

GET CONNECTED!

NEWCOMER CIRCLE BEGINS SEPTEMBER 2

Are you new to First Universalist? Whether you are a recent visitor or a new member, you're invited to join a Newcomer Circle. These four-session gatherings 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. Our next Newcomer Circle runs on Wednesdays, Sept. 2, 9, 16, and 23 from 7-8:30 PM. Registration is required; you can sign up at the Information table in the social hall or by emailing Sandy@firstuniv.org.

PICTURES FROM A HIROSHIMA SCHOOLYARD FILM SCREENING

Save the date for a special reception and documentary film screening of *Pictures from a Hiroshima Schoolyard* with the film's director and producer present on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 12:15 p.m. The powerful documentary is an inspiring story of how one Unitarian Universalist minister's critique of the atomic bomb led to post-war gifts to Hiroshima school children and the cycle of peace and reconciliation that followed.

NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO CHOIR!

The First Universalist Choir is open to anyone who has a love for singing and wishes to participate during worship services. Prior experience and ability to read music are helpful, but not necessary. The choir rehearses Wednesday evenings from 7-9 p.m. and sings in worship twice a month. Our opening potluck is Wednesday, Aug. 26, and you are invited! Email randy@firstuniv.org for more information.

AUGUST 30 LAKE HARRIET WORSHIP & POTLUCK: NEXT WEEK!

Join us for an energizing worship service and potluck picnic at the Lake Harriet Bandshell on Sunday, Aug. 30 at 10 a.m. We'll enjoy tunes from the Universal Rock Band, an inspiring message from Rev. Jen Crow, and a delicious potluck picnic together afterwards. Please note: this will be our only worship service on Sunday, Aug. 30.

Please bring a dish and/or beverage to share, as well as chairs or blankets to sit on. Bring plates, cups and eating utensils for everyone in your party. The picnic will take place on the park hill across the street from the bandshell. If you have a yellow "Standing on the Side of Love" t-shirt, please wear it! Sunglasses and/or hats are recommended for your comfort.

ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR AUGSBURG-FAIRVIEW ACADEMY STUDENTS

Augsburg Fairview Academy (AFA) invites young adults from diverse communities to prepare for college, career, and life through an intense program of rigorous study. Many of the students are homeless.

We're collecting donations of school supplies, backpacks, clothing, and carryable food for the students. Clothing needs to be something teens will wear, clean, and gently used. Please bring your contributions to the Information Booth in the Social Hall on Sundays.

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 email newsletter) is published on Thursdays.

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:

7/26 Families Moving Forward \$931.89

8/2 Church of the Larger Fellowship
\$635.99

8/9 Honor the Earth \$627.71

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. Jen Crow (jen@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: Sept. 6, 2015

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.



BACKPACK BLESSING SUNDAY

REV. RUTH MACKENZIE, LAUREN
WYETH, & REV. JEN CROW

AUGUST 23, 2015

Music for Gathering

Franco Holder

Bundle of Joy from Inside Out
– Michael Giacchino

Words of Welcome

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Bellsound

Prelude

Franco Holder

Life’s Incredible Again from The Incredibles
– Michael Giacchino

Wisdom Story

Lauren Wyeth

We’re Gonna Need a Bigger Tree

Opening Hymn #1008 (Please stand in body or spirit)

When Our Heart Is In a Holy Place

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 #1007

There’s a River Flowin’ In My Soul

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)

Musical Offering

Franco Holder

First Day of School from Inside Out
– Michael Giacchino

Homily

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Walking Willingly

Offertory

Franco Holder

Married Life from Up
– Michael Giacchino

Backpack Blessing

Rev. Jen Crow
First Universalist Choir
Dr. Randal Buikema, Conductor
Ann Terlizzi, Flute

Love, You Enfold Me
– Vladimir Vavilov, arranged by Hal H. Hopson

Closing Hymn #1018 (Please stand in body or spirit)

Come & Go With Me

Closing Words

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Music for the Journey

Franco Holder

End Credits from Tomorrowland
– Michael Giacchino

Worship Leaders

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie
Minister of Worship Arts and Coming of Age

Rev. Jen Crow
Executive Minister

Lauren Wyeth
Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Dr. Randal Buikema
Director of Choral Arts

First Universalist Choir

Franco Holder
Guest Pianist

Ann Terlizzi
Flute

Chancel Flowers

Today’s flowers are from the family of Tom Atchison who passed away earlier this month. His memorial service was on Saturday, Aug. 22.

Offering: Augsburg Fairview Academy

Augsburg Fairview Academy invites young adults from diverse communities to prepare for college, career, and life. Augsburg supports students facing educational barriers to achievement through an intense program of rigorous study and real-world connections to health care, education, and other human services.

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.