

GET CONNECTED!

UPCOMING HOLIDAY SERVICES & EVENTS

Christmas Pageant

December 21 & 24 4:00 PM
Our annual Christmas Pageant is a beautiful, Universalist telling of an ancient story. It is a tale of hope and hospitality, a reminder that every child is born a redeemer, a story that speaks to us all of what it means to be a seeker, a star, a wise one, a wanderer. Please join us for a Christmas pageant told in its mythic wisdom.

Candlelight Service

December 24 9:30 PM
The Candlelight Service at First Universalist Church is a time of mindfulness, meaning making and music. This service is a weaving of scripture readings, poems, musical offerings, silence, and lighting our hearts with the candlelight of hope.

Sunday Worship

December 28 10:00 AM
Please note there is only one service this upcoming Sunday. Join Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink as we fill the Sanctuary with songs and stories!

Holiday Office & Building Hours

The church office will be closed from December 22 - January 3. It will reopen for regular hours Sunday, January 4. The building will be closed on December 25, December 26, half of December 31 and all of January 1.

Racial Justice and Our UU Faith

Saturday, January 17
9am-1pm, Cummins Room

Led by Brian Eshult, Lark Weller, and Margaret Manderfeld. Please contact Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink at elaine@firstuniv.org for more information, and to register.

CIRCLE REGISTRATION IS COMING!

Online registration for Community Circles, Spiritual Deepening Circles, and Care Circles opens on January 11, 2015. These gatherings of 8-10 people are a great way to get connected at First Universalist and to grow your soul in community. For more information, contact Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink at elaine@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701 x124

Habitat for Humanity Build Days

Sign up online for 2015 Habitat for Humanity build days! There are a variety of days to choose from, and we are looking for a number of volunteers. To sign up online, visit: <http://firstuniversalistchurch.org/habitat-for-humanity-sign-up/>

WELCOME!

CELEBRATING OUR GENEROSITY

Offering plates from Sunday service:

11/30 Joyce Bilingual Preschool \$808
11/23 Habitat for Humanity \$1,236
11/16 Racial Justice \$782
11/9 Youth Farm \$903
11/2 Clare Housing \$1,140

To nominate an offering recipient, go to:
www.firstuniversalistchurch.com/offering-plate

Are You Visiting?

Come to a brief orientation to First Universalist and Unitarian Universalism, the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Our next orientation takes place: TODAY! Sunday, December 21

Meet us in the front of the Sanctuary immediately after the service. Find out more about our community in this 30-minute overview. No sign up needed and coffee & childcare are provided.

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 our Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries, Lauren Wyeth at: lauren@firstuniv.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. If you'd like to be included in our Cycle of Life each Sunday in worship, please contact Sandy diNanni at (sandy@firstuniv.org) or (612) 825-1701.

If you would like support, please contact Rev. Jen Crow (jen@firstuniv.org or 825-1701) or any member of our Pastoral Care Team.

We are so glad that 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 act outside of our walls; we listen to where love is calling us next.

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.

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 about First Universalist, go to our website: www.firstuniversalistchurch.org, stop by our Information Center in the Social Hall downstairs after services, or call our church office, 612-825-1701.

The Weekly Liberal

Want to know what's going on at First Universalist Church? *The Weekly Liberal* (our weekly newsletter) is for you! If you aren't already on the e-news distribution list and would like to be, simply sign up online by visiting our website and following the prompts. Please note, too, that paper copies of *The Weekly Liberal* will always be available in the office and at Sunday's services.

Visit us online at:

www.firstuniversalistchurch.org
[www.twitter.com/firstuniv](https://twitter.com/firstuniv)
www.facebook.com/firstuniv

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



SLOW CHURCH 2.0

REV. JUSTIN SCHROEDER

DECEMBER 21, 2014

Music for Gathering

White Scenery
-Peteris Vasks

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Words of Welcome

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Bellsound

Prelude

Prelude in G-sharp Minor,
Op. 32 No. 12
-Sergei Rachmaninoff

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Call to Worship

Rev. Jen Crow

Opening Hymn #241

(please rise in body or spirit)
In The Bleak Midwinter
(please join after the first verse)

Dr. Laura Hynes

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
(reprinted with permission by the UUA)

Silence

Cycle of Life

Rev. Jen Crow

Hymn of Prayer # 123 (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
(reprinted with permission by the UUA)

Reading

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Musical Offering

“Nature, the Gentlest Mother” from
Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson
-Aaron Copland

Dr. Laura Hynes

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Sermon

Slow Church 2.0

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Offertory

Noël Ancien
- Ottarino Respighi

Dr. Laura Hynes

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Closing Hymn #245 (please rise in body or spirit)

Joy to the World

Closing Words

Blessing in Song # 413

Go Now in Peace

Music for the Journey

Étude-Tableau in E-Flat Major,
Op. 33 No.7
-Sergei Rachmaninoff

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Worship Leaders

Rev. Justin Schroeder	Senior Minister
Rev. Jen Crow	Minister of Program Life
Dr. Jerrod Wendland	Pianist
Dr. Laura Hynes	Guest Musician

Laura Hynes has earned a reputation at home and abroad as a high energy performer with a magnetic stage presence and a radiant, silvery voice. She has performed extensively in France and Germany, and returned to the United States to pursue a doctorate in vocal performance at the University of Minnesota, which she completed in 2013. She has also created an ongoing project called Raise Your Voice, dedicated to social justice for women around the world. Dr. Hynes is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of Voice and Opera at Murray State University.

Chalice Lighter

Kate Gegax	11:15 AM
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Worship Design and Coordination

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Holiday Decorations

Each year the Visual Arts Committee collaborates to decorate the church as a gift to the congregation. Happy Holidays!

Offering: Racial Justice Work at First Universalist

First Universalist is deeply committed to becoming a community that lives and practices racial justice. We offer opportunities through work-shops, discussion groups, trainings, and events to learn more about race, racism, and whiteness and to turn our hearts toward compassion and justice.

Worship Theme: Slow Church

In our commodified society, we are told over and over again that what we own is what we’re worth, that “buying” some thing will bring happiness. In the ancient world, a form of “buying” meant buying back life, delivering a life from slavery based on the payment of a price by the redeemer. This form of buying was called redemption. This month we will focus our attention on buying back our lives, of practicing redemption for our own lives and others. The first step in this exchange is slowing down. We will practice mindfulness, listening, and opening to the spirit.

We will practice slow church.

SUNDAY WORSHIP REMINDER

Single Service Singing Sunday: December 28th
One multigenerational service at 10:00 AM

Join us as we fill the sanctuary with song and stories!
Worship led by Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink