

GET CONNECTED



**Not for Ourselves Alone:
Building an Inclusive Future**
First Universalist Church Capital Campaign

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE: \$3,684,297

Thank you to all those who have generously given as of April 5! Thus far, we have received \$3,684,297 in pledges from fewer than 100 members toward our capital campaign, *Not for Ourselves Alone, Building an Inclusive Future*. We look forward to meeting with all First Universalist members and friends this spring to discuss our vision for the future of our church!

FROM HEAVY-HEARTEDNESS TO LIVING OUR INTENTIONS

In February, First Universalist members offered a beautiful service of singing, music, truth telling and reflection, as we named the heavy heartedness we were experiencing. Together, we held space for one another and found ways to move with and in spite of our own heavy heartedness. We set an intention that over the course of 40 days, we would contemplate and discern how we would faithfully move forward. Please join us on **Thursday, April 13 at 7 p.m.** when we reconvene in song and reflection, naming how we will move forward with resolve, commitment, and love.

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 two-part workshop offered on Saturdays, April 22 & 29, from 9–11:30 a.m. To register, contact Sandy at sandy@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701.

MN350 PRESENTATION: MN'S NEXT STANDING ROCK?

Please join us today at 1 p.m. in the Cummins Room for a presentation by MN350. Enbridge Energy wants to push through yet another massive crude oil pipeline that would cross protected treaty territory and threaten water supplies across Minnesota. This project, the Line 3 pipeline, would replace a deteriorating existing pipeline, nearly doubling its capacity. The Environmental Justice Team has invited Kathy Hollander and Justin GreyDay of the activist group MN350 to clarify the major issues.

PLEDGE DAY IS APRIL 26

The Pledge Day tradition continues! Please join us on Wednesday, April 26, 4-8 p.m. here at church for a free celebration of our community, including dinner catered by The Sioux Chef, games (bingo!), a bouncy house, prizes, and more. Our goal is to have all pledges made by Pledge Day so that the budget for the coming year can be finalized. RSVP: <http://tinyurl.com/PledgeDay2017RSVP>

CHANGING TIMES QUILT EXHIBIT

Every spring, Minnesota Contemporary Quilters are challenged to make a small quilt that will travel for a year to venues throughout the state. The 2016–2017 inspiration for these quilts was: “Changing Times.” Some quilters took a serious approach, while others had a more light-hearted take on it. Enjoy interpretations of the theme *Changing Times* ranging from our planet, to aging bodies, to baby diapers! The exhibit will be on view in the gallery space in the social hall from April 9 through May 14, and can be viewed on Sundays before and after services.

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: Sunday, April 16

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:

3/19 Simpson Housing Services \$1,192.05

3/26 Youth Cultural Exchange \$1,117.90

4/2 Joyce Uptown Food Shelf \$850.46

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.

CHORE TEAM

Do you need help with simple household tasks, such as removing or installing an air conditioner, changing lightbulbs, or window washing? These are chores that most of us do easily until we can't. Chore Team helpers are also needed! Contact Bob Friedman at rmarcf@usfamily.net or 612-722-4705 if you need help, or if you would like to join the chore team.

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: TRANSFORMATION

THE GROWING EDGE

REV. ELAINE ARON TENBRINK

APRIL 9, 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. Ruth MacKenzie

Bellsound

Prelude

Psalm 100 from *Chichester Psalms*
- Leonard Bernstein

First Universalist Choir
Dr. Randal Buikema

Call to Worship

Adrian Ali-Caccamo

Opening Hymn #21 (Please rise in body or spirit)

For the Beauty of the Earth

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 Response

Darkness Visible
- Mary Grigolia

First Universalist Choir
Dr. Randal Buikema

Silence

Cycle of Life

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

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

Accepting This
- Mark Nepo

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Musical Response

Psalm 133 from *Chichester Psalms*
- Leonard Bernstein

First Universalist Choir
Dr. Randal Buikema

Reading

The Growing Edge
- Rev. Howard Thurman

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Musical Response

Wheel of Change
- Mary Grigolia

First Universalist Choir
Dr. Randal Buikema

Sermon

The Growing Edge

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Offertory

Ode to Life
- Don Pullen

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Closing Hymn #108 (Please rise in body or spirit)

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

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. Ruth MacKenzie	Minister of Worship and Coming of Age
Adrian Ali-Caccamo	Worship Associate
Dr. Jerrod Wendland	Pianist
Dr. Randal Buikema	Director of Choral Arts
First Universalist Choir	
Ava Bleifuss	11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Chancel Flowers

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

Offering: Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, through its Families Moving Forward program, provides temporary housing for families experiencing homelessness. Over 60 congregations in the Twin Cities rotate on a weekly basis to create shelter space at their sites, providing a safe place to sleep, meals, and the kindness and compassion of the congregation's volunteers. Up to 16 families are provided shelter at one time through four groupings of up to four families each. Completing the circle of support, Beacon's professional staff works closely with each family to address their unique barriers to stability so they may leave the shelter program for permanent housing. Beacon is one of First Universalist's Faithful Action partners.

April Worship Theme: Transformation

Karen Armstrong writes: "religion is not about accepting twenty impossible propositions before breakfast, but about doing things that change you. It is a moral aesthetic, an ethical alchemy. If you behave in a certain way, you will be transformed." When we dare to move beyond the known patterns and perceptions of our lives, letting the alchemy of love, listening and justice do its work, then we will be more than changed. The base metals of our lives will be transformed into something precious and flourishing. This is the purpose of religion, and the meaning of a religious life: to be transformed.