

May 25, 2022

Dear Members and Friends,

Morning worship at King's Chapel on Sunday June 5th will feature a Centennial Celebration of Partner Churches, the Day of Pentecost, and the Lord's Supper. In the vernacular, it could be called a trifecta, and we are inviting you to attend this illustrious occasion, hopefully in person at Tremont and School Streets, or virtually if you prefer. We are also inviting our brothers and sisters in Transylvania to attend virtually. And we are inviting other congregations with church relationships in Transylvania to join us.

King's Chapel and the Downtown Unitarian Congregation in Kolozsvár have been sister-churches since 1921. A proclamation from the Wardens and Vestry will commemorate the one-hundred-year partnership between two Christian Unitarian churches, the one in Eastern Europe and the other in America. It is a relationship that has historical roots spanning four and a half centuries. It is also a lineage of faith, hospitality, and spirituality. We will share the celebration widely by video streaming and recording for later viewing. Many Unitarians in Transylvania will be seeing King's Chapel's sanctuary and worship for the first time. Also, Unitarians in the U.S. will be witnessing an historic partnership that might encourage them in their own partner church relationships.

Here is what to expect. The Order of Service will begin with preludes at 10:45 – Hungarian folk songs, a choir rendition of *This is My Song*, and the ringing bells of Kolozsvár. The sanctuary will be adorned with colorful embroidery, the communion table bedecked with symbolic flowers and the historic cloth given by our partner church a century ago. Our children and young families will light the silver candelabums in tribute to the two sister churches. At eleven o'clock, we will hear of our Unitarian ancestor Dávid Ferenc and the hymns will lift up the "living tradition" of our faith. The sermon will tell the tale of two churches – an epic story of religious evolution and advancement, fraught with struggles and survivals, regressions and reformations, suffering and happiness. The motet *Széklely Áldás* will be sung in Hungarian and English. Communion will be shared according to the intimate tradition in Transylvania. The postlude will conclude the service with the *Toccata for Organ in Memory of Béla Bartók*. Worshippers will receive a commemorative *Memento of the Centenary* as well as stems of red carnations. Everyone is invited to meet our "Transylvania Travelers" afterwards and enjoy Hungarian pastries on the portico.

Please plan to join us on June 5th at 11 a.m. for this once-in-a-century opportunity to consider who we are and what we are by celebrating the rich and enduring legacy of Unitarian Christianity with those who gave it birth, our brothers and sisters in Transylvania. And let us bid glad tidings and great joy to our sister church, the Downtown Unitarian Church of Kolozsvár!

Sincerely,

Denton Crews, Chair of King's Chapel's Partner Church Committee
Stephen Courtney, Chair of Denominational and Ecumenical Affairs
Joy Fallon, Senior Minister of King's Chapel
David Waters, Minister of Education