



Building Beloved Community, With Compassion, Service and Empowerment

Description of the Unitarian Society of Germantown

The Unitarian Society of Germantown is a vibrant, multigenerational, diverse community in the Mt. Airy neighborhood of Philadelphia. We are a diverse church community, in the top 15% in racial integration in UU churches.

Welcoming is part of our congregational DNA. Newcomers are welcomed and continue to be welcomed and invited to be part of us. People have told us that it feels like this community is for them. Community matters to us. Building beloved community matters to us.

Caring, reaching out to offer meals, rides, etc., is a great strength.

We are a strong music congregation, currently in search of a new music director.

We do a lot of work with partner organizations. POWER (a Philadelphia Interfaith social justice organization), PIHN (Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network), other UU churches and religious organizations.

We have a commitment to stay fresh in meeting people's needs. If people express a need for a new direction, we try to be open to it. For example, we embraced the idea of starting a BLM vigil, and now a Ukraine vigil. We have a strong commitment to social justice. We adopted the 8th Principle in 2019. We are respectful of people's time and work to be productive in what we set out to do.

Our Mission Statement is: Building Beloved Community with Compassion, Service, and Empowerment

Our Core Values are:

- We believe in the Spirit of Life that unifies humanity, the earth and the cosmos.
- Wonder and joy emanate from this source, as does love.
- We celebrate the Spirit of Life and the beauty of the world through shared worship, small groups and personal spiritual practices.
- We experience awe at the mystery of existence and, spurred by curiosity, use our intellect and imagination for life-long learning about our fellow beings in the here and now and the there and then.
- We relish life in a diverse urban community where everyone is welcome as they are and encouraged to stay and discover their best selves and unique calling in the human family.
- We embrace the interconnectedness of life and act on the obligation to care and the obligation to speak up in the search for justice and healing.

We live our Core Values by

- Engaging in inspiring and enriching worship and an array of spiritual practices.
- In addition to worship service, we offer meditation opportunities (including a labyrinth for walking meditation), Adult and Childhood Spiritual Development classes, and a rich Small Group Ministry program.
- Participating in life-span experiences of meaning, knowledge and wisdom.
- We have a strong Adult Spiritual Development (ASD) as well as Child Spiritual Development (CSD) program.

USG is a vital, effective, compassionate agent for social justice through a rich variety of service and dialogue experiences.

- We are a member of POWER, a grassroots interfaith organization of area churches and faith leaders working on racial, economic, educational, and climate justice (<https://powerinterfaith.org>). Our membership and participation in POWER is very important to us.
- We participate in ReBuilding Together Philadelphia (<https://www.rebuildingphilly.org>), where we volunteer to help repair homes for residents in the city.
- We organize and host MLK Day of Service that is open to the surrounding community. Pre-COVID we have had ~400 participants some years.
- We have multiple ongoing offerings relating to racial justice. Developing deep and meaningful relationships within an intentionally welcoming, multicultural, and caring community.
- We offer large and small group experiences to further relationship building and connection, including Small Group Ministries.

Our Sunday Worship Service is from 10:30-11:30 am every Sunday, typically followed by a Fellowship Hour (when it's safe from a COVID perspective). Our children are sung out to their classes about 15 minutes into the service, after the Story for All Ages. We have a Childhood Spiritual Development (CSD) program, with classes up to 6/8 grade, as well as special Building Bridges, Our Whole Lives, and Coming of Age, and Youth (teen) programs. We have several multigenerational Worship services throughout the year, including new year Jazz Funeral, Dia de los Muertos, Water Ceremony Sunday, Community Day/Bread Communion, Coming of Age/CSD Sunday. On Christmas Eve we have traditionally had two services -a family-friendly service at 4pm (typically including a Christmas pageant with participation by the children), and a multigenerational service at 6pm.