

GET CONNECTED

TODAY: STATE OF THE CHURCH MEETING AND SANCTUARY CHURCH VOTE

Please join us for our annual State of the Church meeting today at 12:30 p.m.; it will also be conducted as a Special Meeting of the Members to consider a congregational resolution on becoming a Sanctuary Church. In addition, Rev. Schroeder and Board of Trustees President Eric Cooperstein will share updates on the work of our Church, the Church's mid-year budget, the capital campaign, and more! This meeting will be a time to celebrate shared accomplishments and breathe life into our vision of what we can accomplish together in the coming months.

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 plan to join us on Saturday, March 11 from 5 to 11 p.m. 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! RSVP by March 1: <http://bit.ly/2jA5rDv>

RACIAL JUSTICE AND OUR UU FAITH WORKSHOP

Join us for a workshop exploring a framework and tools for understanding race, racism, and whiteness and the spiritual imperative that drives our racial justice work. This is a distilled experience of the 24-hour training offered by Dr. Heather Hackman. This is a two-part workshop offered on Saturdays, Feb. 25 & March 4, from 9–11:30 a.m., led by Channing McKinley and Emma Paskewitz. To register, contact Sandy at sandy@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701.

"KINDS OF LIGHT: COLOR" CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP THIS EVENING

Join us this evening at 5:30 p.m. for a meditative hour of music and poetry for opening the heart and deepening the spirit. Continuing with the theme "Kinds of Light," this upcoming service will offer reflections on color. Dr. Jerrod Wendland writes: "A ray of light hits an object; it absorbs some frequencies, and reflects back those it cannot take in. Somehow, we've decided that the object "is" the frequencies it cannot absorb. Color is information, but often only about our own way of perceiving things. What does the color of an object really tell us? And what do we absorb from the world, and what do we reflect back at it—and which are we really?"

MOVING THROUGH HEAVY-HEARTEDNESS

Join us on Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. for a ritual to name what is in our hearts, transform it, and find hope for change. Although each of us comes with different understandings and experiences of this new administration, and what it means in our lives, for many of us, this is a time of heavy-heartedness. In this ritual we will set an intention for spiritual practice over the next 40 days. We will reconvene on April 13 to reconnect and continue to access our heart/mind center, making promises for our faithful action moving forward. We gather in loving, faithful community because we know it is through connection, and guided by our UU principles, that trauma and despair can be transformed into purpose, and heavy-heartedness can be retooled into compassion, hope, and resolve.

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:

1/22 TRUST, Inc. \$1,242.85

1/29 EMERGE \$1,816.47

2/5 courageous heARTS \$1,184.05

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: PROPHETIC IMAGINATION

THE WAY IT IS

REV. JEN CROW
REV. JUSTIN SCHROEDER

FEBRUARY 19, 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

Dream

- John Cage

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Words of Welcome

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Bellsound

Prelude

Sonatas and Interludes for Prepared Piano, Sonata No. 6

- John Cage

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Call to Worship

Michael Dotson

Opening Hymn #124 (Please rise in body or spirit)

Be That Guide

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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Reading

The Way It Is

- William Stafford

Rev. Jen Crow

Musical Offering

Sonatas and Interludes for Prepared Piano, Sonata No. 12

- John Cage

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Sermon

The Way It Is

Rev. Jen Crow

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Offertory

Sonatas and Interludes for Prepared Piano, Sonata No. 5

- John Cage

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Closing Hymn #187 (Please rise in body or spirit)

It Sounds Across the Ages

Closing Words

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Jen Crow

Executive Minister

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Senior Minister

Michael Dotson

Worship Associate

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Pianist

Ellen Poulter

11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Meredith Sims of the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: Simpson Housing Services

Simpson Housing Services works to house, support and advocate for people experiencing homelessness. They provide shelter services for 44 men and 22 women and help individuals and families experiencing homelessness move into stable housing through rental subsidies and supportive services. Families in their housing programs can participate in Children and Youth Services Programs designed to help break the generational cycle of poverty and homelessness. These services include Early Childhood Development, Educational Advocacy and Mentoring and Youth Development Programs. Volunteers are major contributors to Simpson Housing Services. Over 37,000 hours were volunteered in 2014, the equivalent of eighteen full-time staff.

Musical Notes by Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Once there was a composer who realized that the only difference between a musical sound and a noise is the decision to hear the one sound as music and the other as noise. John Cage (1912-1992), serious and whimsical, Eastern and Western, an inveterate showman and recluse, more at home with painters and dancers (like his partner, Merce Cunningham) than with other composers, believed that music is not a message in a bottle or a manifesto, but first and foremost an opportunity to listen. The preparations found in *Sonatas and Interludes* (1946-48) are not a critique of the instrument, but an ongoing experiment to discover new sounds and new states of being. The son of a Methodist minister, Cage always had an underlying seriousness of purpose to his experiments: “The purpose of music is to sober and quiet the mind, thus making it susceptible to divine influences.”

February Worship Theme: Prophetic Imagination

What is a prophet? A prophet is not a clairvoyant, or a psychic. A prophet is more akin to a namer; someone who is called to look and discern the what of what is, and name it. The prophet is one who sees the patterns hidden in plain sight. Her measuring stick is not the GDP, but the health and well being of the whole. The prophet is in love with his people, all his people, the oppressed and the privileged. Still, a prophet's questions may feel pointed and abrupt. The prophet asks: Is your God big enough? Is your world picture big enough? A prophet calls forth imagination. This month we explore the imperative of imagination, name the prophets in our midst, and ask where we stand in prophetic imagination.