

The Gospel According to Elvis

January 21, 2018

Prelude

Jera Cox
Danny Groh, percussionist

Welcome

Gaut Ragsdale
Rev. Benjamin Maucere

Doxology

*From hand to hand the greeting flows,
From eye to eye the signals run,
From heart to heart the bright hope glows;
The seekers of the light are one.*

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

#151 *I Wish I Knew How*

Chalice Lighting

Cora Pipitone

Blessed is the fire of our faith and the chalice of our community.
Blessed is the living tradition that we carry forward in our work and in our love.
Blessed is the transient flame we kindle here,
Blessed is the illuminated moment of our gathering.
Blessed is the light of the eternal;
Blessed is the sacred call of life to which we give ourselves in answer.

Time for All Ages

Meredith Plummer

Children's Recessional

*You bring us hope and help to see our future world that's yet to be.
You teach us much as years go by. You are our strength, our joy, our pride.*

Pastoral Hymn

#126 *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Candles of Joys and Sorrows

Vision Song

Shelley Jackson Denham

*We are a liberal religious haven, welcoming wonder, and spiritually free.
We're sustained by a loving tradition, moved and inspired by the future we see.
Boldly seeking and working for justice,
gently transforming lives through deeds great and small.
Young and old, sharing meaning and mission,
we joyfully offer our vision to all!*

ESPECIALLY FOR VISITORS

We're glad you're here! Please join us after the service for coffee, tea, and conversation. Stop by the Welcome Counter (as you entered the building) to sign up for our newsletter. You'll get a sense of the interesting events and efforts at First Church.

Have questions about Unitarian Universalism or First Church? Come to a casual information session to get your questions answered. **The next Visitor Orientation is Feb. 11**, following the service in the Fisher Room (just beyond the coffee). Child-care is provided; we'll be finished by noon, and no need to RSVP.

Ready to join? If you've been visiting for a while and have participated in an orientation, it may be time to officially join First Church. **Our next opportunity to join First Church is TODAY**, right after the service and before the Congregational Meeting. Please contact Carol Lloyd at calloyd1102@gmail.com or 513.515.6891.

TODAY

First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati congregational meeting will be held following the worship service **today** at 11:15 in the Sanctuary. If you are a member of First Church, but have not yet attended a congregational meeting, you may establish your voting rights for voting at future congregational meetings by attending this meeting. This will be your last chance to establish voting rights prior to the spring meeting at which we will vote to call our new minister. Childcare will be provided for this meeting. Dan Schneider, danschneider1227@yahoo.com or 513.561.0849.

Grady Cook, our *Streetvibes* vendor, has copies of the paper available following the service **today**, for a suggested donation of \$2. *Streetvibes* is Cincinnati's alternative news source, advocating justice and building community. Your purchase supports the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition and vendors like Grady. Please note that this is one week later than normal. Grady usually visits us the second Sunday of the month. Dan Schneider, danschneider1227@yahoo.com or 513.561.0849

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat., Jan. 27, 9 a.m.-Noon. “Communication Skills for Life” - Transition Team members Jayson Zoller and Jack Copley will teach us some practical ways to decrease conflict and communicate better. The strategies will be useful for anyone wanting to improve connections with partners, friends, loved ones or co-workers. Make reservations with Linda Miltner (513.661.6993 or <mailto:miltner.linda@gmail.com>).

Sat., Jan 27, 10 a.m. – First Church Women - Guest speaker Brandy Lawless will give a presentation on the timely topic of alcohol abuse and drug addiction with an emphasis on her personal journey of recovery. Brandy works at Serenity Recovery Network. Our hostess will be Dot Christensen, 2109 Luray Avenue #1. We will have a continental breakfast and a short meeting starting at 10 a.m. and then we'll hear from Brandy. First Church women's group is open to women members and friends. We support each other in all our endeavors. If you have any questions, please contact Martha Walker at walkermart76@yahoo.com

Sun., Jan. 28, 11:20 a.m., in the Ellen Hall Room. The **First Church Peace Committee** presents another Open Forum. The agenda is an update and discussion Update and discussion regarding recent ICE arrests in northern KY and Hamilton, OH. The main focus will be on conditions in Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico driving the present exodus to this country. All are welcome, come and bring friends. Ann Black – 513.563.8467, annblack@cinci.rr.com

Sat., Feb. 3, 6 – 9 p.m. - We hope you're making plans to attend this year's **Heart & Hand Auction!** While you're having fun bidding at the auction, your kids will enjoy their own fun. Please contact Carly Wise at wise_carly@hotmail.com to schedule your young folks for free child care. Visit the Heart & Hand table in the lobby after church today to purchase restaurant raffle tickets, donate items or volunteer to help.

Sun., Feb. 10, 8:30 a.m., Secret Valentine Breakfast in the Ellen Hall Room. Children prekindergarten through fifth grade make a craft/card. Adults bring a delicious breakfast. Children and adults are paired based on personality and interests. All enjoy a very special meal! Children and adults can sign up at the FP table through Feb. 3.

♥♥♥ **36th Annual Heart & Hand Auction** ♥♥♥
Saturday, February 3, at First Church
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

What will you donate this year? Donor forms in lobby.
Today is the last day for submitting H&H donations

- Fun and interesting parties and events
 - Gift cards to local restaurants and stores
 - Food to go or have delivered at a future date
 - Tickets to concerts, theatre, sporting events
 - Themed baskets of goodies
 - Services – yard work, pet sitting, lessons in your hobby
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♥♥♥ **Restaurant Raffle Tickets on Sale Now!** ♥♥♥

BOCA (\$100 value) – downtown in former Maisonette restaurant, world-class, stylish décor, impeccable service, chef-driven Italian cuisine.

Metropole (\$75) – downtown in the 21c Museum Hotel, features food cooked in a wood-burning fireplace, ever-changing menu showcasing sustainable farmers and producers, architectural gem!

Nicola's Ristorante Italiano (\$75) – Over-the-Rhine, contemporary Italian cuisine, extensive wine list and unique dining spaces.

Postmark (\$50) – In Clifton. This farmhouse-inspired bistro serves new American “slow food” showcasing farm goods and artful products.

Bistro Grace (\$50) – new restaurant in Northside, traditional made-from-scratch cuisine with a modern twist. Homemade desserts too!

Tickets are 1 for \$5, or 5 for \$20. Winners drawn auction night.

You need not be present to win!

Wonder Questions

- When have your assumptions been wrong about what another person's or being's life is like?
- When has something you thought would be a "disaster" proven to be a gift?
- How might "loving the mud" change your life?

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