

GET CONNECTED!

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MEETING

Does your faith compel you to act to preserve and care for our earth? Are you concerned that environmental damage disproportionately impacts people of color and the poor? Do you want to work with others at church to learn, inspire others, and act for change? If so, **join us on Thursday, January 22nd from 7-8:30pm** as we continue to map out our work for environmental justice.

Racial Justice and Our UU Faith

Saturday, January 17

9am-1pm, Cummins Room

Led by Brian Eshult, Lark Weller, and Margaret Mandefeld. Please contact Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink at elaine@firstuniv.org for more information, and to register.

Generosity Calculator Online

We express our gratitude by being generous with our blessings. We now have a tool on our website to help you explore your own feelings and goals regarding generosity, both here at First Universalist and in the larger world. It will give you the opportunity to anonymously input why you give, your aspirations of giving and how you wish allocate your giving. To visit this online "generosity calculator", visit this address:

<http://firstuniversalistchurch.org/exploring-generosity/>

Newcomer Circle

Are you new to First Universalist? Whether you are a recent visitor or a new member, you're invited to join our upcoming Newcomer Circle. This four-session gathering of 6-10 newcomers offer a chance to explore core Unitarian Universalist values, reflect on our spiritual journeys, and connect with other folks who are new to church. The next session meets on Tuesdays, January 6, 13, 20, 27 from 7:00-8:30pm. To register, contact Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink at elaine@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701 x124. Childcare is available with 7 days advance notice.

Holiday Office & Building Hours

The church office will be closed from December 22 - January 3. It will reopen for regular hours Sunday, January 4. The building will be closed on December 25, December 26, half of December 31 and all of January 1.

CIRCLE REGISTRATION IS COMING!

Online registration for Community Circles, Spiritual Deepening Circles, and Care Circles opens on January 11, 2015. For more information, contact Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink at elaine@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701 x124

Habitat for Humanity Build Days

Sign up online for 2015 Habitat for Humanity build days! There are a variety of days to choose from, and we are looking for a number of volunteers. To sign up online, visit:
<http://firstuniversalistchurch.org/habitat-for-humanity-sign-up/>



WELCOME!

CELEBRATING OUR GENEROSITY

Offering plates from Sunday service:

- 11/30 Joyce Bilingual Preschool \$808
- 11/23 Habitat for Humanity \$1,236
- 11/16 Racial Justice \$782
- 11/9 Youth Farm \$903
- 11/2 Clare Housing \$1,140

To nominate an offering recipient, go to: www.firstuniversalistchurch.com/offering-plate

Are You Visiting?

Come to a brief orientation to First Universalist and Unitarian Universalism, the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Our next orientation takes place: Sunday, January 4th

Meet us in the front of the Sanctuary immediately after the service. Find out more about our community in this 30-minute overview. No sign up needed and coffee & childcare are provided.

The Visiting Families Welcome Station at the north end of the Religious Education wing has information about our Children, Youth & Family Ministries. Stop by if you are interested in learning more, or email our Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries, Lauren Wyeth at: lauren@firstuniv.org.

LET US KEEP YOU IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

If you are experiencing a crisis or transition, or celebrating a joy--please let us know. If you'd like to be included in our Cycle of Life each Sunday in worship, please contact Sandy diNanni at (sandy@firstuniv.org) or (612) 825-1701.

If you would like support, please contact Rev. Jen Crow (jen@firstuniv.org or 825-1701) or any member of our Pastoral Care Team.

We are so glad that you are here.

At First Universalist Church,
in the spirit of love and hope,
we give, receive, and grow.

We welcome, affirm, and protect the light in each human heart; we act outside of our walls; we listen to where love is calling us next.

We do all this as a faith community committed to racial justice. These spiritual practices and commitments are the ways we move in rhythm with the great love that is alive in the world.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Hearing Devices are available; please ask an usher. Cushions are available for the pews and are located next to the sound booth and at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Please return them to their home after the service.

We also have **Fragrance-Free rows** marked in the balcony.

For more information about First Universalist, go to our website: www.firstuniversalistchurch.org, stop by our Information Center in the Social Hall downstairs after services, or call our church office, 612-825-1701.

The Weekly Liberal

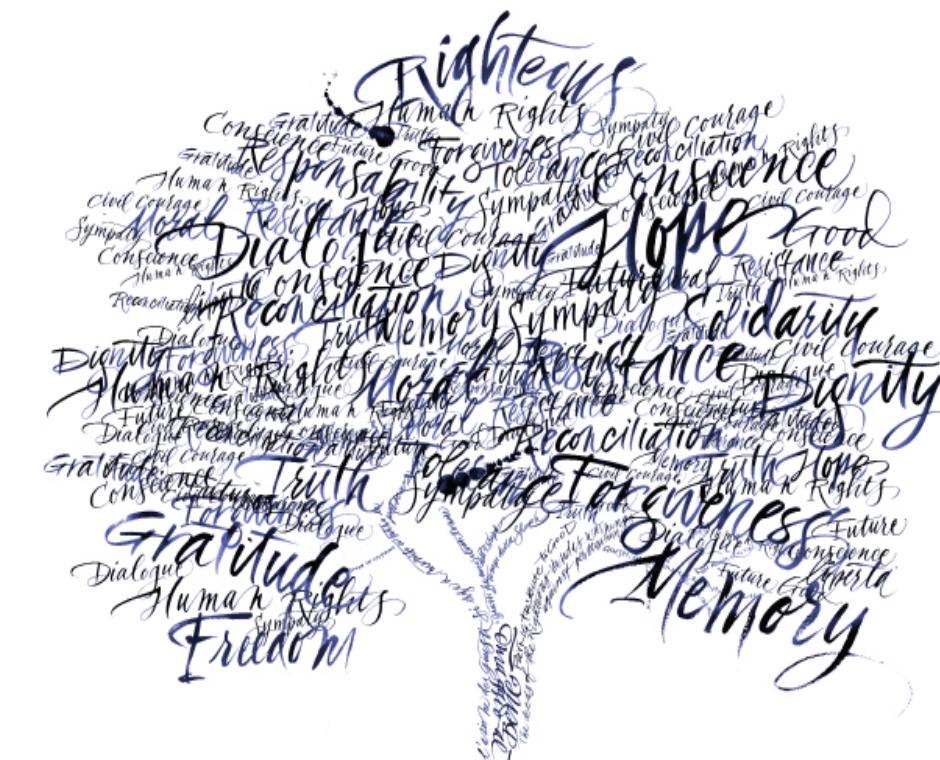
Want to know what's going on at First Universalist Church? *The Weekly Liberal* (our weekly newsletter) is for you! If you aren't already on the e-news distribution list and would like to be, simply sign up online by visiting our website and following the prompts. Please note, too, that paper copies of *The Weekly Liberal* will always be available in the office and at Sunday's services.

Visit us online at:

www.firstuniversalistchurch.org
www.twitter.com/firstuniv
www.facebook.com/firstuniv



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



SINGING SUNDAY: YOU CAN'T STOP THE MUSIC

REV. ELAINE ARON TENBRINK

Music for Gathering

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Words of Welcome

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Bellsound

Hymn Sing

- # 361 *Enter Rejoice and Come In*
- # 346 *Come Sing a Song with Me*
- # 395 *Sing and Rejoice*

Lighting the Chalice

*Love is the spirit of this church,
and service is its law.
This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
to seek the truth in love,
and to help one another.*

-James V. Blake
(reprinted with permission by the UUA)

Wisdom Story, Part 1:

You Can't Stop the Music
-Rev. Aaron McEmrys

Hymn for Centering # 393

Jubilate Deo

Guided Meditation

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Cycle of Life

Hymn of Prayer # 123 (seated)

Spirit of Life

Spirit of life, come unto me,
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea:
Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close. Wings set me free.
Spirit of Life, come to me. Come to me.

-Carolyn McDade
(reprinted with permission by the UUA)

Hymn for Centering # 100

Peace Like a River

Wisdom Story, Part 2:

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Offertory # 1008

When Our Heart is in a Holy Place

Wisdom Story, Part 3:

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Closing Hymn #118 (please rise in body or spirit)

This Little Light of Mine

Closing Words

Blessing in Song # 413

Go Now in Peace

Music for the Journey

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Worship Leaders

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Minister of Membership &
Adult Ministries

Ann Kay

Song Leader

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Pianist

Worship Design and Coordination

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Holiday Decorations

The holiday decorations are a heartfelt gift from the Visual Arts Committee to the congregation. Averil Bach is a creative and professional artist dealing with flowers and the beauty of our natural surroundings. She has been instrumental in creating the flower arrangements on the chancel this year. We thank her for her gift to the church!

Offering: Youth Link

Youth Link strives to build healthy relationships with youth and the community to address youths' urgent needs so that doors of opportunity are opened to futures of empowerment, connectedness, and self-reliance. Ninety percent of youth served are people of color.

More information can be found at <http://www.youthlinkmn.org/>.

Worship Theme: Slow Church

In our commodified society, we are told over and over again that what we own is what we're worth, that "buying" something will bring happiness. In the ancient world, a form of "buying" meant buying back life, delivering a life from slavery based on the payment of a price by the redeemer. This form of buying was called redemption. This month we will focus our attention on buying back our lives, of practicing redemption for our own lives and others. The first step in this exchange is slowing down. We will practice mindfulness, listening, and opening to the spirit.

We will practice slow church.

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

January 4: Rev. Justin Schroeder

January 11: Rev. Jen Crow

January 18: Rev. Justin Schroeder

January 25: Rev. Jim Foti

