

FEB. 11, 2018

GET CONNECTED

HELP US "CLOSE THE GAP"! ANNUAL STATE OF THE CHURCH MEETING TODAY

Next Sunday, Feb. 18, the offering we collect during worship will be special – instead of the majority going to a community organization, we will be asking for your help making up some of the gap of nearly \$80,000 between what we budgeted for 2017-18, and the amount that has been pledged. It's normal to experience a slight decrease in annual giving the year following a capital campaign. However, the shortfall in this year's budget is larger than anticipated. After trimming department budgets (without yet making major cuts), we're still short by about \$30,000. Our next step is to ask: **can you make an additional, one-time gift to help us close the gap? Could you stretch your generosity next Sunday by making a larger contribution than usual when we pass the plate?** Your gift—of \$25, \$100, \$250, whatever you can give—along with the gifts of fellow congregants, will help us "close the gap" and ensure that we can end the year without a deficit. You may also go online and make a gift to this special Close The Gap fund at any time: www.firstuniversalistchurch.org/closethegap or use our new "text to give" system. Thank you!

DAYTIME CONNECTIONS: PRACTICING BALANCE

How can we keep our balance, both physically and spiritually? Can we step sure-footedly through our own stressful lives, while keeping our bearings amidst national and international turmoil? Learn simple practices from a fitness expert and our own Rev. Justin on Thursday, Feb. 15. Program begins at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at 1 p.m. \$5–10 suggested lunch donation. Registration is requested: contact Sandy at sandy@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701 by Feb. 11.

Join us for an interactive, reflective workshop exploring a framework and tools for understanding race, racism, and whiteness and the spiritual imperative that drives our racial justice work. This two-part workshop will be offered Sundays, Feb. 25 & March 4, 1–3:30 p.m. To register, contact Sandy at sandy@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701.

DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY FILM SCREENING FEB. 18

The Environmental Justice team invites you to a screening of the film *Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code* on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 1 p.m. The film begins by examining a papal document issued in 1452, which sanctioned the conquest, colonization and exploitation of non-Christian peoples and their territories.

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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

Please join us today in the Cummins Room from 1 to 2:30 p.m. for a conversation on how white people can thoughtfully engage in anti-racism work! You will also receive resources for further action, growth, and engagement.

RACIAL JUSTICE & OUR UU FAITH WORKSHOP

Are You Visiting?

Come to a brief orientation to First Universalist and Unitarian Universalism.

Our next orientation takes place: Sunday, Feb. 18

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:

- 1/21 Beacon Interfaith Housing \$1,503.31
- 1/28 Navigate MN \$1,167.96
- 2/4 TruArtSpeaks \$956.64

Know a charitable organization that shares our commitment to justice and equity? Nominate an offering recipient at: firstuniversalistchurch.org/offering-plate.

New: Text to Give!

To make a donation to the offering plate via credit card, use your smartphone to text **firstuniv** to **73256**. You'll receive a link to a secure form where you can enter your information. You may also still use the Square Cash app using our cash tag, **\$firstuniv**. Thank you for your generosity!

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 at maryellison2491@comcast.net.

THE WEEKLY LIBERAL

The Weekly Liberal, our email newsletter is published on Thursdays. Subscribe at: firstuniversalistchurch.org/the-weekly-liberal/.

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



WORSHIP THEME: THE LONG HAUL (PERSEVERANCE)

DAILY RENEWAL

REV. JEN CROW

FEBRUARY 11, 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

Distant Land
- John Rutter

First Universalist Choir
Ani Peichel
Dr. Randal Buikema

Call to Worship

Janell Hill

Opening Hymn #124 (Please rise in body or spirit)

Be That Guide

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. 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

From the writings of Joan Chittister

Rev. Jen Crow

Anthem

This Is Me
-Benj Pasek and Justin Paul

First Universalist Choir
Kelsey Speaks
Dr. Randal Buikema

Sermon

Daily Renewal

Rev. Jen Crow

Offertory

Prelude
- George Walker

Franco Holder

Closing Hymn #348 (Please rise in body or spirit)

Guide My Feet

Closing Words

Rev. Jen Crow

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Jen Crow	Executive Minister
Rev. Justin Schroeder	Senior Minister
Janell Hill	Worship Associate
Franco Holder	Pianist
Dr. Randal Buikema	Director of Choral Arts
Ani Peichel	Soloist
Kelsey Speaks	Soloist
First Universalist Choir	
Dave Bach	Trumpet
Dave Thomas	Clarinet
Scott Smith	Trombone
Martha Johnson	Keyboard
Ann Marie McIntire	Bass
Will Kemperman	Drums
Avery Lindon	9:30 A.M. Chalice Lighter
Cooper Pappajohn-Goldade	11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were donated by Marion Dane Bauer in memory of her son, Peter Dane Bauer, June 29, 1964–February 9, 2009. They were arranged by Meredith Sims of the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light

Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light believes the active care of creation is integral to spiritual life and social justice. MNIPL brings Minnesota's faith communities together within the growing climate justice movement. MNIPL has mobilized interfaith support for legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Minnesota, sparked just community solar development through the Shiloh Temple Community Solar Garden Project, and provided leadership and training to hundreds of faith communities' members across the state. Participants in the Be the Spark and Youth Be The Spark leadership programs connect their gifts and passions with the work of building a more just and sustainable world.

February Worship Theme: The Long Haul (Perseverance)

The Chinese symbol for *perseverance* is a knife poised over a heart. There is something about the *long haul* that requires big heartedness, strength, a willingness to be wounded, and still lean into life. Author and social critic Margaret Wheatley writes, "Human experience is the story of perseverance." Every one of us knows what it is to be in it for the "long haul." At one point or another this life will require us to do something that's hard, that we hate, that hurts, or that we don't believe we can do, but we do it. The question is: how to go the distance without the journey eating you alive? This month we explore the nature of perseverance, the long haul, and finding the life-giving qualities entwined in it all.