

What will Rev. Liz be doing on Sabbatical?

Rev. Liz plans to spend a lot of time writing and reflecting. She also expects to spend time on activities that provide rest, renewal, and inspiration. She will be in the countryside of Scotland, spending time with her husband, Tim, and her beloved flat-coated retrievers, Blue and Rannoch.

Communication with Rev. Liz while she is away

Rev. Liz's sabbatical is a time for a complete break from her duties as our minister. The network in this brochure will deal with all routine matters. In an emergency, PruComm President Joan Richards, Director of Operations Nancy Forsstrom, and Rev. Roger will confer about whether to reach out to Rev. Liz. We are asking folks to refrain from emailing, Facebook messaging, texting, or phoning Rev. Liz on anything that may be 'church related.' She will likely be on Facebook and people are welcome to 'like' or comment on her posts.

What is a Sabbatical?

A sabbatical, like a sabbath, is a time to cease our everyday work. For a Unitarian Universalist minister, a sabbatical can provide a block of time to acquire new skills or experiences or to pursue spiritual quests. Ministers may find the time refreshing, restful, and energizing. Successful UU churches incorporate sabbaticals into the professional lives of their ministers. The church community may also benefit from a sabbatical period during which it reaffirms its identity as a congregation and discovers new strengths.

Ministerial sabbaticals must be taken between the minister's fifth and seventh years, one month per year of service. Rev. Liz is taking her sabbatical following her fifth year, and she will be taking her vacation and study leave consecutively. She will be away in total for seven months, from July 2022 through January 2023.

Sabbatical Team

The First U Sabbatical Team is comprised of the Committee on Ministry plus Director of Operations Nancy Forsstrom. If you have questions, contact the team at admin@firstunitarianprov.org, and one of the members will respond to you.

Martha Rice Sanders
Cheryl Bartholomew
Diane Baxter
Michael Currier
Skip Farinha
Katy Killilea
Nancy Forsstrom

First Unitarian Church of Providence

A Pocket Guide to Rev. Liz's Sabbatical

July 2022—January 2023

Reverend Elizabeth Lerner Maclay has been leading our congregation for five years. In that time, she has devoted her deep and diverse ministerial talents to our church. Part of our contractual commitment to Rev. Liz is one sabbatical month, per year of service. The time has come to afford Rev. Liz a sabbatical to renew and expand her personal, spiritual, emotional, and intellectual strength—the foundation on which her ministry rests.

This guide, prepared by the First U Sabbatical Team, is a tool to help our community embrace the challenges and opportunities that the sabbatical brings. Our goal is to ensure that First U operates smoothly during Rev. Liz's absence.

For further information see website.

Sunday Services

Rev. Roger will bring his gifts and insights to our pulpit, preaching one Sunday per month and co-leading our multi-generational services. Together with our Interim DRE, he will lead our congregation at the Water Communion and Christmas Eve services. The Worship Committee is working with staff to line up dynamic and inspiring preachers during the summer and while Rev. Liz is away. Our Interim Music Director, Jeff Allard, will be working as usual to support our vibrant music program of worship.

June 12 Flower Communion and Rev. Liz sendoff
June 19 - September 4 Summer services
Sept. 11 Homecoming Multi-gen
Sept. 18 Joan Richards, PruComm President
Sept. 25 Rev. John Nichols
Oct. 2 Rev. Roger
Oct. 9 Rev. Lisa Garcia-Sampson
Oct. 16 Blessing of the Animals Mult-gen
Oct. 23 Rev. Peter Laarman
Oct. 30 All Souls; Rev. Roger
Nov. 6 Rev. Roger
Nov. 13 Rev. Charlie Ortman
Nov. 20 Thanksgiving Multi-gen
Nov. 27 Lee Clasper-Torch
Dec. 4 Rev. Roger
Dec. 18 Solstice Multi-gen
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
Jan. 8 Tina Kane, RI Poet Laureate
Jan. 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. day; Rev. Roger
Jan. 22 Rabbi Sarah Mack
Jan. 29 Partner Church Sunday; Rev. Roger
Feb. 5 Rev. Liz returns

Pastoral Care

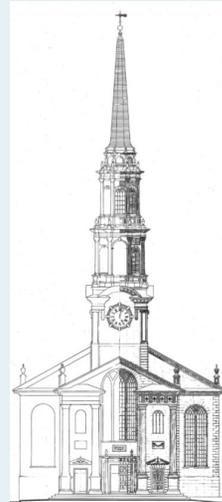
Rev. Roger, our Assistant Minister for Pastoral Care, will continue to provide spiritual and emotional support to our members and to coordinate and lead our Care Crew and Lay Ministers.

Our Lay Ministers have special training and can respond to routine needs and emergencies. You can reach them at pastoralcare@firstunitarianprov.org.

For help with other needs such as rides or meals, contact Rev. Roger and he will connect you with the appropriate resources.

Rites of Passage

Rev. Roger will be available to officiate at weddings, memorial services, funerals, and child dedication for those in our church community. Arrangements should be made through Director of Operations Nancy Forsstrom, who can help with logistics and scheduling, and can also provide suggestions for officiants in the event that Rev. Roger is unavailable.



Church Operations

The Sabbatical Team, PruComm, Rev. Liz, and First U staff have been working hard to make sure that everything at the church functions smoothly while Rev. Liz is away. Any questions about facilities or administrative issues can be directed to Nancy in the office.

Key contacts to answer questions or provide assistance:

PruComm President, Joan Richards
JoanLRichards@gmail.com
401.378.0549

Assistant Minister, Rev. Roger Peltier
401.965.1212

Director of Operations, Nancy Forsstrom
admin@firstunitarianprov.org
401.421.7970

Membership Coordinator, Jenn Nardone
mem@firstunitarianprov.org

Interim Music Director, Jeff Allard
firstmusicdirector@gmail.com

Interim Director of Religious Ed, TBD

Church website:
<https://firstunitarianprov.org>