

GET CONNECTED

WOMEN'S MARCH ON WASHINGTON AND IN MINNESOTA

On January 21, Revs. Jen Crow and Ruth MacKenzie will be heading to Washington to join the Women's March on Washington. Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink will be joining the march here in Minnesota. Unitarian Universalist churches in the Twin Cities are combining efforts to offer ways for people to participate. One bus has been secured to go to Washington by Unity Church Unitarian. All congregations are welcome to join, but seating is limited. The cost is \$235 for travel and \$109 for lodging. All registrants are asked to contribute to a fund to provide scholarships for women of color. More information about plans for the Minnesota march will be available soon. Those who intend to go to either march are asked to attend one pre-training session: Thursday, Jan. 5 at First U or Tuesday, Jan. 10 at Unity (6 p.m. potluck, 7-9 p.m. meeting both days). Please feel free to email ruth@firstuniv.org with questions about the March on Washington or elaine@firstuniv.org with questions about the march in Minnesota.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY IS JAN. 8

Remembrance Sunday is a time to reflect on our losses over the past year and to honor those we love who have died. It is also an opportunity to mark other significant losses in the life of your family, such as a separation or divorce, saying goodbye to friends who've moved away, the passing of an animal companion, or the loss of a home, job or familiar school community. On Sunday, Jan. 8, **you're invited to bring a photo or memento** of loved ones you are remembering to the sanctuary for our shared altar that Sunday morning.

WINTER WARM UP DANCE PARTY IS JAN. 21

Join us on Saturday, Jan. 21 for our third annual Winter Warm Up, an evening of music and dancing, from 7:30 to 10 p.m.! Mark your calendar and plan to join us that evening for music and dancing, drinks (available for purchase) and snacks, fun and good company! Tickets are available at: winterwarmup2017.bpt.me.

NEXT NEWCOMER CIRCLE BEGINS IN JANUARY

Are you new to First Universalist? Whether you are a recent visitor or a new member, you're invited to join a Newcomer Circle. These four-session gatherings of 6-10 newcomers offer a chance to explore core Unitarian Universalist values, reflect on our spiritual journeys, and connect with other folks who are new to church. Our next Newcomer Circle begins in January and will be held on Wednesdays, Jan. 11, 18, 25, and Feb. 1, from 7-8:30 p.m. Registration is required; you can sign up at the Information table in the social hall, or by emailing sandy@firstuniv.org. We look forward to meeting you!

CIRCLE REGISTRATION OPENS NEXT SUNDAY

Grow your soul and find your community within the larger community by joining a circle. Circles are groups of 8-10 committed participants who come together with a trained leader to nurture spiritual growth in community. **Registration opens January 8** in the social hall or online at firstucircles.weebly.com.

WELCOME

CELEBRATING OUR GENEROSITY

Offering plates from Sunday Service:

12/4 Habitat for Humanity \$1,841.40

12/11 Minnesota Host Home Network \$957.87

12/18 Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
\$401.03

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/>.

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.

MEAL SUPPORT

New baby? Illness? Accident? Let us know if you or somebody in our community would like us to create a meal train for you. Meal trains typically run two to six weeks depending on need and give congregants a way to help. Contact Kathy Urberg, kathyurberg@gmail.com.

THE WEEKLY LIBERAL

The Weekly Liberal 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!

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.

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.

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 during the session after the 11:15 a.m. 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.



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



WORSHIP THEME: CLOUD OF WITNESSES

SING-ALONG SUNDAY

REV. ELAINE ARON TENBRINK

JANUARY 1, 2017

We welcome, affirm, and protect the light in each human heart; we listen deeply to where love is calling us next; and we act with humility, bravery, and compassion in service to justice. We do all this as a faith community committed to racial justice.

Music for Gathering

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Words of Welcome

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Bellsound

Call to Worship

Conrad Carlozzi

Opening Hymn #346 (Please rise in body or spirit)

Come Sing a Song With Me

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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Community Singing (Choose any hymn from the hymnal)

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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Wisdom Story

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Community Singing (Choose any hymn from the hymnal)

Offertory

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Closing Hymn #128 (Please stand in body or spirit)

For All That Is Our Life

Closing Words

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink	Minister of Membership and Adult Ministries
Conrad Carlozzi	Worship Associate
Dr. Jerrod Wendland	Pianist

Holiday Decorations

The holiday decorations throughout the church are a gift to our congregation from the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: Ministerial Emergency Fund

The Ministerial Emergency Fund is used by the ministers of First Universalist to help members of our community who are in need of help and comfort...some who have been unemployed for months and need help with the rent or some extra cash to buy food, those whose health insurance will not cover some much-needed eyeglasses, or have no money to cover a newly prescribed drug. The needs inside and outside these walls are many. Your gift to the Ministerial Emergency Fund is necessary and good.

January Worship Theme: Cloud of Witnesses

“Do you see what this means– surrounded by such a cloud of witnesses, such a community of ancestors that have paved the way, cheering us on? It means we better get on with it. Strip down. Throw off every burden. No extra spiritual fat, that keeps us from moving (Hebrews 12:1).” Ancestors bless and burden us with legacy. They tell us why we are here and why being here right now matters. In this month we explore where we come from, whose are we, and where we find ourselves in the sacred arc of history.