



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? 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 Learning Opportunity

Today, January 11
1pm, Room 203
~OR~
Tuesday, January 13
7pm, Room 203

Race: The Power of Illusion

Join us this winter in Room 203 for drop-in screenings and discussions of this acclaimed three-part series.

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", go to our website or scan this code:



Foundation Board Accepting Nominations

The Foundation Board is a grant-giving arm of the church focused on nonprofit organizations who are doing work to ameliorate the root causes of injustice. The Foundation has opened up nominations & invites the congregation to submit suggestions of nonprofits to whom we might send a Letter of Interest, asking them to apply for a grant during our Spring Round. The nomination window will close on January 21st, so don't delay! If you are interested in making a nomination or in learning more, please email: foundation@firstuniv.org.

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 OPENS TODAY!

Online registration for Community Circles, Spiritual Deepening Circles, and Care Circles opens **today**, January 11, 2015. 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:

- 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

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: Sunday, January 18th

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

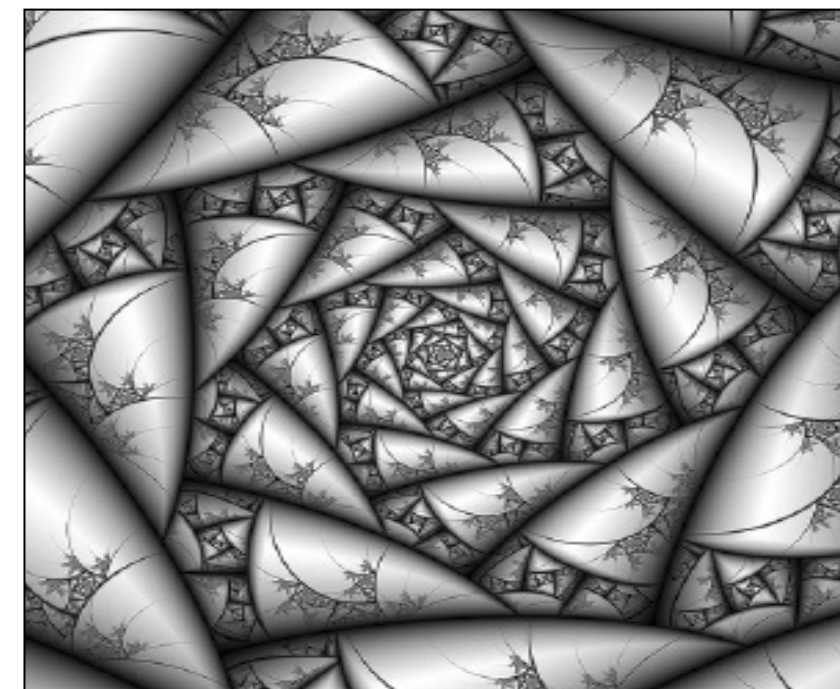
Want to know what's going on at First Universalist Church? *The Weekly Liberal* (our weekly newsletter) is for you! If you aren't already on the e-news distribution list and would like to be, simply sign up online by visiting our website and following the prompts. Please note, too, that paper copies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



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



ENDINGS, BEGINNINGS, AND THE NEUTRAL ZONE

REV. JEN CROW

JANUARY 11, 2015

Music for Gathering

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Words of Welcome

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Bellsound

Prelude

Muted Laughter
-William Grant Still

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Call to Worship

Ginger Murphrey

Opening Hymn #131 (please rise in body or spirit)

Love Will Guide Us

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)

Musical Interlude

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

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
(reprinted with permission by the UUA)

Reading

The Layers
-Stanley Kunitz

Rev. Jen Crow

Musical Offering

Summerland
-William Grant Still

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Sermon

Endings, Beginnings, and the Neutral Zone

Rev. Jen Crow

Offertory

Out of the Silence
-William Grant Still

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Closing Hymn #126 (please rise in body or spirit)

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Closing Words

Rev. Jen Crow

Blessing in Song # 413

Go Now in Peace

Music for the Journey

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Worship Leaders

Rev. Jen Crow Minister of Program Life
Rev. Justin Schroeder Senior Minister
Dr. Jerrod Wendland Pianist

Chalice Lighters

Frances Pappajohn-Goldade 9:30
Olivia Dalby 11:15

Worship Design and Coordination

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie Minister of Worship Arts
Dr. Jerrod Wendland Pianist

Holiday Decorations

The Visual Arts Committee hopes that you have enjoyed the Holiday decor for the past six weeks. We enjoyed creating it for you!

Offering: Simpson House

Simpson House supports and advocates for people experiencing homelessness. Their major programs are: emergency shelters for men and women, permanent, subsidized, supportive rental housing for single adults who have been homeless long-term, with a unique focus on the needs of single women, and subsidized, supportive rental housing for families with children.

Musical Notes from Jerrod Wendland:

The Arc of Change bends, we hope, towards justice, and part of justice is recognizing the achievements of those who have gone before. This week’s music is by William Grant Still (1895-1978), a groundbreaking composer of symphonies and operas, and the first African-American composer to achieve international fame. He was a contemporary of Aaron Copland, whom he surpassed when it came to writing symphonies, but has yet to achieve comparable recognition. Together, we can help spread the word about this music and its rightful place in American life.

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.

