

GET CONNECTED

FEB. 11 WORKSHOP: A CONVERSATION FOR WHITE PEOPLE NEWLY SEEKING TO BE ANTI-RACIST

In this moment, many white people are answering the call to racial justice action and getting engaged for the first time. Well-meaning white people may be confused or not understand anger they may encounter as they enter contemporary anti-racism work. Do you have questions about why people get mad when someone says “All lives matter”? Does the statement, “If it’s not intersectional feminism, it’s white supremacy” leave you baffled? This group is designed for you! Please join us for this conversation on how white people can thoughtfully engage in anti-racism work. The workshop takes place at church on Sunday, Feb. 11, 1-2:30 p.m. Register with Sandy DiNanni by emailing sandy@firstuniv.org or calling 612-825-1701.

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.

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 some governance changes. 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 next Sunday!

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.

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.

PASTORAL VISITORS

The Pastoral Visitors Team are a group of congregants, led by the Rev. Ruth MacKenzie, who provide confidential pastoral care to friends and members of our congregation in need of support. We visit people at home, hospitals/hospice, or at the corner coffee shop. Our goal is to offer compassionate presence to our fellow congregants in the knowledge that this too is spiritual practice. If you are in need of a Pastoral visit, please contact Rev. Ruth MacKenzie at ruth@firstuniv.org.

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:
1/7 Habitat for Humanity \$765.90

1/14 People’s Movement Center \$1,181.97

1/21 Beacon Interfaith Housing \$1,503.31

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.

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.

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.*



WORSHIP THEME: THE LONG HAUL (PERSEVERANCE)

FRACTAL THEOLOGY

REV. JUSTIN SCHROEDER

FEBRUARY 4, 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

Let It Be
- Lennon/McCartney

Franco Holder

Wisdom Story

The Tortoise and the Hare
- Aesop's Fable

Lauren Wyeth
Meera Kannan

Opening Hymn #298 (Please rise in body or spirit)

Wake, Now, My Senses

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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Presentation of Our Holiday Gift

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Song for the Journey #301

Touch the Earth, Reach the Sky!

(Please remain seated while children are excused to their classrooms)

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

Excerpt from *Emergent Strategy*
- adrienne maree brown

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Musical Offering

Blackbird
-Lennon/McCartney

Franco Holder

Sermon

Fractal Theology

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Offertory

Imagine
- John Lennon

Franco Holder

Closing Hymn #6 (Please rise in body or spirit)

Just as Long as I Have Breath

Closing Words

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Justin Schroeder	Senior Minister
Lauren Wyeth	Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries
Meera Kannan	Young Children's Program Assistant
Franco Holder	Pianist
Haley Durkee	9:30 A.M. Chalice Lighter
Kennion Hammer	11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Meredith Sims of the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: TruArtSpeaks

TruArtSpeaks cultivates literacy, leadership, and social justice through the study & application of Spoken Word and Hip Hop Culture. They counteract the dominant narrative by creating platforms for those rendered invisible to be heard, fostering the personal and social change required for equity. TruArtSpeaks believes in Hip Hop as an educational and social justice tool by exploring the intersections of arts, civic engagement, and youth development. Finding its roots in the heart of oppressed communities, Hip Hop, a universal culture, is comprised of traditions, art, artifacts and practices that will define the resistance of global generations for years to come.

Musical Notes from Franco Holder

Paul McCartney wrote Blackbird in 1968 at the height of the civil rights movement. He penned it in his kitchen in Scotland not long after an incident in Little Rock, AR, when the federal courts forced the racial desegregation of the Arkansas capital's school system. He later said, "this was really a song from me to a black woman experiencing these problems in the States: 'Let me encourage you to keep trying, to keep your faith; there is hope.'"

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.