

UUFM Monthly Theme: Beginnings

"...It is covenant that brings us out of isolation, covenant that brings us out of selfish concerns, out of individualism, to join ourselves to something greater, to become a part of a community that is working to practice love, to dwell together in peace, to seek knowledge and wisdom together, to find better ways to live our lives and live in the world." – Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Order of Service September 6th, 2026: Beginning Again with Covenant

Congregational Greeting

Bell Chime

Welcome and Announcements

Chalice Lighting For those attending by Zoom, please type into the Chat that a chalice is lit on [your street]:

We are a welcoming people of diverse beliefs who commit to nourish the spirit, broaden the mind, nurture the earth, and build community. May this flame we kindle remind us to strive, today and every day, to love beyond belief.

Opening words "Bless the Beginning" by Dr. David Breeden

Hymn #346 "Come, Sing a Song with Me" words and music by Carolyn McDade

Poem "Why I Wake Early" by Mary Oliver

Story *The Day You Begin* written by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Rafael López

Sorrows and Joys

Singing Prayer To the tune of #1002 (teal hymnal) by Mimi Borstein

Comfort me, share my joy/ Comfort me, Oh my soul. (2x)

Offertory

Poem "In the Garden" by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

Hymn #389 "Gathered Here" words and music by Philip A. Porter

Homily and Meditation

Poem "For a New Beginning" by John O'Donohue

Hymn #1012 "When I Am Frightened" words and music by Shelley Jackson Denham, arr. by Jeannie Gagné

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 until we are together again.

Singing Benediction "Longtime Sun," the final three minutes of "A Very Cellular Song" written by Mike Heron and performed by The Incredible String Band on their 1968 album *The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter*.

*May the long time sun shine upon you/ All love surround you
And the pure, pure light that's within you/ Guide your way home (2x)*