

FALL 2017 Worship at First Universalist Church

Sharing Sundays

4 years to 5th grade attend first part of service
First Sunday of the month, Oct. 1 & Nov. 5

Multigenerational worship

4 years & up attend entire service
Sept. 10 & Nov. 26

Youth-friendly worship

6th–12th grade attend entire service
Oct. 22

September 2017

Worship Theme: Intention (In Tension)

Coming from the Latin word, intentionem, intention literally means a stretching out—a stretching out of mind, of heart, of body, of spirit. When we set an intention, we are turning our attention toward something, or someone, or some idea, and stretching out to meet it. Yet there are times when our intent runs headlong into our blind spots, our misconceptions. Our good intentions can have troublesome or even devastating impacts. As we begin the new church year together, we explore intention, impact, and living in the tension of naming where we are for real, where we hope to be going, and navigating the holy in it all.

Sept. 10 Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
Multigenerational Worship

Water Communion Sunday, Rev. Jen Crow
Music: First Universalist Choir

Sept. 17 Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
First day of Religious Education

Worship, Rev. Jen Crow

Sept. 24 Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
Sign Up Sunday

Worship, Moth Sunday: a service of storytelling
Storytellers: Keven Ambrus, Muriel Ambrus, Frederic MacDonald-Dennis, Tim Gluszak, Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink. Music: Libby Turner, First U Choir

October 2017

Worship Theme: Outsiders

The first principle of our Unitarian Universalist faith states that we affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every human being. This connotes a celebration and welcoming of the variety of human expression, all the different ways and contexts that make us who we are. Yet there is a tendency in our human nature to distrust something that is different than ourselves, that is in some way other or deemed an outsider. At the heart of our faithful root system is an other-affirming imperative, to meet and come to know one another as whole and holy, and embrace the outsider. We often fail. Yet when we lean into our other-affirming calling, we resist the false, dominant cultural narrative of segmentation and separation, and find a surplus of wisdom and ways forward that are surprising, challenging, and life-giving.

Oct. 1 Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
Sharing Sunday

Mental Health Sunday, Rev. Ruth MacKenzie
Music: Lynn O'Brien

Oct. 8 Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
Indigenous People's Day

Worship, Rev. Jen Crow
Worship Associate: Greta Gaard

Oct. 15 Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
Capital Campaign Celebration

Worship, Rev. Kate Tucker
Music: Ann Reed and Give Get Sistet

Oct. 22 Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
Youth-friendly worship

Worship, Rev. Jen Crow
Music: First Universalist Choir

Oct. 29 Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.

Worship, Challenging White Supremacy Teach-In
Music: First Universalist Choir

November 2017

Worship Theme: Sources of Trust

When Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the door of Wittenberg Castle Church in 1517, he started a conversation about faith that has been going on for centuries for Christians, and by way of religious genealogy, Unitarian Universalists. Is "faith" simply an assent or agreement with a set of belief statements or is "faith" a question of trust? Where do you place your trust? Where do you find your strength? What holds you when there is nothing to hold onto? As Unitarian Universalists, we state that our sources of faith and trust come from: Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder which moves us to a renewal of the spirit that creates and upholds life; The words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice and compassion; The wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life; Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves; Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science; And spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature. This month we ask: "What are your sources of trust?"

Nov. 5 Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
Sharing Sunday, Child Dedication

Worship, Rev. Justin Schroeder

Nov. 12 Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
New Member Sunday

Worship, Rev. Jen Crow
Worship Associate: Jen Gasperini Music: First Universalist Choir

Nov. 19 Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.

Worship, Rev. Ruth MacKenzie
Music: Give Get Sistet

Nov. 26 Sunday, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
Multigenerational Worship

Worship, Rev. Justin Schroeder
Worship Associate: Kathy Coskran Music: First Universalist Choir