

GET CONNECTED

LISTENING SESSIONS WITH THE ARCHITECT: TODAY AND SEPT. 27

Meet the architects and share input at two upcoming listening sessions: **Today between 12:45 and 1:45 p.m. and Wednesday, Sept. 27 between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.** These open house format sessions are an opportunity for you to provide input and information to the architects before they begin designing. 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.

TODAY 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 today to learn more and sign up.

"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. Eight Minneapolis mayoral candidates are expected to be in attendance.

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.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN INFO SESSIONS

Now is a great time to make a pledge to the capital campaign because you can double the impact of your gift, thanks to a matching grant of nearly \$100,000 from several congregants! **Attend a Drop-In Capital Campaign Information Session in the Chancel Room after worship today to learn about the campaign and vision for the future of First Universalist.**

"IMPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE FOR WAR AND PEACE" FORUM OCT. 1

Climate change is not just a threat—it is also an opportunity for peace. In a panel discussion at 12:45 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 1 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. Optional lunch tickets are available today in the social hall.

ARTIST'S RECEPTION FOR MARTHA BIRD OCT. 1

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 and is on display in the Social Hall through Oct. 1. Martha is a long-time member of First Universalist. Join us for an artist's reception on Sunday, Oct. 1, after both services to meet Martha and see more of her history in basketry.

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, Oct. 1

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.

NEW BABY WELCOME

Having a baby? Want to help welcome a new baby? Contact the chair of our new baby welcome team, Sara McMullen, at saramcminneapolis@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)

STORIES OF INTENTION

SEPTEMBER 24, 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. Ruth MacKenzie

Bellsound

Introductions and Intentions Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

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

Stories of Intention Muriel Ambrus
Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Musical Response

Silence

Cycle of Life Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

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)

Stories of Intention

Tim Gluszak
Keven Ambrus

Musical Offering

Choose Ye This Day

Libby Turner

Story of Intention

Frederic MacDonald-Dennis

Offertory

Cantemus
- Lajos Bardos

First Universalist Choir
Dr. Randal Buikema

Let us sing, because it is good to sing.
Let us sing, because it is a pleasure to sing.
Let us sing, because it is in our hearts to sing.

Closing Hymn #34 (Please rise in body or spirit.)

Though I May Speak

Libby Turner

Closing Words

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie Minister

Story Tellers

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink Minister

Keven Ambrus

Muriel Ambrus

Tim Gluszak

Frederic MacDonald-Dennis

Libby Turner Musical Guest

Dr. Jerrod Wendland Pianist

Dr. Randal Buikema Director of Choral Arts

First Universalist Choir

Haley Durkee 9:30 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Ava Bleifuss 11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Rita Franchett of the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: UUA Hurricane Irma Recovery Fund

With Hurricane Irma—the most powerful Atlantic hurricane ever recorded—that barreled across Florida after devastating parts of the Caribbean, there is likely to be significant damage similar to what Hurricane Harvey inflicted. We know that long after the initial clean-up, real recovery can take months or years. The UUA stands with its congregations which have been impacted by these natural disasters and has established a Hurricane Irma Recovery Fund to assist congregations in repairing any damage, and to respond to the needs of their members' and their community's efforts to get back on its feet. UUA staff is working closely with leaders in the Association's Southern Region, to ascertain where the need is greatest and distribute funds efficiently.

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.