

GET CONNECTED

BACKPACK BLESSING SUNDAY: AUGUST 27

As summer comes to an end, don't miss our fourth annual Backpack Blessing and worship service on Sunday, Aug. 27 at 10 a.m. The multigenerational service will offer children, youth, and adults of all ages the opportunity to reflect upon how we might carry the love of our church community and the tools of our faith with us wherever we go. In this season of returning and restarting, we affirm the boundless worth of each and every person, and encourage one another to consciously seek a path of integrity and compassion. Children and youth are encouraged to wear their school backpacks to church so that we can include them in the Backpack Blessing ritual.

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. We're excited to welcome Minneapolis-based hip hop artist Terrell Woods, a.k.a. Carnage The Executioner, as our musical guest during the service. *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.

REGISTRATION FOR 2017-2018 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RE registration for the 2017-2018 church year is now open online at: <http://1stureligiouseducation.weebly.com/>.

FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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 stop by the social hall after worship today or visit <https://tinyurl.com/FMF-FirstUU> to sign up!

SUMMER CHOIR AUGUST 27

Do you like to sing? Have you thought about being in choir, but can't make an extended commitment? Summer Choir may be just right for you! The Summer Choir is scheduled to sing in worship one more time this summer - on August 27. Rehearsal is at 9 a.m., and the service begins at 10 a.m. Music is easy enough to learn in the 45 minute rehearsal. All are welcome! Questions? Contact randy@firstuniv.org.

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/. Contributions from members of our community are encouraged; submit your news using the form on our website at the link above or email communications@firstuniv.org.

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.

Our next orientation takes place: Sunday, Sept. 3

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.

CELEBRATING OUR GENEROSITY

Offering plates from Sunday Service:
7/16 Augsburg Fairview Academy \$1,188.78
7/23 Learning Disabilities Association MN \$714.32
7/30 CAIR-Minnesota \$530.61

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.

PASTORAL VISITORS

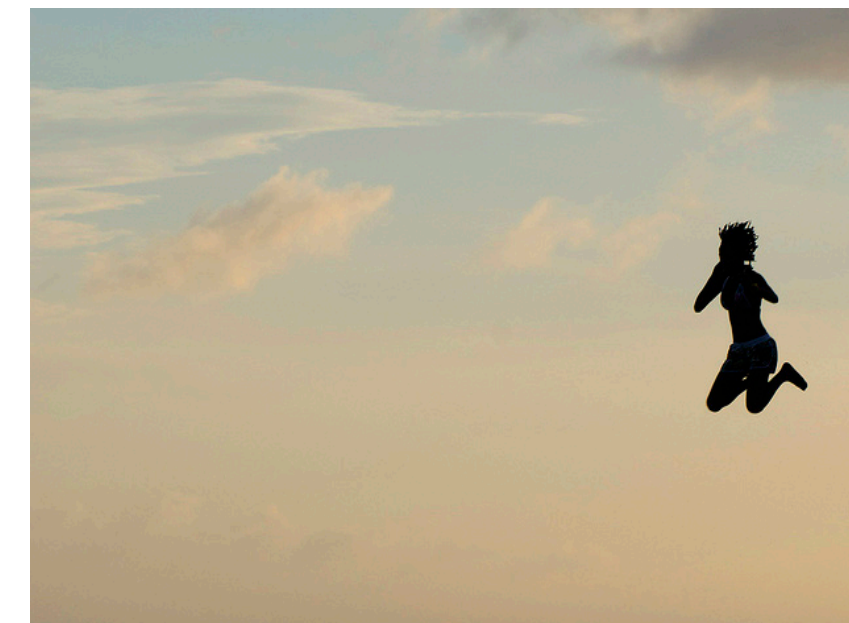
The Pastoral Visitors Team is a group of congregants, led by the Rev. Ruth MacKenzie, who provide confidential pastoral care to friends and members of our congregation in need of support. Our goal is to offer compassionate presence to our fellow congregants in the knowledge that this too is a spiritual practice. If you are in need of a Pastoral Care visit, please contact Rev. Ruth MacKenzie at ruth@firstuniv.org.

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: MEETING THE MOMENT

SONG OF MY SONG

REV. RUTH MACKENZIE

AUGUST 13, 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. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Bellsound

Prelude

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Deep River
- African American Spiritual, arr. Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Call to Worship

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Opening Hymn #199 (Please rise in body or spirit)

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

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

(reprinted with permission by the UUA)

Musical Interlude

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Silence

Cycle of Life

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

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
(reprinted with permission by the UUA)

Reading

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Musical Offering

Deep River
- African American Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan

Dr. Jerrod Wendland
Sarah Lindsay, soloist

Sermon

Song of My Song

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Offertory

Deep River
- African American Spiritual, arr. Bradley Sowash

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Closing Hymn #151 (Please rise in body or spirit)

I Wish I Knew How

Closing Words

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie Minister
Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink Minister
Dr. Jerrod Wendland Pianist
Sarah Lindsay Soloist

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were donated by Shelley Thron and Shelley des Islets, whose wedding was celebrated in this Sanctuary yesterday.

Offering: Witness for Peace-Midwest

Witness for Peace (WFP) is a politically independent, nationwide grassroots organization of people committed to nonviolence and led by faith and conscience. Witness for Peace-Midwest is a regional chapter of WFP based in Minnesota. WFP's mission is to support peace, justice and sustainable economies in the Americas by changing U.S. policies and corporate practices that contribute to poverty and oppression in Latin America and the Caribbean. By building an informed and invested grassroots base in Minnesota—and by building bridges and networks between subjugated populations in Minnesota and Latin American countries—we foster change in U.S. policies and practices destructive to people across the Americas. The offering will be used to fund delegation scholarships for under-represented communities: including women, immigrants, and people of color.

About Today's Musical Guest

Sarah Lindsay is a member of First Universalist Church. She has a long relationship with this building. She attended a Waldorf school when it was housed in this building. Sarah has many fond and powerful memories of support and encouragement from this place in the past and this place in the present.

Musical Notes by Dr. Jerrod Wendland

The spiritual *Deep River* expresses a desire for freedom, to “cross over into campground,” and is therefore both a summary of the African American experience and a seed that would blossom into many different cultural expressions. Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) was an English composer born to a Sierra Leone father, who took the Spiritual to be the true folk voice of the African Diaspora. Throughout the jazz age, many intellectuals (like W.E.B. Du Bois) held up the Spiritual as the “good” Afro-American music, as opposed to the “bad”: ragtime and jazz. Nowadays, Spirituals have become such a part of American musical culture that each person can decide for themselves what they mean: either a renewed longing for liberation (by Moses Hogan, 1957-2003), or a basis for a jazz improvisation (by white pianist Bradley Sowash).

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.