



## Christmas Eve Update

It may be cold, or snowing, or raining, or all of the above... Omicron is here, tests are hard to find... travel plans are changing by the hour. Still, cookies and pies are baking; gatherings with beloved people are happening – remotely, or in person. And amid all of it, FUUSB's week of holiday celebrations continues!

This past Tuesday's Solstice Light Festival was a smashing success. Thanks to Erika's vision and with many people helping to set up, the grounds of the Meeting House were bright with light from luminaria and ice lanterns, plus carols led by James Stewart, and wonderful songs from David Ruffin and the YUUth Group. It was fabulous to see so many people there. May this new tradition continue!

### TODAY:

I hope to see lots of you at First UU's first-ever **outdoor Nativity No-Rehearsal Pageant at 4:30pm**. Come early if you can, so the wonderful volunteer costumers can help us of all be in the mood. Everyone is welcome. We will sing Silent Night together, and there will be candlelight!

When the pageant ends (about 5:15) there will be cookies and hot drinks outside for those who can stay. **The Sanctuary will be open and filled with music until 6pm**, so small groups of people can spend a few minutes inside (masked and distanced).

The **live-stream Service of Lessons and Carols begins at 7pm**. The rsvp list is now closed – we were able to say yes to the few dozen people who expressed interest in being there in person. I'm looking forward to a beautiful service, with many, many more of you joining in online.

Sam Whitesell and our (virtual) choir will provide beautiful music, along with James Stewart as special "guest" organist. Wayne Schneider announced his retirement as FUUSB Organist earlier this month - we wish him all good things in this new chapter! Though we're sorry to lose Wayne, we look forward to inviting several different guest organists to join us on first Sundays over the next several months while we search for Wayne's successor.

### REMINDERS:

There will be an online service this Sunday, December 26. It's pre-recorded, so no one will be in the Sanctuary, but it will go "live" at 10am.

**Society offices will be closed from today through January 3, and all staff will be on break.** But Sunday worship will continue uninterrupted, with Rowan leading worship on January 2. At this point we are still planning to allow up to 20 people to be in the Sanctuary each week in January – that could of course change if needed. You can sign up every week at [First Unitarian Universalist Society Registration Form \(rsvp.church\)](https://www.rsvp.church)

It is not too late to give to the **Socially Responsible Santa Fund!** So far, donations this year add up to \$4400. Let's see if we can get up to last year's record-setting total of \$6000! Here's how to give online: [onrealm.org/FirstUUSociety/give/santa](https://onrealm.org/FirstUUSociety/give/santa). You can also give by texting "STEEPLE Santa" to 73256, using your mobile device.

And here's the link to contribute to the **Christmas Eve collection:** [onrealm.org/FirstUUSociety/give/xmas](https://onrealm.org/FirstUUSociety/give/xmas) or text "STEEPLE Xmas" to 73256.

My heart is filled with gratitude to the fabulous First UU staff with whom I have the privilege to work every week: Erika Reif, David Ruffin, James Stewart, Margo Whitcomb, Sam Whitesell, and this year Rowan Van Ness; David McFeeters, Bob Furrer, George Ibalá, and Charlie Delaney who keep the buildings and grounds safe and secure; and Mary Williams and Christina Fulton who literally make everything work. We are all so fortunate to know them!

Much love, light and hope to all of you at the end of this year. May 2022 bring more good things to all!

Blessings,

Rev. Tricia  
Developmental Senior Minister