

This Morning in Worship

Our Awesome World and Cosmos, Rev. Kent Matthies

Science helps us understand the world, and also helps us understand how little we know. When we come to science revelations with an open, curious, spirituality, feelings of awe jump from our hearts. We will explore some of the most fascinating aspects of the scientific discoveries from the last hundred years. For people of every level of scientific knowledge, prepare to be blown away.

This Sunday in Fellowship & Calls to Action

After the service, you have opportunities to...

- Enjoy refreshments and a welcome brought by Village 4. *Folks bringing food, please remember to label items containing nuts.*
- Be a holiday angel to a PIHN family. Select a snowflake ornament request from the tree in the Dining Room.
- Attend at 12:00pm a session of UU-101 in the Daskam Room to learn more about this faith.
- Return at 5:00pm today for...



Our Sunday evening BREATHE program on

December 15, from 5:00-6:30pm features...

Leader Bob Chapra, *Movement that Breathes...Movement that Heals*

We will explore breathing as a rhythmic guide for your movement. Gentle movements that respond to the internal backdrop of breathing are profoundly self-healing and self-balancing in nature.

Bob Chapra has the longest continuous private practice of the Feldenkrais Method in Philadelphia.

For more information and teacher bio, please go to usguu.org>> Spiritual Development>> Center for Mindfulness at USG. *Fee: None required; suggested dana of \$15-20.*



Our ELEVATOR is accessible from all three floors:
outside the Daskam Room on the third floor; off the Sullivan rooms on the second; and
off the Committee Room on the first.

Our Text-Giving Option Via Breeze, our Church Management System

To give a pledge or contribution via text, please do the following:

1. Send text to this 10-digit Text Giving number **215-608-2660**
2. In the message field put the amount, a space, and the fund you wish to donate to. (Fund = Share The Plate (STP) or PLEDGE. Pledge is the default.) For example: 25 pledge (\$25 would be donated to pledge payment) or 25 STP (\$25 would be donated to go to our Share The Plate of the month).
3. When using Breeze, **MAKE SELECTIONS** by using the up and down arrows to scroll. 
4. Press send.
5. First time givers will be prompted to provide their payment method via a secure web page.
6. For future giving, simply send a text with the amount and fund you wish to give, and it will process automatically

Next Sunday before the service, come early so you can...

- **Meditate in the Grove or Meditation Room, 9:15 - 10:20am.** Meditation, reading, dharma and sharing are offered in Sullivan 3 on the First and Second Sundays of the month between 9:15 and 10:20am. All are welcome to join in quietly. On the other Sundays the space is open for those who choose to come and sit.
- Please contribute to USG's monthly **collection of food** to support St Vincent de Paul's Food Cupboard. Leave your donations on the carts in the kitchen.
- Bring in donations of gently used or new **coats or jackets** for our **Winter Coat Drive!** Place them in the barrel by the name tag boards.
- Please put **mittens, scarves, etc.**, in the separate container there; or save them for the Mitten Tree on Christmas Eve.



Upcoming Events

Join
POWER
& State Senator Art Haywood
to

Carol for A McRaise
at McDonald's, 29 E. Chelten Ave.
on Thursday, December 19 at 4:00pm

Join this Social Justice action to persuade the Chelten Ave. McDonald's owner, Derek Giacomantonio, to raise the wage of employees to \$15 an hour. Currently the minimum wage there is \$7.25 an hour.

Senator Haywood says, "In 1974 when I was a teenager working at McDonald's, the minimum wage was \$2 an hour. In 2019, that is almost \$11 per hour. Are the teenagers of 1974 worth more than the McDonald's workers of 2019. No. So why not pay them fairly?"

Rev. Kent hopes USGers will turn out to lift their voices for justice!
Bundle up and come on out!

YUM YUM!

Fundraiser Dinner for FUMCOG's Sanctuary Families held at USG

Friday, December 20, 6:00-8:30pm

The Thompson and Reyes families will be in Sanctuary at FUMCOG for another Christmas. USG will host a Fundraiser Dinner for them on December 20. The families will provide Jamaican and Honduran food and Christine Thompson is bringing her grandmother's Jamaican bread pudding. Please bring your family and join us for holiday cheer and song. Suggested donation is \$15.



The EarthSpirit Circle invites you to join its annual WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 22

We will gather at 6:00pm; the ceremony starts at 6:15pm. Dress warm (we will be outside), bring a drum if you wish, and bring a dish and/or drink to share. After the ceremony and fire wheel, we will enjoy a pot-luck dinner in the dining room of the church. Questions? Contact earth@usguu.org



And don't forget that after December's Holidays, there is....

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OF SERVICE

Monday, January 20, 2020! 8:00am -Noon

This is a huge event at USG, bringing out over 400 volunteers. Plan now to be one of them! Save your spot on your favorite project of service. Go to mlkphillyuus.org to preview the available projects and reserve your spot. **Do this early while openings are still available.**



Image is cropped from the original. Attribution: Dick DeMarsico, World Telegram staff photographer [Public domain] https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Martin_Luther_King_Jr_NYWTS.jpg

And of course we hope to see you on Christmas Eve!

Family Christmas Eve Service at 4:00pm
It's So Bright! A Contemporary Christmas Pageant



Join us for a fresh take on the heart-warming story of the first Christmas. Our children and youth are starring as cast and crew, and Music Director Mark Daugherty will lead us in song. There will be lots of opportunities for the congregation to sing, participate and catch the spirit. Young children can also participate without rehearsals! Contact Ryan Hurd today, dsd@usguu.org, if your children are interested in one of the bigger roles with spoken lin

Christmas Eve Cookie Reception at 5:00pm



On Christmas Eve, bring some favorite cookies for sharing. Celebrate the season with our entire congregation at 5pm, between the 4pm and the 6pm Christmas Eve services. If you can assist with the reception, please contact Carolyn and Celeste in the office (usgadmin@usguu.org.)

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Carol Service at 6:00pm

Miraculous Birth

Rev. Kent Matthies with Music Director Mark Daugherty & the USG Choir



Come celebrate the holy birth of Jesus. Come celebrate the sacred birth of the universe. Come celebrate that every birth is a holy birth. After all, Einstein said, "There are only two ways to live your life: as though nothing is a miracle, or as though everything is a miracle." Christmas helps us to mindfully birth and celebrate awe-inspiring love, courage and hope.

More Ways to Give in This Season of Giving

Holiday Angel Tree

The Angel Tree in the Dining Room will be decorated with requests to Santa from PIHN* families. Choose an ornament, fulfill the request, and then bring in your unwrapped gift by Sunday, December 22. During Fellowship Hour, we will wrap the gifts for delivery. Thanks to Deb Kish-Silver for again organizing this traditional giving.

PIHN is the Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network.



Winter Coat Drive

Sunday, December 8 - Sunday, December 29

So that others can stay as warm as this fellow, please bring in donations of warm winter outerwear - coats and jackets - for distribution in our community through PIHN's network and Whosoever Gospel Mission. The coat collection barrel will be in the vestibule by the name tag boards starting on December 8.



Share The Plate Collection on Christmas Eve

Half of our Christmas Eve collection will be given to the Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network, which is dedicated to helping homeless families find permanent homes. Long a USG community partner, PIHN has a 92% success rate of families remaining homed. Click [here](#) to donate online or wait until the Christmas Eve collection plate is passed.



Adorn the Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree will be in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve, and everyone is invited to bring in warm woollies- scarves, mittens, gloves, ear muffs - to adorn it. If you are unable to come to either Christmas Eve service (4:00 Family Service, 6:00 Candlelight Service), you can hang your warm woollies on Sunday, December 29. On Monday the gifts will be taken to PIHN for distribution.



Spiritual Development Offerings

NEW: Meditations for the Mid-Week

Wednesdays, 2:30-3:30pm, Starting on January 15

Led by Deborah Cooper. Pencil these into your calendar now!



Small Group Ministry

Throughout the year, you are welcome to join any Small Group Ministry group with openings. Please visit the Small Group Ministry page at USGUU.ORG for more information.

News and Announcements

Give While Gifting!

Shop for everyone on your gift list this holiday at smile.amazon.com/ch/23-1352566 and Amazon donates 0.5% of eligible purchases to the Unitarian Society of Germantown. Just choose **USG** as your recipient.



Driveway will be Repaved approx. January 6 - 9, 2020

We have scheduled repaving the driveway off Johnson Street into our parking lot during the first full week of January, 2020. Weather permitting, the work will start on Monday the 6th and will take three days and may last until Jan. 10. The driveway will be closed and not useable during the paving.



HUGE THANKS to the Leaf Rakers!

Thank you tons to all who came out to rake leaves with Mike on Saturday, December 6! Such a great crowd turned out that we set a record for quitting time, an hour earlier than in previous years. Your help made a HUGE difference and we are so grateful that the burden did not land on just a few weary folks. Thank you SO MUCH!



AND HUGE THANKS to Elaine Hills, who Decks our Halls!

Year after year for about twelve years, Elaine has organized us to donate poinsettias for the holiday display, has gathered the information for the Dedication insert you see today, and (with help from Jim Hills and Mike Rogers) has set up the display. She has also organized the greening of the sanctuary every Christmastime. Her helpers this year include Louise Lisi, Barbara Vandegrift, Linda Bernstein, and Beverly Gross-Spencer. To all of them, we extend our gratitude for the beauty they create, and we especially thank Elaine. Elaine, your contributions make such a difference.



Villages at USG

If you have any questions about Villages at USG, please direct them to Villages@usguu.org. Thanks to all the Villages who offer a friendly welcome and refreshments every Sunday. Upcoming Fellowship Hour Hosts: Dec. 15 - Villages 4; Dec. 22 - Village 5; Dec. 29 - Village 6.

(Please note slight change in the schedule)



Electronic and Texting Donations

It's a great way to make regular donations and many other USG payments. Here's how: Find detailed instructions for using our Breeze payment center at our secure website: usguu.org/electronic-and-texting-donations/

Connect with Others at USG

Use Breeze on your Computer or Smartphone

Connect with other USG visitors and members through Breeze, USG's database, which includes a Member Directory. Go to usg.breezechms.com. Log in with our church's domain ID - **usg** - and then create your own user name and password. Find people's phone numbers, addresses, directions, all in one place. If you have any questions, please contact communications@usguu.org.



Follow @uugermantown on Instagram!

Join a USG Facebook Group!

To find out more, connect with USG groups via Facebook. You will find the following groups by searching [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) for "USG":

- ASD (Adult Spiritual Development)
- CSD (Child Spiritual Development)
- YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists)
- YA (Young Adult)
- Greater Philly UUs - Social Justice & Other News for the Greater Philly Area
- P.U.S.H. (Philadelphia Unitarian Society of Humanists)
- Exploring Elderhood



Join Ongoing Events & Groups

Please check the usguu.org website for more information. Also see the leaflet available at the Welcome Table and on the wall by the Name Tag boards for ALL our monthly recurring events - so many we just do not have the room here!

Weekly Groups:

- **CAMI (Citizens Against Mass Incarceration)** - Now meets every Wednesday. 2:30 - 3:00 PM, but call 215-848-4623 ahead of time to be sure. Off-site at Janes Memorial Church, 47 East Haines St. Contact Margaret Robertson at cami@usguu.org. (CAMI now supports the Germantown Participatory Defense HUB from 3:00-5:00pm on Wednesdays; anyone interested in helping must have training.)
- **Nature Walking at Valley Green** - Monday and Thursday, December through March start time: 10:00am. Meet others at Valley Green Inn in Chestnut Hill for a morning walk. Contact Steve Conrad, walks@usguu.org. (April through November, start time will be 9:00am.)

Monthly Groups:

- **Book Group on Friday Morning** - Third Friday, December 20, 10:30am at Cathedral Village. If interested in joining, please contact Barbara Dowdall at bookgroup@usguu.org. The 2019-2020 Book List is posted on usguu.org> About> Affinity Groups> Book Group.
- **Humanists - PUSH - Philadelphia Unitarian Society of Humanists**, Fourth Sunday, December 22, 12:00pm. At USG. Contact Paul Teti at push@usguu.org.

Our Caring Community

We are relieved and happy to share the good news that...

...Jennifer Bright, our wonderful childcare worker and CSD teacher for many years, has been cleared of all charges in a 2018 case of wrongful arrest. If you do not know her, please introduce yourself.

Our Caring Team

Chair Linda Bernstein, Sarah West, Andi Bernstein and Rev. Kent Matthies

If you are aware of any joys or concerns that should be part of our caring system, please let us know. Contact any member of the Caring Team. Send emails to caring@usguu.org. You also can call a member and leave a voice message. Your call will be returned ASAP.



USG's Committee On Ministry (COM)

COM is responsible for helping to facilitate communications and resolve conflicts within USG, and for handling issues under USG's Safe Congregation Policy and Covenant of Right Relations.

To find out more, search for "COM" at usguu.org or contact com@usguu.org.



USG's Cancer Support Group

Co-chairs are Susan Zingale-Baird and Sarah West. Contact cancersupport@usguu.org.

