

GET CONNECTED

NEWCOMER CIRCLE BEGINS JANUARY 5

Are you new to First Universalist? Newcomer Circles are four-session gatherings of 6-10 people that offer a chance to explore core Unitarian Universalist values, reflect on our spiritual journeys, and connect with other folks who are new to church. The next Newcomer Circle meets Tuesdays, Jan. 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 7-8:30 p.m. Registration is required; you can sign up at the Information table in the social hall or by emailing Sandy@firstuniv.org.

24-HOUR RACIAL JUSTICE TRAINING (DATE CORRECTION)

You're invited to apply to participate in the next 24-hour racial justice training led by Dr. Heather Hackman this spring! This is the last 24-hour training we'll be offering for the foreseeable future. One of the training dates previously published was incorrect. The correct dates are: Saturdays, Feb. 6, Feb. 27, and April 9, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please visit our website at firstuniversalistchurch.org for details.

SAVE THE DATE: WINTER WARM-UP

Join us on January 23 for music, food, and fun at the Winter Warm-up Dance Party. Enjoy live music from the Universal Rock Band and special guest performers, and dance to classic rock and roll. Food by One Dish at A Time is included with the cost of admission. Beverages will be available for purchase. Purchase tickets online (see Events at firstuniversalistchurch.org for link) or in the Social Hall on Sundays between services.

JANUARY 3 IS REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The first of the calendar year is a natural time for looking back and looking forward. On Sunday, Jan. 3, we will gather in worship and remembrance of those that have died and now stand on the other side of the veil, while contemplating what hopes sustain us on this side. Please join us in this meaningful service for all ages. Services are offered at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN INFO SESSION JANUARY 10

Join us for our Community Solar Garden campaign kickoff event Sunday, Jan. 10 at 1 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will present information about climate change, renewable energy, our UU Solar Garden project, and how to sign up. Presenters will include J. Drake Hamilton, an environmental expert from Fresh Energy and Cliff Kaehler, CEO of Minnesota Community Solar. The program is sponsored by the Environmental Justice Team.

WELCOME

CELEBRATING OUR GENEROSITY

Offering plates from Sunday Service:

11/15 Senior Corps Programs \$590.64

11/22 Beacon, Holiday Giving \$2,931.34*

11/29 Joyce Uptown Foodshelf \$1,070.50

*100% of the offering to Holiday Giving

Know a charitable organization that shares our commitment to justice and equity? Nominate an offering recipient at: firstuniversalistchurch.org/offering-plate

You can give online through the Square Cash App. Our cashtag is \$firstuniv. Thanks!

LET US KEEP YOU IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

If you are experiencing a crisis or transition, or celebrating a joy—please let us know. To be included in our Cycle of Life each Sunday in worship, contact Sandy DiNanni at sandy@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701.

If you would like support, contact Rev. Jen Crow (jen@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701) or any member of our Pastoral Care Team.

SUNDAY FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

Would you like to help distribute flowers after the Sunday service to a congregant who could use support? Or suggest somebody to receive flowers? Contact Pamela Vincent (612-615-6085) pvincent1@comcast.net. (If you want to donate flowers for a Sunday service, you can pick up a form in the church office that explains the procedure.)

THE WEEKLY LIBERAL

The Weekly Liberal email newsletter is published on Thursdays. Subscribe at: firstuniversalistchurch.org/the-weekly-liberal/ Do you have news or information you'd like published? Fill out the submission form on our website!

We are so glad 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**, stop by our Information Center in the Social Hall downstairs, call 612-825-1701, or visit our website: firstuniversalistchurch.org.

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: Jan. 3, 2016

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.



FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



RETURNING TO WHOLENESS THROUGH SONG

REV. ELAINE ARON TENBRINK

DECEMBER 27, 2015

Music for Gathering

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Words of Welcome

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Prelude

Song Without Words Op. 102, No. 5
- Felix Mendelssohn

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Call to Worship

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Hymn Sing

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)

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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Wisdom Story

by Sarah Cledwyn

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Musical Offering

Song Without Words Op. 67, No. 3
- Felix Mendelssohn

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Hymn Sing

Offertory

Song Without Words Op. 19, No. 3
- Felix Mendelssohn

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Closing Hymn #318 (Please stand in body or spirit)

We Would Be One

Closing Words

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Minister of Membership and Adult Ministries

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Pianist

Worship Design & Coordination

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Minister of Worship & Coming of Age Program

Offering: Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

Today's offering will go to our Holiday Giving recipient, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, an organization committed to ending homelessness through advocacy, alternative housing, and temporary shelter. The mission of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative is: "Inspired by social justice and guided by our many faiths, creating homes for those in need, building community for all." Learn more about their work online at www.beaconinterfaith.org.

Our Holiday Giving Team has encouraged the congregation to look for ways to reduce our consumerism during the holidays. Instead, we are called to direct our financial and emotional resources towards redressing inequalities in our culture.

Don't have cash or check? You can give through the Square Cash App using your smartphone. Our cashtag is \$firstuniv.

December Worship Theme: Making Room

So much in our consumer culture screams hurry up, do more, make it work, squeeze it in. We are bombarded with how to do things smarter, faster, more efficiently, especially at this time of year. If the purpose of the religious life is to grow our souls and repair the world, as Unitarian Universalist minister Richard Gilbert once put it, if we are to move into a greater sense of wholeness inside and out, then making room is key. Making room is different than squeezing it in. Making room connotes a sense of slowing down, refocusing our attention and coming into spiritual alignment. It is developing practices and systems that help us calm our tricked out nervous systems, and finding grace and goodness on the other side, when we least expect it.