

GET CONNECTED

WINTER ADULT PROGRAMMING: SIGN UP NOW OPEN

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. A variety of racial justice learning opportunities, from Circles to workshops to book discussions and film screenings, are also being offered this winter, as well as monthly programming for older adults (Daytime Connections) and young adults. Information about all of these offerings is available online and in Adult Programming Catalogs that are available to pick up outside the sanctuary. Registration for Circles is open online at firstucircles.weebly.com now through Sunday, Jan. 21.

TODAY ONLY: PHOTOGRAPHY BY GRACE TEETERS ON VIEW

There is a small photography exhibit by congregant Grace Teeters being displayed in the social hall today only entitled, "Women." This project is part of an independent study for her IB Program at Central High in St. Paul but also is for her own personal expansion as an artist. Grace wanted to capture the raw expression of seven women in her photos, accompanied by any stories that they wanted to tell her.

LESLIE BARLOW ARTIST'S RECEPTION TODAY

Paintings by artist Leslie Barlow are now on display in the sanctuary and social hall gallery through 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 today.** Don't miss this opportunity to meet her and learn more about her work!

DAYTIME CONNECTIONS: WRITING AN ETHICAL WILL

Leaving an ethical will is a spiritual gift to others. It's also a gift to the writer who, in the midst of life, gets to clarify life values and lessons, allowing us to be known by others. We invite you to bring a personal notebook or journal for writing and a small keepsake to help spark life memories and insights. Led by Judy Young, legacy writing facilitator, grief educator, and First U member. Join us for this month's Daytime Connections program on Thursday, Jan. 18. Program begins at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at 1 p.m. (\$5–10 donation is encouraged). Registration is requested: contact Sandy DiNanni at sandy@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701. Through Daytime Connections, older adults at First Universalist empower each other to live intentional, joyful, purposeful, and spiritually fulfilled lives.

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, Jan. 21

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:

12/24 Marnita's Table \$566.25

12/31 Centro Tyrone Guzman \$408.24

1/7 Habitat for Humanity \$765.90

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 CHILD WELCOME

For a visit from our welcome team, contact Sara McMullen at saramcminneapolis@gmail.com or Sara McLoone at sjmclloone@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.*



(detail) *Anahita, Danami, and Roya*, 72" x 60" oval, Oil, pastel, and acrylic on canvas, 2017, by Leslie Barlow

WORSHIP THEME: LOVING

FIERCE LOVING

REV. JUSTIN SCHROEDER

JANUARY 14, 2018

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

Love Divine
- Arr. Deanna Witkowski

Hopewell Trio

Words of Welcome

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Bellsound**Prelude**

Hymn to Joy
- Arr. Deanna Witkowski

Hopewell Trio

Call to Worship

Isabel Quast

Opening Hymn #1007 (Please rise in body or spirit)

There's a River Flowin' Through My Soul

Hopewell Trio

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

Franco Holder

Silence**Cycle of Life**

Rev. Jen Crow

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)

Reading

Rev. Jen Crow

Anthem

Voices of Peace
- Jim Scott

First Universalist Choir
Hopewell Trio
Dr. Randal Buikema

Sermon

Fierce Loving

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Offertory

Lasst uns Erfreuen
- Arr. Deanna Witkowski

Hopewell Trio

Closing Hymn #1028 (Please rise in body or spirit)

The Fire of Commitment

Hopewell Trio

Closing Words

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Justin Schroeder	Senior Minister
Rev. Jen Crow	Executive Minister
Isabel Quast	Worship Associate
Franco Holder	Pianist
Dr. Randal Buikema	Director of Choral Arts
First Universalist Choir	
Tamir Nolley	Bass
Zach Briscoe	Drums
Anda Tanaka	Trumpet

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Bette DeMars of the Visual Arts Committee

Offering: People's Movement Center

People's Movement Center is a collective of people of color and indigenous people, of queer and trans practitioners and healers. PMC believes their purpose is to heal and be healed, to open space for the healing in justice and the justice in healing. Their intention is to bring forward marginalized and isolated healing practices, wisdoms, healers and practitioners. They are committed to doing local work, feeling a commitment to the land they practice on. PMC knows that trauma and systems of supremacy depend on disconnection. They focus their work on connection and reconnection of the self with the self, the self with community, and the self with land and spirit.

January Worship Theme: Loving

This month we are inspired by the work of Leslie Barlow, a young artist who has taken the art scene in the Twin Cities by storm. In her series of paintings called, *Loving*, Ms. Barlow uses the Supreme Court ruling of 1967 against anti-miscegenation (or anti interracial marriage) laws, as the launching pad for her study of family, challenging perceived family normalcy and the lack of representation of diverse family dynamics. Her series invites us into the extraordinary of ordinary love in all different kinds and variety of families. This month we explore Loving. The people we love. The variety of families from which we were born, and the big hearted call to Love found in the very DNA of our family of faith.