



First Unitarian Church of Dallas



KEEPING the FLAME

THEN, NOW, AND ALWAYS

2024-25 CHURCH YEAR

KEEPING **the** FLAME

THEN, NOW, AND ALWAYS



CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF PROGRESSIVE RELIGION IN DALLAS



Our 2024-25 theme year "Keeping the Flame: Then, Now, and Always," is a call to action and reflection for our congregation. It's an invitation to honor the legacy of our spiritual community, to engage deeply with the principles of our Unitarian Universalist faith, and to forge a future where the light of the flaming chalice continues to burn brightly, guiding us in love, justice, and truth. As we celebrate 125 years of liberal religion in Dallas, we recommit ourselves to keeping the flame alive —then, now, and always.

LUMINARIES OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE 03
Sermon Series | September 15 - 29

CHART AND COMPASS 05
Sermon Series | October 6 - 27

KINDLE THE SPIRIT 09
Sermon Series | January 5 - 26

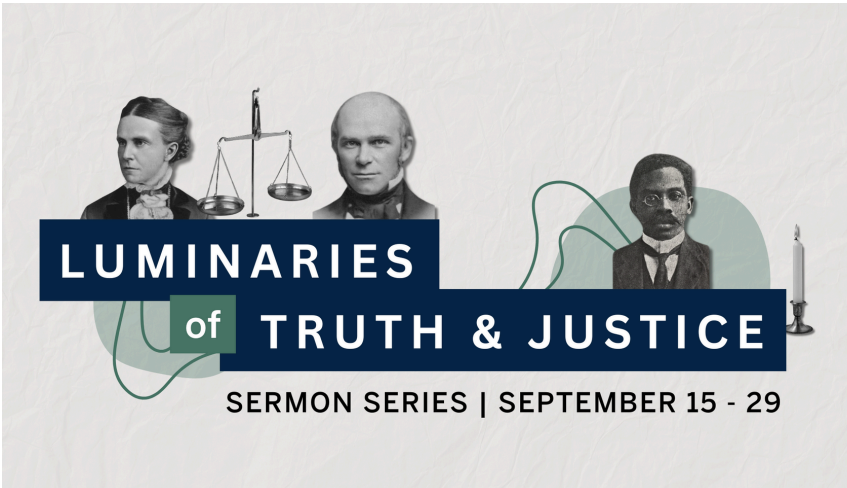
SPIRITUAL PRACTICES TO LIGHT THE WAY 12
Sermon Series | March 9 - April 6

125 YEARS...125 HOURS 17
A churchwide community service project

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & CLASSES 18
Mark your calendar for these special events and classes

Details listed in this book are subject to change.

Please refer to the DU Weekly Newsletter or dallasuu.org for the most up-to-date information throughout the year.



Find inspiration in the radical voices of our faith's history, present, and future.

As we embark on a new church year and prepare to celebrate our church's 125-year history of truth and justice, we look to the radical visionaries of our past, present, and future for spiritual inspiration.

How have radical voices shaped our church's history? How do we find courage to lift our voices when it feels challenging? And, what do we proclaim to the world as Unitarian Universalists?

SEP
15

How to Be a Radical

Rev. Dr. Daniel Kanter

Our faith is filled with radicals who fought for what was right and took on systems of injustice. Our own church is part of this fight and is in it for the long haul.

SEP
22

Leading with Love

Rev. Beth Dana

Unitarian Universalism welcomed and blessed women in leadership roles before any other tradition. Then and now, this is one of the great strengths of our faith and of this church.

SEP
29

A Dream Pursued

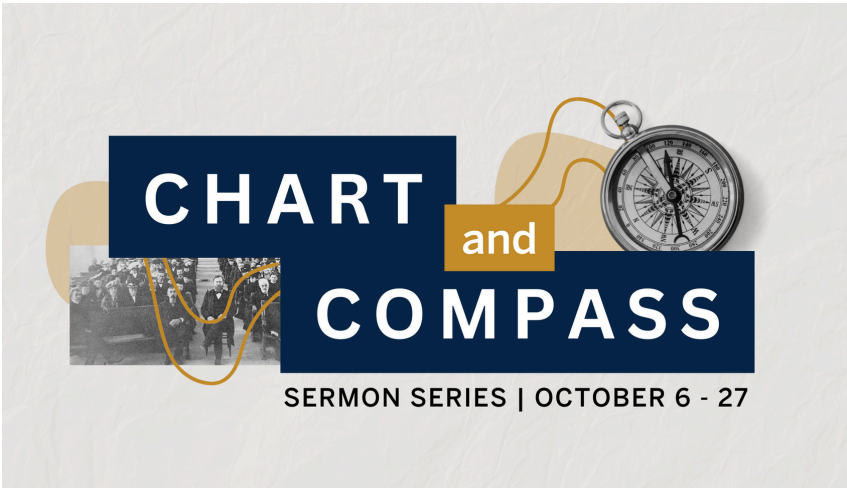
Rev. T. J. FitzGerald

Unitarian Universalism and our church would not be what it is today without the people of color who have led our faith into the future. We will talk about how our faith and church have been shaped by these leaders and their prophetic vision.



*There is always light.
If only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it.*

AMANDA GORMAN
"THE HILL WE CLIMB"



Explore how our church's roots and history can serve as a beacon of hope in challenging times.

Our Unitarian Universalist faith is a beacon of hope for people seeking a religion free from “old dogmas, doctrines, and creeds.” On May 12, 1899, Mr. Daniel Limbaugh gave a talk on the Unitarian religion at Temple Emanu-El where he described such seekers as being “at sea without a chart or compass.” This sermon led to the founding of the First Unitarian Church of Dallas.

In this series, we will take a closer look at Limbaugh's pivotal message and explore how Unitarian Universalism can serve as our chart and compass in modern times.

OCT
06

We Celebrate 125 Years!

Rev. Dr. Daniel Kanter

The church was founded this day in 1899 with the words of Daniel Limbaugh who preached, “Many souls are hungering and thirsting for religious knowledge, truth and righteousness, to whom the old dogmas, doctrines and creeds appear outgrown. These persons are at sea without chart or compass, and many are making shipwreck of their religious natures.”

His call was for Unitarians to gather and become a church that addressed these issues of the day. Let's look back on our history and see who we have become and why.

***During this service, there will be a Rose Ceremony to bless and welcome new members of our church.**

OCT
13

A System of Inquiry

Rev. T. J. FitzGerald

We continue to explore Daniel Limbaugh's 1899 founding sermon for our church by finding in it kernels of interest for them and for us today.

In it he said, “Ours is not a system so much as it is a tendency. It is embraced by the spirit rather than by any formal statement of language. The seeking of truth, actuated by a love for it and its application to the religious nature of man is the spirit that animates us in all our investigations, statements and work.” We will unpack this for today's spiritual needs of our church.

***During this service, we will honor 25 and 50 year members of our congregation.**

OCT
20

God is One and Love

Rev. Beth Dana

We unpack more of Daniel Limbaugh's founding sermon of our church from 1899 in which he said, "We believe God to be one, not three or more; an intelligent first cause, not an ultimate blind force... We have said that we believe God is love." Let's look for God in our version of faith for today through his eyes.

OCT
27

What Will We Be?

Rev. T. J. FitzGerald

We finally unpack a last part of Daniel Limbaugh's founding sermon of our church from 1899 in which he said, "What shall I do with my Life? How can I make the most of it?" They had answers to these questions. Let's see if we can find some for today.

“

Many souls are hungering and thirsting for religious knowledge, truth and righteousness, to whom the old dogmas, doctrines and creeds appear outgrown. These persons are at sea without chart or compass, and many are making shipwreck of their religious natures.

DANIEL LIMBAUGH
OCTOBER 6, 1899






Celebrating
125
YEARS

JOIN US FOR TWO SPECIAL EVENTS:



Evening Gala

Saturday, October 5th, 6 - 8 pm

A short service of celebration and reflection in the Sanctuary will be followed by live music, food, and dancing in Channing Social Hall. Festive attire suggested.



Church Picnic

Sunday, October 6th, 12 pm

Bring the whole family to celebrate at our 125th Anniversary Picnic after the 11 am worship service. There will be food, fun and fellowship for all ages.



Light the fire of truth, commitment, and community in your daily life.

A new year calls us to ignite our spiritual lives in impactful ways, bringing the rich history and core principles of our faith into our daily lives. We begin by burning away that which no longer serves us, then we find meaning and motivation in the symbolism of the chalice.

Together we'll ignite the light of truth, build a fire of commitment, and bask in the warmth of a community that fuels us to act with integrity as spiritual people.

JAN
05

Kindle the Spirit

Rev. T. J. FitzGerald

We gather for our annual Service of Renewal, in which we burn away and let go of that which no longer serves us and set intentions for the year to come.

JAN
12

Light of Truth

Rev. Beth Dana

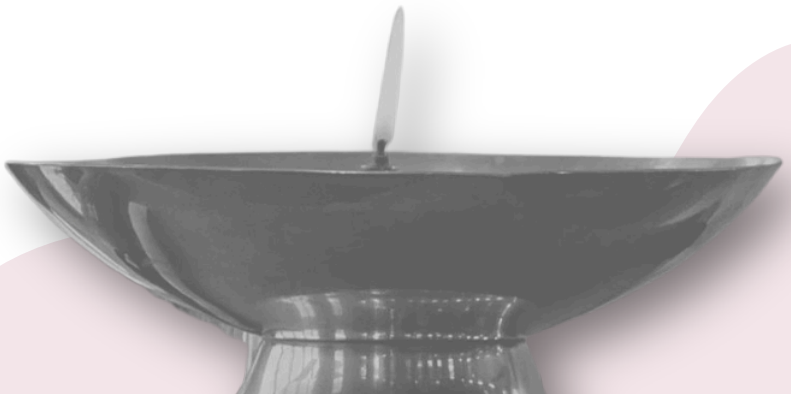
The flaming chalice of Unitarian Universalism is a symbol of the light of truth. Let's explore how the light of truth guides our faith and our actions.

JAN
19

Fire of Commitment

Rev. T. J. FitzGerald

The flaming chalice of Unitarian Universalism is a symbol of the fire of commitment. On this Sunday when we remember the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. we reflect on what kindles our fire of commitment and calls us to act for justice.



JAN
26

Warmth of Community

Rev. Beth Dana

The flaming chalice of Unitarian Universalism is a symbol of the warmth of community. We will explore our experiences of religious community and how this connection deepens our spiritual lives.

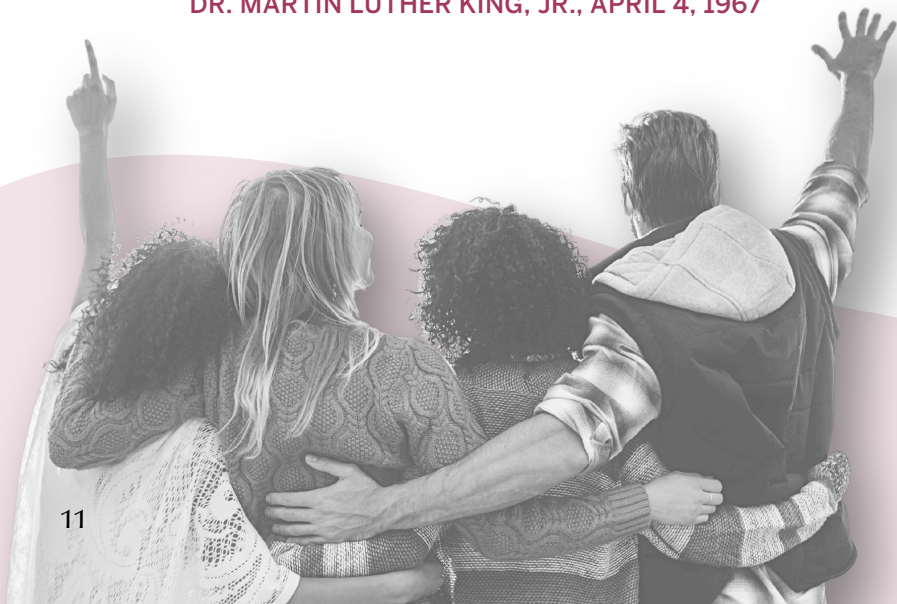
***During this service, there will be a Rose Ceremony to bless and welcome new members of our church.**

”

Now let us begin.

*Now let us rededicate ourselves to
the long and bitter, but beautiful,
struggle for a new world.*

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., APRIL 4, 1967





Develop lifelong practices that guide us on our path to creating a more just and peaceful world.

Supported by the strong foundation of our living Unitarian Universalist faith and our vibrant church community, we are each called to deepen our spiritual lives so that we can have a positive and meaningful impact on the world around us.

In this series, we'll explore the five spiritual practices that light the path forward as we work toward a more just and peaceful world.

MAR
09

Daily Practice

Rev. Beth Dana

Our Lenten journey begins with what our days lived together may hold. We reflect on what daily attention to our spiritual life can mean to us.

MAR
16

Weekly Worship

Rev. T. J. FitzGerald

Some tell us “You are what you worship.” We talk about what worship means and all it offers us as members of this community.

MAR
23

Monthly Service

Rev. T. J. FitzGerald

What change do you want to see around you? How we serve our communities says a lot about who we are and what we value.



MAR
30

Retreat

Rev. Dr. Daniel Kanter

The world we live in wants our attention all the time. We touch on ways to experience a retreat from the familiar and what this practice can yield in a life.

APR
06

Pilgrimage

Rev. Dr. Daniel Kanter

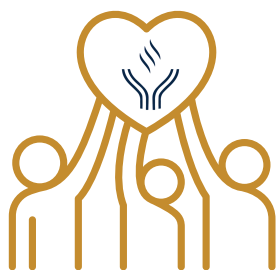
Adventure awaits those who seek it...but planning is important. The ancient discipline of pilgrimage has ever more to teach us in a world that seems smaller every day.



*Tell me, what is it you
plan to do with your one
wild and precious life?*

MARY OLIVER
“THE SUMMER DAY”





125 Years 125 Hours

SEPTEMBER 8 THROUGH APRIL 6

125 Years...125 Hours invites members and friends to perform one hour of community service for each year of First Church's history.

All community service you perform, either affiliated with First Church or not, counts toward your tally.

Your volunteer activities with the church are also eligible, i.e. church committee and Board member work, choir members, religious education teachers, grounds workers, coffee shop, ushers, greeters and other services.

At the end of our church year, we'll acknowledge all volunteers at a special year-end event. Those selfless souls who reach the hallowed 125-hour mark are in for a special treat!

Get all the details and track your service hours at dallasuu.org/125hours.

CALENDAR

Details listed here are subject to change.

Some events and classes require registration.

Please refer to the DU Weekly Newsletter, dallasuu.org/news, or Realm for the most up-to-date information.

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, November 3	All Souls
Sunday, November 17	Guest: UUA President Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt
Sunday, December 15	Christmas Pageant & Child Dedications
Sunday, December 22	Blues Christmas
Tuesday, December 24	Christmas Eve Services at 5, 7, & 9pm
Sundays, February 2 & 9	Guest Preacher: Ruth MacKenzie
Sunday, February 23	Youth Sunday
Wednesday, March 5	Ash Wednesday, evening
Thursday, April 17	Maundy Thursday, evening
Sunday, April 20	Easter Worship & Egg Scramble
Sunday, May 4	Guest: Aurora Levins Morales
Sunday, May 11	Guest: Aurora Levins Morales & Child Dedications
Sunday, May 18	Bridging Service for Coming of Age & Graduating Seniors



FAITH FORWARD CLASSES



LAY-LED ADULT CLASSES



PASTORAL CARE



CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILIES



RETREATS, TALKS, & SPECIAL EVENTS



ALL-CHURCH EVENTS

ONGOING



Membership Sunday
Second Sundays | After both services

Those who would like to become a member of First Church are invited to sign the book of names after either service.



Inquirer's Class
Sundays, Ongoing | 11:15 am - 12:15 pm | Parlor

A rotation of 8 conversations about our church and Unitarian Universalism designed for visitors and newcomers.



Unforgettable Friends
Thursdays starting September 26 | 10am - 2pm

A day program providing connection and fun for people with memory impairment in our church and community.



UU Learning Community
Sundays, Ongoing | 9:30am - 10:30am | In-person & Zoom

A class studying religious thought & practices from around the world to understand their impact on our daily lives. Newcomers welcome.



Adult Discussion Group
Sundays, Ongoing | 11:15am - 12:15pm | In-person & Zoom

Casual group that meets to discuss topics related to religion, philosophy, spirituality, culture, social science, digital culture, & AI.

SEPTEMBER



New Families Gathering
Sunday, September 15 | 10am

Meet fellow families, get to know our staff and ministers, and learn about ministries for children, youth, and families.



UU Elevator Speech
Sundays, September 15 - 29 | 11:15am - 12:15pm

Develop a short meaningful statement about your UU faith so that you can easily answer the question “What is Unitarian Universalism?”



You, the Cosmic Christ & an Evolving Consciousness
Select Thursdays in Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec. | 1 - 3pm

This series draws on an evolutionary understanding of the universe and uses the Circle of Trust process for spiritual formation.



Connection Sunday
Sunday, September 22 | 10am - 2pm

Find your place within our community! Join us for an opportunity to connect with groups and service opportunities in the church.



Front Porch Conversation w/ Authors of “We Choose To”
Sunday, September 22 | 12:15pm

Dr. Curtis Boyd and Dr. Glenna Halvorson-Boyd’s new book covers a 50-year span of abortion care. Join us to hear about their work.



Deepening Spiritual Practice
Sundays, September 29 - November 24 | 9:30am - 10:45am

Infuse spirit in your daily life, in your relationship with the church, and in your work in the world.

TIP

To find and join classes in Realm Connect, go to Groups > Find Groups > Adult Classes. To register for special events, go to Events.

OCTOBER



125th Anniversary Gala
Saturday, October 5 | 6 - 8pm

A short service of celebration and reflection in the Sanctuary will be followed by live music, food, and dancing in Channing Social Hall.



125th Anniversary Picnic
Sunday, October 6 | 12 - 2pm

Bring the whole family to celebrate at our 125th Anniversary Picnic after the 11am worship service. Food, fun and fellowship for all ages.



UU History 101
Sundays, October 6 - November 17 | 11:15am - 12:15pm

An introduction to our faith's history. Drop in to the first session which highlights our church's 125-year history.



SACReD Class Series
Mondays, Oct. 7th - Nov. 25th | 7 - 8:30pm | Via Zoom

A multi-disciplinary, intersectional approach to religion and reproductive justice for adults of all ages and genders.



Navigating Grief
Tuesdays, October 8 - November 12 | 7 - 8:30pm | Via Zoom

A six-week healing journey through loss. For those coping with recent loss or challenged by old losses which are unresolved.



Trinity River Audubon Guided Tour & Hike
Saturday, October 12 | 10 - 11:30 am

All ages are invited to join First Church for a guided tour and hike at the Trinity River Audubon Center.



Ageing Well Series: Financial Safety & Security as We Age
Sunday, October 13 | 12:30 - 1:45pm

An educational and engaging presentation to learn how to protect yourself and your loved ones from financial predators.



Habitat for Humanity Build Day
Saturday, October 19

An opportunity to help construct decent and affordable housing in partnership with Habitat for Humanity.



Brunch in Community
Sunday, October 20 | After both services

Support our youth programs and trips by donating what you'd like for brunch served by our Odyssey 9th graders and YRUU youth.



Roots
Wednesday, October 23 | 7pm - 8:30pm

A fun, informative overview of the history of our faith, facilitated by Rev. Dr. Daniel Kanter.



Ageing Well Series: Writing Your Own Obituary
Sunday, October 27

Learn to craft your own obituary, reflecting on your life and legacy with intention and personal narrative.

NOVEMBER



Christmas Pageant Casting Call
Sundays, November 10 & 17 | After both services

All children are invited to sign up to be a part of the annual Christmas Pageant. Both speaking and non-speaking roles available.



Sacred Intersections: An All-Church Women's Retreat
November 14 - 15 | On campus

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie will facilitate this retreat focused on exploring spiritual growth and connection in a supportive community setting.



Crafty Bake Sale

Sunday, November 17 | After both services

Shop for baked goods, crafts, and gifts benefiting charities supported by the Women's Alliances.



Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 28 | Afternoon

Enjoy good food and good company this Thanksgiving with your church family. There are also opportunities to volunteer.

DECEMBER



SUUPER Sunday

Sunday, December 1 | 11am

Children age 3+ are invited to Channing Hall to make fun holiday crafts. No children's classes, but the Nursery is open.



Senior Holiday Homecoming and Celebration

Saturday, December 7 | 2 - 5pm

Church members 70 and better are invited for a festive afternoon of food, socializing, and holiday caroling. Volunteers of all ages needed.



Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, December 7 | 6 - 8pm

This fun tradition kicks off the holiday season at First Church and includes skits from our ministers, special music, games, and prizes,



Odyssey & YRUU Bake Sale

Sunday, December 8 | After both services

Support our youth programs and enjoy tasty goodies in Channing after both services. (Including gluten-free and vegan treats!)



Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
 Saturday, December 14 | Times vary

Everyone participating in the Christmas Pageant is required to attend the dress rehearsal. Call times will vary by role.



Parish Meeting
 Sunday, December 15 | After 11am service

We will hear updates from church leaders, vote on the 2025 budget, and celebrate the 2025 elected leaders in the Sanctuary.



Volunteer Day at White Rock Center of Hope
 Saturday, December 21 | 9am - 12pm

Join the First Church volunteer team staffing the center's drive-thru food distribution. Help serve hundreds of families.

JANUARY



Spiritual Practice 101
 Sundays, January 12 - March 30 | 11:15am - 12:15pm

Learn to develop your spiritual life through daily practice, weekly worship, monthly service, yearly retreat, and one-time pilgrimage.



UU Theology
 Sundays, January 12 - February 16 | 9:30am - 10:45am

An introduction to theological concepts through a Unitarian Universalist lens.



Say Yes to the Dress
 Saturday, January 25 | Evening

A night of intergenerational fun for women of the church to wear their favorite outfits and enjoy an evening of dancing & memory making.



Mindfulness Meditation Class Series

Sundays, January 12th - February 9 | 11:15am - 12:30pm

A progressive guided journey into practices included under the umbrella term of “mindfulness meditation.”



Trans-Inclusion in Congregations Class Series

January & February, Dates TBD | Via Zoom

Deeply explore the intersection of trans identity, spirituality, and faith community, so that you can transform yourself & your congregation.

F E B R U A R Y



Clothes Encounters

February 7 - 9 | Channing Social Hall

The Women's Alliances will be selling new & used women's clothing, jewelry and accessories to raise money for charities and our church.



Aging Well Series: Cognitive Decline

February, Date TBD

Learn methods for early detection, intervention, and prevention of cognitive decline to promote long-term mental health and well-being.

M A R C H



Aging Well Series: Memorial Preparation and Planning

March, Date TBD

Learn the essential steps of organizing and planning end-of-life memorial arrangements with care and foresight.



Telling Our Race Stories w/ the Racial Equity Task Force
March, Dates TBD

Join the RETF and special guest speakers to experience and learn the importance of telling our own stories of how race impacts our lives.



Our Whole Lives (OWL) for Older Adults
Sundays in March, April & May, Dates TBD

A comprehensive sexuality ed series for long-lived adults. These 14 workshops provide an overview of many aspects of human sexuality.



Biblical Literacy for UUs
Sundays, March 2 - May 11 | 9:30 - 10:45am

An exploration of the Bible and how we as Unitarian Universalists approach the text.



Spring Spiritual Retreat
Saturday, March 22 | Springhill Retreat Center

Awaken your spirit, connect with the earth, and make new connections during this immersive one-day retreat.

A P R I L



Beyond Inquirers
Sundays, April 6 - May 4 | 11:15am - 12:15pm

An opportunity to better understand our faith, the rights and responsibilities of membership, and how we do church.



Odyssey & YRUU Bake Sale
Sunday, April 6 | After both services

Support our youth programs and enjoy tasty goodies in Channing after both services. (Including gluten-free and vegan treats!)



Roots
Monday, April 7 | 7:00pm - 8:30pm

A fun, informative overview of the history of our faith, facilitated by Rev. T. J. FitzGerald.



Navigating Grief
Tuesday evenings, Dates TBD | In-person

A six-week healing journey through loss. For those coping with recent loss or challenged by old losses which are unresolved.

M A Y



Creative Community Art Show
May 3 - 4 | Channing Social Hall

Support our First Church artists by attending their reception on Saturday and show & shopping day on Sunday.



Summer Sunday School Teacher Training
Sunday, May 4 | 12:30pm

Training for teachers to learn about our curriculum and best practices and prepare for our summer Sunday School offerings.



Coming of Age Spiritual Reflections
Saturday, May 17 | Evening

All are invited to hear our Coming of Age ninth graders as they share their spiritual reflections with our community.



Sundae Sunday
Sunday, May 25 | 11am

Children of all ages are invited to join us for ice cream sundaes (invented by a Unitarian!) No Sunday School classes.



First Unitarian Church of Dallas

4015 Normandy Avenue, Dallas, TX 75205

Office - (214) 528-3990

24/7 Pastoral Care - (972) 898-1949

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Rev. Dr. Daniel Kanter - Senior Minister

Rev. Beth Dana - Minister of Faith Development

Rev. T. J. FitzGerald - Minister of Community Care and Engagement

