



# GET CONNECTED!

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MEETING

Does your faith compel you to act to preserve and care for our earth? Are you concerned that environmental damage disproportionately impacts people of color and the poor? Do you want to work with others at church to learn, inspire others, and act for change? If so, **join us on Thursday, January 22nd from 7-8:30pm** as we continue to map out our work for environmental justice.

## 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](mailto:elaine@firstuniv.org) for more information, and to register.

## Generosity Calculator Online

We express our gratitude by being generous with our blessings. We now have a tool on our website to help you explore your own feelings and goals regarding generosity, both here at First Universalist and in the larger world. It will give you the opportunity to anonymously input why you give, your aspirations of giving and how you wish allocate your giving. To visit this online "generosity calculator", visit this address:

<http://firstuniversalistchurch.org/exploring-generosity/>

## Newcomer Circle

Are you new to First Universalist? Whether you are a recent visitor or a new member, you're invited to join our upcoming Newcomer Circle. This four-session gathering of 6-10 newcomers offer a chance to explore core Unitarian Universalist values, reflect on our spiritual journeys, and connect with other folks who are new to church. The next session meets on Tuesdays, January 6, 13, 20, 27 from 7:00-8:30pm. To register, contact Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink at [elaine@firstuniv.org](mailto:elaine@firstuniv.org) or 612-825-1701 x124. Childcare is available with 7 days advance notice.

## Exhibit in Social Hall

*January 11- February 15*

"Through My Lens" is a photography exhibit created by 65 teens from local social service agencies as a part of Free Arts Minnesota's summer 2014 Teaching Artist Series, led by photographer Wing Young Huie in partnership with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

## CIRCLE REGISTRATION IS COMING!

Online registration for Community Circles, Spiritual Deepening Circles, and Care Circles opens on January 11, 2015. For more information, contact Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink at [elaine@firstuniv.org](mailto: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:*

- 12/21 Racial Justice Work (\$1,085)
- 12/14 Beacon Housing (\$1,140)
- 11/30 Joyce Bilingual Preschool \$808
- 11/23 Habitat for Humanity \$1,236

To nominate an offering recipient, go to: [www.firstuniversalistchurch.com/offering-plate](http://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, January 4th**

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](mailto: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](mailto:sandy@firstuniv.org)) or (612) 825-1701.

If you would like support, please contact Rev. Jen Crow ([jen@firstuniv.org](mailto: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](http://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

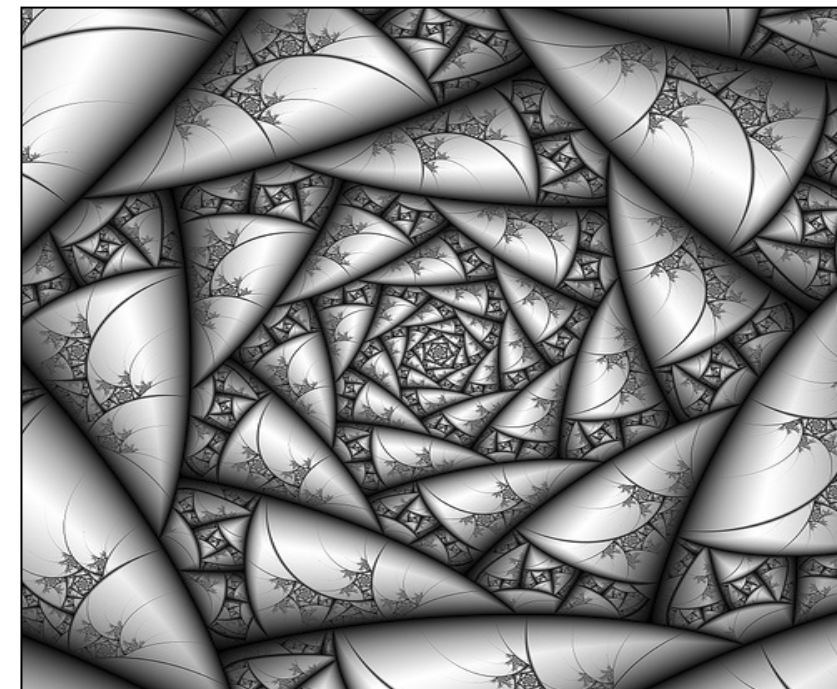
Want to know what's going on at First Universalist Church? *The Weekly Liberal* (our weekly newsletter) is for you! If you aren't already on the e-news distribution list and would like to be, simply sign up online by visiting our website and following the prompts. Please note, too, that paper copies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

Visit us online at:

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



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



# ARC OF CHANGE

REV. JUSTIN SCHROEDER

*JANUARY 4, 2015*

**Music for Gathering**

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. Justin Schroeder

**Bellsound**

**Prelude**

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

*Gangar (etter Myllarguten)*  
Op. 72 No. 6  
-Edvard Grieg

**Wisdom Story**

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

**Opening Hymn #121 (please rise in body or spirit)**

*We'll Build a Land*

**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)

**Hymn for the Journey #338**

**(please remain seated as the children move to their classrooms)**

*I Seek the Spirit of a Child*

**Silence**

**Cycle of Life**

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

**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  
(reprinted with permission by the UUA)

**Reading**

Rev. Justin Schroeder

**Musical Offering**

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

*The Goblins' Wedding Procession at Vossevangen*  
Op. 72 No. 14  
-Edvard Grieg

**Sermon**

Rev. Justin Schroeder

*Arc of Change*

**Offertory**

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

*Romanian Folk Dances*  
-Béla Bartok

**Closing Hymn #101 (please rise in body or spirit)**

*Abide With Me*

**Closing Words**

Rev. Justin Schroeder

**Blessing in Song # 413**

*Go Now in Peace*

**Music for the Journey**

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

*Kulok (Cow Call)* Op. 66 No. 1  
-Edvard Grieg

**Worship Leaders**

Rev. Justin Schroeder	Senior Minister
Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink	Minister of Membership & Adult Ministries
Dr. Jerrod Wendland	Pianist

**Chalice Lighter**

Elizabeth Becher-Ingwalson	9:30
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**Worship Design and Coordination**

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie  
Dr. Jerrod Wendland

**Holiday Decorations**

Each year the Visual Arts Committee collaborates on decorating the church as a gift to the congregation. Happy New Year!

**Offering: Walk-In Counseling Center**

Walk-in Counseling Center began 45 years ago with virtually the same mission and service philosophy that exists today: free, easily accessible counseling and support to people with urgent needs and few, who have if any, service options or resources.

**A Note About Today's Music from Jerrod Wendland:**

For today's service, which explores figures from the history of Unitarian Universalism, I've chosen music by two composers who were converts to Unitarianism: Edvard Grieg and Béla Bartok. Both composers are known primarily for their profound study of folk music (from Norway and Hungary, respectively), which made me wonder whether there isn't some connection between these studies and their choice of a humanist faith. I think the answer is that, in the absence of a clear answer to life's struggles provided by tradition or authority, one must open up other avenues of investigation: learning through art, learning through nature, and learning through other people and their music. So, by using folk music as a basis for composition, Bartok and Grieg were not simply adding "local color" or reinforcing an incipient patriotism; rather, they are expressing the belief that the answers to life's questions are best sought from our fellow human beings.

**Worship Theme: Arc of Change**

In his poem, "The Layers," Stanley Kunitz looks back on his life of changes, "the milestones" and "abandoned campsites" of his journey. All of us leave a trail of hopes that have fallen along the wayside, or burning embers of insight that light the way forward in our changing patterns. Change is. That is the nature of things. In a beautiful turn of phrase the poet writes, "a nimbus-clouded voice directed me: "Live in the layers, not on the litter." This month we live in the layers of change, exploring the arcs of our own lives, the arc of this faith community, and the arc of history and change. To paraphrase Kunitz's final line: We are not done with our changes.