

GET CONNECTED

LISTENING SESSIONS WITH THE ARCHITECT: SEPT. 27 AND OCT. 1

With the capital campaign nearing completion, we are now moving forward with plans for our building project! **We're excited to announce that we've selected Miller Dunwiddie Architecture, and that the congregation will have the opportunity to meet the architects and share input at two upcoming listening sessions: Wednesday, Sept. 27 between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 1 between 12:45 and 2:30 p.m.** These sessions will be conducted in open house format. You are invited to come and provide input and information to the architects that will build upon the direction set using input from last fall's focus groups (attended by close to 300 members), as well as ideas that were shared with us in capital campaign visits over the past eight months. Feedback gathered in these Listening Sessions will help us refine and prioritize our space needs and how we envision making our Dupont Avenue home more welcoming and accessible.

GROW YOUR SOUL IN A CIRCLE: SOUL MATTERS, SPIRITUAL DEEPENING, AND MORE

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. Pick up a catalog in the foyer outside the sanctuary this Sunday and learn about all our offerings! Descriptions, schedules, and registration will also be available online beginning this Sunday, September 10. Registration will be open through Sunday, Oct. 1.

CHALLENGE GRANT + CAPITAL CAMPAIGN INFO SESSIONS

Thanks to the generosity of several congregants, we are delighted to have 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 four 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 \$5.3 million thus far toward our capital campaign!

25 BY 25 WORKSHOP

You're invited to a "25 by 25" workshop next Sunday, Sept. 17 at 12:45 p.m. in the Cummins Room, hosted by our Environmental Justice Team. Governor Dayton is asking Minnesotans to set a goal of 25% water quality improvement by 2025. His office has supplied discussion guides so that communities can meet and set goals to accept the challenge. All are welcome - you don't need to be an expert! Refreshments will be provided.

FALL HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD DAYS

First Universalist Church has four Habitat work days this fall/early winter, and volunteer sign up is now available. We'd love to have you on the crew! Join us on one or more of the upcoming Thursdays: Sept. 14, Oct. 19, Nov. 9, and Dec. 14. Details and sign up form can be found online at: <http://firstuniv.weebly.com/habitat-for-humanity-sign-up.html>.

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. 17

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:

8/13 Witness for Peace - Midwest \$402.00

8/20 Pillsbury United Communities Crisis Nursery \$756.00

8/27 COA Boston Youth Trips \$497.26

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.

COMFORT SHAWLS

Do you like to knit? Contact Pat Foulkes, pfoulkes@hotmail.com, for directions for the comfort shawls that we distribute to congregants in times of need. Or perhaps you know somebody who is in need of a Comfort Shawl; contact Susan Schonfeld, susanwschonfeld@gmail.com or Mary Ellison, maryellison2491@comcast.net.

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: INTENTION

WATER COMMUNION

REV. JEN CROW

SEPTEMBER 10, 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
Prelude No. 1
- Richard Cumming

Wisdom Story Rev. Ruth MacKenzie
The Journeying Stream
- Sufi story
Skyler Vdakes

Opening Hymn #1046 (Please rise in body or spirit.)

Shall We Gather at the River

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. 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

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Reading

Famous
- Naomi Shihab Nye

Rev. Jen Crow
Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Anthem

Take Down These Walls
- Brian Tate

First Universalist Choir
Dr. Randal Buikema

Homily

The Way of the River

Rev. Jen Crow

Offertory

Prelude No. 3
- Richard Cumming

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Water Communion

Ministers
Families of First Universalist Church

Closing Hymn #1064 (Please rise in body or spirit.)

Blue Boat Home

Closing Words

Rev. Jen Crow

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Jen Crow	Executive Minister
Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink	Minister
Rev. Ruth MacKenzie	Minister
Skyler Vdakes	Dancer
Dr. Jerrod Wendland	Pianist
Ann Marie McIntire	Bass
Bobby Gillespie	Drums
Dr. Randal Buikema	Director of Choral Arts

First Universalist Choir
Families of First Universalist Church

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were aranged by Dick Rueter of the Visual Arts Committee in memory of Jim Colliton, an avid gardener of cacti, coleus and tomatoes. "Only two things money can't buy: true love and homegrown tomatoes." He helped shape the lives of thousands of students and leaves the world a more colorful place.

Offering: Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund

On Friday night, August 25, Hurricane Harvey made landfall as a Category 4 Storm and brought with it deadly winds and rain to an area of the United States millions call home. Much of the Texas Gulf Coast has been impacted and communities in Louisiana and across the state of Texas are still coping with more days of rain. We're holding all of those affected in our hearts and prayers and we are in touch with local Unitarian Universalists so we can meet the needs as they arise. To do this, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has joined with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) on a recovery and relief fund. <https://giving.uua.org/harvey-floods>

September Worship Theme: Intention

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.