

## GET CONNECTED

### PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP

Feeling like First Universalist could be your spiritual home? Join us for The Pathway to Membership, a class exploring Unitarian Universalism, the history and mission of this congregation, and the experience of membership. Participants meet with ministers, lay leaders, and are invited to share and reflect on their own spiritual journeys and values. The next class is offered as a two-part series on Thursdays, Aug. 25 and Sept. 1 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. To register, contact Sandy at [Sandy@firstuniv.org](mailto:Sandy@firstuniv.org) or 612-825-1701.

### REGISTRATION FOR 2016-2017 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RE registration for the 2016-2017 church year is now open online at: <http://1stureligiouseducation.weebly.com/>

### LEND-A-HAND

Lend-A-Hand is a new monthly volunteer opportunity to help care for our building and grounds as part of a volunteer team, meeting on second Thursdays, July through December 2016. In coordination with our facilities staff, this team undertakes various projects to keep our church clean, orderly and attractive. Cleaning activities might include dusting, sweeping, mopping, or vacuuming. Volunteers might help tidy the sanctuary, social hall, library, entryway, or other spaces, or help fix things: replace light bulbs, patch/paint walls, etc. Volunteers gather at 8:30 a.m. for bagels, juice and coffee and end their activities by noon. The next Lend A Hand group will meet on Thursday, Sept. 8. If you would like to participate, please email Sandy at [sandy@firstuniv.org](mailto:sandy@firstuniv.org) to sign up.

### PARKING LOT WORK HAS BEGUN

Work on the parking lot, which includes replacing the asphalt and making environmentally sustainable improvements, has begun! During the weeks this work is taking place, the parking lot will be closed. People with limited mobility can use the drop-off zone (marked by handicap signs) on Dupont Ave. in front of the Atrium door. Keep an eye on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/FirstUniv](http://www.facebook.com/FirstUniv)) for the latest information.

### WATER COMMUNION SUNDAY

On Sunday, Sept. 11, we return to two services at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. and begin the church year with our annual Water Communion Sunday. Water is a gift; it replenishes and sustains our lives. On Water Communion Sunday, we bring water from our homes, our travels, our walks, our bike paths, and combine them in a ritual called Water Communion. Remember to bring a small jar of water on Sunday, Sept. 11 for this multi-generational Sunday service.

### NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO JOIN CHOIR

The First Universalist Choir is open to anyone who has a love for singing and wishes to participate in this ensemble during worship services. Prior experience and ability to read music are helpful but not necessary. The choir rehearses Wednesday evenings from 7-9 p.m. and sings in worship two times a month. Our opening potluck is Wednesday, August 24. YOU ARE INVITED! Email Dr. Randal Buikema at [randy@firstuniv.org](mailto:randy@firstuniv.org) for more information.

## 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 the church office at 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.

**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:

7/24 Indigenous Environmental Network \$528.33

7/31 Our Dancing Daughters \$592.50

8/7 Sexual Violence Center \$431.40

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/>.

### 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).

### PASTORAL CARE TEAM

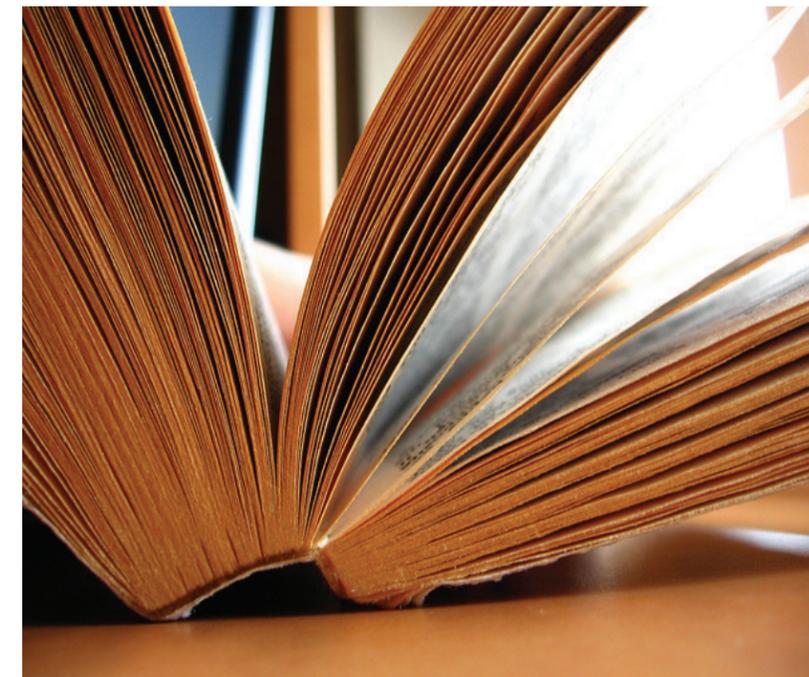
The Pastoral Care Team is a group of congregants, led by the Rev. Jen Crow, who provide confidential pastoral care to friends and members of our congregation in need of support. Our goal is to offer compassionate presence to our fellow congregants. If you are in need of a Pastoral Care team visit, please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

## BACKPACK BLESSING

LAUREN WYETH  
REV. JEN CROW

AUGUST 21, 2016

*We welcome, affirm, and protect the light in each human heart; we act for justice 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. Jen Crow

## Bellsound

## Sing-a-long

*My Roots Go Down*  
-Sarah Pirtle

Tony Meysenburg  
Ron Parker  
Addie, Emma, and Teddy Nakashima

## Call to Worship

*If You Plant a Seed*  
-Kadir Nelson

Fia Clement-Potegal  
Henry Kolthoff  
Katia Vinogradov

## Responsive Chant

*It's a Blessing We Were Born*  
-Laila Ibrahim

Summer Choir  
Dr. Randal Buikema

### Choir

It's a blessing we were born  
and it matters what we do  
What I know about god  
is a piece of the truth  
Let the beauty I love  
be what I do  
And I don't have to do it alone

### Congregation

It's a blessing we were born  
and it matters what we do  
What I know about god  
is a piece of the truth  
Let the beauty I love  
be what I do  
No, we don't have to do it alone

## 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.

Henry Mitchell-Crow  
Isla Meysenburg

-James V. Blake

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## Musical Offering

*We Are One*  
-Renee and Jeremy

Tony Meysenburg  
Ron Parker

## Reflection

*The Invisible String*  
-adapted from a story by Patrice Karst

Sharon and Meshach Mandel

## Body Prayer

Lauren Wyeth  
Muriel Ambrus  
Fia Clement-Potegal

## Cycle of Life

Rev. Jen Crow

## 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)

## Homily

### *Confetti*

Lauren Wyeth

## Offertory

*Turn the World Around*  
-Harry Belafonte

Summer Choir  
Dr. Randal Buikema

## Blessing of the Backpacks

## Closing Hymn #131 (Please rise in body or spirit)

### *Love Will Guide Us*

## Closing Words

Lauren Wyeth

## Blessing in Song #413

### *Go Now in Peace*

## Music for the Journey

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

## Worship Leaders

Lauren Wyeth	Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries
Rev. Jen Crow	Executive Minister
Dr. Jerrod Wendland	Pianist
Tony Meysenburg	Vocalist
Ron Parker	Guitar and vocals
Summer Choir	
Dr. Randal Buikema	Director of Choral Arts
Henry Mitchell-Crow	Chalice Lighter
Isla Meysenburg	Chalice Lighter

## Youth Worship Associates

Muriel Ambrus  
Fia Clement-Potegal  
Henry Kolthoff  
Meshach Mandel  
Addie, Emma and Teddy Nakashima  
Katia Vinogradov

## Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Rita Franchett of the Visual Arts Committee.

## Offering: Habitat for Humanity

The Mission of Habitat for Humanity is to create a world where everyone has a decent place to live, and to put God's love into action. By doing this, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

## Summer Worship Theme: Telling a New Story

At the intersection of what is holy and what is human is a willingness to change; to shed old habits, old ways of thinking, old frameworks, old skin; to cast off what no longer functions; and dare to do a new thing, to tell a new story. This ability to change is at the heart of creation and creator. In the book of Isaiah, God says: "Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it?" In these summer months we will endeavor to be alert and present, to see and tell the new story emerging from within, among, and beyond.

## Check these out later, and start a family conversation:

*Color Your World with Kindness* <https://youtu.be/rwelE8yyY0U>

When has an act of love by one family member inspired more love in your family? When has someone surprised you with an act of kindness, just when you needed it? When have you spread kindness at work or at school?

*The Invisible Boy*, by Trudy Ludwig <https://youtu.be/okAJ62ia63Q>

Who are you most like in the story? What hidden gifts do you bring to your family, to your friends, to your school or workplace? How can you use your unique gifts to bring more kindness to your classroom, home or workplace?

## Revisit some of our music, and sing these songs 'til they're saved in your heart:

*My Roots Go Down* <https://youtu.be/nZJfRunmd8c>

We adapted some of the words for prairie families!

*We Are One* <https://youtu.be/oi7ROaJaHaM>