

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, Vermont

Order of Service

October 26, 2025

The great secret of death, and perhaps its deepest connection with us, is this: that, in taking from us a being we have loved and venerated, death does not wound us without, at the same time, lifting us toward a more perfect understanding of this being and of ourselves. ~ Rainer Maria Rilke

On Not Waiting to Be the Hummingbird

Prelude *Theme (from Somewhere In Time)* Sam Whitesell
John Barry; Arr. Dan Coates

Chime

Call to Worship Rev. Karen G. Johnston

Chalice Lighting

“We kindle this flame to remind ourselves of the light of truth, the warmth of community, and the fire of commitment.”

Encendemos esta llama para recordarnos de la luz de la verdad, la calidez de la comunidad y el fuego del compromiso.

Welcome Mark Power-Freeman

Hymn #1003 Where Do We Come From? Liam Hart & Sam
Whitesell

Time for All Ages

Singing the Children Out

*As you journey, as you journey
May you know, may you know
Love and hope go with you, love and hope go with you
Learn and grow, learn and grow*

Reading “Long Afternoon at the Edge of Sister Pond”
by Mary Oliver

Spiritual Practices

Pastoral Prayer & Stillness

Generosity Practice

The Vermont Immigration Legal Defense Fund supports and expands legal resources available so community organizations can protect people facing deportation or detention, such as coordinating pro bono lawyers and legal workers, leveraging best practices and expertise, and increasing access to representation for Vermonters in immigration legal proceedings.

Introduction to Stone Ritual

Musical Meditation/Offertory

Musical Selection “Improvisation”

Offering Dedication

“With gratitude, we dedicate these gifts in the service of our mission to inspire spiritual growth, care for each other and our community, seek truth, and act for justice.”

Sermon On Not Waiting to Be the Hummingbird

Hymn #354 We Laugh, We Cry

Chalice Extinguishing

“We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts and share with the world until we are together again.”

Apagamos esta llama, pero no la luz de la verdad, el calor de la comunidad ni el fuego del compromiso. Estos los llevamos en nuestros corazones y los compartimos con el mundo hasta que estemos juntos nuevamente.

Benediction

Postlude *Main Title (Feather Theme) (from Forrest Gump)*
Alan Silvestri; Arr. Bernd Haerle

TODAY'S WORSHIP CREATORS

Senior Minister

Reverend Karen G. Johnston

Director of Music

Liam Hart

Worship Associate

Mark Power-Freeman

Musician

Sam Whitesell

Tech Manager

Michael Wright

Tech Team

Adele deRosset, Keats Overman-Smith

Facilities Manager

Devin Fallon

Caretakers

Phil Brentwood, Darrell Fields

Flowers

Peggy Derby

Banner: *Meetinghouse*

Claire Graham-Smith

Welcome Ambassadors

Mary Harrington, Betsy Thayer

TODAY'S EVENTS

9:45 am - Nursery Childcare - Lower Leven

10:00 am - 4th/5th OWL Session - Susan B. Anthony Room

10:15 am - Chalice Choice Activities for Children & Youth - Community Room

11:10 am - Coffee Hour - Community Room

11:20 am - Weekly Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal - Parlors

11:30 am - Respectful Dialogue on UU positions - Whitney Young Jr. Room

11:30 am - Board Informational Session with Congregants - Sanctuary

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