

# First Unitarian Universalist Church

The BLAST: January 4-11, 2009



## Sunday, January 4, 10:30 a.m. Worship

**“Universalism & Other Epiphanies”  
Rev. David Keyes, Interim Minister**

The legendary Magi who visited the Christ child would have been understood by first century readers to be Zoroastrian astrologers. Their presence in story signaled an opening up of religion, a welcome to strangers that we can renew this very day.

### Don't Forget the Guest at Your Table

This little box, a tradition in our faith, supports the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's work worldwide. Adding coins or bills to the box at mealtime is a spiritual practice of gratitude and generosity, a tangible outreach of head, heart, and hands.

Remember if your final gift totals \$100 or more, it will be matched dollar for dollar by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Shelter Rock, in Manhasset, NY.

**Bring your box back to church January 4th.**  
**Celebrate your connection to this work of our faith.**

## This Sunday, January 4

**9:00 a.m. Book Group, Room 302**

Is subjectivity an experience unobservable to everyone but the person having it? We'll tackle subjectivity, Part II of "Stumbling on Happiness".

**9:15 a.m. Silent Meditation, Room 204  
Changing Women, Room 303**

**9:45 a.m. Guided Meditation, Room 204**

**10:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary**

**10:45 a.m. Houston Area Women's Group, Room 302**

**11:30 a.m. Lunch, Channing Hall**  
Baked Potatoes—Butter—Sour Cream  
Green Onions—Cheddar Cheese—Chili

**11:45 a.m. Men's Group, Room 204  
Youth Group, Room 208**

**12:00 p.m. Adult Discussion Group, Room 304**

When is it audacious to be hopeful? When is it the most challenging to feel hope? Facilitator: Pam Perry  
Visitors are always welcome.

**12:30 p.m. A Conversation with Rev. Nagy, Room 302**

Participating in today's service is Rev. Endre Nagy from Transylvania. Rev. Nagy will be staying to have lunch in Channing Hall, hosted by the Partner Church Council and then at a meeting open to all. He has mentioned that he would like to let us know his perspective on U.S. politics and how we are being perceived around the world. Come by and learn more about the exciting things that are happening in our Unitarian family around the world.

**1:15 p.m. Houston Climate Protection Alliance, Room 303**

### **BOARD LISTENING SESSIONS**

Come and talk with Board members about your pleasures, hopes, dreams and questions about First Church. Grab your lunch and join us at a table in Channing Hall at 11:40 a.m. on Sunday: January 4, January 11, or January 18. We will also be available at 9:30 a.m. on January 4 and January 18. We want to hear from you!

--Sue Steinhardt, President,  
Board of Trustees

### **AN INAUGURAL VIGIL FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY**

**11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 20, 2009**

**First Unitarian Universalist Church Sanctuary**

**A Reverent and Spirited Service with:**

- Blessings and Prayers for President Barack Obama and his Administration
- Prophetic Testimony of Regret that Pastor Rick Warren Was Chosen to Deliver the Inaugural Invocation
- Reflections and Prayers for Equal Rights for all Americans
- Testimony from Those Whose Rights are Denied
- Music to Soothe the Soul and Singing Out in Praise and Determination

We invite all houses of worship and all who stand on the side of love and marriage equality to join us.

If you would like to know more about participating, contact the Rev. Adam Robinson, [adam@firstuu.org](mailto:adam@firstuu.org); 713-526-5200

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713-526-5200 — [www.firstuu.org](http://www.firstuu.org) — [church@firstuu.org](mailto:church@firstuu.org)**

## The Week at First Church

### Monday, January 5

7:00 p.m. Beginners Yoga, Channing Hall

### Wednesday, January 7

6:30 p.m. Heart Rhythm Meditation, Room 302  
Adult Programs Committee, Room 202

7:00 p.m. Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, Library  
Welcoming Team, Room 126

### Thursday, January 8

7:00 p.m. Houston Peace Forum, Room 302

7:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir room

### Friday, January 9

10:00 a.m. Poetry in Motion, Room 202

7:30 p.m. Houston International Folk Dancers, Channing Hall

### Saturday, January 10

9:00 a.m. Yoga, Channing Hall  
Spirituality and Nature Chalice Circle Outing, Off Site

## Next Sunday At First Church

### Sunday, January 4

9:00 a.m. Book Group, Room 302

We are reading Stumbling on Happiness by Daniel Gilbert, which despite its title, is not a manual on how to be happy. "Those books," says Gilbert, "are located in the self-help section two aisles over." Buy the book. Join the fun.

9:15 a.m. Changing Women, Room 303  
Silent Meditation, Room 204

9:45 a.m. Guided Meditation, Room 204

10:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

10:45 a.m. Houston Area Women's Group, Room 302

11:45 a.m. Men's Group, Room 204  
Youth Group, Room 208

12:00 p.m. Adult Discussion Group, Room 304

The Discussion Group will be taking part in First Church's Appreciative Inquiry today. Please join the process of creating a bright future for our faith community.

### How is your soul, my friend?

If you have any pastoral needs we are here to help. Our Care Team, Befrienders and clergy are available for you. No matter how large or small you think your need is, don't hesitate to contact us.

Email or call  
Rev. Adam Robinson  
Email: adam@firstuu.org  
Phone: 713-526-5200

**New to First Church and would like to receive the Blast and First Church News electronically?  
Email office@firstuu.org and request to be added to the email list.**

### 2009 – The Year of Radical Hospitality at First Church

Church members and friends are invited to kick off The Year of Radical Hospitality at First Church with a chili dinner and Radical Hospitality Workshop on Thursday, January 15 in Channing Hall. The dinner, hosted by the Welcoming Team, will begin at 6:00 p.m., and the workshop is scheduled for 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Child care will be provided. Look for the full article about this event in the January. edition of First Church News.

#### **Introduction to Our Faith with Rev. David Keyes Saturday, January 24 9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Not just for visitors or those wishing to join First Church, the class provides a great opportunity for church members to learn more about our faith. Those interested in taking the class can sign up by emailing [rothschilddeb@yahoo.com](mailto:rothschilddeb@yahoo.com).

Lunch will be provided.

Contact [childcare@firstuu.org](mailto:childcare@firstuu.org) by Jan. 18 to arrange childcare.

#### **The Congregation is Invited: "On Building an Excellent Music Program" with Mark Slegers**

**7:00 p.m. Friday, January 30**

Mark Slegers, in his 31st year as Minister of Music at 1st Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon will present seven necessary components for an excellent church music program. Through story, song and Q & A he will speak in depth about the role music and all arts play in a spiritual community, and relate how he grew the Portland program from 13 in an adult choir to more than 300 participating music makers of all ages. Mark, who was one of those who created the hymnal we use each Sunday, will share and evaluate the results of our church's music survey which will be completed in January.

**For more information about these or any of First Church's ministries visit [www.firstuu.org](http://www.firstuu.org), call the office at 713-526-5200 or stop by the information tables on Sunday morning.**