

GET CONNECTED

THREE MINNESOTANS OF COLOR SHARE THEIR STORIES 1/27

Despite Minnesota's reputation as a national leader in progressive policies, the state has some of the worst racial disparities in the country. The book, *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota*, confronts these inherent contradictions and inequities through the voices of sixteen writers who explore their lived realities as people of color in Minnesota. Join us on Friday, Jan. 27 starting at 6:45 p.m. as contributing authors Taiyon J. Coleman, Bao Phi, and Rodrigo Sanchez-Chavarria read from their personal essays and engage with audience members in a Question & Answer period. First Universalist member Lena K. Gardner is our host for the evening.

PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP

If First Universalist is feeling like your spiritual home, then we hope you'll take part in the Pathway to Membership! This new member class is a great chance to build community, explore Unitarian Universalism and our church's history, and learn how to get involved. In the final session, participants are invited to officially join the congregation. Our next class is offered on Sundays, Jan. 29 and Feb. 5 from 1-3 p.m. Sign up with Sandy in the Social Hall or by emailing sandy@firstuniv.org.

SING WITH THE 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 sings twice a month in worship and presents two choral/orchestral works per year. Rehearsals are 7-9 p.m. Wednesday evenings during the program year. For more information, email Randy at randy@firstuniv.org.

CIRCLE REGISTRATION OPEN THROUGH JAN. 24

This winter, we invite you to grow your soul and find your community within the larger community here at church 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. Whether you're ready to engage in a spiritual practice or deepen your racial justice work, there is something for you! Registration is open through this Tuesday, Jan. 24 online at firstucircles.weebly.com and today in the Social Hall.

MAKING MORE OF THE WOMEN'S MARCH ON WASHINGTON: DEBRIEF MEETING

We strongly encourage UU marchers to attend the Post-March De-brief and Mobilization Meeting at First Universalist on Monday, Feb. 6 from 7 to 9 p.m. This meeting will help us extend our efforts beyond the march and challenge us to continue to lean into our racial justice work. The debrief will be hosted by Lena K. Gardner and Ashley Horan (Executive Director of MUUSJA).

SAVE THE DATE! CAPITAL CAMPAIGN KICKOFF PARTY IS MARCH 11

You're invited to celebrate the launch of First Universalist Church's capital campaign with a party for all ages! Please save the date—Saturday, March 11 from 5 to 11 p.m.—and plan to join us at Minneapolis Event Centers (212 2nd St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414) as we gather to celebrate all we've accomplished in the past and all that we envision for the future. This event is FREE and for everyone in our community. We want you with us! More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

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 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. 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 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 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.

CELEBRATING OUR GENEROSITY

Offering plates from Sunday Service:

12/25 Ministerial Emergency Fund \$272.25 *

1/1 Ministerial Emergency Fund \$336.20 *

1/8 Peace House Community \$823.18

* 100% of Offering to Recipient

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/>.

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.

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.

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.*



WORSHIP THEME: CLOUD OF WITNESSES

FINDING OUR WAY

REV. ELAINE ARON TENBRINK

JANUARY 22, 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. Justin Schroeder

Bellsound

Prelude First Universalist Church
I Know Where I've Been Angela Henderson
- Music by Marc Shaiman, lyrics by Scott Wittman Dr. Randal Buikema

Call to Worship Keven Ambrus

Opening Hymn #1031 (Please rise in body or spirit)

May I Be Filled With Loving Kindness
(Plese join when invited)

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 Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Silence

Cycle of Life Rev. Justin Schroeder

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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Readings

When They Sleep Rev. Justin Schroeder
- Rolf Jacobsen

The Low Road Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink
- Marge Piercy

Musical Offering

Encourage Yourself First Universalist Choir
- Donald Lawrence Angela Henderson
Dr. Randal Buikema

Sermon

Finding Our Way Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Offertory

Étude in A Minor Dr. Jerrod Wendland
- H. Leslie Adams

Closing Hymn #1040 (Please rise in body or spirit)

Hush

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
Rev. Justin Schroeder	Senior Minister
Keven Ambrus	Worship Associate
Dr. Randal Buikema	Director of Choral Arts
Dr. Jerrod Wendland	Pianist
First Universalist Choir	
Angela Henderson	Soloist
Bobby Gillespie	Drums
Ann Marie McIntire	Bass
Haley Durkee	9:30 A.M. Chalice Lighter
Thessaly Ackerman	11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Chancel Flowers

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

Offering: TRUST, Inc.

TRUST (Toward Renewed Unity in Service Together), Inc. is a nonprofit, interfaith coalition of Minneapolis congregations that has served the needs of seniors, families, and youth of Minneapolis since 1970. TRUST has a membership of 18, including First Universalist Church, representing nine different denominations. Through TRUST, churches gather to do “good works” in the community, providing human services in the community, doing together what no individual congregation could do alone and providing these services across racial and economic lines and physical barriers.

About Today's Soloist

Angela Henderson, former member of the Grammy Award winning, Sounds of Blackness, for over 25 years, has performed both nationally and internationally with artists such as Stevie Wonder, BeBe & CeCe Winans, and Patti Labelle - just to name a few. Angela has also lent her talents to Gospel Choirs United, Black Nativity, *The Night Before Christmas*, and *Hairspray*. She enjoys teaching her children and grandchildren about the goodness of God, helping others and making people smile, but most importantly Angela loves to minister in song, and live the life that she sings about.

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.