

GET CONNECTED

LAST DAY TO SIGN UP FOR CIRCLES!

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. Choose from a variety of offerings from among our Spiritual Deepening Circles, Soul Matters Circles, Newcomer Circles, and Care Circles. Information about circles as well as other adult programming 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 through the end of the day today.** You may also sign up today in the Social Hall.

SENIOR HIKE WITH DAYTIME CONNECTIONS

Start 2018 on the right foot and break the cabin fever from our early January arctic cold snap by joining us for our next Senior hike! The group will meet at Long Meadow Lake Unit/Bass Ponds at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 25 for a 1.5-2 hour hike. Following the hike, the group will gather at Town Hall Lanes for warmth, sustenance, hydration and convivial conversation. RSVP to Tom (saterstromtom@yahoo.com) if you would like to participate. Details available at firstuniversalistchurch.org.

ANNUAL STATE OF THE CHURCH MEETING FEB. 11

Please join us for our annual State of the Church meeting after the second service on Sunday, Feb. 11 (12:30 p.m.). At this meeting, the Board of Trustees and Staff of the Church will share updates on where we've been and where we're going! We will share a story about the history of our building that was discovered as the Building Team has been working with our architects on building and renovation plans, and lay some groundwork for governance changes the congregation will be asked to approve at our annual meeting in June. And, of course, a high-level mid-year budget update and a look at upcoming programs and events. We have so much to be proud of as a faith community, and big goals still in front of us. Mark your calendar and plan to join us on February 11!

PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP CLASS

If First Universalist is feeling like your spiritual home, then we hope you'll take part in the Pathway to Membership! Joining First Universalist is a symbolic, spiritual act of saying "yes" to growing your soul in this place, with these people, within our free faith tradition. This new member class is a great chance to build community, explore Unitarian Universalism and our church's unique history, and learn how to get involved. This class is offered as a two-part series on Tuesdays, Jan. 30 and Feb. 13, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sign up by emailing Sandy at sandy@firstuniv.org or calling 612-825-1701.

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:
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.

NEED A RIDE?

Need transportation to church or to a doctor's appointment? We can help with at least one week's notice. Contact: Ann McBean at mcbea001@yahoo.com or 612-388-0660 (email or text message preferred).

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

THE LIMITS OF LOVE... OR LIMITLESS LOVE?

REV. JUSTIN SCHROEDER

JANUARY 21, 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

Franco Holder

Words of Welcome

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Bellsound

Prelude

Love's In Need of Love Today
- Stevie Wonder

The Give Get Sistet

Call to Worship

Adrian Ali-Caccamo

Opening Hymn #299 (Please rise in body or spirit)

Make Channels for the Streams of Love

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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Faithful Action Spotlight on Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

Peg Mitchell

Meditation on Loving

I Be Your Water
- Bernice Johnson Reagon

The Give Get Sistet

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

Excerpt from *Loving Our Enemies*
- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Musical Offering

Love Medley

The Give Get Sistet

Sermon

The Limits of Love...or Limitless Love?

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Offertory

Improvisations on Loving

The Give Get Sistet

Closing Hymn #95 (Please rise in body or spirit)

There Is More Love Somewhere

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

Adrian Ali-Caccamo

Worship Associate

Peg Mitchell

Guest Speaker

Franco Holder

Pianist

Avery Lindon

9:30 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Andie Gegax

11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

The Give Get Sistet

Artists in Residence

Sarah M. Greer, Jayanthi Kyle, Mankwe Ndotsi, Alicia Steele, Libby Turner

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Dick Rueter of the Visual Arts Committee

Offering: Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, through its Families Moving Forward program, provides temporary housing for families experiencing homelessness. Over 60 congregations in the Twin Cities rotate on a weekly basis to create shelter space at their sites, providing a safe place to sleep, meals, and the kindness and compassion of the congregation's volunteers. Up to 16 families are provided shelter at one time through four groupings of up to four families each. Completing the circle of support, Beacon's professional staff works closely with each family to address their unique barriers to stability so they may leave the shelter program for permanent housing. Beacon is one of First Universalist's six Faithful Action Community Partners for 2017-18.

About Today's Musical Guest

The Give Get Sistet (www.givegetsistet.com) are our Artists in Residence for 2017/2018. They are collaborating with our worship team to create and curate several services throughout the year, as well as developing a community building project for the spring. The Give Get Sistet is an improvisational chorus of women based in the Twin Cities with ties around the world. These women listen deeply and sing with great generosity and daring. First Universalist is honored to have these fine artists/community builders/activists in our midst.

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.