

GET CONNECTED

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.

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>

A GOOD TIME FOR THE TRUTH: RACE IN MINNESOTA BOOK DISCUSSIONS

In this provocative book, sixteen Minnesota writers provide a range of perspectives on what it is like to live as a person of color in Minnesota. They bring us generously into experiences that we must understand if we are to come together in real relationships. Two drop-in discussions - March 9 and 16 at 7 p.m. - will cover all essays in the book *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota*.

ARTIST RECEPTION TODAY

There will be a reception for photographer Richard Birger, whose work is now on view in the social hall, today after both services. About the exhibit, the artist says: "As I was assembling this exhibit, it occurred to me that if there is a theme emerging - it seems to be about engagement or conflict. Many of the images are from recent political demonstrations here in Minnesota, while other images are from my career in natural resource management."

NOMINATING COMMITTEE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

The Nominating Committee is recruiting candidates for leadership positions on the Board of Trustees, the Foundation Board, and the Nominating Committee itself for the next church year. We encourage members to step forward and share their skills! The application deadline is April 1, and elections occur at the Annual Meeting in June. Position descriptions and application can be found at firstuniversalistchurch.org.

IMMIGRATION & REFUGEE PANEL MARCH 5

As part of First Universalist's Sanctuary and Resistance movement, we invite you to listen and learn from some of our immigrant and refugee neighbors as they discuss their lived realities in our community and in our country, as part of a panel taking place on Sunday, March 5, 1-2:30 p.m. Presented by members of Inquilinx Unidxs Por Justicia and Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee (MIRAC)

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: Sun, March 5

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:

2/5 courageous heARTS \$1,184.05

2/12 Youth Cultural Exchange \$1,259.83

2/19 Simpson Housing Services \$1,156.64

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.

COMFORT SHAWLS

Do you like to knit? Contact Pat Foulkes at pfoulkes@hotmail.com, for directions for the comfort shawls that we distribute to congregants in times of need. Or perhaps you know somebody who is in need of a Comfort Shawl; contact Congregational Care co-chairs Kathy Urberg at kathyurberg@gmail.com or Kathy Coskran at 612-202-9322 or kac1122@aol.com.

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 DAY OF RELIGION

IMAM MAKRAM EL-AMIN

FEBRUARY 26, 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

Excerpts from *Africa Sounds*
- Abdullah Ibrahim

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Words of Welcome

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Bellsound

Prelude

Excerpts from *Africa Sounds*
- Abdullah Ibrahim

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Call to Worship

Denise Konen

Opening Hymn # 23(Please rise in body or spirit)

Bring Many Names (Verses 1-3, and 6)

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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Anthem

I Dream a World
- David Brunner

First Universalist Choir
Dr. Randal Buikema

Sermon

The Day of Religion

Imam Makram El-Amin

Offertory

Excerpts from *Africa Sounds*
- Abdullah Ibrahim

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Closing Hymn #168 (Please rise in body or spirit)

One More Step

Closing Words

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Imam Makram El-Amin	Guest Preacher
Rev. Justin Schroeder	Senior Minister
Denise Konen	Worship Associate
Dr. Jerrod Wendland	Pianist
Dr. Randal Buikema	Director of Choral Arts

First Universalist Choir

Deidra Andrews	9:30 A.M. Chalice Lighter
Cooper Pappajohn-Goldade	11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Chancel Flowers

Today's arrangement was done by Rebecca Brown, the artist who created the trellis, and Dick Rueter of the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop

Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop (MPWW) fosters literary community and a devotion to art inside correctional facilities through high-quality creative writing education. Through their classes, students support each other, hone their voices, cohere, and tell their own stories to the larger world. In addition, MPWW has partnered with the Loft Literary Center to offer scholarships for free writing classes for alumni and their children.

About Today's Guest Preacher

Imam Makram El-Amin's commitment to service and civic leadership has made him a pillar in the Minneapolis community. As imam of the historic Masjid An-Nur, he's led a growing, culturally diverse congregation in his hometown to the forefront of interfaith dialogue and neighborhood outreach. For the past two decades, Imam El-Amin's work as a religious and community leader has been firmly rooted in the principle of our inherent human dignity. When not leading his congregation, Imam El-Amin continues to serve by helping mentor adult men transitioning from prison into the workforce.

Musical Notes by Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Abdullah Ibrahim (1934-) is a South African pianist from Capetown. Born "Adolphus Brand," he started touring in the west after his discovery by Duke Ellington, who sponsored his first appearance at the Newport Jazz Festival. He went into exile to protest Apartheid, converted to Islam in 1968, and returned home after Mandela's release in 1992. I'll leave the rest to him: "In order to hear the music, you first have to hear yourself. Often we are hidden from ourselves. If you don't know what your sound is, you cannot really project your sound. It's always a question of identity."

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.