

Order of Service  
May 17, 2026  
Monthly Theme: Awakening Curiosity  
**The Marvel of Us**  
Leana Bresnahan

**GATHERING**

**10:25 Morning Sing**

Song Leader: Gary Gonzalez

**#361 Enter, Rejoice and Come In** (all 5 verses) Words and Music: Louise Ruspini

**#188 Come, Come Whoever You Are** (in a two-part round) Words: Rumi, Music: Melody of the Bohemian Brethern

**Oh, Let Us Gather** Words and Music by RevAmy Carol Webb

**Ring of the Chimes**

**Prelude** Count on Me; words and music by Bruno Mars, Ari Levine and Philip Lawrence, Presented by Cecilia Roy, Gary Gonzalez, and Aaron Stang

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship: Building Belonging** by Rev. Dr. David Breeden

*Welcome, friends—*

*Newcomers, old-timers, seekers, skeptics, saints of habit and rebels of the heart.*

*Here, we gather not because we think the same, but because we choose to journey together.*

*Belonging is not something given—it is something we build, with open hands and open hearts.*

*It is made in the sharing of stories, the holding of silences, the courage to show up as we are.*

*Here, we practice a radical hospitality—not of perfection, but of presence.*

*May we make this place a shelter for the soul, a workshop for justice, a sanctuary where love is not merely spoken but lived. Deeply.*

*again—in trust, in hope, in the spirit of belonging.*

**Opening Music #168 One More Step**; Words and Music: Joyce Poley

**Chalice Lighting** On Belonging by Rev. Karen LeBlanc

*This isn't just a place of worship.*

*This isn't just a fellowship of like minds.*

*This isn't just a Sunday morning filled with Spirit and topped off with coffee and cookies.*

*This is our church, our congregation,  
where we are building Beloved Community,  
where we are opening ourselves to each other,  
where we trust and love,  
rise and fall, together.*

*This is where we feel safe,*

*this is where we know we are welcomed,*

*this is where we belong.*

*For this Gift and so many others, we light our chalice.*

**CONNECTING**

**Covenant**

**English:** *Love is the spirit of this congregation and service is its law.*

*This is our great covenant:*

*to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love,  
and to help one another.*

**Spanish:** *El Amor es el espíritu de esta congregación  
y el servicio su ley principal.*

*Esta es nuestra gran promesa:  
vivir juntos en paz, buscar la verdad a través del amor,  
y ayudarnos mutuamente.*

**Wisdom Story** “A Cup of Tea” a story from the Zen Tradition told by Karen Gonzalez

**Singing the Children to Classes**

**Offering/Offertory** Music performed by Cecilia Roy

**DEEPENING**

**Deepening Music** #123 Spirit of Life; Words and Music by Carolyn McDade; English and Spanish

**Candles of Community**

**Stones Ritual; Moment of Reflection**

**Pastoral Response** “Prayer for Remembering Our Belonging” by Rev. Cameron Trimble

*Sacred Presence,*

*Root us in belonging so deep we cannot fall alone.*

*Strip away the illusion of separateness...*

*Awaken in us a sense of kinship so wide it undoes every wall...*

*May we move from Me to We...as a sacred return to who we really are.*

*We lift these things spoken and unspoken, written and unwritten, asking that our hearts be seen, even as we become seers of hearts, that we may serve one another and those beyond our walls with love and thankfulness, today and every day. Amen, Amein, Ameen, Aho, Ashe, Namaste, Blessed Be ...*

*And so it is.*

**Sung Response** #371, #381; Music: Genevan Psalter 1551, Words: Isaac Watts 1674-1748

*From all that dwell below the skies  
let songs of hope and faith arise;  
let peace, good will on earth be sung  
through every land, by every tongue.  
Amen.*

**Heritage** River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation Members and Ministers – 1999 to 2026 (I will send some slides for this section and for the Hope section too)

**Hope** River of Grass Congregation 2026

**Message:** The Marvel of Us – Leana Bresnahan

**SENDING**

**Closing Words, a Responsive Reading** “All of Us Need All of Us to Make It “ by Unitarian Universalist minister Rev. Julián Jamaica Soto

*In a world where some of us are targeted for struggle and brutality, where others of us benefit and flourish, we pray:*

**“All of us need all of us to make it.”**

In a world where powerful people of ill will and indifference make us fearful for our safety and our futures, we pray:

**“All of us need all of us to make it.”**

In the excruciating space that lives between seeing and naming, and hearing and changing, we pray:

**“All of us need all of us to make it.” Amen.**

**Closing Music** #131 Love Will Guide Us; Words: Sally Rodgers, Music: Traditional

## **Extinguishing the Chalice**

The Welcome We Extend

*As we extinguish this chalice and leave this sacred hour,  
may the welcome we received become the welcome we extend.*

*Let us meet the world with open hearts,  
open hands, and the audacity to build spaces  
where every soul feels at home. Rev. Michelle Collins*

## **Announcements/Invite to Hospitality**

### **Sending**

*In these changing times, let us be all the more vigilant to hold before us a vision of our world transformed and dare to transform ourselves to make it so. Until we meet again, Shine On!*

### **Music Reprise**