

Where to begin:

Exiting the building through the doors in the Susan B. Anthony lounge, one comes onto a terrace with shade, picnic tables, and colorful planters. The hope is to provide a pleasant outdoor room for smaller gatherings and relaxation.

A stone dust pathway with handrails leads downhill from the parking area at the south side of the building. The wood chip path also leads down the slope through the Upper Shade Garden. Here you will find bleeding heart, goatsbeard, hosta, lilies, myrtle, rhododendron, Solomon's seal and trillium.

The path continues down towards the gently curved Memorial Wall, a gathering place for services of marriage, commitment ceremonies, child dedications, worship, and memorials. Over one hundred families have chosen to have the ashes of their loved ones scattered throughout the Garden. On the Wall is inscribed the phrase, "To live in hearts that love is not to die," words that express a Unitarian Universalist view of life and death. No individual markers are found in the Garden. The names of the deceased, and a page about each one, are found in the Susan B. Anthony Lounge in the church. A handicap

accessible path makes easy access to the Wall from the lower parking lot.

A bench near the wall bears a plaque: "To be is to be for others - Richard and Joyce Gilbert Thirty-two years of service." Next, the wood chip path divides, the left branch passes by the three Peace Cairns symbolizing the human desire to build something from the "rubble" of violence and war. The right branch of the path curves around the Middle Garden, passing the lacy Japanese maple collection and a massed planting of Oregon grape holly. A new placement in the gardens is a contemporary black metal sculpture called "Wings," a gift of Madlyn Evans.

The paths meet at the grassy area where one of the several benches in the garden provides an opportunity to rest. Here, one can look back and see the impressive design of the church building. Looking to the right of the building, one sees a dawn redwood and a copper beech situated on the East Lawn. This is the site of summer musical performances and outdoor worship services. Further to the right at the edge of the woodland, is "Hope," a white stone sculpture by local sculptor and church member Patrick Kester.

Shortly after the "Hope," the path leaves the lawn and descends into the Lower Woodland Garden. Immediately on the

right is a bench which bears a plaque, "In recognition of Madlyn Evans' Vision and Dedication."

The Lower Woodland Garden is a serene deep shade area in its natural state, covered with forget-me-nots, brunerra, hosta, sweet woodruff and violets.

The circle of logs and stumps form a "council ring" for outdoor group meetings and conversation. If you go to the right, you will see the beginning of the Pine Grove with several Lacebark pines and Green Giant arborvitae. Continuing out into the open, you can view the stone dust path, flanked with Stewardia trees, winding its way past the new community gardens, maintained by a group of about 30 cooperative gardeners who grow and share organic vegetables. Also new in this area is a sun garden that faces Nunda Boulevard, providing a colorful lower entrance to this area.

Turning back to the left (north) and looking back through the trees to an open area, the path approaches the Labyrinth, the outline of which is defined by bricks embedded in the lawn. The large bank to the left is the Sunny Slope – a Butterfly Garden. The hillside features unusual flowering trees and shrubs in the springtime, surrounded by colorful perennials, including butterfly bush, day lily, lilac, iris, lilies, peony, redbud,

and viburnum. Just to the right is the special Monarch Garden, a registered way station for Monarch butterflies with an assortment of the monarch's favorite plants and shrubs.

A stone dust path leads to Morven Road. At the entrance of the path is a Rock Garden with blooms of the season – ajuga, iris, phlox, lilac, redbud, Rugose rose, and Solomon's seal. The path provides a convenient access for those parking on Morven and walking to church. Walking up the stone path across the Lower Parking Lot and towards the church, two rows of oaks line the entrance from Aberthaw Road. Along the wooden stockade fence is a selection of sedum with interesting leaf forms and color variations. In warm months, plants rim the parking lot – cotoneaster, iris, poppy, sedum and tulips.

The Front Entry Courtyard welcomes us as we end our tour. Beds of daffodils and myrtle surround the Kwansan cherry trees. Containers filled with summer flowers provide an attractive display throughout the growing season while a sculpture garden to the right of the entrance features works by several artists.



Additional Comments

To view the Gardens throughout the seasons, check the Church's web site: www.rochesterunitarian.org. Under Our Ministries and Activities, click on Building and Grounds, then, Our Landmark Site.

If you are interested in learning more about the work of The Gardeners, contact Keith Anderson, Coordinator of the Gardeners at 267-7200.

Contributions to the Landscape Fund are always welcome. For information on Memorial opportunities, call the church or Dick Fitts, Chair of the Landscape Team, 586-1936.

First Unitarian Church
220 Winton Road South
Rochester NY 14610
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A Self-guided

Walking Tour

through the

Gardens of the

First Unitarian Church



The extensive garden areas that surround the First Unitarian Church, a world-class building designed by Louis Kahn, were developed over the past thirty years, largely through the efforts of Madlyn Evans. Today, volunteer gardeners provide the majority of the care of the Gardens.