

WELCOME & OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION
Shanonda Nelson, Worship Associate

PRELUDE music of Tim Wilson
Tim Wilson, guitar

CHALICE LIGHTING & OPENING WORDS Worship Associate

**OPENING HYMN #347 "Gather the Spirit"

COVENANT

Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law.
This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace,
to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

CANDLE LIGHTING A time to share a brief personal joy or
sorrow. A Pastoral Care Associate will be present at the candle
boat after the service.

MEDITATION

HOMILY "Open to the Mystery" Rev. Dr. John Morehouse

OFFERING music of Tim Wilson

CLOSING SONG

*Spirit of Life, come unto me. Sing in my heart all the
stirrings of compassion. Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; Wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.*

BENEDICTION

**Latecomers will be seated at this time.

Parents with babies/young toddlers please use our foyer to enjoy the
service.

Listening assistive headphones are on the back wall of the Sanctuary.

Flowers

In memory of my mother, Connie Jaeger.
Jalna Jaeger

WELCOME! We're glad you're here this morning. If this is one
of your first visits with us, please stop by the visitors' table (below
the WELCOME sign) for information and answers to questions
you may have about this UU community. And join us after the
service for refreshments and conversation. More information
about our programs and our Event Calendar can be found at our
website www.uuwestport.org

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

Welcome Rev. Shelly Thompson: Our new Assistant Minister for Faith Formation, Rev. Shelly Thompson, joins us Sunday, Dec. 9th. Please stay after the 11:00 service to welcome her with soup, bagels and a cake!

The Board & COM present the Strategic Plan: Please join members of the Board and the Committee on Ministry, in the foyer after the service to learn about the new Strategic Plan and preparation for a proposed Capital Campaign.

Holiday Boutique TODAY and next Sunday after each service: Come do your holiday shopping and find a few treasures for yourself. Don't miss this fun annual event!

Small Group Ministry: Join a group! December's topic: **Mystery**. For more info, talk to a representative in the foyer after the services or email Steven Rosenberg at rosen323@aol.com

Women's Holiday Potluck: Friday, Dec. 7th at 6:30 at the home of Chris Place, 75 Fox Run Road, New Canaan. Bring something to share, or just come -- there is always plenty. RSVP to sharon@slpoole.com.

Newcomers' Orientation: Saturday, Dec. 8 from 9:00-12:00. Rev. John shares our Unitarian and Universalist history and our Seven Principles, with plenty of time for questions/discussion.

Voices Café presents Rupert Wates: Saturday, Dec. 8th. Since coming to the US in 2006, Wates' eclectic mix of acoustic, melodic art/folk has won more than 40 songwriting & performing awards. *Folk And Acoustic Music Exchange* calls him "a prime figure in American music" and goes on: "This is one gifted sonofabitch... If you're not hip to this guy yet you're missing out."

Pageant! Rehearsals for the annual Pageant (ages 6-13) will begin in mid-December. It is important to sign up via the church website. Questions and concerns to Ed Thompson, 203/227-7205 ext. 18.

TUCWomen's Quotable Women Brown Bag Lunch: Sunday, Dec. 16th (note date change) at 12:30 in the Meeting House, guided by Shanonda Nelson. Come and share good conversation with the women of our community.

Leadership Development Team (LDT) presents *Harvest the Power*: Join Rev. John for this engaging series designed to enrich the skills of both new and experienced leaders. 12 sessions will run every Sunday from 12:30-2pm beginning in January. Contact ldt@uuwestport.org with questions or to apply.

KIVA CARDS on sale today and next Sunday after service.

9:00AM CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE



The Unitarian Church in Westport

10 Lyons Plains Road, Westport, CT 06880, 203/227-7205 www.uuwestport.org

Rev. Dr. John T. Morehouse, Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Edward Thompson, Minister of Music

Rev. Frank A. Hall, Minister Emeritus

Rev. Shelly Thompson, Assistant Minister for Faith Formation

Margalie Belizaire, Intern Minister

Sandra Clements, Acting Children's Program Coordinator

Zulaikha Hasan, Acting Youth Program Coordinator

David Vita, Director of Social Justice and Director of Membership

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: *The Unitarian Church in Westport is a diverse and welcoming religious community, free of creed and dogma, and open to people of all backgrounds and beliefs. We inspire and support individual spiritual growth. We connect through worship, music, learning, and caring ministries. We act in the service of peace and justice.*