



GET CONNECTED

PICK UP A PLEDGE PACKET TODAY

Last Sunday, we launched our 2016-2017 Pledge Drive, and we look forward to celebrating our commitment to this church community on Pledge Day, which will happen on Wednesday, March 9. **If you didn't pick up a Pledge Packet last Sunday, please pick one up as you leave the Sanctuary after the service today.** This will save us several hundred dollars in postage costs. Packets not picked up today will be mailed on Monday, Feb. 29. Thank you!

CLIMATE-ENDANGERED BIRDS OF MN: TODAY!

There are 166 climate threatened or climate endangered bird species in Minnesota. St. Paul Audubon member Monica Bryand is working on a special project of Minnesota Audubon to photograph these 166 at-risk species and currently has more than 100 images. Today, from 1-3 p.m. in the Cummins Room, she will share photos and stories of her travels and why she is so passionate about working to protect the environment for people and birds.

FAITHFUL ACTION ADVOCACY INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Join us to learn more about how advocacy is an integral part of First Universalist's commitment to justice. An informational community meeting will be held in the Social Hall following both services on Sunday, March 6. We hope to see you there!

PLEDGE DAY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

On Wednesday, March 9, church will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for you to stop by and submit your annual pledge. Please mark your calendar and plan on joining us that day for food (breakfast, lunch and dinner), fun and prizes — all ages are welcome!

15 NOW MN ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITY

Join First Universalist Faithful Action Advocacy and 15Now Minnesota today at 1:00 p.m. in the Chalice Room for empowering conversation and action planning around improving livable wages for Minneapolis workers. 15Now is leading a ballot campaign this spring to win a \$15 wage this November. More info: <https://15nowmn.org/>

RACIAL JUSTICE AND OUR UU FAITH WORKSHOP

We hope all members and friends will join us for this interactive workshop exploring a framework and tools for understanding race, racism, and whiteness and the spiritual imperative that drives our racial justice work. This is a distilled experience of the 24-hour training offered by Dr. Heather Hackman. The March workshop is offered in two parts (both required), on Saturdays, March 5 and 12 from 10 a.m. to noon. Led by Emma Paskewitz, Polly Talen, Sacha Muller, and Marjorie Herdes. To register, contact Sandy DiNanni at sandy@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701.



WELCOME

We are so glad 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.

LET US KEEP YOU IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

If you are experiencing a crisis or transition, or celebrating a joy—please let us know. To be included in our Cycle of Life each Sunday in worship, contact Sandy DiNanni at sandy@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701.

If you would like support, contact Rev. Jen Crow (jen@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701) or any member of our Pastoral Care Team.

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, March 6.

Meet us in the front of the Sanctuary immediately after the service. Find out more about our community in this 45-minute overview. No sign up needed. Childcare is provided after the 11:15 service.

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 Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries Lauren Wyeth at: lauren@firstuniv.org.

CELEBRATING OUR GENEROSITY

Offering plates from Sunday Service:

- 2/7 Prepare+Prosper \$860.40
- 2/14 Habitat for Humanity \$711.34
- 2/21 Project DIVA \$1,080.24

Know a charitable organization that shares our commitment to justice and equity? Nominate an offering recipient at: firstuniversalistchurch.org/offering-plate

If you'd like to make a donation but don't have cash, use the Square Cash App. It takes no time at all to set up and use! First Universalist's cash tag is \$firstuniv. For more information, go to <http://firstuniversalistchurch.org/new-giving-option-square-cash/>.

NEED TRANSPORTATION TO CHURCH?

We can help with at least two weeks notice. Contact Anne McBean (952-938-2897, mcbea001@yahoo.com) if you need help with a ride or would like to offer a ride to a congregant.

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**, stop by our Information Center in the Social Hall downstairs, call 612-825-1701, or visit our website: firstuniversalistchurch.org.

THE WEEKLY LIBERAL

The Weekly Liberal (our email newsletter) is published on Thursdays. Subscribe at: firstuniversalistchurch.org/the-weekly-liberal/

Do you have news or information you'd like published? Fill out the submission form on our website!



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



WORSHIP THEME: BROKENNESS

WE ALL COME FROM BROKEN HOMES

REV. MEG RILEY

FEBRUARY 28, 2016

Music for Gathering

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Words of Welcome

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Prelude

Suite Hebraique No. 4: I. *Agadah (Legend)*
- Srul Irving Glick

Kendra Wheeler
Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Call to Worship

Ginger Murphrey

Opening Hymn #407 (Please stand in body or spirit)

We're Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table

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

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Musical Interlude

Suite Hebraique No. 4: III. *Lullaby*
- Srul Irving Glick

Kendra Wheeler
Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Silence

Cycle of Life

Rev. Justin Schroeder

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

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Reading

Rev. Meg Riley

Musical Offering

Suite Hebraique No. 4: II. *Nigun*
- Srul Irving Glick

Kendra Wheeler
Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Sermon

We All Come From Broken Homes

Rev. Meg Riley

Offertory

Suite Hebraique No. 4: IV. *Wedding Dance*
- Srul Irving Glick

Kendra Wheeler
Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Closing Hymn #331 (Please stand in body or spirit)

Life Is the Greatest Gift of All

Closing Words

Rev. Meg Riley

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Meg Riley	Senior Minister of Church of the Larger Fellowship
Rev. Justin Schroeder	Senior Minister
Ginger Murphrey	Worship Associate
Dr. Jerrod Wendland	Pianist
Kendra Wheeler	Guest Musician
Knut Remmen	9:30 A.M. Chalice Lighter
Meshach Mendel	11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Dick Reuter of the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: TRUST (Toward Renewed Unity in Service Together)

TRUST, Inc. is a nonprofit, interfaith coalition of Minneapolis congregations that has served the needs of seniors, families, and youth of Minneapolis since 1970. TRUST has a membership of 18 congregations, including First Universalist Church, representing nine different denominations. Through TRUST, churches gather to do good works by providing human services in the community and doing together what no individual congregation could do alone.

About Rev. Meg Riley

Rev. Meg Riley serves as Senior Minister for the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), a Unitarian Universalist congregation without walls with 3,500 members. Rev. Riley is also a member of First Universalist Church and once served as its Religious Education Director. Before her tenure at CLF, Rev. Riley served the Unitarian Universalist Association in a variety of positions including directing the Advocacy and Witness Programs, Washington Office for Advocacy, Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Concerns, and Youth Office. She directed the Standing on the Side of Love campaign and the Unitarian Universalist response to Hurricane Katrina. We welcome Rev. Riley and her message in our sanctuary.

About Kendra Wheeler

Kendra Wheeler has performed throughout the Midwest. She has performed at the Chicago Symphony Center as a soloist, and placed first in the Schubert Club Competition. She was also a part of the ZA Saxophone Quartet at the University of Minnesota, where the group won the Midwest Young Artist Competition, and has performed on the radio.

February 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.” - 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.