

***MAY*-BE IT'S TIME TO BECOME A MEMBER**

OPPORTUNITY

Consider Yourself At Home

Do you consider First U to be your spiritual home? If yes, then now is the time to join in membership! As a member, you become part of a vital institution that stands for the inherent worth and dignity of all people and you receive the right to vote on congregational matters. On Sunday, May 20, First U will welcome those who have been on the path to membership to officially join with a Sign the Book Ceremony and Celebration taking place after worship. This year, ALL are invited to come! The small ceremony will include music, a responsive reading, and an opportunity to sign the book and be welcomed as a new member. After, we'll celebrate together with drinks, treats, and a joyous spirit of community.

CELEBRATION

Everything's Coming Up Sevens

Our 9th Annual Gala on April 7 was a great success. We enjoyed 7 creative and delicious small plates inspired and paired with our 7 principles. While we wish we could report that we raised 7 thousand dollars – it's better than that – we raised \$8,500! This year's new feature in the Auction was the Call to the Heart – a reverse auction (start high) raising funds to further our successful initiatives this year – expanded use of our beautifully renovated Sanctuary and Gathering Room and reaching out beyond our walls with programming. This Call is still enthusiastically receiving donations, which will go towards greater flexibility of venue, and dedicated hours for our Program Assistant's creativity to reach beyond our walls.

TRANSPARENCY

Planting the FY19 Budget

The seeds of next year's budget were promised by you during our Annual Campaign; the Board has been planning the garden, deciding where to plant those seeds. At our Annual Meeting on June 3, you get to approve the garden plans by voting on a balanced budget for the next church year, which begins July 1. There will be some significant exciting changes (new plantings!), including a new Community Event, expanded Music Series, and funding for our Interim Minister. The Board has prepared a first draft budget, and expects to approve a budget at its next board meeting (May 14—a great time to prepare fertile ground in Maine) to present to the congregation seeking its approval on June 3. Come to vote and then watch our community blossom!