

GET CONNECTED

RACIAL JUSTICE & OUR UU FAITH WORKSHOP

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 next on Sundays, Feb. 25 & March 4, 1–3:30 p.m. To register, contact Sandy at sandy@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701.

ELECTRONICS COLLECTION EVENT MARCH 17

Drop off your unneeded electronics in the church parking lot on Saturday, March 17 between 9 a.m. and noon! We're partnering with Tech Dump, a local nonprofit which provides job training and practical experience for adults facing barriers to employment, for this electronics collection event. Tech Dump reuses and recycles, offering a "green" alternative to throwing away your old electronics. Find details in our email newsletter and on our website. Mark your calendars now, and plan your spring cleaning!

COMMUNITY PARTNER APPLICATION INFO SESSION FEB. 25

The Faithful Action Council has opened up the Community Partner application process for 2018–2019. A Community Partnership is a relationship between First Universalist and an organization that shares our vision of love and justice. We currently have six Community Partners. Each partnership is led by a congregant Team Lead and supported by dedicated volunteers. If you are interested in submitting an application for a new Community Partner for which you will be the Team Lead, please attend an informational session on Sunday, Feb. 25 at 10:30 a.m. in the Cummins Room.

DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY FILM SCREENING - TODAY

The Environmental Justice team invites you to a screening of the film *Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code* today at 1 p.m. The film helps unravel the connection between Christendom's principle of discovery and laws still being upheld today and examines a 1452 papal document which sanctioned the conquest, colonization and exploitation of non-Christian peoples and their territories.

PROJECT ART FOR NATURE: ARTISTS' RECEPTION FEB. 25

Project Art for Nature is a group of artists, working in various media, who focus on an area of land needing protection. This small group show, on view at church through March 18, showcases artwork featuring the waters and land along the Mississippi River and its tributaries, by four members of Project Art for Nature: Suzanne Lewis (botanical drawings), Tom McGregor (plein air paintings), Robyn Beth Priestley (mixed media block prints) and Diane Wesman (paintings). An artists' reception will be held on Sunday, Feb. 25 after services; join us in the social hall and meet the artists!

JOIN THE CHOIR!

The First Universalist Choir is open to anyone who has a love for singing and wishes to participate in this ensemble during worship services. Prior experience and ability to read music are helpful but not necessary. The choir sings twice a month in worship and presents two choral/orchestral works per year. Rehearsals are 7-9 p.m. Wednesday evenings during the program year. For more information, email Randy at randy@firstuniv.org.

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 or Rev. Ruth MacKenzie at 612-825-1701 or any member of our Pastoral Visitor 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:
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.

CARING CORNER: SEND A CARD!

Write a note to a congregant who could use support. Cards are available in the library, located off of the Social Hall. Leave the card in the basket and we'll mail it for you.

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)

WHAT GETS YOU THROUGH THE NIGHT?

REV. JUSTIN SCHROEDER

FEBRUARY 18, 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

Night Pieces: Flowers
- Peter Sculthorpe

Franco Holder

Words of Welcome

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Bellsound

Prelude

Franco Holder

Call to Worship

Keven Ambrus

Opening Hymn #1002 (Please rise in body or spirit)

Comfort Me

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

"Close the Gap" Special Offering

Rev. Justin Schroeder

(We have a \$20,000 match, thanks to a generous donor! The gift you make today will be matched dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$20,000 in gifts. You can give via your smartphone by texting "**firstuniv**" to 73256.)

Offertory

Night Pieces: Stars
- Peter Sculthorpe

Franco Holder

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

A Theology Adequate for the Night
- Nancy Shaffer

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Anthem

Light of a Clear Blue Morning
-Dolly Parton, arr. Craig Hella Johnson

First Universalist Choir
Alix Dvorak
Dr. Randal Buikema

"It's been a long dark night
And I've been waiting for the morning..."

Sermon

What Gets You Through the Night?

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Musical Reflection

Omnia Sol
- Z. Randall Stroope

First Universalist Choir
Dr. Randal Buikema

"Let courage be your oar; let passion be your sail;
Wisdom and truth will guide your deep heart's yearning,
through all travail!"

Closing Hymn #1000 (Please rise in body or spirit)

Morning Has Come

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
Keven Ambrus	Worship Associate
Franco Holder	Pianist
Dr. Randal Buikema	Director of Choral Arts
Alix Dvorak	Soloist
First Universalist Choir	
Nan Miller	Recorder
Graham Ransom	Violin
Candice McCardle	Violin
Svetlana Davis	Viola
John Dunham	Cello

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Marjie Smith of the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: Close the Gap

Help us “Close the Gap”! Today, the offering we collect is special – instead of the majority going to a community organization, 100% of this offering will be used to help First Universalist Church close our budget gap. It’s completely normal to experience a slight decrease in annual giving the year following a capital campaign. However, the shortfall in this year’s annual budget is larger than anticipated. After trimming department budgets (without yet making major cuts), we’re still short by about \$30,000. So today we ask: can you make an additional, one-time gift to help us close the gap? Could you stretch your generosity today by making a larger contribution than usual when we pass the plate? Because closing this gap is so important, **a generous donor has stepped forward to offer a matching gift of \$20,000!** This means that **each gift will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$20,000.** Your gift—of \$25, \$100, \$250, whatever you can give—along with the gifts of fellow congregants, amplified by this generous matching grant, will help us “close the gap” and ensure that we can end the year without a deficit. You may also go online to make a gift: www.firstuniversalistchurch.org/closethegap or use our new Text to Give system. Thank you for your generosity!

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.