

GET CONNECTED

NEWCOMER CIRCLES IN JANUARY

Are you new to First Universalist? Whether you are a recent visitor or a new member, you're invited to join a Newcomer Circle. These four-session gatherings of 6-10 newcomers offer a chance to explore core Unitarian Universalist values, reflect on our spiritual journeys, and connect with other folks who are new to church. Join us for one of our upcoming 4-session Newcomer Circles: Wednesdays, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24 from 7-8:30 p.m. or Tuesdays, Jan. 9, 16, 23 & 30, 7-8:30 p.m. Sign up at the Information table in the social hall or by emailing sandy@firstuniv.org.

WINTER CIRCLES: SIGN UP BEGINS JAN. 4

Enrich your spiritual life by joining a Circle this winter! Circles are groups of 8-10 committed participants who come together with a trained leader to nurture spiritual growth in community. Information about offerings will be made available the first week of January, and sign up will open online at firstucircles.weebly.com on Thursday, Jan. 4.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: JAN. 13 SERVICE PROJECT

Join up with young people who are also in their 20s and 30s to nurture the spirit, enjoy good company, and have fun! Join the group on Facebook (search "First Universalist Young Adults" and request to join) for up-to-date information. The Young Adults group meets on Saturday, Jan. 13, noon-2 p.m. at church to work on a service project. Hang out with some great people, help around the facility with deep cleaning or painting, eat treats, and stick around to play some games! Come for a bit or stay the whole time. Contact Richard via email (RichardLopez229@gmail.com) with any questions.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - JANUARY 7, 2018

Remembrance Sunday is a time to reflect on our losses over the past year and to honor those we love who have died. It is also an opportunity to mark other significant losses in the life of your family, such as a separation or divorce, saying goodbye to friends who've moved away, the passing of an animal companion, or the loss of a home, job, or familiar school community. You're invited to bring a photo or memento of loved ones you are remembering to the sanctuary for our shared altar that Sunday morning.

HABITAT BUILD DAYS

First Universalist has three Habitat for Humanity work days coming up in early 2018, and we'd love to have you on the crew! The dates are Thursdays, Jan. 11, Feb. 8 and March 8. Sign up to volunteer on any of these dates online at <http://firstuniversalistchurch.org/habitat-for-humanity-sign-up-form/>. The work day is from 8:15 a.m. until 4 p.m., and lunch will be provided. Worried that you don't know much about building and using tools? No worries! Your fellow volunteers and the Habitat site supervisor are there to help you.

LESLIE BARLOW ART EXHIBIT & ARTIST RECEPTION

Paintings by artist Leslie Barlow will be on display in the sanctuary and social hall gallery January 7 - February 4. Using personal experiences as a mixed-race woman living in Minnesota as the foundation for her artwork, her paintings uplift marginalized stories and investigate the politics of representation, race, "otherness," and identity. Leslie will be in the social hall to talk more about her work after both services on Sunday, Jan. 14.

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, January 7

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:
12/3 Avenues for Homeless Youth \$1,034.79
12/10 Simpson Housing Services \$1,164.61
12/17 Marnita's Table \$13,336.58

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. If 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: HOPE

HOPE SINGS

REV. JUSTIN SCHROEDER
MEMBERS OF FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHOIR

DECEMBER 31, 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

Songlines
- Laurence Cole

Shelley des Islets
Sarah Lindsay
Tony Meysenburg
Kelsey Speaks

Words of Welcome

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Bellsound

Prelude

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
- Johann Sebastian Bach

Sally Reynolds

Call to Worship

Kelsey Speaks

Opening Hymn #108 (Please rise in body or spirit)

My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep from Singing?)

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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Hymn of Reflection

Hope Sings
- Lyrics from "Hope is the Thing With Feathers"
by Emily Dickinson

Shelley des Islets
Sarah Lindsay
Tony Meysenburg
Kelsey Speaks

Silence

Cycle of Life

Rev. Justin Schroeder

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)

Reflection

Heart to Heart

Shelley des Islets

Music for Gathering

Songlines
- Laurence Cole

Shelley des Islets
Sarah Lindsay
Tony Meysenburg
Kelsey Speaks

Reflection

Hope Sings

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Offertory

Come to Bethlehem from *Capriol Suite*
- Peter Warlock

Sally Reynolds

Reflection

Tony Meysenburg

Closing Song (Please rise in body or spirit)

Auld Lang Syne
(Lyrics to the right)

Closing Words

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Justin Schroeder Senior Minister
Sally Reynolds Pianist

Members of First Universalist Choir

Shelley des Islets, Sarah Lindsay, Tony Meysenburg, Kelsey Speaks

Offering: Centro Tyrone Guzman

Established in 1974, Centro Tyrone Guzman is the oldest multi-service Latino organization in Minneapolis. Their mission is to contribute to the well-being and full participation of Latin@s through education and family engagement. Education and health & wellness are the two key program areas that guide Centro Tyrone toward their vision of a vibrant, diverse, and inclusive community that belongs and contributes to the social and economic vitality of Minnesota. Centro Tyrone Guzman's evidence-based, family-centered, culturally-appropriate services directly address health and educational disparities, while empowering Latinos and non-Latinos to address the root causes of these disparities. With the trusted reputation that has been built over the past 40 years, Centro Tyrone Guzman is well-positioned to continue to offer leadership and creative strategies to work toward racial justice in our community.

Lyrics for Auld Lang Syne

Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and old lang syne?

We two have paddled in the stream,
from morning sun till dine;
But seas between us broad have roared
since auld lang syne.

CHORUS

For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.

CHORUS

And there's a hand my trusty friend!
And give us a hand o' thine!
And we'll take a right good-will
draught,
for auld lang syne.

We two have run about the slopes,
and picked the daisies fine;
We've wandered many a weary foot,
since auld lang syne.

CHORUS

CHORUS

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.