



GET CONNECTED!

Young Adult Game Night

Join us on Tuesday, April 7 from 7-9pm up in the Arches Room for games, snacks, and good company. Feel free to bring a game or food to share, as well as your friends and/or significant other. This is a great chance to get to know other young adults and enjoy some mid-week relaxation and fun. Contact Brie Jonna at Brie.Jonna@gmail.com with questions.

THE PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP

Feeling like First Universalist could be your spiritual home? Join us for The Pathway to Membership, which invites you into an exploration of Unitarian Universalism, the history of this congregation, our racial justice commitment, and the experience of membership. The Pathway to Membership is required for joining the church.

Our next Pathway to Membership class is a two-session experience on Sundays, April 19 and 26 from 1-4pm. To sign up, contact the Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink at Elaine@Firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701x124. Childcare is available with at least 7 days advance notice at <http://firstuniversalistchurch.org/child-care-request-form/>

Capturing Nature Art Exhibit

Three artists--Erin Mason, Jo Ann Musumeci, and Jill Ewald--are all interested in capturing nature in their art work. They are displaying their work at First Universalist in the Social Hall April 5 through May 17. Each has a very different approach to visualizing their love of nature. The artists will be available to talk with you about their artwork and have additional items for sale including on Sunday, April 19, after both services.

Book Discussion:

What Does Justice Look Like?
The Struggle for Liberation in
Dakota Homeland, by Waziyatawin

Sunday, April 12 at 1:00pm **OR** Tuesday, April 14 at 6:30pm, Cummins Room
Discussion facilitated by Suzanne Hay, Kayci Rush, and Rev. Justin Schroeder. During the past 150 years, the majority of Minnesotans have not acknowledged the immense and ongoing harms suffered by the Dakota People ever since their homelands were invaded over 200 years ago. How have we been mis-educated about Minnesota history? What can we do to reverse the patterns of oppression in Native and non-Native relations?

An Invitation to Join First Universalist Choir

Have you thought about singing in the choir? YOU are welcome to join us! Ability to read music and previous experience is helpful but not necessary. An open heart, eagerness to learn and the desire to be part of a large and dynamic choral ensemble are qualities we look for in new members. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9:00 PM. Contact randy@firstuniv.org for details.



WELCOME!

CELEBRATING OUR GENEROSITY

Offering plates from Sunday service:

- 3/8 Youth Cultural Exchange \$1,315
- 3/1 Courageous Hearts \$1,057
- 2/22 Racial Justice \$979
- 2/15 Holdeen India Program \$1,862

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, April 5th

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 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.*



photo by Peter Tandlund

RISING UP AS A COMMUNITY

REV. JUSTIN SCHROEDER
REV. RUTH MACKENZIE

APRIL 5, 2015

Music for Gathering

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Words of Welcome

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Bellsound

Prelude

Locus Iste
-Bruckner

First Universalist Choir
Dr. Randal Buikema,
Conductor

This place was made by Love,
a place of grace;
it is without shame.

Call to Worship

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Opening Hymn #266 (please rise in body or spirit)

Now the Green Blade Riseth

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

Praying With Our Bodies & Hearts

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)

Easter Story in Word & Music

Lord of the Dance
-text by Sidney Carter
-arranged by Larry L. Fleming

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie
First Universalist Choir
Dr. Randal Buikema, Conductor

Homily

Rising Up As a Community

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Offertory

Variations on a Shaker Melody
-Aaron Copland

Dr. Jerrod Wendland
Minjie Bao

Closing Hymn # 270 (please rise in body or spirit)

O Day of Light and Gladness

Closing Words

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Music for the Journey

Excursion No. 4
-Samuel Barber

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Worship Leaders

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Rev. Justin Schroeder | Senior Minister |
| Rev. Ruth MacKenzie | Minister of Worship Arts & Coming of Age |
| Dr. Jerrod Wendland | Pianist |
| Minjie Bao | Guest Artist |
| Dr. Randal Buikema | Director of Choral Arts |
| First Universalist Choir | |

Actors for the Story:

Amanda Mosborg
Samantha Kurkowski
Luke Peichel
Eleanor Kline
Kaitlyn Hunt
and others

Chalice Lighters

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Elizabeth Haugen | 9:30 |
| Meshach Isaiah Mandel | 11:15 |

Worship Design and Coordination

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie Minister of Worship Arts

(thank you to Lauren Wyeth for the potato image)

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Candace McClenahan of the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: Racial Justice Work

Your gift helps support the many ways we live into our racial justice calling as a faith community. Our racial justice work is multi-faceted. We host trainings, and community circles. We host films for discussion like “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot Our Youth Movement.” We invite ministers of color and community leaders such as Rev. Danny Givens Jr. and Winona LaDuke to share their messages. Your generosity helps deepen and widen our work for racial justice.

Worship Theme: The Big Questions

Church is one place where we ask the big questions. We venture into the unknowable, the big questions with curiosity, and humility because we know ourselves as marvelous, and a speck of dust, all in the same breath of being. Join us this month when we delve into the big questions: What is the nature of being human? Why is there so much despair? What is holy? What is wholeness? Is there evil? What is this wondrous thing called life?