



Nicholas Izzo

I have been an attending First Unitarian Church since moving to Pittsburgh in 2001 and I have been a member since 2003 along with my wife, Madeline, and daughter, Olivia. I am a biomedical researcher and I work for a pharmaceutical company on the South Side, discovering and developing treatments for degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. In my spare time, I enjoy woodworking and helping my wife and daughter with their flower business.

I was raised as a Catholic on Long Island, New York but was unchurched for 20 years before discovering Unitarian Universalism in 1998 while living outside of Cincinnati. My career had taken me, and then my family to many places - DC, Virginia, Boston, Central NY, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh – and we had no family nearby and were feeling rootless. We thought that perhaps some kind of church might provide grounding and make us feel at home. I wasn't sure there was a church or religion that I'd be comfortable in – someplace that would stimulate my mind AND my spirit - but I found that there was in Unitarian Universalism.

I have gotten a lot out of my UU experience as I've tried to pursue my own spiritual growth. Participation in Church activities has been a big part of my life since I've been a UU. Here at First Church I have been a member of singing groups, as an Usher and I have taught Sunday Morning RE (Jr High) and was an adult Youth Advisor. I have served as Chair of the Nominating Committee, served as Secretary of the Board of Trustees and as Vice President and then President of the Board.

I hope that my experience with our church governance, my enthusiasm for our religious community and my desire to provide responsible stewardship will make me a good Trustee.



Christine Milcarek

Chris was born in Pittsburgh on the South Side near the former J&L steel mill, attended Duquesne University, Johns Hopkins, and MIT. She returned to Pittsburgh in 1983 and has lived in Squirrel Hill ever since. She taught medical and graduate students at Pitt and retired in 2019 as Professor Emerita of Immunology. She is married to Robert Baron; they met at MIT. They have two children, Jonathan and Julianne Baron, who attended First Unitarian and then went on for higher education. The family has attended First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh since 1993. Chris has been part of the Religious Education committee, UU folk orchestra, choir, Khasi Hills support group, and the Green Sanctuary Committee. Chris' hobbies include playing with the Pittsburgh Mandolin Orchestra and fiber arts like knitting, crocheting, and quilting for charity. She has been Democratic Committee woman in the 14th ward, 21st district for several years. She is a member of the Bach choir Board of Directors. She believes in justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.



Raeann Olander

My family and I became members and started attending First Unitarian Church regularly in 2002. Our daughter Allison lives in Washington, DC now; my husband Chas and I continue to attend regularly. Over the years we have participated in many activities and committees, made wonderful friends, and marked milestones. I previously served on the Board of Trustees from 2005-2008, as President from 2006-2008. My other activities past and present include stints on the Nominating Committee, Annual Budget Drive Committee, Social Events Committee, Family Choir, Covent Groups, Alternative Gift Market, and teaching RE.

In my professional life I work for Goodwill of Southwestern PA where I am the Director of the Employer Engagement Department. In this capacity, my staff and I support Goodwill's mission by working with businesses to help our clients who have barriers find and maintain employment.