

## GET CONNECTED

### DAYTIME CONNECTIONS: EXPLORING LIFE COMPLETION

Join other First U seniors on Thursday, March 17 at 11 a.m. for a program exploring the act of dying. What choices and support are available to us during this important time? What do you want your final days to be like? What can you do to ensure your wishes are honored? Rev. Harlan Limpert, Chief Operating Officer of UUA, will guide us in examining UU values and principles around end of life care. Dr. Rebecca Thoman, a Compassion & Choices educator, will review end of life documents and strategies. A \$5 donation is requested for lunch. To RSVP, contact Sandy at [sandy@firstuniv.org](mailto:sandy@firstuniv.org) or 612-825-1701.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECRUITING CANDIDATES

The Nominating Committee is actively recruiting candidates for leadership positions on the Board of Trustees, the Foundation Board, and the Nominating Committee itself for the next church year. We believe the congregation is full of untapped talent and we encourage people to step forward and share their skills. To qualify, you must be a member in good standing of the church. The application deadline is April 1, and elections occur at the Annual Meeting in June. More detailed position descriptions and application can be found at [firstuniversalistchurch.org](http://firstuniversalistchurch.org). To learn more, send an email to: [nomination@firstuniv.org](mailto:nomination@firstuniv.org).

### AMERICAN PROMISE PART I - VIEWING AND DISCUSSION

Join us today in Room 200 at 1 p.m. for a viewing and discussion of the first half of the documentary "American Promise," a rare look into the lives of two middle class black families as they navigate the ups and downs of parenting and educating their sons. Part II will be shown Sunday, March 20 at 1 p.m. These are drop-in conversations that last 90 minutes.

### GREAT GATHERING: TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

Join us for an evening of fellowship and fundraising at First Universalist on Saturday, April 23 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Enjoy dinner catered by Darbar Grill and music by Charbara. There will be a live auction and opportunities to sign up for Great Gatherings. Tickets (\$40 each) are available in the Social Hall between services beginning today and can also be purchased online at <http://greatgathering2016.bpt.me>. The Great Gathering is a fundraiser to support the Social Justice and Youth Ministry work of the church as well as the new pulpit.

### AUW (ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSALIST WOMEN SPRING RETREAT

This year's AUW Spring Retreat will feature Rev. Kate Tucker as keynote speaker. The retreat will be held April 15-17 at the Koinonia Retreat Center near Annandale, MN. The retreat includes activities like yoga, Tai Chi Chih, meditation, paper-bead making and nature hikes, plus time and space for personal contemplation. For details and registration, visit the AUW table in the Social Hall on Sundays.



## 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](mailto:sandy@firstuniv.org) or 612-825-1701.

If you would like support, contact Rev. Jen Crow ([jen@firstuniv.org](mailto: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 20

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](mailto:lauren@firstuniv.org).

### CELEBRATING OUR GENEROSITY

Offering plates from Sunday Service:

2/21 Project DIVA \$1,080.24

2/28 TRUST \$831.66

3/6 MCCC \$803.17

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

### PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Pastoral Care Team is a group of congregants, led by the Rev. Jen Crow, who provide confidential pastoral care to friends and members of our congregation in need of support. If you are in need of a Pastoral Care team visit, please contact Rev. Jen Crow at [jen@firstuniv.org](mailto:jen@firstuniv.org).

### 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](http://firstuniversalistchurch.org).

### THE WEEKLY LIBERAL

The Weekly Liberal is published on Thursdays. Subscribe at: [firstuniversalistchurch.org/the-weekly-liberal/](http://firstuniversalistchurch.org/the-weekly-liberal/)

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



## FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



MOONLIGHT BY ALICE POPKORN CC BY-ND 2.0

WORSHIP THEME: WHOLENESS

## THE SHAPE OF THINGS

REV. JEN CROW

MARCH 13, 2016

## Music for Gathering

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

## Words of Welcome

Rev. Jen Crow

## Prelude

Excerpts from *Goldberg Variations*  
- Johann Sebastian Bach

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

## Call to Worship

Sherry Kempf

## Opening Hymn #126 (Please stand in body or spirit)

*Come Thou Font of Every Blessing*

## 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

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

## Silence

## Cycle of Life

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

## 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

*What Can I Say?*  
- Mary Oliver

Rev. Jen Crow

## Anthem

*River in Judea*  
- Linda Marcus & Jack Feldman, arr. John Leavitt

First Universalist Choir  
Dr. Randal Buikema

## Sermon

*The Shape of Things*

Rev. Jen Crow

## Offertory

Excerpts from *Goldberg Variations*  
- Johann Sebastian Bach

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

## Closing Hymn #326 (Please stand in body or spirit)

*Let All the Beauty We Have Known*

## Closing Words

Rev. Jen Crow

## Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

## Worship Leaders

Rev. Jen Crow	Executive Minister
Rev. Ruth MacKenzie	Minister of Worship & Coming of Age
Sherry Kempf	Worship Associate
Dr. Jerrod Wendland	Pianist
Dr. Randal Buikema	Director of Choral Arts
First Universalist Choir	
Luca Knych	9:30 A.M. Chalice Lighter
Maya Conners	11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

## Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Dick Rueter of the Visual Arts Committee and are dedicated in loving memory of Margaret and Stanton Saterstrom from the Tom Saterstrom and Diane Hansen families.

## Offering: Good Karma Animal Rescue of Minnesota

Good Karma Animal Rescue of Minnesota works to improve the lives of dogs in high-risk situations by providing them with safe harbor, matching them with adoption or foster families, and being positive, educational advocates for animals and animal rescues. Good Karma has successfully placed hundreds of dogs in loving adoptive homes and rehabilitated countless special needs and medical needs dogs. Today's offering will be used to help offset veterinary expenses; many of the animals come in with issues the shelter can't directly help with such as tooth extractions, eye issues, spay/neuter operations, and many others.

## Musical Notes by Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Johann Sebastian Bach is primarily thought of as: a) a religious composer; b) German; and c) a genius (a term he would not have recognized). All of these things are technically true, but they also undermine his true significance. Bach represents a lot of firsts: first major composer to spend time in prison, first composer to write for posterity, but especially: The first composer to get a university degree (surprisingly, in law, not divinity). This gave him a taste of the culture of the Enlightenment, the ongoing attempt to give human life and institutions a rational basis (characterized by Kant with the phrase *Aude sapere*: "Dare to know!"). As a professional musician, he tried to synthesize Italian, French, and German influences into a truly international music (although he never left German soil). His later works are like musical encyclopedias, attempting to discover every way of using a musical idea. The Goldberg Variations start with a simple song, which he then re-interprets so as to show off every musical technique, mood, and genre he can think of. I can think of no better way to exemplify Wholeness.

## March Worship Theme: Wholeness

Wholeness is not perfection. Wholeness is not static. Wholeness is more akin to the push and pull of right relationship, alive and available at any given moment. Our Jewish cousins call wholeness, *shalom*. Although we often translate *shalom* as *peace*, a more fitting understanding might be patterns of right relationship, just and true, that render every life healthy and whole. This month we explore patterns of wholeness.