

*Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters.
Talk to people you know.
Talk to people you don't know.
Talk to people you never talk to.*

Margaret Wheatley

We who are part of First Unitarian are here because we want to belong to a community where our faith deepens and our spirit is renewed in the company of those who share our values, and our questions. We appreciate the many perspectives and varying experiences each of us brings to our life together. We treasure the companionship, connection, caring, and challenge.

The few lines from Margaret Wheatley's poem in her book Turning To One Another remind us of another reason we are here. To widen our embrace. To welcome the guest. To make room for the newcomer. To show hospitality to the stranger.

On Sundays we have guests in our congregational home. Some are here for the first time. Some are returning. It is our collective task to welcome them in, to invite them to find here with us the very things we have found.

Sometimes talking to someone we don't know requires a bit of bravery. We worry about saying the wrong thing. We're not sure what to say. On some Sundays we find there are friends and acquaintances we need to talk to about some aspect of this congregation's life . . . maybe an upcoming program or to get details on a volunteer task. Sometimes we just want to chat with friends.

We are friendly, caring people. Friendliness to those we know matters. So does welcoming those who are our guests. Take a few moments to start a conversation with someone you've not seen before or someone you've never talked to. Stop to chat with someone who is visiting for the first time or visiting again and still feeling new.

Being friendly and being welcoming are essential to the wellbeing of this faith community.

In faith,

Tracey