



GET CONNECTED

PICK UP YOUR ANNUAL GIVING PACKET TODAY

We're striving to be *All In* with annual giving this year! This means that we are asking every individual and family – whether you are an official church member or someone who attends services, participates in the choir or small groups, or whose children are registered in religious education classes – to make whatever gift you can to support the work of the church. Please pick up your annual giving packet after either service today or next Sunday! Packets are available at tables just outside the sanctuary. Remaining packets will be mailed after that. Help us save on postage by picking up your packet in person!

DAYTIME CONNECTIONS: “THE TALK” WITH FAMILY

Not the birds and the bees—this “talk” with family focuses on end-of-life matters from medical care to memorials. At Daytime Connections on Thursday, March 15, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., you'll hear helpful stories and lively interaction led by Harlan Limpert, longtime First U member, minister and outgoing UUA executive. Register by March 11 with Sandy at 612-825-1701 or sandy@firstuniv.org. \$5-10 suggested lunch donation.

13TH — DOCUMENTARY SCREENING & DISCUSSION

The powerful documentary *13th* analyzes the criminalization of African Americans, the U.S. prison boom, and their relationship to the abolishment of slavery via the 13th Amendment. Join us for a two-part screening and conversation on Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 18, 12:30 p.m. This is a drop-in opportunity led by members of the First Universalist Racial Justice Education Team.

MARCH 18 BENEFIT CONCERT: INDIGENOUS YOUTH TO THE VATICAN

The Environmental Justice and Racial Justice Teams and Veterans for Peace are co-sponsoring a benefit concert at church on **Sunday, March 18** that will help fund a trip for 12 First-Nation youth and adults to visit the Vatican to discuss the historical and intergenerational trauma resulting from the Doctrine of Discovery. **Performers include: Waubanquay Dorene Day; Max Gail; Prudence Johnson; Tom LaBlanc; Larry Long; and Mitch Walking Elk.** Indigenous youths will do story-telling. Doors open at 1 p.m. for a silent auction and food; concert begins at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Purchase tickets online at www.youthtothevatican.eventbrite.com.

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 about which items are accepted in our email newsletter and on our website. Boxes for you to drop off smaller electronic items will also be in the church today through Monday, March 19 (in the social hall on Sundays and in the office during the week). This box can hold laptops and smaller electronics such as phones, cords, etc.



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: Sunday, March 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.

NEW CHILD WELCOME

For a visit from our welcome team, contact Sara McMullen at saramcminneapolis@gmail.com or Sara McLoone at sjmclloone@gmail.com.

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: WRESTLING WITH JOY

BODY OF JOY

REV. RUTH MACKENZIE

MARCH 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. Jen Crow

Bellsound

Reading

A Nameless Ritual
- Mark Neppo

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Prelude

Denn alles Fleisch, es ist wie Gras
(All Flesh is Grass), *Requiem*, Mvt. II
- Johannes Brahms

For all flesh is as grass,
and the glory of man
like flowers.
The grass withers
and the flower falls

– 1 Peter 1:24

First Universalist Choir
Dr. Randal Buikema

Call to Worship

Kathy Coskran

Opening Hymn #21 (Please rise in body or spirit)

For the Beauty of the Earth

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

Faithful Action Spotlight on Habitat for Humanity

LaVera Jeffrie

Silence

Cycle of Life

Rev. Jen Crow

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

Excerpts from *Isaiah 35*

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Mindful

Rev. Jen Crow

- Mary Oliver

Anthem

Denn alles Fleisch, es ist wie Gras
(All Flesh is Grass), *Requiem*, Mvt. II
- Johannes Brahms

First Universalist Choir
Dr. Randal Buikema

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
Everlasting Joy...Everlasting Joy

– Isaiah 35:10

Sermon

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Body of Joy

Offertory

3 Intermezzi, Op. 117
- Johannes Brahms

Franco Holder

Closing Hymn #1064 (Please rise in body or spirit)

Blue Boat Home

Closing Words

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Minister

Rev. Jen Crow

Executive Minister

Kathy Coskran

Worship Associate

LaVera Jeffrie

Guest Speaker

Franco Holder

Pianist

Dr. Randal Buikema

Director of Choral Arts

First Universalist Choir

Isla Meysenburg

9:30 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Matthias Dalby

11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Pat Foulkes of the Visual Arts Committee in honor of Rev. Terri Burnor's March 10th ordination in this Sanctuary.

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 Speaker

LaVera and her son Matthias (10) found out about Habitat homeownership from LaVera's coworker at Target Center, and are thrilled to be on the path to buying a home of their own. LaVera moved to Minnesota from Chicago with her mother and siblings in 1995. Her mother made the decision to move because she felt that Minnesota offered "a positive place to build your family and your children have the opportunity to gain a great education." For the past 11 years, LaVera has been a renter of the Public Housing agency, and is currently renting a two bedroom, one-bath townhome that is attached to three other units. Although LaVera and her son are grateful for the shelter they have received, they are starting to outgrow the space and wish to find a place where they can host family and friends as well as add their own style and personality to really make it a home.

March Worship Theme: Wrestling with Joy

What purpose does joy serve? What is its function? Joy has no utilitarian use, so why is it so necessary? Why does life feel so flat without it? In Jack Gilbert's poem, *A Brief for the Defense*, he states: "We must risk delight. We can do without pleasure, but not delight." Joy lightens the heavy lifting of justice work, or the difficulty of simply living. Joy is about experiencing life welling up, of lithe spirit having its way with us even in the midst of sadness. This month we wrestle with the meaning of joy, something that serves no practical purpose but is absolutely necessary. We cannot make it come to us, nor can we corral it into staying. Still we can invite it, become more prone to its appearance. Most certainly, it takes some wrestling with all the ways and means by which we tell ourselves and one another, that joy is frivolous.