

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church Unitarian Universalist

717 Rugby Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-293-8179 * www.uucharlottesville.org
Office hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9 am – 1 pm

OUR COVENANT: In order to create the beloved community we all desire for ourselves, we, the Congregation of TJMC Unitarian Universalist covenant to:

- *Communicate with compassion and respect, especially when we disagree*
- *Celebrate diversity and nurture our inclusivity,*
- *Embrace one another spiritually and emotionally,*
- *Promote social justice within our congregation and the larger community,*
- *Generously support the ministries of the church with time, money and enthusiasm, and*
- *When we have fallen short, lovingly call each other back into covenant.*

GETTING STARTED AT TJMC-UU

- 1. Make Contact.** Visit the Greeters in the foyer before our services, and visit our Connections Table in the Social Hall after the services. Let us help you meet someone else.
- 2. Try us out.** Come to several Sunday services and stay for refreshments in the Social Hall; attend a smaller-group event; have a conversation with our minister. Get to know someone!
- 3. Come to an Orientation.** The next newcomer orientation will be on Sunday, July 15, 2018 at 11:15 (after the single service) until 1 pm in the Church Parlor. Sign-up at the Connections Table or contact Sally Taylor, sallytaylor411@gmail.com.
- 4. Join us, become a member!** If you have been visiting for a while and feel you have found a church home, stop by the Connections Table in the Social Hall after the service or contact one of our Ministers.

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Nature and Divinity
 April 8, 2018
 9:15 & 11:15 am

PREPARATION ...

SOUNDING THE CHIME

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Alex McGee

WORDS OF WELCOME

Whoever you are, Whomever you love,
However you express your identity; Whatever your situation in life,
Whatever your experience of the holy,

As you come seeking love, Your presence here is a gift.
Whether you are filled with sadness, Overflowing with joy,
Needing to be alone with yourself, Or eager to engage with others,
All who welcome others are welcome here.

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CHALICE Wendy Repass, Worship Weaver

As the light of spring returns, As this chalice flame beckons,
May we turn inward to trust the sacred and turn our minds to our highest
conscience. (ARM)

ENTERING IN

OPENING WORDS *Wild Geese* by Mary Oliver

OPENING HYMN #38 “Morning Has Broken”

REFLECTIONS

OFFERTORY

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

We accept these gifts with gratitude.
May we use them wisely and for the highest good.

GOING DEEPER ...

SING TOGETHER #1009 “Meditation on Breathing”

GUIDED MEDITATION

EMBODIED MEDITATION: Lighting Candles, Writing in the Sands,
and Sitting Meditation

JOYS AND SORROWS

PASTORAL PRAYER

MUSICAL MEDITATION

RETURNING ...

CLOSING WORDS 549 “Hymn to Matter” *responsive reading*

HYMN OF GOING FORTH #21 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

BENEDICTION & EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

POSTLUDE

Ushers: 9:15-Maggie Ober 11:15-Gloria Morgan

The altar was created by the Contemplative Worship Team.

To help with today’s service theme, here are some definitions from *Building Your Own Theology* by Richard Gilbert; he credits Paul Rasor for words in quotes. There are many more possible categories and ways to explore how humans attempt to name the nameless cosmic reality. Perhaps you will leave today with a new definition of your own.

Naturalistic theism: *the belief that “nature includes the divine; God or the divine is but one force or process operating in the natural world.”*

Pantheism: *equation of God with nature. “The divine and nature are in some sense identical; nature itself is divine.”*

Panentheism: *belief that God is both immanent (active within us) and transcendent (a divine being). “The divine is independent of and transcends nature, but also includes nature.”*

Neopaganism: *“an earth-centered and often polytheistic tradition that sees divinity in everything and emphasizes ritual practices and participatory experience.”*