

GET CONNECTED

THE PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP UPCOMING CLASSES

Feeling like First Universalist could be your spiritual home? Join us for The Pathway to Membership, an exploration of Unitarian Universalism, the history and mission of this congregation, and the experience of membership. Participants meet with ministers and lay leaders, and are invited to share and reflect on their own spiritual journeys and values. We ask that all those who wish to become members take this class. *We would love to welcome you as a new member this May!*

Choose from one of two upcoming classes: Mondays, March 28 & April 4, 6:30-9 p.m. OR Saturdays, April 9 and 16, 9 a.m.-noon. To register, contact Sandy DiNanni at sandy@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701. Childcare is available free of charge with at least seven days advance notice.

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY: EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS MARCH 31

The annual Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association's MidAmerica Region will be held April 29-May 1 in downtown St. Paul. This year's theme is *The WHO in the New Era of Unitarian Universalism*. Who do we want to be as faith communities in the coming years? Who will we need to be, to be relevant? How will we get there? Regional Assembly is a weekend of inspiring keynote speeches (from Kenny Wiley, Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen, and Rev. Jeremy Nickel), worship, and workshops - and a rare opportunity to meet, close to home, with UUs from nearly 200 congregations in 13 midwestern states. Register online at MidAmericaUUA.org/ra. Early bird rates available through March 31.

APPLICATIONS FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP POSITIONS DUE APRIL 1

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. 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.

GREAT GATHERING: TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

Join us for an evening of fellowship and fundraising on Saturday, April 23. 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 are available in the Social Hall between services and can 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.

SEEKING HOSTS FOR GREAT GATHERINGS

Great Gatherings are parties or activities that are hosted by a member of our community - someone like you! You choose the kind of gathering it will be (formal dinner, game night, educational event, etc.) and we'll sell spots on the night of The Great Gathering Auction & Fundraiser, April 23. Please submit your Great Gathering by April 12. Find the submission form online at firstuniversalistchurch.org and email it to 3400events@gmail.com.

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, April 3.

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:

3/6 MCCC \$803.17

3/13 Good Karma Animal Rescue of MN \$668.39

3/20 Veterans Resilience Project \$773.21

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/>.

COMFORT SHAWLS

Do you like to knit? Contact Pat Foulkes at pfoulkes@hotmail.com, for directions for the comfort shawls that we distribute to congregants in times of need. Or perhaps you know somebody who is in need of a Comfort Shawl; contact Congregational Care co-chairs Kathy Urberg at kathyurberg@gmail.com or Kathy Coskran at 612 202-9322 or kac1122@aol.com.

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 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.



MOONLIGHT BY ALICE POPKORN CC BY-ND 2.0

WORSHIP THEME: WHOLENESS

THE UNBREAKABLE PLACE

REV. JUSTIN SCHROEDER

MARCH 27, 2016

Music for Gathering

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Words of Welcome

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Prelude

Shedemati

- arr. Joshua Jacobson

My field,
At dawn I sowed it in tears,
Let the prayer of the farmer be heard!
My field,
It is saturated with dew,
It is intoxicated by the light of the sun.
The grain bends low in front of the reaper.
The strides are long,
The burnished scythe is raised high.

First Universalist Choir
Dr. Randal Buikema
Aaron Barnell
Ken Gellemann

Call to Worship

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Opening Hymn #266 (Please stand in body or spirit)

Now the Green Blade Riseth

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

Wisdom Story

The Road to Emmaus from the *Gospel of Luke*

- adapted by Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Silence

Cycle of Life

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

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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Anthem

Mizmor - Psalm 29

- arr. Joshua Jacobson

Give all credit to the Eternal
The voice of the Eternal echoes over the great waters; roars like thunder.
The Eternal's presence hovers over all the waters,
Exploding in great power over the earth.
We ask the Eternal One to give us strength, to bless us with the gift of peace
And right relationship.

First Universalist Choir
Dr. Randal Buikema
Aaron Barnell
Ken Gellemann

Homily

The Unbreakable Place

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Offertory

Piano Sonatina, Op. 38: I. Allegretto grazioso

- Paul Ben-Haim

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Closing Hymn #276 (Please stand in body or spirit)

O Young and Fearless Prophet

Closing Words

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Jason Tenbrink

Jeffrey Speaks

Anna Anderhagen

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Dr. Randal Buikema

First Universalist Choir

Ken Gellemann

Aaron Barnell

Lilia Yorkhall

Henry Mitchell-Crow

Senior Minister

Minister of Worship & Coming of Age

Minister of Membership & Adult Ministries

Cleopas

Unknown Traveler

Jesus

Pianist

Director of Choral Arts

Clarinet

Drummer

9:30 A.M. Chalice Lighter

11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Candace McClenahan of the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity

Twin Cities Habitat is a nonprofit committed to building the quality of life, health and prosperity of the 7-county metro region through the production and preservation of homeownership – because homes and families are the foundation of successful communities.

Musical Notes by Jerrod Wendland

Paul Ben-Haim (1897-1984), father of the Israeli school of composers, lived a life marked by ironies. Born a German (with the surname Frankenburger) he fought in World War I and wrote works thoroughly in the German tradition, resisting calls from his Jewish colleagues to write for the synagogue. Only after his abrupt dismissal from the Augsburg Opera did he immigrate to Palestine, adopting the name “Ben-Haim” to subvert the conditions of his British visa (which forbade “Paul Frankenburger” from seeking employment). In order to found a truly Israeli music, he turned to a combination of popular folk tunes and the harmonic language of the French impressionists (thus upsetting the folk-music purists). He taught whole generations of Israeli composers, but his reputation suffered for writing music that was tonal and melodious in an age that was uncompromisingly avant-garde. It's only recently that his works began to receive the wide hearing they deserve.

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.