the Plate for September is Family Promise. Family Promise delivers innovative solutions for family homelessness including prevention, shelter, and stabilization services. We have served more than 1 million family members since our founding more than 30 years ago, and we aspire to change the future for 1 million children by 2030 through our community-based programs. . Find out more [here](#):

**UPCOMING This Week at A2U2 & on Zoom!**

**Sunday:** **Onsite Worship & Coffee & Conversation** at 9 & 11am  
**Monday:** [Monday Morning SEG](#) at 9:30am  
**Monday:** [Monday Afternoon SEG](#) at 12:30pm  
**Monday:** [RE Committee](#) at 6:30pm  
**Tuesday:** **Onsite Puzzling the Pieces Together with Rev. Donna** at 11:30am  
**Tuesday:** [Dawn Redwood Meditation group](#) at 10am  
**Tuesday:** [Tuesday Afternoon SEG](#) at 2pm  
**Wednesday:** [Social Justice](#) at 6pm  
**Thursday:** [Lectio Divina Meditation & Reflection Group](#) at 10am  
**Thursday:** **Onsite Choir Rehearsal** at 7:30pm  
**Friday:** [Minister Drop In](#) at 9am  
**Saturday:** **Onsite Men's Group Breakfast** at 8am (weather permitting)

***The creation of services takes a team!***

Thank you to the A2U2 choir and Music Director, Dale Churchill. Keith Prairie on the Hammered Dulcimer and Sam Sherry on the Upright Electrical Bass.

Thank you John Howard and Vicky Delfino for working out our ushering system! And, thank you to our ushers!

Thank you George Hixon, Peter Reed, Troy Moon, Erica Bartlett for serving on the multi-media platform team.

Thank you to the Board of Trustees for creating a path forward for outside worship!

Thank you also to our Agility Team (COVID Response Team) for helping to keep us as safe as possible.

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