



GET CONNECTED

CHILD DEDICATION CEREMONY IS MAY 8

Unitarian Universalists believe that every child brings new life and hope into the world. During the Child Dedication ritual, the congregation pledges itself to partner with and support parents and families in the religious upbringing of the child. Child Dedications take place during Sunday services twice a year - the next one will be Sunday, May 8. Infants and children of members and those on the path to membership at First Universalist may be dedicated. If your family would like to participate, please fill out the online form that is available online at firstuniversalistchurch.org. Forms are due May 1.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD HOSTING WEEKS

Families or individuals interested in hosting our guest families from Families Moving Forward, due to arrive for the weeks of May 22 and 29, are welcome to stop by the table in the Social Hall following today's services. Coordinators will be there to answer questions and assist in signing up. You can also sign up online through SignUpGenius by visiting: <http://tinyurl.com/FMFvolunteers>.

CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETINGS

The Board of Trustees will share a draft budget with the Congregation at two upcoming meetings: 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 1 and 7 p.m. on Monday, May 9. After a presentation of the budget and its rationale, there will be an opportunity for questions. The board will prepare a final version of the budget for presentation to the Congregation at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 5 at 11:30 a.m. (following the one 10 a.m. service).

TODAY: EARTH DAY CELEBRATION UNDER THE EARTH BALL

Members of the Environmental Justice Team will be in the Social Hall today with information about how to:

- **Reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions** by joining a solar garden, learning about carbon sequestration, doing organics recycling, or having an energy audit, and
- **Protect our water** by joining the Native American Community to restore our historic and once-pristine waterways.

Find out how you can be involved!

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

Each year, we celebrate Guest At Your Table, a nationwide UU fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. UUSC focuses on grassroots-driven initiatives to advance the cause of human rights, in the U.S. and around the world, grounded in our UU values. Today is the last Sunday to pick up a Guest At Your Table box. Add your donations and good wishes, and bring them back to church by next Sunday, May 1. Thank you!

LEADERSHIP POSITION APPLICATIONS DUE 4/27

The Nominating Committee is seeking additional candidates for leadership positions on the Foundation Board and the Nominating Committee for the next church year. To qualify, you must be a member in good standing of the church. **The application deadline has been extended to Wednesday, April 27.** Elections occur at the Annual Meeting on June 5. Position descriptions and the application are available online at firstuniversalistchurch.org.



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, May 1

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:

3/27 Habitat for Humanity \$1,173.16

4/3 UUSC \$780.13

4/10 Habitat for Humanity \$1,643.81

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/>.

SUNDAY FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

Would you like to help distribute flowers after the Sunday service to a congregant who could use support? Contact Mary Ellison (maryellison2491@comcast.net or 612-250-2998) or Phyllis Stenerson (612-331-1929 or phyllis@progressivevalues.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.

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.*



APRIL WORSHIP THEME: SACRAMENT

YOUTH SUNDAY

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNITY

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

APRIL 24, 2016

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.

Music for Gathering Dr. Jerrod Wendland
Prelude to Little Spring from *Pleiades Dances*
- Takashi Yoshimatsu

Words of Welcome Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Bellsound

Prelude Dr. Jerrod Wendland
Leaflet Dance from *Pleiades Dances*
- Takashi Yoshimatsu

Call to Worship Sofia Jacobsson

Opening Hymn #360 (Please stand in body or spirit)
Here We Have Gathered

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)

SPIRITUALITY THROUGH COMMUNITY

Reading Amanda Mosberg
“Communion Circle”
- Rev. Mark Belletini

Homily Ben Sklaney

Musical Offering Claudia Wahl
Moon River Dr. Jerrod Wendland
- Henry Mancini, composer; Johnny Mercer, lyricist

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 (reprinted with permission by the UUA)

VULNERABILITY AND COMMUNITY

Homily Nora Sylvestre

Musical Offering Ben Sklaney and Erin Cerny
Hallelujah
-Leonard Cohen

Offertory Dr. Jerrod Wendland
Season of Alleluia from *Pleiades Dances*
- Takashi Yoshimatsu

SENIOR RECOGNITION

Farewell Poem Henry Saارينen

Bridging Ceremony Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

COMMUNION AND COMMUNITY

Reading Julia Miller
“All Nature is a Gift Exchange”
- Gary Snyder (quote)

Homily McLean Cozine

Bread Communion

As the bread is passed please say: *I hold you as you have held me.*

Closing Hymn #1064 (teal hymnal) (Please stand in body or spirit)

Blue Boat Home

Closing Words Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Blessing in Song #413 *Go Now in Peace*

Music for the Journey Dr. Jerrod Wendland
Slightly Bright Waltz from *Pleiades Dances*
- Takashi Yoshimatsu

Worship Leaders

Members of the High School Class
Rev. Ruth MacKenzie Minister of Worship and Coming of Age
Dr. Jerrod Wendland Pianist

With thanks to High School Advisers:

Emma Paskewitz Joe Gabrielsen
Jack Gaede Susan Hoffman
Kelsy Kuehn Arif Mamdani
Allison Wyeth

Graduating Seniors

Wrye Berkley Ivy Blanchett
McLean Cozine Emilio del Carmen
Annika Duryea Coral Gordon
Julia Miller Maria Pang
Marcus Placide Kate Ruhland
Ben Sklaney Nora Sylvestre
Claudia Wahl

Chancel Flowers

Today’s flowers were donated by Jane Baudelaire in honor of her still very much alive mother, Joan, who turns 84 today. Jane’s resilience stems from her mother who is very allergic to flowers so we will enjoy them on her behalf today.

Offering: First Universalist Youth Ministries

This offering will go to support high school youth trips and programming. Next summer, the high school youth will be traveling to New Orleans for their social justice trip and to attend General Assembly.

Pillows

Thank you to Sue Schiess, sewer and hostess extraordinaire, Judith Grittner, flame embroiderer, Cathy Apostle, Carolyn Liebler, Phyllis Stenerson, Sara McMullen, Kathy Urberg and Linda McNary for sewing and stuffing the pillows.

Musical Notes by Jerrod Wendland

Takashi Yoshimatsu is a contemporary Japanese composer who dropped out of college to join a rock band. Self-taught as a composer, he is influenced as much by Pink Floyd and Yes as by Beethoven and Tchaikovsky.