

## GET CONNECTED

### FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We still have a few more volunteer slots to fill for our second week of hosting families from Families Moving Forward (today through Sept. 3)! We have three additional families joining the three already staying with us for our second week and we want to welcome them with open arms. We have a number of open volunteer slots for evening activities, and we're finding with this group that the kids from our congregation are having so much fun. Please go to [tinyurl.com/fmf-firstuu](http://tinyurl.com/fmf-firstuu) and consider joining us for this last week!

### WATER COMMUNION

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 10 - 9:30 & 11:15**

Water is a gift. It replenishes and sustains our lives. Sunday, Sept. 10 is Water Communion Sunday. This is a day on which we celebrate the many rivers, eddies and waterways of our life experiences, converging in our sanctuary every Sunday forming a river of faith. We embody this truth by bringing water from our homes, our travels, our walks, and our bike paths—and combine them during the service in a ritual called Water Communion. Please bring a small jar of water to either service (9:30 or 11:15 a.m.) on Sunday, Sept. 10 for the beginning of our church year, in this beautiful multi-generational Sunday service.

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S BRUNCH

Meet and connect with other folks in their 20s and 30s at our Young People's Brunch. On Sunday, Sept. 10 at 12:30 p.m., the group will gather at Abbie Finger's home for good food and conversation. Please bring something to share if you're able. To RSVP and get the address, email [youngadultsfirstu@gmail.com](mailto:youngadultsfirstu@gmail.com) or talk to Sandy DiNanni at the Information Table in the social hall.

### CHALLENGE GRANT ANNOUNCED

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN INFO SESSION  
TODAY!**

Thanks to the generosity of several congregants, we are delighted to announce a matching grant of nearly \$100,000 for our capital campaign, *Not for Ourselves Alone: Building an Inclusive Future*. Now is a great time to make a pledge to the campaign because you can double the impact of your gift! Attend a Drop-In Capital Campaign Information Session after worship today or on one of the coming six Sundays to learn about the campaign and vision for the future of First Universalist. Today's session will be held in the Chancel Room following worship. And thank you to all who have helped us raise \$5.25 million thus far toward our capital campaign!

### NEW EXHIBIT IN SOCIAL HALL

*Finding Focus: Returning to a First Love* is a new exhibit of work by First Universalist member Martha Bird. Martha's first love is basket weaving. In 1994, she enrolled in a basket class and fell in love with the materials and wove her way into activity and health after a back injury. Her art-making has expanded over the years into a personal exploration that utilizes a variety of mediums. Her basket weaving, though, has brought her many new opportunities, including traveling to Ireland and exhibiting across the U.S. *Finding Focus* is an exhibit that features her work with willow from her travels and will be on display in the Social Hall through October 1.

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

### CELEBRATING OUR GENEROSITY

Offering plates from Sunday Service:  
7/30 CAIR-Minnesota \$530.61

8/6 Nawayee Center School \$625.80

8/13 Witness for Peace - Midwest \$402.00

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).

### CARING CORNER

Write a note to a congregant who could use support! There are cards available in the library, which is located off of the Social Hall. You are welcome to stop by and write a card at any time. Just leave it in the basket and the church will mail it for you.

### 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

## BACKPACK BLESSING

REV. JEN CROW

AUGUST 27, 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. Jen Crow

## Bellsound

## Opening Hymn #361

*Enter, Rejoice, and Come In*

## Call to Worship

Lauren Wyeth

## Song of Welcome

(Please rise in body or spirit. Choir begins, congregation members join when you are comfortable.)

*Whoever You Are, We Welcome You*

Whoever you are, we welcome you  
Wherever you come from, we welcome you  
Whoever you love, we welcome you

-Hal Walker

## 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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## Reflection

Katelyn Berry and Elizabeth Haugen

*A Burmese Folktale*

## Anthem

*We Come Here*  
- Angela Salvaggione, lyrics by Beverly Feldt

Summer Choir  
Dr. Randal Buikema

## Body Prayer

Lauren Wyeth

## 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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## Homily

Rev. Jen Crow

*Stronger Together*

## Offertory

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

*How Far I'll Go*  
- Lin-Manuel Miranda

## Blessing of the Backpacks

Lauren Wyeth and Rev. Jen Crow

## Closing Song (Please rise in body or spirit)

Beth Kinderman

*Keep Your Eyes Wide Open*  
Lilia, Anika, and Juliette Yorkhall

Keep your eyes wide open when you go  
Keep your eyes wide open when you go  
Keep your eyes wide open  
There's a light 'round every corner  
Keep your eyes wide open when you go

Verse 2: Keep your ears wide open... there's a song...  
Verse 3: Keep your arms wide open... there's a friend...  
Verse 4: Keep your heart wide open... there is love...

-Abby Colehour

## Closing Words

Lauren Wyeth

## Blessing in Song #413

*Go Now in Peace*

*Many hands make light work! Brief assistance with clean up in the sanctuary immediately following this morning's service would be most appreciated.*

## Worship Leaders

Rev. Jen Crow	Executive Minister
Lauren Wyeth	Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries
Dr. Jerrod Wendland	Pianist
Dr. Randal Buikema	Director of Choral Arts
Summer Choir	
Meshach Mandel	Chalice Lighting Words
Braeden Dahmes	Chalice Lighter

Katelyn Berry, Elizabeth Haugen, Beth Kinderman, Lilia Yorkhall, Anika Yorkhall, Juliette Yorkhall

## Chancel Flowers

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

## Offering: Youth Trips

This morning's offering will support First Universalist youth trips, including pilgrimages made by Coming of Age grads and by youth in our senior high youth group. As a faith community, we are committed to ensuring that all youth pilgrimages are accessible and affordable for all who wish to participate. Thank you for helping in our quest to be the inclusive, beloved community our youth desire and deserve.

## 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.