



Winter 2015-2016

Worship at First Universalist Church

Sharing Sundays

4 years to 5th grade attend first part of service
First Sunday of the month, Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Feb. 7

Multigenerational worship

4 years & up attend entire service
Dec. 20 & Dec. 27

Youth-friendly worship

6th-12th grade attend entire service
Jan. 17 & Feb. 14

December 2015

Worship Theme: Making Room

So much in our consumer culture screams hurry up...do more...make it work... squeeze it in. We are bombarded with how to do things smarter, faster, more efficiently, especially this time of year. If the purpose of the religious life is to grow our souls and repair the world, as Unitarian Universalist minister Richard Gilbert once put it, if we are to move into a greater sense of wholeness inside and out, then making room is key. Making room is different than squeezing it in. Making room connotes a sense of slowing down, refocusing our attention and coming into spiritual alignment. It is developing practices and systems that help us calm our tricked out nervous systems, and finding grace and goodness on the other side when we least expect it.

Dec. 6	Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m. <i>Sharing Sunday</i>	Worship , Rev. Justin Schroeder
Dec. 13	Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.	Choir-led Worship , Rev. Ruth MacKenzie Music: Handel's <i>Messiah</i> , First Universalist Choir and Orchestra
Dec. 20	Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m. <i>Multigenerational Worship</i>	"The Gift of Home" Holiday Giving Service , Rev. Justin Schroeder Music: Folk Band; Conrad Carlozzi, <i>Worship Associate</i>
Dec. 20 & 24	Sunday & Thursday, 4 p.m.	Christmas Pageant
Dec. 21	Monday, 7 p.m.	Winter Solstice Service
Dec. 24	Thursday, 9:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Dec. 27	Sunday, 10 a.m. one service only <i>Multigenerational Worship</i>	Singing Sunday , Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

January 2016

Worship Theme: Passages

A disciple of Buddha felt great anxiety at the Buddha's imminent departure from his village. "I cannot bear life without you here," he cried. "What will I do? I will be drawn into the extremes of suffering and joy and I will not be at peace." The Buddha wrote some wise words on a paper. "When you are pulled by life into the extremes of joy or the lows of pain and worry, read this," he said handing the man the paper. The man opened the note. It read, "This will not last." This month we examine the essential impermanence of life. This life is made of passages.

Jan. 3	Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m. <i>Sharing Sunday</i>	Remembrance Sunday , Rev. Justin Schroeder
Jan. 10	Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m. <i>New Member Sunday</i>	Worship , Rev. Jen Crow Music: Ghost Revival band; Frederic MacDonald-Dennis, <i>Worship Associate</i>
Jan. 17	Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m. <i>Youth-friendly worship</i>	Dr. King Sunday Worship , Rev. Justin Schroeder Music: Guante; Ginger Murphrey, <i>Worship Associate</i>
Jan. 24	Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.	Worship , Rev. Justin Schroeder Music: First Universalist Choir
Jan. 31	Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.	Worship , Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink Music: First Universalist Choir

February 2016

Worship Theme: Brokenness

"Life will break you. Nobody can protect you from that, and living alone won't either, for solitude will also break you with its yearning. You have to love. You have to feel. It is the reason you are here on earth," writes Louise Erdrich. Brokenness is part and parcel of being human. We are born into families that fall short, or social constructs that privilege one group over another. Brokenness is. When we don't admit brokenness, the truth of our stories, then we don't make room for understanding, the healing balm of confession, and the deep well of compassion. All is available to us, but first we must admit brokenness.

Feb. 7	Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m. <i>Sharing Sunday</i>	Worship , Rev. Jen Crow
Feb. 14	Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m. <i>Youth-friendly worship</i>	Worship , Rev. Ruth MacKenzie Music: First Universalist Choir
Feb. 21	Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m. <i>Pledge Drive Kick-Off</i>	Worship , Rev. Justin Schroeder Music: First Universalist Choir
Feb. 28	Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.	Worship , Guest Speaker