



GET CONNECTED

LISTENING SESSIONS WITH THE ARCHITECT: SEPT. 24 (DATE CHANGE!) AND 27

With the capital campaign nearing completion, we are now moving forward with plans for our building project! **You're invited to meet the architects and share input at two upcoming listening sessions: Sunday, Sept. 24 between 12:45 and 1:45 p.m. and Wednesday, Sept. 27 between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.** These sessions will be conducted in open house format and are an opportunity for members of our community to provide input and information to the architects that builds upon the direction set using input from last fall's focus groups, as well as ideas that have been shared with us in capital campaign visits. 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

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 and learn about all our offerings! Descriptions, schedules, and registration are available online at firstucircles.weebly.com, and registration is open through Sunday, Oct. 1.

NEXT SUNDAY IS SIGN-UP SUNDAY!

From the choir, to the labyrinth, to Sunday morning ushering, there are so many great ways to find your "community within the community" at First Universalist! Join us in the social hall after both services next Sunday, Sept. 24 to learn more and sign up. Contact Sandy DiNanni at sandy@firstuniv.org for more information.

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 three Sundays to learn about the campaign and vision for the future of First Universalist.** Today's session will be held in Rev. Justin's office following worship.

25 BY 25 WORKSHOP - TODAY

The Environmental Justice Team invites you to a "25 by 25" workshop today at 12:45 p.m. in the Cummins Room. 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. All are welcome - you don't need to be an expert! Refreshments will be provided.

"HOME ON THE STREETS" MINNEAPOLIS MAYORAL FORUM

First Universalist, with assistance from the League of Women Voters, is hosting a forum for Minneapolis mayoral candidates focusing on issues of homelessness on Tuesday, Sept. 26, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The forum will be moderated by Monica Nilsson, a local advocate for the homeless, and we expect eight Minneapolis mayoral candidates to be in attendance.



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:
8/27 COA Boston Youth Trips \$497.26
9/3 MUUSJA \$388.65
9/10 Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund \$2,901.30*

*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.

MEAL SUPPORT

New baby? Illness? Accident? Let us know if you or somebody in our community would like us to create a meal train for you. Meal trains typically run two to six weeks depending on need and give congregants a way to help. Contact Susan Schonfeld at susanwschonfeld@gmail.com.

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 (IN TENSION)

STRATEGIC INTENTIONS

REV. JEN CROW

SEPTEMBER 17, 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

Variations for Judith
I. Spitalfields Echoes - Stephen Johns

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Call to Worship

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Opening Hymn #1000 (Please rise in body or spirit.)

Morning Has Come

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

If There Is to Be Peace
- Lao-Tse

Rev. Jen Crow

Musical Offering

Variations for Judith
VIII. Prelude - Thea Musgrave
IV. to Judith, from Judith - Judith Weir

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Sermon

Strategic Intentions

Rev. Jen Crow

Offertory

Variations for Judith
VI. Little Elegy - Richard Rodney Bennett
XI. Ist Bach bei mir - Jonathan Dove

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Closing Hymn #1006 (Please rise in body or spirit.)

When Our Heart Is in a Holy Place

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
Dr. Jerrod Wendland	Pianist

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are from the wedding of Ray Dillon and Dick Rueter, who celebrated their 31 years together by marrying in this sanctuary yesterday. "We feel blessed by our family, friends, and this congregation." The arrangements were designed by Dick, who is also a member of the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: Honor the Earth

From August to September, Native environmental organization, Honor the Earth, will sponsor an organizing and outreach tour in northern Minnesota, aimed at engaging communities and summer residents along one of many tar sands and fracked oil pipelines proposed to cross the North Country: the Enbridge proposed Sandpiper pipeline. Not only is this tour about preventing the threat of pipelines, but it is also an act of solidarity to stop the extraction of tar sands and Bakken oil at their sources. We are linking in with Indigenous struggles at ground zero and engaging with communities who work in the struggle together to have clean air to breathe, fresh water to drink and resilient communities to protect the sacred for the seventh generation.

Musical Notes from Dr. Jerrod Wendland

In 2007, The Spitalfields Music Festival in the UK saw its director, Judith Serota, retire after more than twenty years at the helm. To commemorate her time with the organization, each member of the board wrote a piano variation based on Bach's short song *Bist du bei mir* ("You are with me"). The result is a small masterpiece, based on three different layers of collaboration: Between the composers and Judith, between the composers and each other, and finally, between the composers and the author of the original song.

September 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.