

## 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, is 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 now open online at [firstucircles.weebly.com](http://firstucircles.weebly.com).

### DAYTIME CONNECTIONS: WRITING AN ETHICAL WILL

What is an “Ethical Will”? First of all, it has nothing to do with money or property. It is a separate document one might write at any age. It has to do with value, life lessons, and how to share yours with the people you love. Bring a journal or notebook if you have one; paper will also be available. 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](mailto: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.

### LESLIE BARLOW ART EXHIBIT & ARTIST RECEPTION

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 next Sunday, Jan. 14.**

### 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](mailto:RichardLopez229@gmail.com)) with any questions.

### 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.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://firstuniversalistchurch.org).

### MEAL SUPPORT

If the ground has shifted beneath your feet, let us bring a meal or two to offer comfort and care. Whenever possible, the Congregational Care team enables congregants to provide meals for each other on a short-term basis in times of need. Contact: Susan Schonfeld, [susanwschonfeld@gmail.com](mailto:susanwschonfeld@gmail.com).

### THE WEEKLY LIBERAL

*The Weekly Liberal* is published on Thursdays. Subscribe at: [firstuniversalistchurch.org/the-weekly-liberal/](http://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: LOVING

## WHY IS GRIEF IMPORTANT NOW?

REV. RUTH MACKENZIE

JANUARY 7, 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

(Please bring the picture of your loved one, or an object that represents them, to the altar on the chancel during this time)

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. Justin Schroeder

**Bellsound**

**Prelude**

Grace Heatherington-Tilka

*Prelude* Suite No. 1 in G Major  
- J. S. Bach

**Wisdom Story**

Lauren Wyeth

*How Night Came into Being*  
- Hindu Tale

**Opening Hymn #317 (Please rise in body or spirit)**

*We Are Not Our Own*

**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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**Music for Journeying #168**

*One More Step*  
(2nd - 5th grade go to their RE classes, youth remain)

**Reading**

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

*For Those Who Have Died*  
- Judah Halevi or Emanuel of Rome

**Sharing Our Loss**

Lighting the Candle of Impermanence



**Musical Offering**

Grace Heatherington-Tilka

*Allemande*, Suite No. 1 in G Major  
- J. S. Bach

**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

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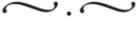
**Reading**

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

*My Dead Friends*  
- Marie Howe

**Naming Ritual**

Lighting the Candle for Our Ancestors



**Musical Offering**

Grace Heatherington-Tilka

*Sarabande*, Suite No. 1 in G Major  
- J. S. Bach

**Sermon**

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

*Why Is Grief Important Now?*

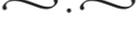
**Offertory**

Grace Heatherington-Tilka

*Menuette* I/II, Suite No. 1 in G Major  
- J. S. Bach

**Embracing the Future**

Lighting the Candle for Hope



**Closing Hymn #128 (Please rise in body or spirit)**

*For All That Is Our Life*

**Closing Words**

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

**Blessing in Song #413**

*Go Now in Peace*

**Worship Leaders**

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie	Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care
Rev. Justin Schroeder	Senior Minister
Lauren Wyeth	Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries
Franco Holder	Pianist
Grace Heatherington-Tilka	Guest Musician
<b>Chalice Lighters</b>	Knut Remmem (9:30 A.M.) Amelie Vdakes (11:15 A.M.)

**Chancel Flowers**

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

**Offering: Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity**

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity (TCHFH) is an ecumenical ministry whose mission is to eliminate poverty housing from the Twin Cities and to make decent, affordable shelter for all people a matter of conscience. Each year, in partnership with donors and volunteers, TCHFH builds or repairs approximately 50 homes. Additionally, TCHFH repairs 140 homes each year through the 'A Brush with Kindness' program and has served more than 5,000 local homeowners through the Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program. TCHFH vision: a Twin Cities region where hard-working families can own homes in healthy neighborhoods with access to jobs, transportation, and quality schools.

**About Today's Guest Musician**

Grace Heatherington-Tilka is a cellist, production manager, and audio engineer. She has had the opportunity to perform as a soloist, chamber, and orchestral musician with the privilege of studying under renowned cellists Sharon Robinson, Peter Stumpf, Emilio Colón, and Peter Howard. She has extensive experience with live production, working as the Technical Production Manager for the John & Nancy Hughes Theater. She travels with Cuarteto Tanguero, traditional tango quartet, working as the live sound engineer.

**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 that 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.