

JULY 23, 2017

# GET CONNECTED

## FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD: THE PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP

First Universalist Church will be hosting families from Families Moving Forward for two weeks: August 20 through September 3. Many of you have expressed an interest in engaging in this effort. If you're new to our community, this is a fabulous way to meet folks and strengthen bonds. We welcome you! There are many spots open to volunteer your time, talents, and contributions. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/FMF-FirstUU> to sign up.

## SENIORS HIKE WITH DAYTIME CONNECTIONS

Join us for our next seniors nature hike with Daytime Connections on Thursday, July 27! Meet at 10 a.m. at Minnehaha Falls, adjacent to Sea Salt Eatery. The group will descend about 100 steps to the creek and hike about 30 minutes on a somewhat rustic trail along the creek to its mouth at the Mississippi River. The return hike includes an ascent of the ravine to the campus of the Minneapolis VA home and dramatic views over the bluff of Mississippi River Lock & Dam #1 below. RSVP to Tom Saterstrom: [saterstromtom@yahoo.com](mailto:saterstromtom@yahoo.com) or 952-239-3629.

## LAKE HARRIET BANDSHELL OUTDOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC

Join us for an energizing worship service and potluck picnic at the Lake Harriet Bandshell on Sunday, Aug. 20 at 10 a.m.! We'll enjoy music, an inspiring message from Rev. Justin, and a delicious potluck picnic together afterwards. *Please note: this will be our only worship service on Sunday, Aug. 20.* For the potluck, please bring a dish and/or beverage to share, chairs or blankets to sit on, and plates, cups and eating utensils for everyone in your party.

## SUMMER SUNDAYS AT FIRST UNIVERSALIST

Worship Services are held at 10 a.m. during the summer. We ask that you please bring your own mug to the social hour after the service. This helps save on water, labor, and keeps the kitchen cool during the hot summer months. See you in church!

JULY 23, 2017

# WELCOME

## CELEBRATING OUR GENEROSITY

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](mailto:sandy@firstuniv.org) or 612-825-1701. Childcare is available free of charge with at least seven days advance notice.

## SUBSCRIBE TO THE WEEKLY LIBERAL

Our email newsletter, *The Weekly Liberal*, is published on Thursdays. To make sure you're in the know about all that's going on at First Universalist, subscribe at: [firstuniversalistchurch.org/the-weekly-liberal/](http://firstuniversalistchurch.org/the-weekly-liberal/). Would you like to write about your experience at a recent church event or volunteer activity? Do you have photos to share? Are you on a church committee that has news or information to communicate to the congregation? Contributions from members of our community are welcome; submit your news using the form on our website at the link above or email [communications@firstuniv.org](mailto:communications@firstuniv.org).

## Are You Visiting?

Come to a brief orientation to First Universalist and Unitarian Universalism.

## Our next orientation takes place: Sunday, Aug. 6

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 10 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](mailto:lauren@firstuniv.org).

## We are so glad you are here.

Offering plates from Sunday Service:

7/2 Walk-In Counseling Center \$664.98

7/9 Mni Ki Wakan Water Summit \$667.20

7/16 Augsburg Fairview Academy \$1,188.78

Know a charitable organization that shares our commitment to justice and equity? Nominate an offering recipient at: [firstuniversalistchurch.org/offering-plate](http://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](http://firstuniversalistchurch.org).

## NEED A RIDE?

We can help with at least two weeks' notice. Contact Anne McBean at 612-388-0660 or [mcbea001@yahoo.com](mailto:mcbea001@yahoo.com) if you need help with a ride or would like to offer a ride to a congregant.

## THE WEEKLY LIBERAL

*The Weekly Liberal* is published on Thursdays. Subscribe at: [firstuniversalistchurch.org/the-weekly-liberal/](http://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: MEETING THE MOMENT



# THREADS OF FAITH

ARIF MAMDANI

JULY 23, 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

*Gnossienne* n° 5  
- Erik Satie

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

## Call to Worship

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

## Opening Hymn #95 (Please rise in body or spirit)

*There Is More Love Somewhere*

## 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. 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

*The Way it Is*  
- William Stafford

Arif Mamdani

## Musical Offering

*Gnossienne* n° 4  
- Erik Satie

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

## Sermon

*Threads of Faith*

Arif Mamdani

## Offertory

*Gymnopédie* n° 1  
- Erik Satie

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

## Closing Hymn #6 (Please rise in body or spirit)

*Just as Long as I Have Breath*

## Closing Words

Arif Mamdani

## Blessing in Song #413

*Go Now in Peace*

## Worship Leaders

Arif Mamdani	Guest Preacher
Rev. Ruth MacKenzie	Minister
Dr. Jerrod Wendland	Pianist

## Chancel Flowers

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

## Offering: Learning Disabilities Association Minnesota

The mission of LDA Minnesota is to empower and support children, adults, families and the broader community impacted by learning disabilities, attention deficits and related challenges through assessment, intervention, education, and outreach. Offering plate funds will be directed to LDA's intensive academic interventions for underachieving students in under-resourced urban schools, including Lyndale Elementary in south Minneapolis. This programming helps children in grades K-5 who are behind in reading to catch up with their peers. A \$1,000 donation would help to provide yearlong interventions for one student.

## About Today's Guest Preacher

Arif Mamdani is a member of First Universalist Church. He entered seminary after more than 10 years in the nonprofit sector, building the capacity of community organizing groups around the country. This fall, he will be the Hallman Ministerial Intern at Unity Church-Unitarian in St. Paul. Arif serves as Associate Director of the Kaleo Center for Faith, Justice & Social Transformation, serves on the board of the Church of the Larger Fellowship and the Movement Strategy Center, and lives in St. Paul with his wife and children.

## Musical Notes by Dr. Jerrod Wendland

"M. Erik Satie," he wrote, "passes for the strangest musician of our time." The composer (1866-1924) made eccentricity a way of life; he regarded the sun as his personal nemesis and sprinkled his conversation with *bons mots* ("Love me, love my dog") and his music with bizarre instructions ("Like a nightingale with a toothache"). But these eccentricities masked an underlying seriousness of purpose. A compulsive hoarder, he never threw away any of the thousands of pages on which he laboriously worked out his naive-sounding compositions. Unlike many of his better-known contemporaries, he was a true modernist, rejecting any form or convention that didn't fit in with his artistic vision. "I arrived very young in times that were very old."

## Summer Worship Theme: Meeting the Moment

Sometimes it happens in a small room, when your mind quiets, and the rhythm of your breath begins to lead. Sometimes it happens in a conversation, when you take a leap of faith and step into a hard conversation. Sometimes it is that crazy notion that will not be pushed aside, and you make an about turn that leads into an unimaginable freshness of life and purpose. Sometimes it's showing up in the streets, in a rotunda, in a meeting, in covenantal community. Sometimes it's showing up for yourself. The religious life is meeting the moment over and over again. Join us this summer as ministers and speakers from all different walks of life and contexts tell of their spiritual grounding, and stories of meeting the moment.