



THE 2015-2016 PLEDGE DRIVE

Celebrate Your Church!

This year the Pledge Drive will be short and fun. By the end of the day on Pledge Day we will need to have all pledges in so we can plan our 2015-2016 budget. This shaves two weeks off our usual Pledge Drive. It can work if we all step up and make our pledge by the end of Pledge Day. This is our responsibility.

After today's service, be sure to pick up your pledge packet! Volunteers will be handing them out at the tables outside of the sanctuary immediately following the service.

Pledge Day is on Wednesday, March 11th

From 7 am – 9 pm

This is a day to reflect, pledge and celebrate your church. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served complements of fellow congregants. Planned giving team is sponsoring the breakfast, Barbara Melom and friends is sponsoring lunch and Geoff Lenox is leading the Choir in sponsoring the dinner. We are planning family friendly activities throughout the day. Look for a schedule of events coming soon at: www.firstuniversalistchurch.org/pledge-day

We are here because of the generosity of those around you now and those who came before you.

We have four main goals for this 2015-2016 Pledge Drive.

1. Increase pledging to account for the elimination of RE Fees
2. Increase pledging to support the racial justice work within our walls and activism in our community. (Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, trainings and events.)
3. Increase the number of members that pledge.
4. Increase the number of members that sign up for automatic payment.

We have so much to be grateful for and are well on our way to meeting these goals. Most of your fellow congregants on the Pledge Team and on the Board have committed to pledging 5% of their incomes to First Universalist Church. Not all of us could afford this level but we are all aspiring to reach it.

Our church has grown in strength and influence and has become a force for change in the greater community. We are strong because of our beliefs and our mission. If we are to exercise our strength and live our mission we must all share the financial cost of our work. Use our Generosity Calculator in the Pledge section of our website to help you discern how your beliefs and stewardship align. Think about the abundance you have and pledge.

With gratitude,

Richard Jaeger
Pledge Team Chair



WELCOME!

CELEBRATING OUR GENEROSITY

Offering plates from Sunday service:

- 2/1 MUUSJA \$1,055
- 1/25 MN Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice \$1,025
- 1/18 Racial Justice Work \$1,079
- 1/11 Simpson Shelter Meals \$1,442

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, March 1st

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.

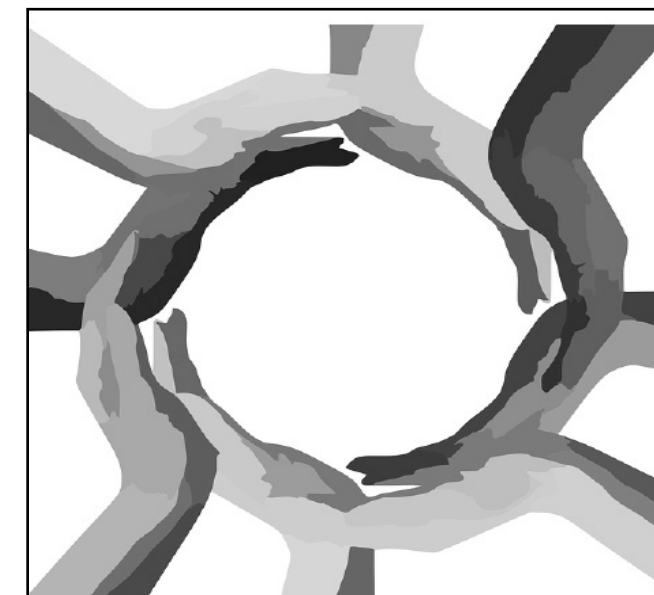
For more information about First Universalist, go to our website: www.firstuniversalistchurch.org, stop by our Information Center in the Social Hall downstairs after services, or call our church office, 612-825-1701.

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 or by scanning the QR code below. Please note, too, that paper copies of *The Weekly Liberal* will always be available in the office and at Sunday's services.



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



A DANGEROUS FAITH

REV. JUSTIN SCHROEDER

FEBRUARY 22, 2015

Music for Gathering
Improvisations

John Jensen

Words of Welcome

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Bellsound

Prelude

First Universalist Jazz Band

C Jam Blues
-Duke Ellington

John Jensen, Conductor

Call to Worship

Richard Jaeger

Opening Hymn #1024 (please rise in body or spirit)

When the Spirit Says Do
Teal hymnal

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)

When the Spirit Says Do...

Richard Jaeger

Musical Interlude

John Jensen

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
(reprinted with permission by the UUA)

Reading

The Most Dangerous Church in America?
-Rev. Stefan Jonasson

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Musical Offering

Emancipation Blues
-Oliver Nelson

First Universalist Jazz Band
John Jensen, Conductor

Sermon

A Dangerous Faith

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Offertory

You Can't Get There From Here
-John Dilkey

First Universalist Jazz Band
John Jensen, Conductor

Closing Hymn # 1007 (please rise in body or spirit)

There's a River Flowin' in My Soul
Teal hymnal

Closing Words

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Music for the Journey
Improvisations

John Jensen

Worship Leaders

Rev. Justin Schroeder Senior Minister
Rev. Jen Crow Minister of Program Life
John Jensen Guest Conductor

First Universalist Jazz Band:

Trumpets: **Saxophones:**
David Bach Ira Adelman
Sam Brandt Scott Sponheim
Riley Helgeson Gerhardt Robinson
 Wes Huisenga

Trombones: Annliv Bacon
Ryan Christianson Peter Dodge
Brian McCullough
Kim Stelson **Rhythm:**
Michael Okwabi Piano: Paul Hjelmstad
 Bass: Brian Zais
 Drums: Dan McLaughlin

Chalice Lighters

Kailyn Wittrock 9:30
Luca Knych 11:15

Worship Design and Coordination

Rev. Ruth Mackenzie Minister of Worship Arts

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Pam Vincent of the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: Racial Justice Work

Our offering this morning goes to support the important work of racial justice inside our walls. This money will help us continue to present films, discussion groups, support our Racial Justice Leadership Team, bring in speakers, continue our work with Dr. Heather Hackman, and support special collaborations with United Theological Seminary or other groups working toward racial equity.

**Worship Theme:
We Are The Ones We've Been Waiting For**

This phrase is the final statement of a writing attributed to Hopi Elders (which is in doubt), referenced by President Obama in 2008, but probably originates with the poet June Jordan in a commemoration of South African women. Although no one is really certain about its origins, the statement rocks the spirit and challenges our understandings of how the world works and the part we play. The beloved community, the kingdom of God, a world of peace will not come about simply by following a great leader or praying for a messiah. *We are the ones we've been waiting for.* This month we address ourselves, and our place in the change we seek.