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February 2012

Issue 2, Number 8

THE liberal

FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

NEXT SERMON SERIES

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Risky Business

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Rev. Justin Schroeder

Feb 12 - Remembering
Who We Are,

Rev. Kate Tucker

Feb 19 - The Meadow
Doesn't Know About
the Stock Market,

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Feb 26 - The Nature
of Risk, Rev. Justin
Schroeder

see updates at

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In the Universalist spirit of love and hope, we give, receive, and grow.

CHURCH: RISKY BUSINESS

Today the church is an outsider institution, as it should always have been. It exists to question cultural norms, to help us want the right things and to hunger and thirst for justice, to make us uncomfortable with the gap between our professed ideals and our actions. It exists to claim us, to shake us, to demand of us, and to make us new people — brothers and sisters of one another, lovers of the world, workers on behalf of the Kingdom of Equals, and the kind of people that others are so drawn to that they can't help but ask, "Wow, how did you get trained to be such an amazing human being?"

"My church is training me," we would respond. "It is a lot of inner work, a lot of thinking and reflecting and talking with people about how to be, and it's expensive. I give my church a lot of my time and my money. But it really is working a miracle in my life, which feels amazingly freer, richer, more meaningful, deep and hopeful now than it did before I devoted myself to religious community and practice. If you're interested I'd love you to be my guest for a Sunday service."

— Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein

If church is really "Church," it has to be risky. If church is really risky, it is inherently expensive. It means putting our whole selves on the line. This month, we will be talking about Church as a risky business. Taking risks means moving be-



yond our understanding of Church as a home, and living into Church as a "base camp," as Rev. Weinstein puts it. A base camp is a place to get supplies, get training, make plans, get warm, get fed, encourage one another, sing together, and then get going, as we live our faith out in the world.

First Universalist is in the process of becoming a vibrant and welcoming base camp. We are well into our strategic planning and we are asking the big questions: What claims us? What saves us? What are we willing to give? What are we willing to risk? What are we willing to try? Are we ready to live at that risky intersection of spiritual growth and social justice? Are we ready to give, receive and grow, in deeper and bolder ways? It's risky business, but the answer that changes us and the world is YES!

We'll see you in church,

— *the Ministry Team*

REFLECTING POND

THE REWARDS OF RISK

By Tracy Jones, First Universalist (left below, working in Simpson Shelter kitchen with a fellow congregant)



Working Christmas Eve at Simpson Shelter was hard, for as many different reasons as there are different personalities living at the Shelter. There were arguments and threats, and police were called. Every time I work there as an overnight volunteer, I don't know what to expect because I will be working with people who have the handicap of not knowing where their next meal will come from, or if there will be room for them to store everything they own, or if they will get one of the 66 mats on which they can sleep in safety.

The only thing that I do know will happen, because it happens every night that I volunteer, is that I will receive from them joy. They are letting me be a part of their lives by allow-

ing me to help them.

Christmas Eve was a night that was harder than usual. At 7:30pm, a young woman, about 30 years old, asked me if she could have a blanket. She and her younger brother couldn't find space and would be sleeping on the street that night. I knew we had just received a donation of 60 blankets. I told her to get some dinner at the shelter with her brother, and to see me after they had finished eating. While they were eating, I grabbed a huge garbage bag and filled it with 2 blankets and pillows, with a backpack that I filled with soap and shampoo, warm socks, hats and gloves, and cookies.

When they came back, I met her brother. He was young, with a shaved head and a scar on his right cheek that looked like it was from a knife fight. Truth be told, he looked scary. I gave him the big black bag full of goodies and he hoisted it over his shoulder. I had to chuckle to myself because here it was, Christmas Eve, and he was carrying his bag of treasures the



way that Santa would. But on Christmas Eve, there was no room at the Simpson inn, so they were going to the streets.

About 20 minutes later, he returned and walked directly toward me. This scary looking street person, with a shaved head and scarred cheek and oversized baggy clothes, came towards me, with tears in his eyes. He hugged me and said, very softly into my ear, "Thanks, Mister, you're our Christmas miracle."

So, Christmas Eve was hard this year, with threats and police. It was hard for as many reasons as there are people staying at the Shelter. But, as always, I received more than I gave. All I gave was some time, some donated goods, and a little love. In return, I got to be someone's miracle. Best gift ever.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact our Director of Faith in Action, Debra@firstuniv.org. Visit FirstUniv.org/ 2012Dayof Service, to find out how you can volunteer February 4.

WORSHIP LIFE

Minister of Program Life Hired!

Recently, all members and friends of First Universalist received a letter sharing some exciting news: our search for a second minister is complete. We are thrilled to announce Rev. Jen Crow will be our Minister of Program Life starting in August!

Rev. Justin Schroeder was in the lead on this decision with the complete and enthusiastic backing of the Hiring Advisory Team. We were blessed with many strong applicants for this position, but Rev. Crow quickly stood out as the best fit for First Universalist. Rev. Crow is grounded, she understands large churches, and she's deeply relational in all she does. She's a dynamic

and engaging preacher. She's a national leader in faith formation and program development and is incredibly passionate about serving a historically Universalist Church. We couldn't be more excited for her to join our church community in the fall! To learn more about Rev. Crow and the search process, visit FirstUniv.org/jencrow. Questions can be sent to ministersearch@firstuniv.org.



Rev. Justin Schroeder and Board of Trustees President Kathy Coskran welcome new Program Minister Jen Crow, who will start in August 2012.



The Art of Worship

by Ruth MacKenzie, Director of Worship Arts

Some of you may have noticed some changes in the Order of Service over the last few months — little shifts, or large movements. These shifts or recalibrations are the ways in which the ministers, musicians, visual and performance artists, and I endeavor to make the worship hour *sing*.

In essence, we are practicing the art of liturgy. Liturgy means *service*. Put a little more flesh on that bony definition, and you could say liturgy is the “artful and intentional creation of devotional and inspirational experiences that transform the self.” (Rev. Wayne Arnason and Rev. Kathleen Rolenz, *Worship That Works*.)

If worship is a communal act of building a singing bowl in which the holy reverberates in and through and among us, then the liturgical arts are our construction materials. It is risky business, as is any creative endeavor. Who knows how the spirit will move? Who knows where it will take us?

On the practical end of things, liturgical arts means meeting with the ministers to flesh out the themes for the season; finding readings that inspire; music that serves and enlivens; coordinating with the Visual Arts Committee; working with the music department; meeting with the Worship Planning Committee to brainstorm ideas and find hidden talents.

In the end, worship is our communal endeavor to wake up to the holy. Hence my favorite definition of liturgy: *the work of the people*.



We had a very busy and fun holiday season of services. We had more than 700 people at our Winter Solstice service, 900 at our Christmas pageant (see photos), and more than 500 on Christmas weekend. Our special holiday Feast of Carols drew nearly 1,000!



READING ROOM



Living in the Cycle of Life

“Keep risking that your heart’s desire is trustworthy.” -- Gerald May

“Go where your best prayers take you.” -- Frederick Buechner

Sam Keen says, “Your question is the quest you are on. No questions--no journey. Timid questions--timid trips. Radical questions--an expedition to the root of your being.” Here at First Universalist Church, we make it our business to ask the radical questions and risk trusting our hearts’ desires. Join us in February as we ask, “What risks does my faith call me to?” It’s not a timid question.

As I sit looking at the calendar, I’m aware that in less than five months I’ll be completing my ministry here. I’ll remind you occasionally that there will be three very informal “goodbye” gatherings in April, here at church: Wednesday April 11 (10 a.m.); Thursday April 12, (7 p.m.); Sunday April 29, (12:45 p.m). My “Good Goodbye Team” and I hope you’ll join us on any of those dates for shared conversation.

A starting point for our conversation will be a question from Barbara Brown Taylor: “What is saving your life now?” Bring yourself, your fondest hopes, your fiercest commitments, and maybe even a favorite poem to share with the group. We’ll give and receive and enjoy each other. The sessions will be recorded, and the fruits will make their way into a sermon or two.

My best prayers are with you.



Wells We Did Not Dig

excerpts from the blog of Rev. Justin Schroeder

In January Justin encouraged us daily at WellsWeDidNotDig.blogspot.com with questions for our spiritual toolbox that ask us to reflect. Questions such as: “What blessing or moment of grace landed in your life yesterday?” ... “How can I best serve and bless the world with my life?” ... “How are you befriending your grief?” ... “What is saving your life right now?” ... “What is the good news of our faith?” ... “What makes you full of purpose and meaning?” ... “When and where and how do you experience joy in your life?”



Not Hell But Hope

excerpts from the blog of Heidi Mastrud, Director of Congregational Life

At NotHellButHope.blogspot.com, Heidi shares a poem about mulching, and says: “I love this so much. It speaks to me of repurposing all those things we might just have let rot in a landfill, or burned into nothingness, and instead using those stories to see what new might grow.” (January 15, 2012)

Does This Issue of The Liberal Look Different to You?

Communications coordinator Mikki Morrissette has moved to a PC, rather than a Mac, and is using (and learning) a new design program.

Want to Learn More About Our History as a Congregation?

Visit firstuniv.org/history, which includes the 18-minute video “Spirit of Life: The First 150 Years of First Universalist Church.”

Join in Our Communication Efforts

If you’re interested in working on multimedia projects about our church and its message, contact mikki@firstuniv.org.

February 4: Day of Service

Get involved in our second annual Day of Service! Our “Day of Service” will be held on Saturday, February 4! It is being organized by the Pledge Team and church members to help make our values alive in the world. Last year, the church gave 1,500 hours of service to the community. This year, we’re aiming for 2,000 hours!

For more information — including a short video about the day created by First Universalist youth — visit FirstUniv.org/2012DayofService. **Contact:** Deb Rodgers, 612-825-1701 x106, debra@firstuniv.org.



Last year's Day of Service included 400 volunteers at 22 service projects, including this group at La Conexion.

Openings for Lay Leaders

Deadline for applications: March 23rd

Learn more about the positions and apply online at: www.firstuniv.org/leaderopenings

The Nominating Committee is actively recruiting candidates for leadership positions on the Board of Trustees, the Foundation Board, and the Nominating Committee for the next church year.

Our 153rd year will be an exciting and important time to serve as we welcome a new Program Minister and continue to build on the positive energy and growth of 2011. Serving as an elected member of one of these bodies provides unique opportunities to: 1) Deepen and enrich your personal connection to the Church; 2) Expand your knowledge of Church and UU history and polity; 3) Broaden your circle of relationships with members, staff, and the community which we serve; 4) Collaborate with passionate ministers and lay leaders to advance the mission of the Church: To give, receive, and grow in the Universalist spirit of love and hope!

- ◆ **Board of Trustees:** Trustees partner with the congregation and professional staff in shaping the vision and long-term goals of the church, articulate

these aspirations through policy, and collaborate with the Senior Minister to see they are fulfilled.

- ◆ **Foundation Board:** This board serves as steward for the Foundation endowment, which distributes grants to nonprofit organizations. Most recently the Foundation has provided critical support to the Unity Center for Youth Leadership.
- ◆ **Nominating Committee:** The primary role of this committee is to screen and recommend candidates to the congregation for vacant positions on the Board of Trustees, the Foundation Board, and the Nominating Committee.

Requirements: To qualify for election to any of these positions, a congregant must be a member in good standing of the church, which includes making and paying a yearly pledge of financial support. Elections occur at the Annual Meeting in June. Go online to view position descriptions and apply.

Contact any Nominating Committee member to find out more: Cindy Marsh (chair), Ginny McAninch, Pamela Vincent, Ann Kay, Doug Smalley, and Julie Howard. Email nomination@firstuniv.org.

Meditation/Mostly Silence Group

Are you looking for ways to embrace the quiet of winter, or to reconnect with yourself after a busy holiday season? A meditation/mostly silence group meets the first and third Thursday of every month, from 5 to 6:15 pm. Newcomers and drop-ins are welcome, even if you've never meditated before. The group starts with

a reading and check-in in the Chancel Room (left door behind the Sanctuary), then moves to a walking meditation in the Sanctuary, followed by a sitting meditation in the Meditation Room. We then return to the Chancel Room for reflection and closing words. Any questions, contact Karin Wille at 952/924-0700 or karinwille@comcast.net.

2012 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR VALUES, ALIVE IN THE WORLD

Have you signed up yet for our February 4 Day of Service at FirstUniv.org/2012DayofService?

“All that I have is a loan from life itself.... The world doesn’t owe us anything.... We owe the world and its abundant miracles...our gratitude, our praise.... The spirit map suggests that we have humility and gratitude at the center of our lives, and gratitude opens the heart to generosity.... When we’re really grounded in gratitude, we can remember that it’s all on loan. It’s not ours to keep—it’s not ours to begin with—so we might as well share the blessings; we might as well become generous.”

— Reverend Justin Schroeder; November 13, 2011

The Pledge Team is recycling its theme from last year (we are so green!): “Your community. Your values. Alive in the world.” When we live boldly and are willing to risk truly living our values, then our faith comes alive in the world.

This year’s pledge campaign (firstuniv.org/pledge) will ask us all to consider generosity more deeply. Think of generosity as a spiritual practice, a core value of First Universalist. What can we learn about living according to our values by stretching in our generosity? How might we transform the world—and ourselves—when we embrace deep generosity? How does First Universalist help us live the lives we truly want to lead?

Having conversations about generosity as a spiritual practice can help us continue to mature as a religious community. The past year has been one of much growth and energy at First Universalist: small groups help many of us genuinely connect and deepen our spirituality; and we share most of our weekly collection with outside organizations helping to create a bold, progressive future.

The coming year promises to continue this growth: we will put our faith to work as we celebrate love and

commitment and work to defeat the marriage amendment. We will continue to do more good work with Habitat for Humanity. We will begin to implement our strategic plan. And we will offer Reverend Kate Tucker our deepest gratitude for her ministry as we welcome a new Program Minister.

This ongoing growth requires the generous financial support of each of us. We ask all friends and members to consider generously increasing their pledges. We encourage you to consider joining members of the Pledge Team and our Ministers in pledging 4 to 5 percent or more of your household income. ([See the UUA website for suggested giving guidelines](#)) We have been stretching in our generosity—and noting the challenges and surprise blessings of doing so. We invite each of you to explore this stretching, and to share your experiences of it. If the blessings we enjoy are on loan to us, we might as well share them; we might as well become generous.

The Ministers and Pledge Team invite you to stretch in your giving and to see how your deep generosity toward the church transforms you and the world. If you have questions, please contact Pledge Team Chair Lark Weller at 612-874-9373 or welleo25@umn.edu.

What: The pledge campaign kicks off on February 5 and ends on February 26, with a celebration to follow the late service on the 26th. The pledge campaign is the time when we ask you to thoughtfully decide what you will financially give to the church for its upcoming fiscal year (the period from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013). Pledge materials will be mailed in early February. Please help church staff and Pledge Team members by turning in your pledge by February 26!



PUTTING OUR FAITH INTO ACTION

Visit FirstUniv.org/faithinaction or FirstUniv.org/FIARoundup for ways to get involved

Immigration in Minnesota: Myths, Media and Movement

February 12th, 1-3pm, Cummins Room

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Rodolfo Gutierrez, Executive Director of HACER (Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research)



This event will focus on immigration myths and the role that media plays in influencing our perceptions, practices and policies.

For more information contact debra@firstuniv.org, 612-825-1701 x106.

Stretching Into Service at Habitat for Humanity

By Peg Meier

First Universalist congregant Michelle Tierney has worked on Habitat for Humanity build sites intermittently for 10 years. The daughter of a builder, she learned at her dad's side and is comfortable with Habitat tasks given her — except for getting up on a roof. That was a risk of service she wasn't too comfortable with. But her son and two Habitat staff guys belted her and patiently helped her deal with her fears. Success! She said, "They mentor you so well." Her husband Denis Tierney believes in Habitat's entire concept. "It gives people a chance to own a house," he said. "This is a way for me to give back – that's it."

Mary Sandbo delights in learning mudding, taping, installing laminate floors and more. She has worked on two sites and likes the contrast with her work as a special education teacher: "No one is judging me in this work. Habitat people are always glad to see me. The [school] kids aren't always happy with me because I'm there to get them to work."

Bill McTeer said he "really enjoys working with people from the First U." Another factor: He spends his work life with paper, so helping build a house is incredible.

To Ann Kloth, working with her hands while participating in a "very worthy cause" is "a match made in heaven."

Karen Parson, a retired teacher, quotes a Habitat maxim: "It's a hand-up, not a hand-out." She relishes working with people who will live in the house. She's on a Habitat build crew about once a month. "It's very, very rewarding."

Learn more and sign up for a future monthly build at

FirstUniv.org/habitat



Lark Weller (at a Habitat for Humanity build site, right) heads this year's pledge team. Learn more about the Pledge team at FirstUniv.org/pledge.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Visit FirstUniv.org/calendar for up-to-date details, and for many more events not described here



SHARE YOUR LOVE February 11

The music department's annual fundraiser will be Saturday, February 11, from 7 to 10pm in the Social Hall. The Universalist Jazz Band ("the big band") will play, as well as a jazz trio with John Jensen and a plethora of First Universalist soloists. There will be dancing, socializing, snacking, drinking (wine, beer and punch), and decadent desserts. And... new this year... we will "Share The Love." There will be opportunities to write cards to people who might need an extra love boost. We will also have opportunities to financially support the youth cultural exchange, other charities, and, of course, our beloved music department! Contact Heather Baradan (pictured above), singandgiggle@yahoo.com, if you'd like to help!



Principled Commitment:

A Workshop for Committed Couples

*Dates: Tuesdays, February 14-April 3, 6:30-8:15 p.m.
Free childcare available upon request
Fee: \$25 per couple, fee waived or reduced on request*

This workshop is designed to enhance and support long-term, committed relationships that reflect the values of Unitarian Universalism. Unitarian Universalist congregations can provide a nurturing environment for interpersonal relationships, and our Principles provide an excellent framework to support and enrich marriages and other blessed unions between loving partners.

This workshop, led by Lauren Wyeth, member of First Universalist, is appropriate for adult couples seeking to enhance their committed, healthy, long-term relationships; it is not an alternative to therapy for couples experiencing difficulties. The workshops are designed primarily for couples of all sexual orientations who have made vows or pledged to spend their lives together.

To sign up, contact: Sandy, 612-825-1701 x125, sandy@firstuniv.org.

Labyrinth Open Walk

February 1st, 6:30pm - 8:00pm, Social Hall

The first Wednesday walks are open to everyone, of any age or affiliation. They are self-guided, meaning each person starts, finishes and walks at their own pace. It is not a group ritual. So arrive anytime you like between 6:30 and 8:00pm and leave when you want. An average walk takes between 20 and 30 minutes. We provide the atmosphere, education and suggestions if asked.

February is a good month for couples to use the walk as a bonding experience. In addition to our regular labyrinth, a heart shaped rope labyrinth will be set up for "couple walk."

Heart-to-Heart Enrichment Weekend

The annual couples retreat (straight or LGBT) for Unitarians and Universalists will be held in February, and is designed for couples to privately examine their relationship in a safe, face-to-face encounter. Contact: First Universalist's Susan Hoffman, 612-824-4196, susan-jean57@gmail.com. Space is limited to 15 couples. Details: heart.mn.cx/. The event is at Koinonia Retreat Center in Andover. Cost is \$385 per couple, including meals.

Association of Universalist Women

Spring Retreat: In February, registration opens for the annual Women's Spring Retreat, which will be held April 13 to 15 at Koinonia Retreat Center near Annandale. Members' registration begins February 12. Get a membership form, or pay your dues, at The Hub. Starting February 26, non-members may register. The retreat sells out quickly, so mark your calendars! The Retreat is \$200 for non-members and \$170 for members, for two nights' stay, five meals, and an incredible weekend of connection and rejuvenation. For more information visit The Hub.

Knitting at Ascension Place: AUW is organizing a short series of beginners' basic knitting classes with the women of Ascension Place transitional housing, to be held at their facility in North Minneapolis. Women from Ascension and First Universalist will get acquainted in a knitting circle! There will be four sessions, Thursday evenings from 7pm - 8.30pm, February 16 to March 8. You can sign up to be a "teacher" or a "fellow knitter." Details and sign-up: The Hub. Contact: Tracy Yue, tksytutu@gmail.com, 612 770 4488.

Reproductive Choice movie night: Reproductive justice is a hot button topic in this election year. The Sacred Choices Reproductive Rights group invites you to an intergenerational film and discussion night on February 10, 6.30-9:30pm, in the Social Hall. Anybody age 13 and up is welcome! "The Fragile Promise of Choice" by award-winning filmmaker Dorothy Fadiman examines how worsening socio-economic, political and legal conditions for reproductive justice have affected the lives of providers and the women who seek their services. The film also looks at the complexity of religious issues. The evening starts with pizza dinner, followed by the film and discussion. RSVP not necessary but helpful. Contact: Cathy Apostle, caquilt51@aol.com. Reserve childcare by February 4, by contacting Lily, Lily@firstuniv.org, 612 825 1701 x107.

Pro-Choice Lobby Day: The annual Minnesota Pro-Choice Lobby Day will be held at the State Capitol on February 15. Join the First Universalist contingent and make your voice heard! The event takes place 8am - 2pm and includes a training led by NARAL, boxed breakfast and lunch, a noon rally in the Rotunda, and visits to legislators in the afternoon. Carpooling from church will be organized. More info and online registration is at <http://www.prochoicelobbyday.org/>.

Considering Membership at First U?

As we march into the February pledge campaign, friends and long-time visitors of First Universalist often ask themselves: Should I become a member? What does membership offer me that I don't get from simply coming on Sundays?

Why Membership?

Membership is available to all, ages 14 and up, who are aligned with the mission, vision, and values of this church. Membership gives you voting rights, access to our extraordinary network of congregational care, and preferential access to some of our church programming. Most programs at the church are accessible to non-members, but choosing membership is a public declaration and a spiritual commitment to support this congregation and allow the community to support you.

How Can I Learn More?

First Step is a brief overview of what our community has to offer. This session is especially for visitors and newcomers. The next sessions will be held February 5 and February 19 following each service. No sign up is necessary. To reserve childcare, contact Lily@firstuniv.org. Details: firstuniv.org/membership.

Pathways to Membership Class

This class is for those new to Unitarian Universalism and/or First Universalist Church, and is a requirement for those who wish to become members. Next class: February 11, 9:00am-1:00pm. Register by contacting Sandy@firstuniv.org. Free childcare available on request.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Meet our Unity Leadership Interns

Quadre “Dre” and Sean are two of the nine Unity Center for Youth Leadership interns working as youth organizers this year. Dre is a sophomore at Washburn and Sean is a junior at South.

Each has a deep personal commitment to undoing racism and increasing the involvement of youth in their communities. As both Dre and Sean have experienced racism and prejudice themselves, it fuels their passion for the fight for equity even more.

“I’ve gone through so many things that are racist, it makes me want to work against racism so others



don’t have to,” said Dre. “Talking about racism is hard, even with my friends. But even though it is hard to do sometimes, it is a risk worth taking.” Unless racism is talked about it, he added, it makes you ashamed, angry and sad.

As a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Sean is deeply connected to her community and its traditions. She is clear that she wants to be known as a leader in her community, and is willing to take risks to be that leader. Taking a risk for Sean is refusing to engage in some of the risky (and perhaps normal) teen behaviors such as drinking, drugs, premarital sex, etc. She knows she doesn’t always fit in with her friends, but is confident that sticking to traditional Native wisdom is the path for her.



Dre and Sean are working hard to get more youth involved in Unity Center programming. They developed and led the first Unity After Dark event last month and are working on service projects for teens for the winter and spring months.

R.E. Orientation and Registration

There will be a Religious Education registration session on February 12 at 10:30am in Room 208. This registration session is for new families interested in registering their children. No need to RSVP. Childcare will be offered in Room 206. Other upcoming orientation sessions are March 11 and April 15.

Calling All Boy Singers!

All boys, third grade and up, are invited to participate in the second annual boys singing group. Led by First Universalist member Andrew Tralle, the Boy’s Choir will meet for six Sundays between services, 10:30-11:10 a.m., starting February 5 and culminate with a performance at the March 18 services. The group will sing songs backed up by a band. Andrew teaches elementary school music at Marcy Open School. Contact: Mary Bohman, mary@firstuniv.org.

Chocolates Fundraiser

The Youth Cultural Exchange will be selling sumptuous homemade chocolate truffles. The YCE cupid chefs are making the following flavors: Dark Chocolate Raspberry, Almond Cappuccino, Mayan Hot Chocolate, Dark Chocolate Sea Salt, Milk Chocolate



Truffles can be pre-ordered in packages of 4 for \$6, 6 for \$9, and 9 for \$12. The truffles will be ready for pick up on Sunday, Feb.12. Look for information near the eggroll table in the Social Hall, or at a special table on February 5. Proceeds from YCE fundraising activities are being used to bring Nicaraguan youth, whose families hosted our teens last summer, to the Twin Cities in July.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

We hold in our thoughts and prayers

Many of our Congregational Care items are not available online for privacy reasons. Please see the Congregational Care corner in the Social Hall on Sundays to learn more about the life stages of our members.

Sydney Dunitz, whose sister, Linda Simon, passed away Nov. 30 in her home in Richmond, VA.

Catherine Dorr, whose uncle, Bill Dorr, died Nov. 26 after an active life, at age 86.

Allan Roadfeldt, who moved to the MN Veterans Home on Dec. 22, and would love to receive our cards and notes. We hold Allan and his wife Sylvia Rudolph in our thoughts and prayers as they live into this transition.

For congregational care, contact: Rev. Kate Tucker, ktucker@firstuniv.org, x103
Sandy DiNanni, sandy@firstuniv.org, x125

Preben Mosborg (right), who begins hospice care at York Gardens Memory Care. Preben has been a member of this congregation for 47 years. We hold Preben, his wife Gwen, his son Steven, granddaughter Amanda Grace, and all the family in our hearts. *[Editor's Note: we received word that Preben passed away January 23.]*



Change in Finance Administration Staff

Our beloved Assistant Finance Administrator, BJ van Glabbeek, left her position January 13 to stay home with her soon-to-be-born son, Miles. BJ's temporary replacement is Brad Schmidt, from Accountemps. Brad will handle all the things that BJ did, until a replacement is hired: pledge payments, changes, and questions; contributions; tracking our funds (what's been spent and what's left); paying the bills; processing reimbursements for volunteers and staff. **Contact:** brad@firstuniv.org, 612-825-1701 x100.

Art Exhibits

Diane Schroeder's photography will be exhibited in the Social Hall until February 19. After that the exhibit space will include dramatic, colorful quilts by Beverly Dorsey, who loves to explore different construction techniques. Her quilts have been in annual art shows of the University of Minnesota Women's Club art section and in a show at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

Tips from Green Sanctuary Team

BPA (Bisphenol A) is an estrogen-like chemical found in many products and linked to many health issues, including brain and developmental damage, breast and prostate cancer, obesity, infertility, miscarriage, early puberty, and hyperactivity. Learn about how to avoid this common chemical, and many other green tips, at firstuniv.org/greentips.

Homeless Action from First U

Thanks in part to congregant Barb Melom, 1,200 hats were knit and distributed to those in need this winter season by a large network of knitters. Learn more at www.hats4thhomeless.blogspot.com. And find out how the Project Homeless Connect initiative did in December at firstuniv.org/projecthomeless.

Upcoming General Assembly in Phoenix

A preliminary schedule of events for the June meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association is available at www.uua.org/ga.

In the Universalist spirit of love and hope, we give, receive and grow. First Universalist Church of Minneapolis (612-825-1701, firstuniv.org)

Senior Minister

Reverend Justin Schroeder x102

Associate Minister

Reverend Kate Tucker x103

Intern Minister

Ralph Krog x120

Minister Emeritus

Reverend John Cummins

Director of Faith in Action

Debra Rodgers x106

Communications Coordinator

Mikki Morrissette x110

Membership Support

Sandy DiNanni x125

Director of Finance/Administration

Susan Claeys x104

Office Manager

Trish Greene x145

Assistant Finance Administrator

Brad Schmidt x100

Facility Manager

Tracy Van Epps x117

Cleaning Custodian

Tim Ewing

Sound System Operator

David Kellermann

Director of Congregational Life

Heidi Mastrud x124

Youth and Young Adult

Ministries Coordinator

Katie Heaton x109

Program Assistant/Childcare Provider

Lily Franz x107

2 & 3 year-old Teacher

Emily Christie x111

Director of Worship Arts

Ruth MacKenzie x127

Music Director

John Jensen

Choral Director

Randal Buikema

Children's Music Coordinator

Mary Bohman

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Fax: 612-825-8879

Phone: 612-825-1701

Contact information

Sunday: 9 am-1 pm

Saturday: Closed

Friday: 8:30am-4 pm

Monday - Thursday: 8:30am-8 pm

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