



GET CONNECTED

FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHOIR

Maria Almi	Tony Meysenburg
Janet Avery	Laurie Nelson
Margit Berg	Nate Ott
Charles Betz	Nora Page
Angela Bowles Edwards	Ron Parker
Theresa Brinkhaus	Karen Parson
Judy Broad	David Peichel
Alison Cerier	Liz Permar
Michael Day	Louis Quast
Shelley des Isles	Jean Ramlow
Alix Dvorak	Jim Ramnaraine
Renate Fiora	Weld Ransom
Valerie Garber	Cheryl Ritenbaugh
Nancy Gaschott	Dick Rueter
Mary Gitschier McCarthy	Pat Ryan
Bonnie Gray	Marian Santucci
Barbara Harman	Martha Scott Johnson
Carol Hiniker	Sarah Sheehan
Marybeth Hoelzer	Lisa Sinclair
Ann Kay	Kelsey Speaks
Susan M. Keller	June Sroufe
Fawzia Khan	Alan Sroufe
Ellen Kluz	Chip ten Besel
Reid Knuttila	Victoria Thompson
Geoff Lenox	Shelley Thron
Madeleine Lowry	Tina Wade
Anne McBean	Judith Wright
Bill McBean	

DAYTIME CONNECTIONS: HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE?

UUs are making a difference and enriching their own lives with powerful volunteer work through church initiatives like Congregational Care, Environmental Justice, Families Moving Forward, and Sanctuary and Resistance. Come hear their stories and enjoy a special holiday meal and white elephant exchange on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 11 a.m. Register with Sandy by Dec. 17 at 612-825-1701 or sandy@firstuniv.org. \$5-10 suggested lunch donation. And bring a wrapped treasure to swap for the optional exchange!

FIRST UNIVERSALIST

ORCHESTRA

Violins	Bassoon
Mary Hanson	Cate Calkins
Colleen Cook	Trumpet
Viola	Anda Tanaka
Svetlana Davis	David Bach
Cello	Peter Weissmann
Rosa Thompson-Vieira	Trombone
Bass	Scott Smith
Ann Marie McIntire	Brian McCullough
Flute	Percussion
Martha Sawyer	Will Kemperman
Clarinet	Keyboard
Dave Thomas	Franco Holder

HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Our Christmas Pageants, Solstice Celebration, and Christmas Eve Candlelight Service are cherished traditions at First Universalist. Please note that Sunday services on Dec. 24 and 31 will be offered at 10 a.m. only. Mark your calendar and join us!

Christmas Pageants: Sunday, Dec. 17 and Sunday, Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. each day.

Winter Solstice Celebration: Thursday, Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Sunday, Dec. 24 at 9:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Sunday Worship: Sunday, Dec. 24 at 10 a.m. only

Singing Sunday: Sunday, Dec. 31 at 10 a.m. only

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Each year, Visual Arts Committee members provide decorations for the congregation to enjoy during the holiday season. Members hope you enjoy this year's star-filled theme.



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.



In the Universalist spirit of love and hope, we give, receive, and grow.



WORSHIP THEME: HOPE

A NEW WORK IS COME

*REV. JUSTIN SCHROEDER
FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHOIR*

DECEMBER 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.

CELEBRATING OUR GENEROSITY

Offering plates from Sunday Service:

11/26 Marnita's Table \$2,622.09 (100% to recipient)

12/3 Avenues for Homeless Youth \$1,034.79

12/10 Simpson Housing Services \$1,164.61

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.

HOME CHORE HELP

If you would like help with simple tasks—changing filters, light bulbs, installing window air conditioners, etc., chores that don't require professional expertise—contact 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!

Music for Gathering

Franco Holder

Words of Welcome

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Bellsound

Ave Rex, Op. 45

II. *Alleluya, A New Work is Come on Hand*

William Mathias

First Universalist Choir and Orchestra

Dr. Randal Buikema



Call to Worship

What Are You Here For?

- Quinn G. Caldwell

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

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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Gathering and Blessing Our Gifts #225 (Please rise in body or spirit)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(Please join in singing when invited. Children will exit immediately after bringing their gifts forward to participate in holiday activities.)

Ave Rex, Op. 45

III. *There Is No Rose of Such Virtue*

William Mathias



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

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Reading

Into the Darkest Hour

- Madeleine L'Engle

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Ave Rex, Op. 45

I. *Ave Rex*

William Mathias



Homily

A New Work Is Come

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Ave Rex, Op. 45

IV. *Sir Christèmas*

William Mathias



Closing Hymn #245 (Please rise in body or spirit)

Joy to the World

(Verses 1 and 2)

Closing Words

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Senior Minister

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care

Franco Holder

Pianist

Dr. Randal Buikema

Director of Choral Arts

First Universalist Choir

First Universalist Orchestra

Chalice Lighters

Zoe Wagner (9:30), Amelie Vdakes (11:15)

Offering: Marnita's Table (Holiday Giving Recipient)

Marnita's Table seeks to close gaps across difference through making Intentional Social Interaction the new pattern for society where people of color, the disenfranchised, the poor, the unheard, the fragile, the LGBTQ+ and anyone who is normally left out of community decision making are automatically included and valued at the policy-making and resource-sharing table. This holiday season, we've invited our members and friends to join us in rethinking the meaning of gift-giving by reducing our would-be holiday spending and redirecting what we save to our Holiday Giving recipient, an organization that is working to bring people together across differences and advance racial equity in our community. Today, we gather these contributions during the service so that we might make a collective gift to Marnita's Table. Please enclose your gift in the red envelope provided. If you've already made a gift online, by mail, or in person, or plan to give online today, please add your envelope to the collection basket as well (you're welcome to include a blessing if you wish!). Online gifts can be made at: <https://tinyurl.com/ycyqp24y> or via the Square Cash app (instructions on the back under "Celebrating Our Generosity") Following the service, please join us in the social hall to add a piece of "food" to our display!

Musical Notes by Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

When asked why he chose *Ave Rex* for today's choir-led Sunday worship service, our Director of Choral Arts, Dr. Randy Buikema replied: "I wanted to push against 'mall' music." Anyone who has heard *Ave Rex* will attest that it is music that celebrates Christmas with attitude. It is in your face. It will make you sit up and listen. It is refreshing, jubilant, uproarious, complex, and joyful! Welsh composer, William Mathias, has written a sequence of carols using traditional medieval texts, but the harmonies and sonic impact are anything but traditional. Instead, the music reflects a truer reading of the Christmas story and its meaning. Mathias' uproarious harmonies say: this is a story about reversals, a story about dissonance and the world being stood on its head, where single mothers are powerful beyond belief, where wise ones can be found in undocumented travelers, and bravery, adventure, and kindness win.

December Worship Theme: Hope

Barbara Kingsolver writes, "the very least you can do in your life is to figure out what to hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof." Some of us struggle to find hope. Some of us take hope for granted. Hope is what sends a student to school, an addict to a 12-step program, an activist out into the street. Theologian Julie Neraas writes, "while hope is a strengthening force, it also lays a person open to the vulnerabilities of love, desire, expectation, disappointment, loss." This month we wrestle with hope, what to hope for, with all its complexity, and how to live under its roof.