



Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater – October 11, 2026

Jeanay Johnson

"The Courage to Look: The Things We Dare Not Name"

Edgar Allan Poe is known for poems filled with grief, mystery, death, longing, and fear. His work takes some of the experiences we would most rather avoid and gives them words.

What might that have to do with courage? Perhaps courage is not always about conquering what frightens us. Sometimes it is the willingness to look honestly at what is difficult, to give language to what we cannot quite explain, and to remain present even when there are no easy answers.

This Sunday, join intern Jeanay Johnson and Worship Associate Margie Manning as we explore through the poetry of Edgar Allan Poe. We will explore what poetry can offer us when life is mysterious, painful, beautiful, and unresolved.

What happens when we find the courage to name what frightens us?

You are encouraged to wear black this day!

Our Vision: An inclusive religious community, a beacon for reason, meaning and bold social action.

Our Mission: To celebrate dignity and respect for all, nurture lifelong spiritual growth, act for justice and equality, and serve the wider community.

Pre-service Music

"Haunted House"
By Arthur Benjamin
Played by Roger McCormick

Welcome

Margie Manning, Worship Associate

Tingsha

Prelude

"Haunted House"
By A. Benjamin
Dr. Susan Robinson and the UUC Choir

Call to Worship

"Forged in the Fire of Our Coming Together"
By Rev. Gretchen Haley
Delivered by Margie Manning

Schumann – "Fürchtenmachen" (Frightening), Kinderszenen Op.15
Played by Roger McCormick, Pianist

2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater, FL 33764 (727-531-7704); www.uuc.org



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Music for Reflection

“Courage”
By Tony Ann
Played by Roger McCormick

Chalice Lighting

“Joy and Power that Grow”
By Rev. Jami Yandle
Delivered by Margie Manning

We light this chalice for the quiet truths we carry,
and for the futures we’re brave enough to write.
In this circle, we honor the courage it takes to live openly,
the softness that sustains us,
and the joy and power that grow when we gather.
As the chalice glows may we feel steadiness rise in us.
May we trust that our becoming—
messy, radiant, unfolding—wholly belongs to us.

Story for All Ages

Lori Thorn

Singing the children to the classroom Hymn #414

“As You Leave This Friendly Place”

Joys and Concerns

Hymn #6

“Just as Long as I Have Breath”

Sermon

Jeanay Johnson
The Courage to Look: The Things We Dare Not Name

Offertory

Hymn # 1028

“The Fire of Commitment”

Extinguishing the Chalice

“Go in peace, go making peace, live gently, love mightily and bow to the mystery”

Postlude:

“You’ll Never Walk Alone”
By Rodgers and Hammerstein
Played by Roger McCormick



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Our Grateful Thanks:

Worship Associate: Margie Manning; **Service Technical Support:** Phil Brown, Jeremy Dillow, Rich Cann, David Feick; **Zoom Host:** Lauren Logan; **UUC Choir:** Barbara Bedingfield, Matt Bouchie, Rich Cann, Linda Carroll, Sharis Coleman-Der; Gretchen Craig, Anne DiNatale, Elyse Fenstermaker, Jocelyn Ganoza, Pan Godchaux, Amy Hagemeyer, Sue Hand, Ed Kraemer, Chris Parlman, Bruce Peller, Donna Polhamus, Susie Safford, Yukika Takayama, Bryon West; **Slides and Video:** Margie Manning and Jeremy Dillow; **Visuals:** Ana “Soledad” Vaquer; **Staff:** Anne Gilbert, Campus Administrator; Jeanay Johnson, Ministerial Intern; Rev. Amy Kindred, Developmental Minister; Roger McCormick, Pianist; Dr. Susan Robinson, Choral Conductor, Zoraida Santana, Custodian; Gary Strauss, Security Guard; Lori Thorn, Lifelong Learning; Barb Tobin, Lifelong Learning; Eric Williamson, Handyperson; Dale Zwick, Bookkeeper; **Pastoral Associates:** Bill Foley, Pan Godchaux, Eloise Hardman, Kathy Krohn



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SUNDAY FLOWER DONATIONS

If you would like to supply the flowers for an upcoming Sunday service in honor of a special event or person in your life, please email Ana "Soledad" Vaquer at soledad.globalre@gmail.com. She will help you coordinate your contribution.

Hymn #414 "As You Leave This Friendly Place"

As you leave this friendly place,
love give light to ev'ry face;
may the kindness which you learn
light your hearts till you return.

Hymn #6 "Just as Long as I Have Breath"

Just as long as I have breath, I must answer, "Yes," to life;
though with pain I made my way, still with hope I meet each day.
If they ask what I did well, tell them I said, "Yes," to life.

Just as long as vision lasts, I must answer, "Yes," to truth;
in my dream and in my dark, always that elusive spark.
If they ask what I did well, tell them I said, "Yes," to truth.

Just as long as my heart beats, I must answer, "Yes," to love;
disappointment pierced me through, still I kept on loving you.
If they ask what I did best, tell them I said, "Yes," to love.

Hymn #1028 "The Fire of Commitment"

From the light of days remembered burns a beacon bright and clear
Guiding hands and hearts and spirits into faith set free from fear.

Chorus:

When the fire of commitment sets our mind and soul a blaze
When our hunger and our passion meet to call us on our way

When we live with deep assurance of the flame that burns within,
Then our promise finds fulfillment and our future can begin.

From the stories of our living rings a song both brave and free,
Calling pilgrims still to witness to the life of liberty.

Chorus

From the dreams of youthful vision comes a new, prophetic voice,
Which demands a deeper justice built by our courageous choice

Chorus

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