

## **A typical Order of Service**

### **Music for Gathering**

Our pianist, Bonnie Ettinger, begins playing a few minutes before the service begins, while people arrive and get settled. Sometimes, the group will sing several songs from the hymnal.

### **Welcome and Announcements**

After the service leader has shared these, he/she will invite Visitors to stand and introduce themselves if they are comfortable doing so.

### **\* Greeting Our Neighbors**

An opportunity to say hello to friends, new and old.

### **Prelude**

Music by our pianist, sometimes accompanied by our "Occasional Choir."

**Opening Words** Appropriate words by the minister, often taken from the STLT hymnal.

### **\* Opening Hymn**

### **Chalice Lighting**

The flaming chalice is a symbol used in many UU congregations. If you have a special reason to light the chalice, you may speak with the service leader before the service begins.

### **Congregational Song *The Seven Principles or Doxology***

### **Children's Focus**

The children come to the front of the sanctuary and the minister/speaker shares a story or lesson for all ages. When the story is concluded, the children and their RE teachers leave and go to their RE classrooms.

### **Song as the Youth Leave for RE**

May peace surround you,  
May love surround you  
As you go, as you go on your way

### **Sharing of Responsibility *and* Offertory Music**

A voluntary collection is taken during this time, to assist the congregation's efforts in furthering its mission.

### **Milestones from Our Lives**

Before the service begins, members and friends write out significant joys,

sorrows and concerns and leave the cards in the blue chalice in the front of the sanctuary. The minister shares these cards aloud. People may come forward & add a stone to the chalice when their card is read. If one would prefer to light a candle in silence, candles are available on the table near the kitchen entrance.

**Hymn : "*From You I Receive*"** (twice through)

From you I receive, to you I give  
Together we share and from this we live.

### **Responsive Reading**

The service leader and the congregation alternate reading a topical selection found in our hymnal.

### **Silent Meditation**

A short period of shared silence, generally to reflect on the reading or the sermon topic.

### **Sermon**

A discourse on a religious topic. Its length will vary, generally from 15 – 30 minutes, depending on the speaker and the subject. When a guest speaker is present, he/she may answer questions at the end of the presentation.

### **Musical Response**

### **Extinguishing of the Chalice**

A symbolic act that signals that our worship time is drawing to its end.

### **\* Closing Hymn**

### **\* Benediction**

From the Latin: "Words well spoken." Appropriate remarks by the minister as we leave our worship space, until we meet again.

### **Postlude**

Our service concludes with more beautiful music by Bonnie Ettinger.

\* An asterick indicates that the congregants stand, as able