

GET CONNECTED

HABITAT HOUSING HEROES IN THE SOCIAL HALL TODAY

Calling all Housing Heroes! Join us in the Social Hall after services today to learn more about Twin Cities Habitat's public policy work and opportunities to get involved. Advocacy staff from Twin Cities Habitat will be present with action opportunities to engage with lawmakers at the State Legislature and Minneapolis City Council. Beyond quick actions that day, you can sign up to visit with your legislators at the Capitol during Habitat on the Hill (Tuesday, April 18), and strike a pose in the Housing Hero photo booth!

MARITAL FIRST RESPONDERS TRAINING MARCH 11

Marital First Responders is a training program for natural confidants who want to get better at helping friends and family members who confide in them about relationship problems. The training will be offered on Saturday, March 11, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Trainer Bill Doherty, Ph.D., is a University of Minnesota professor, marriage therapist, Unitarian Universalist, and co-founder of The Doherty Relationship Institute. To sign up, email Rev. Jen Crow at jen@firstuniv.org.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN KICKOFF PARTY IS MARCH 11

Thank you to all who have signed up to attend our Capital Campaign Kickoff Party on March 11! We are looking forward to celebrating the launch of our capital campaign—all we've accomplished in the past and all that we envision for the future—with you.



IMMIGRATION & REFUGEE PANEL: TODAY AT 1 P.M.

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 today from 1-2:30 p.m. Presented by members of Inquilinx Unidxs Por Justicia and Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee (MIRAC).

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.

DAYTIME CONNECTIONS: MUSIC AND THE SPIRIT

At our next Daytime Connections program on Thursday, March 16, join Rev. Ruth MacKenzie in an exploration of singing, theology, and the role singing plays in spirituality and justice making. We will sing, tell stories, delve into songs of spiritual awakening and resistance, and create our own song to buoy and enliven our hearts. Program begins at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at 1 p.m. A \$5–10 donation is encouraged. Registration is requested for lunch planning: contact Sandy DiNanni at sandy@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701.

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:

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.

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 at kathyurberg@gmail.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: RISK

RISKING A NEW STORY

REV. RUTH MACKENZIE

MARCH 5, 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

Dean Magraw
Eric Kamau Gravatt
Jim Anton

Words of Welcome

Rev. Jen Crow

Bellsound

Prelude

Guide My Feet
- African-American Spiritual

Chalice Singers
Tony Meysenberg
Ron Parker

Wisdom Story

Excerpt from *Braiding Sweetgrass*
- Robin Wall Kimmerer

Rev. Jen Crow

Opening Hymn #1021 (Please rise in body or spirit)

Lean on 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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Music for Journeying

Sharrock
- Dean Magraw and Eric Kamau Gravatt

Dean Magraw
Eric Kamau Gravatt
Jim Anton

Silence

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

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Reading

Natural Resources
- Adrienne Rich

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Musical Offering

Baby Wayne
- Dean Magraw and Eric Kamau Gravatt

Dean Magraw
Eric Kamau Gravatt
Jim Anton

Sermon

Risking a New Story

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Offertory

Chinatown
- Carlos Valdez and Tito Puente

Dean Magraw
Eric Kamau Gravatt
Jim Anton

Closing Hymn #1017 (Please rise in body or spirit)

Building a New Way

Closing Words

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie	Minister of Worship and Coming of Age
Rev. Jen Crow	Executive Minister
Chalice Singers	
Tony Meysenberg	Chalice Singers Leader
Ron Parker	Chalice Singers Leader
Avery Lindon	9:30 A.M. Chalice Lighter
Maya Conners	11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Guest Musicians

Dean Magraw, Eric Kamau Gravatt, Jim Anton

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Bette DeMars of the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: Augsburg Fairview Academy

Augsburg Fairview Academy (AFA) is a public charter school which provides opportunity to complete high school and prepare for college or post-secondary education for students who have not been successful in the public school system and/or seek the positive and supportive learning culture provided by AFA staff. The 140 students are African American, Somali and Native American; many are homeless or marginally housed at least part of the year. Our partnership began when our former staff member, Deb Rodgers, taught a leadership course at AFA and the students created the establishment of the Hope Food and Clothing Closets (supported by First Universalist) as their class projects.

About Today's Guest Musicians

Dean Magraw is a consummate guitarist, playing with wit and soulful abandon. A performer like no other, he is part comedian, part philosopher and all-around musical genius. Transcending genre, he has performed with a cornucopia of collaborators from jazz organist Jack McDuff to folk icon Greg Brown, traditional Irish supergroup Altan to classical violinist Nigel Kennedy.

Eric Kamau Gravatt is an American musician, educator and world-renowned drummer and percussionist; the Philadelphia native has played with world-class jazz artists and toured internationally since the 1970s. He started his career in the mid-1960s, recording with artists from that era including Byard Lancaster, Lloyd McNeill, Andrew White, Terumasa Hino, Eddie Henderson, and Joe Henderson.

Jim Anton is an award winning bassist, composer, and educator living in the Twin Cities. He can be heard on Jonny's 2006 Grammy Award-winning album *Turnaround*. Jim has shared the stage playing bass with Jackson Browne, David Crosby, Indigo Girls, Paul Westerberg, Greg Brown, Bernard Purdie, Jack McDuff, Lowen and Navarro, Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Andrew York, and former Tonight Show band leader Doc Severenson.

March Worship Theme: Risk

Risk is a dance with danger. It is stepping into a moment, unsure of what lies ahead. We may enter risk of our own accord or be pushed into risk-taking by life circumstances. Risk stands on the precipice of a failed attempt, a generative opening, or maybe a little of both. Whether we are comfortable with risk-taking or not, it is central to a whole and thriving life. There is no way to avoid it. In this month, we explore the nature of risk, and the spiritual muscles we need to develop in order to meet it.