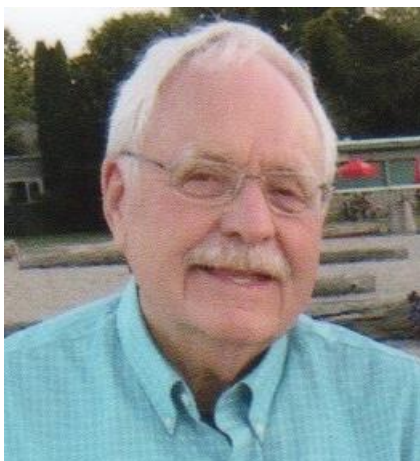


Candidates for the Nominating Committee – 1st Unitarian Church of Portland – May 2021



Jessie Eller-Isaacs is a born and bred UU out of Oakland, CA. A member of First Church since 2008, she is honored to continue serving our faith community. Jessie is a mother of two small, excitable humans and is a committed partner to her husband Andy. When she is not teaching English Language Arts at Cleveland High School in SE, Jessie is organizing other white parents around anti-racism, leaning into her practice as a kitchen witch, and singing songs in community. 2nd Term

Ingrid Gjestvang started out as a Lutheran (like her mother) in Germany, became a catholic (like her father) at age 4, and married a Norwegian Lutheran in a civil ceremony in Massachusetts, becoming a Unitarian Universalist in Illinois in 1979 seemed like a logical next step. After moving to Oregon, Ingrid and her late husband Jon became members of First Church in 2008. Ingrid is passionate about singing in the Grace Choir and leads the choir members in their monthly virtual social get togethers. Social Justice is Ingrid's other passion. She was a co-chair for the Committee of Homelessness and Hunger for 2 years and now represents her group on the Social Justice Council. Having studied Latin, French, Greek and English in high school, and Spanish and Norwegian in college, Ingrid considers herself a language freak. In her professional life, she taught Spanish, French and German in high schools and universities. Ingrid enjoys being part of this vibrant church community and is looking forward to serving on the Nominating Committee. 1st Term



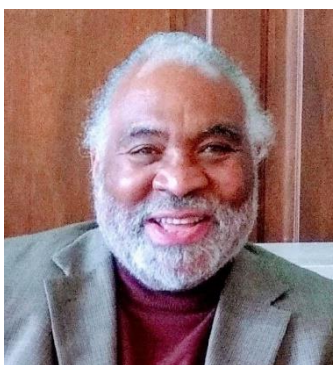
Dean Baker and his wife Barbara Surovell have been members of First Unitarian since 1996. He was a lay minister for eight years, and he continues to help other congregants. He grew up Lutheran, raised by his devout Norwegian mom, but he married in the Methodist Church and lapsed for a couple decades before finding our church. Dean is a journalist and writer, working for several newspapers and magazines and teaching journalism part-time at the University of Oregon, University of Portland, and Washington State University Vancouver. His novel "The Last Yoncalla: The Legend of Sam Fearn" is the story of a band of Kalapuya Indians. His most recent novel, "Small Town Boy," is looking for a publisher. He is an Army veteran, drafted during the Vietnam War and serving in Germany, writing for base newspapers and The Stars and Stripes. He and Barbara have four children and five grandchildren. They love the outdoors, hike and garden, love reading and movies, and most of all, love our friends and relatives. 1st Term

Candidates for Board of Trustees – 1st Unitarian Church of Portland – May 2021

Mindy Clark (she/her) is currently the Moderator of the Board of Trustees and previously served as Board Secretary. She attended First Unitarian in the 1990's when her children were in the Learning Community and she and her husband, Dev Dion, returned to First Unitarian in 2012. Mindy taught preschool in the Learning Community for five years, has facilitated the Wellspring program, and is on the editorial team for First U's social justice magazine (now blog), *Speaking of Justice*. Other volunteer work includes leading a Sufi group at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility for six years. Prior to her retirement in 2018, Mindy worked in both the for profit and not for profit worlds. In the for-profit arena, she did marketing strategy consulting for international companies. That work was interesting, but not very meaningful so when an opportunity to join a non-profit organization working with incarcerated parents and their children arose, she changed careers. She enjoys serving on the Board and helping to ensure that the church will continue to be a beacon of hope in our community for the next 150 years. 2nd Term



Theo Harper has been with the church for about 38 years. He served as the chair and co-chair of the racial justice committee, worked with the music program in choirs most of this time. He is 69 years old, married and has 2 grown sons and 2 grandchildren. Originally from Ogden, Utah, he grew up in an African Methodist Episcopal church. He has lived in Portland for 42 years, working as a mental health counselor most recently (and has been working as a counselor for most of his life). Unitarian Universalism attracts him because of his belief that a pluralistic society is desirable. That there are many ways to look at any situation and this is good. He wishes he did know all the answers but says he doesn't, although that does not keep him from letting others know what he thinks or feels. He hopes that maybe together we can find a way to move into the future. 2nd Term



Barbara Morrison is a lifelong Oregonian who first heard about First Unitarian while in high school. After attending for several months, she, her former husband and two daughters became members in the late 60's. At a young couples party at the Church, Barbara learned of the great need for adoptive parents of what was then call "mixed race" children. The family was in agreement that was something they would desire and so a two-month-old baby boy completed their family. In the late 70's Barbara went back to work full time as a medical technologist at what is now OHSU. With a work schedule that often-included weekends and nights, she was only able to attend Church sporadically. But immediately after retiring in 2001 she was back in attendance. Encourage by a member to join the Alliance, she found out how much more she enjoyed Church by becoming more involved. The past 3 years of being on the Board have been a highlight of her time at first Church. Barbara has been a lifelong participant in outdoor activities: cross country skiing, hiking, backpacking and climbing around the world have added immensely to complete her spiritual life. 2nd Term



Ryan Deibert and his family have been part of the First Unitarian community since 2012 and pledging members since 2015. Throughout that time, Ryan, his wife, Lorelei Juntunen, and kids, Aili and Will, have been regular Sunday worship attendees and active participants in the Religious Education program and YRUU. For the past three years, Ryan has served on the Board of Trustees, this year as its Secretary. Ryan has focused much of his board leadership on strengthening the board's antiracist and anti-oppression focus and supporting congregational outreach for adoption of the 8th Principle. Previously, Ryan deepened his participation in congregational life as a participant in the Wellspring program and as a member of the Leadership Team for the Social Justice Council. Outside of church, Ryan has led a nearly 25-year career in housing and homeless services in the nonprofit and government sectors, beginning as a street outreach worker in Chicago and continuing through his recent appointment as Housing Policy Advisor to Governor Kate Brown. That work requires dedicated focus on upstream racial and economic justice, and Ryan is thankful to be part of a church community that is actively engaged in and deeply supportive of that effort. 2nd Term

