

GET CONNECTED

“IMPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE FOR WAR AND PEACE” FORUM – TODAY!

Climate change is not just a threat—it is also an opportunity for peace. In a panel discussion this afternoon beginning at 12:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary, three experts will discuss the threats posed by climate change, including weather-related disasters such as floods and drought, international conflicts due to water shortages, and population displacement. Panelists will also address how climate change problems offer opportunities for international collaboration and peaceful resolution of conflict. Sponsored by the Peace Circle and Environmental Justice Team at First Universalist.

LET’S TALK ABOUT WHITE FRAGILITY

When white people experience racial stress, we often withdraw, defend, cry, argue, minimize, ignore, and in other ways push back to regain our racial position and equilibrium: a response known as white fragility. This limits our capacity to bridge cross-racial divides and harms people of color. Join us on Sunday, Oct. 15 at 1 p.m. for a conversation about white fragility based on “White Fragility,” an essay by Dr. Robin DiAngelo. Discussion will be facilitated by Susan Schultz and Lark Weller.

LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR FALL CIRCLES!

One of the core spiritual practices of this community takes place in circles: groups of 8-10 committed participants who gather to reflect on their lives and contemplate our worship themes. Today—Sunday, Oct. 1—is the deadline to register for Circles this fall. Descriptions, schedules, and registration are available online at firstucircles.weebly.com and in the social hall.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN INFO SESSIONS

Help us wrap up our capital campaign, *Not for Ourselves Alone: Building an Inclusive Future*, by October 15! **Attend a Drop-In Capital Campaign Information Session in the Arches Room after worship today to learn about the campaign and vision for the future of First Universalist.** One more info session will be offered next Sunday, Oct. 8.

ARTIST’S RECEPTION FOR MARTHA BIRD TODAY

Martha Bird’s first love is basket weaving. *Finding Focus: Returning to a First Love* is an exhibit that features her work with willow from her travels. Today is the last day to view this exhibit, which is on display in the Social Hall. Join us for an artist’s reception today after both services to meet Martha and see more of her history in basketry.

THE PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP

If First Universalist is feeling like your spiritual home, then we hope you’ll take part in the Pathway to Membership! Joining First Universalist is a symbolic, spiritual act of saying “yes” to growing your soul in this place, with these people, within our free faith tradition. This new member class is a great chance to build community, explore Unitarian Universalism and our church’s unique history, and learn how to get involved. The next Pathway to Membership class is being offered on Sundays, Oct. 8 & 15, 1–3 p.m. To register, contact Sandy DiNanni at sandy@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701. Childcare is available free of charge with at least seven days advance notice.

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: 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 11:15 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:

- 9/3 MUUSJA \$388.65
- 9/10 Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund \$2,901.30*
- 9/17 Honor the Earth \$1,037.68

*100% of offering to recipient

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.

NEED A RIDE?

We can help with at least one week’s notice. Contact Anne McBean at 612-388-0660 or 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/. 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: OUTSIDERS

THIS IS US

REV. RUTH MACKENZIE

OCTOBER 1, 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

Let Go, Move Forward
- Lynn O'Brien

Lynn O'Brien

Wisdom Story

Inspired by *The Color Thief*

Rev. Jen Crow

Opening Hymn #1007 (Please rise in body or spirit.)

There's a River Flowin' in My Soul

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)

Song for the Journey (Children are excused to their classes.)

May Love Surround You

May love surround you with warm, gentle arms.
May love surround you and keep you from harm.
And may you always continue to grow.
Know that we're with you wherever you go.

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)

Collage of Voices

Shelley Thron
Chad Bolstrom
Martha Bird

Musical Offering

Home
- Meg Hutchinson

Lynn O'Brien

Collage of Voices

Keith Washington
Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Offertory

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Candle Lighting Ritual

I Am Light
- India Arie

Lynn O'Brien

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

Just as Long as I Have Breath

Closing Words

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie Minister

Rev. Jen Crow Minister

Member Voices

Martha Bird

Shelley Thron

Keith Washington

Chad Bolstrom Guest Speaker

Dr. Jerrod Wendland Pianist

Lynn O'Brien Musical Guest

Marina Guin 9:30 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Henry Mitchell-Crow 11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Bette DeMars of the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: Vail Place

Vail Place is a Minnesota nonprofit that helps people with long-term, serious illnesses like schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depression get back on their feet by providing connections to essential services, supports, and resources. The organization provides purpose through shared work; direction through employment, housing, wellness, and social programs; and hope by reconnecting members with community. Vail Place helps people help themselves and contribute to the community, reducing costly interventions: hospitalization, homelessness, incarceration, police and other public resources and helps restore broken relationships and build healthy ones within families, with friends, and with the broader community.

About Today's Musical Guest

Lynn O'Brien is an experienced vocalist, board-certified music therapist, world traveler, and a folk/jazz singer/songwriter with four albums. She loves to engage circles of people in authentic and playful experiences, using her unique voice to connect straight to the heart. Currently, she is working closely with businesses and individuals to craft and perform custom songs that creatively convey the messages that matter most.

October 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.