

To Seek the Truth in Love

Forum Feedback

By Judy Robbins, Oct. 5, 2022

In September, Rick Tsukada presented a sermon that challenged us, asking if we have lost sight of our metaphoric “elephant” because we’ve been so busy focusing on the individual parts of the elephant. Have we been so distracted by the turmoil of recent years that we’ve gotten myopic and lost sight of the big picture of who we are as a congregation? Forum services help us to get to the heart of who we are now. We rest on 200 years of history but times have changed and so have we. Forum services, where we are all together in one place, give us a chance to speak our mind and listen deeply to one another. As we move toward seeking a new minister it would be good if we could tell the candidate confidently: “We are the church that...”

The October 2 forum asked the question: *Why do you keep coming back to USH?* A definite theme emerged: community, family, love, kindness, caring and acceptance. Individual responses are listed below. These responses seem to get us closer to the big picture of who we are – the church that...

- People care about me here. It's my family.
- The building is a metaphor for my spiritual life: reaching up toward the transcendent on different paths; we're all individuals yet all connected in a community with the sun (sanctuary ceiling) in the center.
- Spirituality here at USH casts a wide net.
- We believe in love, connection, kindness, inclusivity.
- This is where I want my funeral.
- Even when I try to resist getting involved, I do and it's good.
- This is where I contemplate impermanence.
- The Small Group Ministries (Connection Circles) are great.
- People here really know how to listen.
- We encourage each other to be brave, to stretch our boundaries.
- This is a place where people know your name (literally and metaphorically).
- After retirement, this is a place that you can take your skills and have them appreciated and needed.
- There is an aliveness here.
- There's a challenge to learn and grow.
- Being part of this community makes it easier for me to be in the world.
- I can put down my guard here.
- I can be authentic. I say I'm a pagan and it's not just tolerated, it's welcomed.
- Everyone in my immediate family is dead. You are my family and I can see that you care for me.

- My family has been Unitarians since the 1880s and for a while I explored other paths but when I got a serious illness I came here and found a home, a family with warmth, intelligence and kindness.
- I've never been in such an accepting community. I came with a crazy idea – to start *Meetinghouse Presents* -- and this church gave me the money to do it with only the caveat that I should try not to lose money.
- I don't always listen carefully to sermons or the music or poems, but I'm a lifelong UU and had a super stressful job. I sometimes came here just to sit quietly in the back. I still like that...just quietly sitting here.
- This was a great place to raise my 3rd generation UU kids.
- I'm the oldest in the room today. I've been a member 50 years. I was here when this building opened. My husband died during Covid. I'm wrestling with end-of-life issues and this is a good place to do it.
- I enjoy the good food here and eating together.
- We've a history of great music and I'm looking forward to having a place to sing again.
