Get Connected!

State of the Church

Everyone is invited to join the Board of Trustees and Staff of the Church at **12:45 PM on February 1 in the Sanctuary**. They will share updates on their respective goals for the year, have a current year budget update and outline the budget and programming for the year to come.
Childcare is available if you register **today** using this form: http://firstuniversalistchurch.org/childcare-request-form/

AUW Winter Tea

Dust off your fanciest hat and get ready to attend our annual Winter Tea! **Saturday, February 7 at 2:00 PM**

Sign up at the AUW table in the Social Hall on Sundays in January or online at: 1uauw.org.

Volunteer: Set-up, clean-up, bring food, serve food or decorate tables in your own theme.

Donate at the tea to Augsburg-Fairview Academy to support its academic program and stock the Food Closet.

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 to allocate your giving. To visit this online "generosity calculator", go to our website or scan this code:

Winter Warm-Up

What is Winter Warm-Up? It's a live music dance party FUN-raiser featuring First U's own Rock Band!

We'll have dancing and light appetizers with beverages available for purchase.

Join us **Saturday, January 31 at 8:00 PM.** Buy your tickets now at http://winterwarmup.bpt.me/
or on Sunday in the Social Hall between services. Suggested donation for admission is $10-$20, but no one will be tuned away based on ability to pay.

Exhibit in Social Hall

January 11- February 15

"Through My Lens" is a photography exhibit created by 65 teens from local social service agencies as a part of Free Arts Minnesota's summer 2014 Teaching Artist Series, led by photographer Wing Young Huie in partnership with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

Circle Registration Ends Today!

Online registration for Community Circles, Spiritual Deepening Circles, and Care Circles closes today, January 25, 2015. Register online at firstucircles.weebly.com or stop by the registration table in the Social Hall after services today!

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/

First Universalist Church of Minneapolis
January 25, 2015

Welcome!

Celebrating our Generosity

Offering plates from Sunday service:

1/4 Walk-In Counseling $939
12/28 Youth Link $954
12/21 Racial Justice Work $1,085
12/14 Beacon 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, February 1

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.

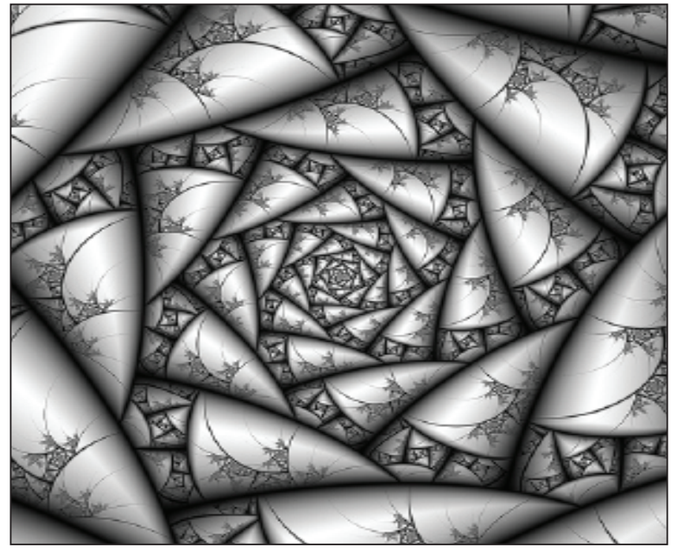
For more information about First Universalist, go to our website: www.firstuniversalistchurch.org, stop by our Information Center in the Social Hall downstairs after services, or call our church office, 612-825-1701.

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 or by scanning the QR code below. Please note, too, that paper copies of *The Weekly Liberal* will always be available in the office and at Sunday's services.

First Universalist Church of Minneapolis

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



Love Across Change

Jim Foti

January 25, 2015

Music for Gathering Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Variations for Judith - Bist du bei mir
- G.H. Stolzel

Words of Welcome Rev. Jen Crow

Bellsound

Prelude

Variations for Judith - Spitalfield Echoes Dr. Jerrod Wendland
-Stephen Johns

Call to Worship Frederic MacDonald-Dennis

Opening Hymn #323 (please rise in body or spirit)

Break Not the Circle

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)

Musical Interlude Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Reading Rev. Jen Crow

The Guest House
-Rumi as imagined by Coleman Barks

Silence

Cycle of Life Rev. Jen Crow

Hymn of Prayer # 123 (please remain 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)

Responsive Reading Jim Foti

#645 "Song of the Open Road" (found on the back of the hymnal)
-Walt Whitman

Anthem First Universalist Choir
Dr. Randal Buikema, Conductor

Verleih uns Frieden
-Felix Mendelssohn

In this time of strife, grant us peace.

Sermon Jim Foti

Love Across Change

Offertory Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Variations for Judith - Ist Bach bei mir
- Jonathan Dove

Closing Hymn #6 (please rise in body or spirit)

Just as Long as I Have Breath

Closing Words Jim Foti

Blessing in Song # 413

Go Now in Peace

Music for the Journey Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Worship Leaders

Jim Foti	Asst. Minister of First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis
Rev. Jen Crow	Minister of Program Life
Dr. Randal Buikema	Director of Choral Arts
Dr. Jerrod Wendland	Pianist
First Universalist Choir	

Chalice Lighters

Katelyn Berry	9:30
Nadia Bierbaum	11:15

Guest Speaker

Jim Foti is Assistant Minister at the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis. He graduated from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 2013, and served as an intern at Unity Church-Unitarian and the St. Croix UU Fellowship. Prior to ministry, Jim had a 20 year career as a newspaper journalist. He and his partner, Ralph Wyman, are members of First Universalist Church.

Worship Design and Coordination

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie	Minister of Worship Arts

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Bette DeMars of the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

In its 25th year of service, education & advocacy, MNRCRC advances reproductive justice among progressive people of faith across Minnesota. As the faith leader in a network of reproductive justice agencies, MNRCRC gives voice to the message that individuals have a God-given right and responsibility to determine their own capacity for parenting. Their values include multicultural sensitivity, interfaith dialogue, and the prophetic imperative of anti-racism. They offer pastoral counseling to women and families, train clergy and lay leaders in pastoral care for reproductive decisions and loss, and advocate for reproductive justice in St. Paul and Washington DC.

Musical Notes from Dr. Jerrod Wendland

In 2007, administrator Judith Serota stepped down as head of the Spitalfields Festival in London. As a retirement gift, a "Who's Who" of British composers wrote a set of piano variations for her. Based on the song "Bist du bei mir" ("You are with me", for a long time thought to be by J.S. Bach), each variation re-interprets the song in a different style and mood. I feel that this work embodies change – from old to new, from dark to light, from past to future.