



# GET CONNECTED

## CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING TODAY AT 12:30 P.M.

The Board of Trustees will share a draft budget with the Congregation at two meetings: today at 12:30 p.m. and Monday, May 9 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. 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 at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 5 at 11:30 a.m. (following the one 10 a.m. service).

## VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD HOSTING

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>.

## WELLSPRING INFORMATION SESSIONS MAY 3 AND 15

Wellspring offers spiritual deepening within our Unitarian Universalist tradition, an opportunity for learning more about ourselves and our faith through a year-long small group experience. For those interested in participating this coming year, Info Sessions will be offered in the Cummins Room on Tuesday, May 3 from 7-8:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 15 from 1-2 p.m. Attendance is required if you wish to participate next year. After an opening retreat on Sept. 17, 2016, Wellspring meets every other week through May 2017.

## MAY 8 CHILD DEDICATION CEREMONY FORMS DUE TODAY

During the Child Dedication ritual, the congregation pledges itself to partner with and support parents and families in the religious upbringing of the child. The next Child Dedication ceremony 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, fill out the form that is available online at [firstuniversalistchurch.org](http://firstuniversalistchurch.org). Forms are due May 1.

## SIGN UP FOR REMAINING GREAT GATHERINGS MAY 1 & 8

Were you unable to join us on April 23 at The Great Gathering Auction and Fundraiser - but interested in a spot at one (or more) of the great gathering experiences that are still available? You're in luck! Members of the planning team will be in the Social Hall between services on Sundays, May 1 and 8 selling the remaining spots!

## SUMMER CIRCLE REGISTRATION IS COMING!

Set some time aside to engage with life's deeper themes: Join a circle. These gatherings of 8-10 people are a great way to get connected at First Universalist and to stay spiritually grounded throughout the summer. Registration for summer circles opens on Sunday, May 8 at <http://firstucircles.weebly.com>. For more information, contact Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink at [elaine@firstuniv.org](mailto:elaine@firstuniv.org) or 612-825-1701 x124.



# 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: Today!

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:

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](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/>.

## CARING CORNER

Write a note to a congregant who could use support! There are cards available in the library, which is located off of the Social Hall. You are welcome to stop by and write a card at any time. Just leave it in the basket and the church will mail it for you.

## 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).

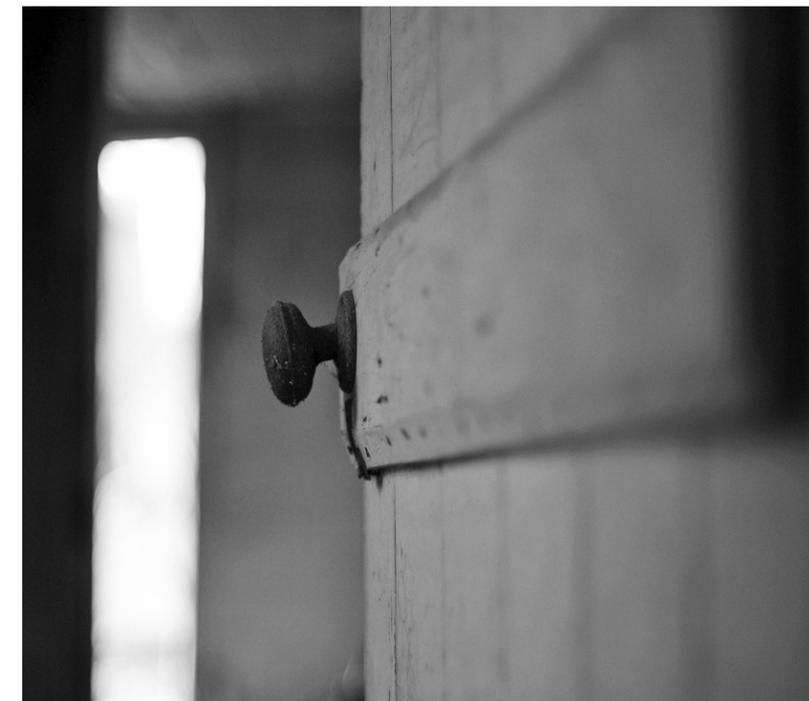
## THE WEEKLY LIBERAL

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!



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



WORSHIP THEME: DOORWAYS

# A BLACK LIVES MATTER UU THEOLOGY

KENNY WILEY  
LENA K. GARDNER

MAY 1, 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

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. Justin Schroeder

**Prelude**

*Silver the River*

- Stephen Paulus

Children’s Choir

Colleen Cook

**Wisdom Story**

*The (Mostly) Forgotten Story of Claudette Colvin*

Kenny Wiley

Lena K. Gardner

**Opening Hymn #34 (Please stand in body or spirit)**

*Though I May Speak With Bravest Fire*

**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 Reflection**

*Daa Naa Se (Oh Give Thanks)*

- Traditional Ghanaian Folk Song, Arr. Raymond Wise

Children’s Choir

First Universalist Choir

**Hymn for Journeying #1018 (Please stand in body or spirit)**

*Come and Go With Me*

Rev. Justin Schroeder

**Silence**

**Cycle of Life**

**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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**Reflection**

*Resistance, Surrender and Abundant Imagination*

Lena K. Gardner

**Musical Offering**

*A Heaven Full of Stars*

- Ian Cook

First Universalist Choir

Dr. Randal Buikema

**Sermon**

*A Black Lives Matter UU Theology*

Kenny Wiley

**Offertory**

*Morning Songs and Rounds (excerpts)*

- Willhelm Killmayer

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

**Closing Hymn #348 (Please stand in body or spirit)**

*Guide My Feet*

**Closing Words**

Rev. Justin Schroeder

**Blessing in Song #413**

Go Now in Peace

**Worship Leaders**

Kenny Wiley

Director of Faith Formation at Prairie UU Church in Denver, CO

Lena K. Gardner

Cofounder of Black Lives Matter Minneapolis, Dir. of Membership and Development, Church of the Larger Fellowship

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Senior Minister

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Pianist

Dr. Randal Buikema

Director of Choral Arts

Colleen Cook

Director of Children’s Choir

Narissa Bach

Accompanist for Children’s Choir

First Universalist Choir

Children’s Choir

**Chancel Flowers**

Today’s flowers were donated by Kathy Urberg in honor of her parents and arranged by Rita Franchett of the Visual Arts Committee.

**Offering: Racial Justice Work**

This week our offering goes to the myriad ways we are working toward racial justice. This offering will support our continued intensive racial justice training with Heather Hackman, the POC group and their work with Marie Michael, films and discussion, and our work in faithful action.

**About Today’s Guest Worship Leaders**

**Kenny Wiley**, a lifelong Unitarian Universalist, joins us from Denver, Colorado, where he works as the Director of Faith Formation at Prairie UU Church. He works for UU World magazine as a senior editor, and is on the core leadership team for Black Lives Matter 5280, the Denver BLM chapter, as well as the leadership team for the Black Lives of UU Organizing Collective.

**Lena K. Gardner**, a member of First Universalist, is one of the cofounders of the Black Lives Matter Minneapolis chapter, works for the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship and is one of the founding leaders of the Black Lives of Unitarian Universalist Organizing Collective. She lives in Northeast Minneapolis with her cat, Merlin, and loves the Boundary Waters.

**Ian A. Cook** (b. 1990) has received performances of his music across North America by prominent ensembles such as VocalEssence, the Northern Symphony Orchestra, the Lirica Chamber Ensemble, and at the Aries Composers Festival. Ian is also an active performer as a trombonist and vocalist; he currently sings with the National Lutheran Choir, Academy of Voices, MPLS (imPulse), and the First Universalist Choir. He and his wife, Colleen, are members of First Universalist Church.

**May Worship Theme: Doorways**

Alexander Graham Bell once said, “When one door closes, another opens.” Although it may sound a bit pollyannaish, there is a deep truth in this saying. Things come to an end. Experiments fail. Initiatives run their course. The truth of the matter is that life does not stop its unfolding. A door is always closing. A door is always opening. In this season of new life, graduations, coming of age, we mark and celebrate doorways.