

## GET CONNECTED

### WATER COMMUNION IS NEXT SUNDAY— RETURN TO TWO SERVICES!

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, our bike paths—any place that is sacred to us. We 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 service.

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S (20S & 30S) BRUNCH - SEPT. 10

Meet and connect with other folks from First Universalist in their 20s and 30s at our upcoming Young People's Brunch. On Sunday, Sept. 10 at 12:30 p.m., the group will gather at Abbie Finger's home for brunch 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 at the Info Table in the social hall.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BEGINS SEPT. 17 - THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER!

Please help us start the new year smoothly by making sure your child(ren) is/are registered for Religious Education! RE registration for the 2017–2018 church year is open online at: <http://1stureligiouseducation.weebly.com/>.

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CHALLENGE GRANT— ATTEND AN INFO SESSION!

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 five 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 nearly \$5.3 million thus far toward our capital campaign!

### FIRST U TO HOST MINNEAPOLIS MAYORAL FORUM ON HOMELESSNESS

First Universalist, with assistance from the League of Women Voters, will be hosting a forum for Minneapolis mayoral candidates focusing on issues of homelessness: the presence of homeless individuals in the community, sleeping in public, community livability, access to shelter, and interaction with resources. This forum, which will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 26 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, will be moderated by Monica Nilsson, a local advocate for the homeless, and is being organized by long-time members of First Universalist, Barb and Gary Melom.

### REGISTRATION FOR FALL CIRCLES OPENS NEXT SUNDAY, SEPT. 10

Enrich your spiritual life by joining a circle this fall! Information about offerings will be available next Sunday, and sign up will run Sept. 10 through Oct. 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: 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 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 Nayawee 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.

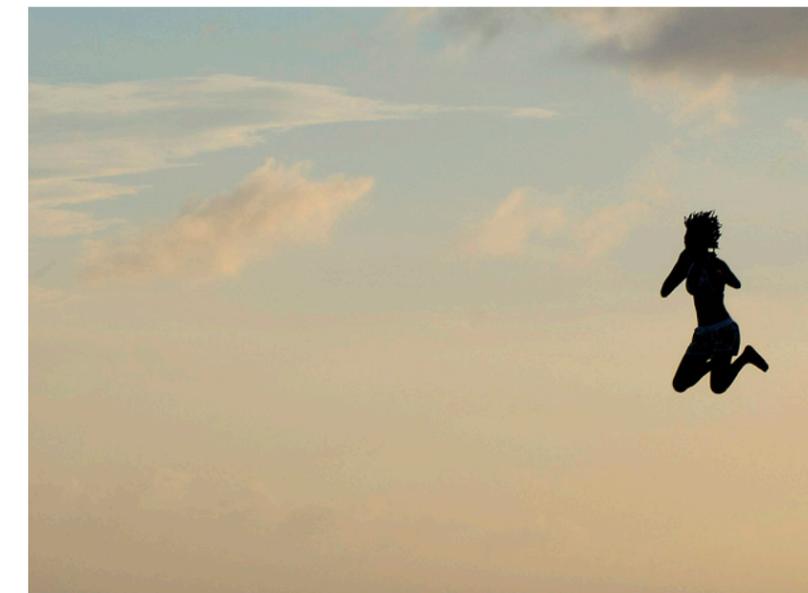
### THE WEEKLY LIBERAL

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

## SACRED REFLECTIONS

PASTOR DANNY GIVENS, JR.  
REV. LAURIE POUND-FEILLE

SEPTEMBER 3, 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

## Prelude

*To the Summer House* from *Soft Summer Airs*  
- David Evan Thomas

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

## Call to Worship

Rev. Jen Crow

## Opening Hymn #170 (Please rise in body or spirit)

*We Are a Gentle, Angry People*

## 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. 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

(reprinted with permission by the UUA)

## Reading

*2 Kings 4: 8–10*

*1 Corinthians 16: 5–9*

*Talmud on Micah 6: 8*

Pastor Danny Givens, Jr.

Rev. Laurie Pound-Feille

## Musical Offering

*Landscape of Shadow and Light*

- David Evan Thomas

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

## Sermon

*Sacred Reflections*

Pastor Danny Givens, Jr.

Rev. Laurie Pound-Feille

## Offertory

*The Clear Water of Our Hearts*

- David Evan Thomas

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

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

*There Is More Love Somewhere*

## Closing Words

Pastor Danny Givens, Jr.

Rev. Laurie Pound-Feille

## Blessing in Song #413

*Go Now in Peace*

## Worship Leaders

Pastor Danny Givens, Jr.

Guest Minister

Rev. Laurie Pound-Feille

Guest Minister

Rev. Jen Crow

Executive Minister

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Pianist

## Chancel Flowers

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

## Offering: MUUSJA (Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance)

A key MUUSJA goal is to develop the capacity of Minnesota Unitarian Universalist individuals and congregations to work effectively for systemic change and social justice. MUUSJA aspires to help Minnesota UUs develop and deepen our religious voice, and to bring this voice to the public square.

## About Today's Guest Ministers

**Pastor Danny Givens, Jr.** is the Senior Pastor of Above Every Name Ministries, a young cutting edge congregation in the Twin Cities that prides itself in being a “Church for the People.” As an advocate for Racial/Social Justice surrounding the systemic issues Blacks & People of Color face daily, he devotes time and energy to the #BlackLivesMatterMpls Movement in the role of Clergy Liaison. Among the litany of organizing strategies, actions, and non-violent demonstrations as a frontline activist, Pastor Danny has brought together both traditional and non-traditional faith leaders of diverse backgrounds to the table of faith, race, and intersectionality in faith and justice work. He is one of the Founding Members of Black Clergy United for Change, a collective of black clergy committed to the work of Racial Justice and Social Transformation, and is now beginning in his new work as MUUSJA's (Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance) half-time Statewide Organizer.

**Rev. Laurie Pound Feille** moved from Texas to Minnesota in December 2012. After serving churches in the Fort Worth, Texas, area and doing church “the same old way,” Pastor Feille jumped at the opportunity to serve as the Senior Minister of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Minneapolis. First Christian Church is one of the three partner congregations of SpringHouse Ministry Center. A native of Mississippi, Pastor Feille has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi and had a career in Sales and Marketing before answering the call to ordained ministry. She is scheduled to graduate in May 2018 with her Doctor of Ministry degree. She has a passion for leading trips that help expand people's worldview and has been and/or led trips to Bosnia, Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Kenya, Paraguay and many places in the U.S.

## Musical Notes from Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Minnesota composer David Evan Thomas speaks of the importance of isolation when composing: "I feel I can take my time. I can deliberate, make choices. The process—of approving this and discarding that—is a process by which I inevitably create the boundaries of my life. Gradually, over time, and a lot of blind alleys, and attempts to go other directions, I've come back to this existence which is pretty narrow in scope, but when I'm within it I'm very satisfied."