

The Return of the Light

Rev. Alan Taylor
December 22, 2024

10:00 am

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

Listening Circle with The Board. Monday, December 23 at 5:00 PM, Zoom. If you weren't able to join the in-person listening circle on Sunday, Dec 15, join us on zoom! Let the BOT know what's on your mind as it relates to ministerial coverage for next year and beyond.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Tuesday, Dec 24, 9:00 PM, Sanctuary. Join Rev. Alan and Rev. Ed for a festive celebration and reflection of the season. Several carols and readings will be included in this annual Christmas Eve gathering.

Gratitude and Song, our last service with Rev. Ed. Sunday, Dec 29, 10:00 AM, Sanctuary. Mark your calendar for a very special service of Gratitude and Song as this will be Rev. Ed's last service. We will send him off to retirement with readings, reflections and songs, followed by a reception.

See Soundings for more info on events above. Check your email for the latest *Soundings*. Email Ruth to be added to our list.

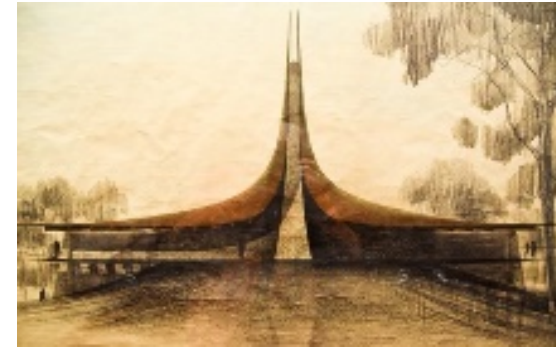
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The Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Westport

10 Lyons Plains Road, Westport, CT 06880, 203-227-7205

www.uuwestport.org

Rev. Alan Taylor, Senior Minister x12

Rev. Dr. Edward Thompson, Minister of Music x18

Angi Haen, Director of Family Faith Formation x15

Rev. Frank A. Hall, Minister Emeritus

Rev. Jim Francek, Community Minister, Pastoral Care x19

Beth Cliff, Board of Trustees President

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation 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.*

WELCOME Beth Cliff

CHALICE LIGHTING Diane Moller

PRELUDE "Silent Night" Bell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Alan Taylor

OPENING HYMN "The Sun Has Gone"

The sun has gone the dark comes in,
the shortest day of the year;
So let the light that glows within
cast out all doubt and fear.

COVENANT Gian Andrea Morresi

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

STORY FOR ALL Rev. Alan Taylor

CANDLE LIGHTING Pat Francek

PRAYER AND MEDITATION Rev. Jim Francek

HYMN #241 In the Bleak Midwinter

SERMON "The Return of the Light" Rev. Alan Taylor

OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC "Light These Lights" Once & Again Singers
(Friedman)

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING Rev. Jim Francek

May we be grateful for the opportunity to give,
For generosity is a core spiritual practice.
May we be grateful for all who freely share their gifts,
For we are enriched by their giving.
And may we be grateful even for our needs,
So that we may learn from the generosity of others.

HYMN #221 Light One Candle

CLOSING WORDS Rev. Alan Taylor

POSTLUDE "Westminster Carol" Bell Choir

Visiting Today?

If you're new to UU Westport, please identify yourself to an usher and ask about filling out a yellow welcome card.
Or contact Jerusha Vogel membership@uuwestport.org

~ **Listening Devices** are available in the rear of the sanctuary in the colorful bags on the wall. Anyone is welcome to use one. ~

The POINSETTIA Tree

is given by all the generous members of this community.