

GET CONNECTED!

“PREPARING FOR THE END OF YOUR LIFE”

Join us at 11:15AM in the Chalice Room on Sunday, Aug. 9 for a presentation by Janet Conn, Minnesota president of Compassion & Choices, on preparing for the end of your life. This introduction will cover what to expect at the end of life and how best to prepare through conversations with family and by the completion of healthcare directives. This presentation is sponsored by the Congregational Care committee.

FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD

As we prepare to welcome four families to First Universalist the week of Sept. 6–13, we’re accepting contributions of new and gently used twin sheet sets, twin air beds, comforters and blankets, as well as cash donations and volunteer help. Stop by the FMF table in the Social Hall any Sunday between now and August 16 to learn more.

SUMMER WORSHIP THEME: SOURCES

Within the pores and cracks of the earth fresh water gathers. Sometimes source water rises to the surface on its own accord. Sometimes you have to dig to find it. In either case, water feeds the body and sustains the soul. So too, sources for our spiritual life act in much the same way, gathering in the pores and cracks of our lives. Sometimes, a source of strength is easy to access. Sometimes you have to dig to find the well of faith that will sustain. This summer we explore sources: sources of faith, love and hope.

ARTIST RECEPTION IN THE SOCIAL HALL AFTER TODAY’S SERVICE

Join us in the Social Hall today after the service for an Artist Reception with Diane von Arx, whose calligraphy exhibit is on view through August 23. She will be available to talk about her work until 1:30. Making letters, in expressive and informative ways, is Diane von Arx’s passion. She takes great pleasure in collaborating with, and expanding upon, the words of others by offering visual enhancement to echo the author’s message.

LAST CHANCE! APPLY TO SERVE ON THE FAITHFUL ACTION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Over this past church year, we’ve restructured and formalized the processes of our Faithful Action Ministry. Going forward, a newly-created Faithful Action Leadership Council will set the direction of the faithful action ministries of our church, balancing our efforts for systemic change and serving immediate needs. The Council will ensure that our guiding principles of racial justice and faithful action inform all that we do. We are currently accepting applications to join the Faithful Action Leadership Council and any members interested are encouraged to apply. The application deadline has been extended to July 31, 2015. Learn more and apply on the home page of our website at firstuniversalistchurch.org.

WELCOME!

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, 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

The Weekly Liberal (our weekly newsletter) is on summer vacation; the next issue will be sent on August 13, 2015. Subscribe at: firstuniversalistchurch.org/the-weekly-liberal/

Do you have news or information that you’d like to see published in *The Weekly Liberal*? Visit our website and fill out the online submission form!

CELEBRATING OUR GENEROSITY

Offering plates from Sunday Service:

7/5 Rebuild the Churches \$569.38

7/12 Youth Cultural Exchange \$802.55

7/19 Habitat for Humanity \$480.00

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

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. Elaine Aron Tenbrink (elaine@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701) or any member of our Pastoral Care Team.

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: Next Sunday, August 2

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 Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries Lauren Wyeth at: lauren@firstuniv.org.



LIVING AS WE ARE MEANT TO LIVE

REV. ELAINE ARON TENBRINK

JULY 26, 2015

Music for Gathering

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Prelude and Fugue No. 1 in C Major
–Dmitri Shostakovich

Words of Welcome

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Bellsound

Prelude

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Prelude No. 5 in D Major
–Nikolai Kasputin

Call to Worship

Barbara Melom

Opening Hymn #349 (Please stand in body or spirit)

We Gather Together

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

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Musical Interlude

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
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Musical Offering

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Prelude No. 11 in B Major
–Nikolai Kasputin

Readings

1 Kings 3:5, 7-10 New International Version

Barbara Melom

Excerpt from *Living Like Weasels*
–Annie Dillard

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Musical Interlude

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Prelude No. 7 in A Major

Sermon

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Living as We Are Meant to Live

Offertory

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Prelude No. 9 in E Major
–Nikolai Kasputin

Closing Hymn #323 (Please stand in body or spirit)

Break Not the Circle

Closing Words

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Music for the Journey

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Prelude No. 23 in F Major
–Nikolai Kasputin

Worship Leaders

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Minister of Membership and Adult Ministries

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Pianist

Barbara Melom

Worship Associate

Chancel Flowers

Today’s flowers were arranged by Virginia Tisdale Miller of the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: Families Moving Forward

Our offering will support the Families Moving Forward Program, an initiative of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative. Beacon’s Families Moving Forward program offers families experiencing homelessness hospitality, emergency shelter and a path to home with support for stability. From September 6th-12th, First Universalist will host four families. Today’s offering will help purchase air mattresses, blankets, pillows, food, and more for our guests. A sheet for a child’s bed costs \$15; a blanket, \$25; a comforter, \$30; an air bed: \$90. A sheet for a queen size bed costs \$20; a blanket, \$40; a comforter, \$30; an air bed, \$120. Volunteers are also needed. Please contact Peg Mitchell at 612-280-6119 or pegmitch16@gmail.com to volunteer. Thank you for your gifts of time and money!

Musical Notes from Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Music making in the Soviet Union was fraught with difficulty and even danger. After a burst of creativity during the 1920s and early 30s, Joseph Stalin clamped down on all artistic production through two “purges,” one in the 1930s and the other in 1948. These purges saw composers publicly humiliated, denounced by friends and colleagues, deprived of their jobs and livelihoods, and even sent to the Gulag. By the time Nikolai Kapustin (1937) began his music career, Stalin was dead and the climate of terror had lightened somewhat, but all musical production was still controlled by a rigid hierarchy, subject to the political whims of an elite few. Though he worked in an area of music that had been branded as “bourgeois” and “decadent” just a few years before, Kapustin was allowed to write as he liked, albeit on the margins of Soviet musical life. Since the fall of the USSR, however, he has finally gotten the international reputation he deserves.