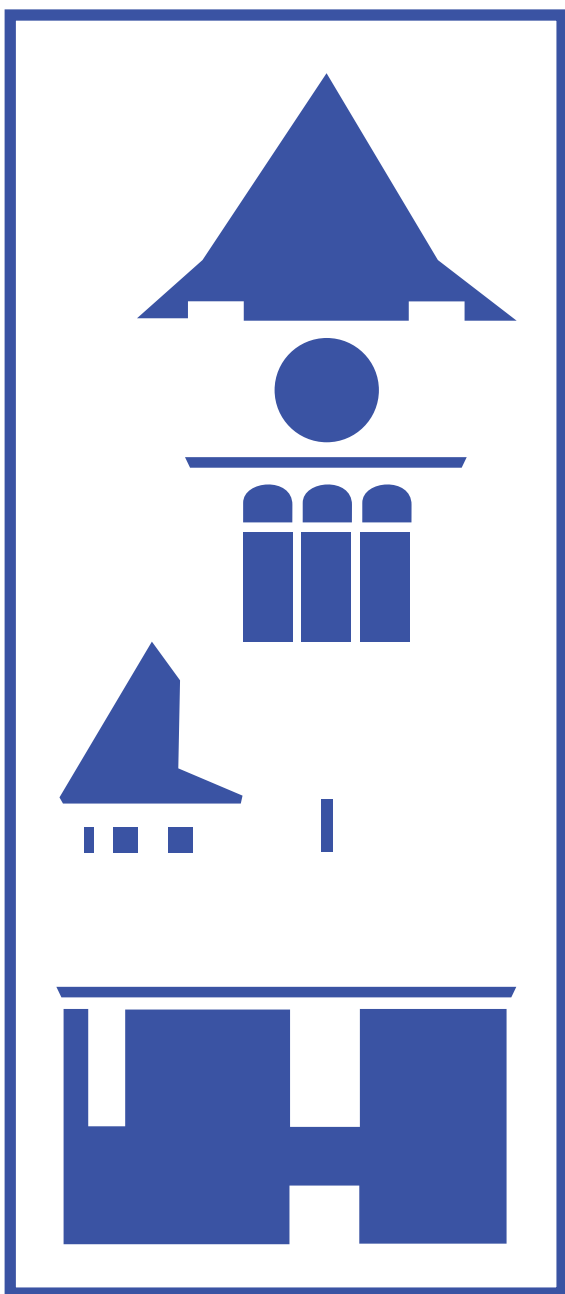


# THE FIRST CHURCH IN BELMONT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

404 CONCORD AVENUE, BELMONT, MA 02478  
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THE FIRST CHURCH IN BELMONT IS A VIBRANT  
COMMUNITY OF MORE THAN 550 MEMBERS  
AND FRIENDS. **LIVING OUR VALUES EVERYDAY.**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
9:00 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.**

## WELCOME

Like most Unitarian Universalist communities, First Church does not subscribe to any creed or dogma. We encourage individuals to explore their own spiritual paths, and we do our best to support one another on those journeys. For individuals who may feel uncertainty about the religion of their upbringing or for families who are blending two or more religious faiths, First Church is a particularly welcoming community. It provides a foundation in liberal religious thought, grounded in the Judeo-Christian tradition, but incorporates and honors other faiths and humanist values. It is a place to share fellowship with others who may have different religious beliefs or no religious beliefs at all.

First Church offers superb musical experiences, innovative religious education programs, and a strong commitment to social justice causes. But more importantly, it is a place where major life events – celebrate a wedding, having a child, transitioning into adulthood, dealing with illness, mourning a loss – can be shared with a caring community and marked in ceremonies filled with genuine, personal meaning.



The church is located on Belmont's beautiful town green. The current building was dedicated in 1890, but was enlarged in 2004 to include light-filled children's classrooms, a parish hall and a stage.

## WORSHIP

Services are on Sunday mornings, usually at 9:00 and 11:00. Child care and children's Sunday -school classes are always available during services. Services are followed by a social coffee hour just outside the sanctuary.

Our services include stories and lessons from all the world's major religions. These words from our former minister Marjorie Sams, read aloud together at most services, reflect our humanistic approach:

*Life is a gift for which we are grateful.  
We gather in community, to celebrate the  
glories and the mysteries of this great gift.*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



**We offer religious education to people of all ages.** Children can attend Sunday-school classes through the sixth grade. Our seventh grade Sunday-School class participates in the "visiting faiths" program, attending services at nearby

religious congregations that provide context for our own religious community. Youth programming begins in the eighth grade with Our Whole Lives, or "OWL," a UU program focused on sexuality and responsible decision making. Ninth-graders develop a personal credo – a statement describing their own beliefs – that they share with the congregation at a Coming of Age ceremony. Our tenth through twelfth graders participate in a vibrant Youth Group, which meets every Sunday night, and provides ballast and support for them as they navigate high school. The Youth Group takes a service trip every other year, an often life-changing experience. Twelfth graders then address the congregation once more during the Youth Group service. Our adult programming varies each year, reflecting the varied interests of our church members. Regular offerings include weekly meditation, a book group, men's and women's groups, small-group ministry, among many others.

## SOCIAL ACTION

**The UU faith has a proud tradition of participation in social justice causes,** from the settling of war refugees and the civil rights movements of the last century to the gay rights movement of more recent times. A commitment to social justice is a foundational aspect of First Church life.

Locally, First Church is a long-time supporter of the Grow Clinic, the Belmont Food Pantry, and the UU Urban Ministry. In addition, members of the church are deeply involved in social action in the Belmont community, including LGBTQ rights, Belmont Against Racism, and the Farmer's Market. First Church also has initiatives to address income inequality, refugee support, and climate change, and to support our partner church overseas. Being a member of First Church fosters an opportunity to connect with others who share a commitment to social justice and to making the world a better place.





## Second Friday Coffeehouse

### MUSIC

First Church may be best known for its music program – and with good reason. Each service is filled with music. We have two adult choirs and several choirs for children and youth. Each fall we present a children’s musical production that must be seen to be believed! Every month we host the Second Friday Coffeehouse, Greater Boston’s longest-running all-benefit live music venue. We also have a monthly folk music jam session/singalong. Although we have regular performances by professional musicians, perhaps the most impressive aspect of our music program may be how many talented, joyful amateurs make great music at First Church.

### OUR VISION

We honor the holiness in one another and in all that is. Living mindfully, we serve our community and our world.

### OUR MISSION

To realize our vision, we:

- **Worship** together as a Unitarian Universalist community.
- **Foster** the spiritual growth of individuals of all ages and inspire one another to grow personally.
- **Welcome** all people and celebrate the diverse gifts that each person brings to the community.
- **Relate** to one another with integrity and compassion, facing conflict as an opportunity for growth.
- **Minister** to one another and our community through all the cycles and circumstances of our lives.
- **Promote** social justice.
- **Share** the visions, longings, and wisdom of each generation.

