

# THE FINANCIAL TIMES OF FIRST U

Vol. 21

Sunday December 30, 2018

Free

## WELCOMING IN 2019

### OPPORTUNITY

#### Imagine a Place ...

*First U's World Café Jan 27 noon!*

#### **Mid-Year Meeting has a New Format**

All are welcome to gather at noon with a cup of coffee or tea and engage in a dynamic guided 1-hour conversation about how we do what we do at First U.

It has been reported to us that in addition to brief mid-year updates on transition and financial well-being, all present will be invited to provide ideas and energy to affirm the First U goals for 2019. The theme is purported to be 'Imagine', where attendees can imagine exciting new ways for the 'work' to be joyful and compelling.

We've also heard that Food, a First U spiritual practice, will be delicious and fulfilling.

What a great opportunity to be part of defining First U for 2019! All are welcome, whether a long-time member or friend, or an interested newcomer.

### CELEBRATION

#### First U's Holiday Festivities

#### *Celebrating Gratitude*

A dynamic team of volunteers created a festive space in First U's Gathering Room, welcoming hundreds of holiday shoppers on Dec 1. The kitchen crew with First U youth served a wildly popular soup luncheon to an overflow crowd while happy youth decorated yummy gingerbread houses down the hall. Drum roll please.....The Stewardship committee is happy to report that the budget was met, raising \$7000 with 40% of it coming from the auction! Well done First U !!

A huge shoot-out to First U elves who decorated the sanctuary with tree, garlands, poinsettias and lights, creating a festive site for a joyous wedding on Dec 15, the annual Solstice celebration on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and special services through 12/24.

Holiday festivities wrap up with the Clam Drop on 12/31 at 7 pm – not to be missed!

### TRANSPARENCY

#### Self-funded? Huh? Time to step up?

*We asked First U Treasurer, Marge Titcomb, what, really, does 'self-funded' mean?*

"First U receives no outside money – our entire income is from ourselves, our tiny investments, and those who rent our space. 70% of our income comes from ourselves – the Annual Campaign (60%) and Fundraising." Wow! That means that to keep First U programs strong everyone is expected to contribute ("as they are able",

Titcomb reminded us). Longtime members seem to understand this, but newcomers are often surprised by the concept of 'self-funded', and *how* it's up to each of us to step up. The big Annual Campaign is in February, but commitments and payments are enthusiastically welcomed all year long – we still need \$10,000 to come from those who didn't actively participate in 2018's February 'ask'. **If you are among them, what better time than NOW to step up?**