

GET CONNECTED

STATE OF THE CHURCH MEETING IS TODAY

Please join us for our annual State of the Church meeting today at 12:30 p.m., right after the second service. At this meeting, the Board of Trustees and staff will share updates on their respective goals for the year. This meeting will be a time to celebrate shared accomplishments, and to outline emerging opportunities and next steps in various ministry areas. We'll include a high level mid-year budget update, outline programming for the rest of the church year, and provide a preview of things to come.

YOUR THOUGHTS AND FEEDBACK ARE WANTED

We're interested in learning more about your experiences of engagement and membership at First Universalist. Please watch for an emailed survey in your inbox later today. If we don't have your email address on file, or if you've recently changed your email address, please let us know! Send us a quick note at communications@firstuniv.org with your name and current email address.

BDE/MDE MAKI SKA CONVERSATION FEB. 9

All are welcome to join us on Tuesday, Feb. 9 from 6 to 9 p.m. for an exciting conversation about giving form to expressions of spirit and values that emanate from Bde/Mde Maka Ska (currently called Lake Calhoun). Come and collectively re-imagine our community beyond its current norm in unique and more desired forms of interaction.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Pastoral Care Team is a group of congregants who provide confidential pastoral care to friends and members of our congregation in need of support. We visit people at home, hospitals, and hospice, or at the corner coffee shop. While our ministers continue to be with members of the congregation in crisis situations, this team is able to provide continuing care to our growing community and enhance the practical support offered by our Congregational Care team. Our goal is to offer compassionate presence to our fellow congregants in the knowledge that this too is a spiritual practice. If you or another church member or friend are in need of support, please contact Rev. Jen Crow at jen@firstuniv.org.

Our Pastoral Care Team members include: Rev. Jen Crow and Andrea Johnson, co-chairs, Roger Ballou, Dan Berg, Kathy Coskran, Janet Houck, Julie Howard, Guy Johnson, Stephanie Koehler, Bill Lewis, Carolyn Moe, Nora Page, Gail Price, Mike Thompson, Michelle Tierney, and Kathy Urberg.

PLEDGE DAY IS MARCH 9

The Pledge Team is excited to announce that this year's Pledge Day is happening on Wednesday, March 9, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. This year's theme is *The Road We Walk Together*, and will celebrate both the wonderful steps we've taken as a community towards living our values in the world, and the new journeys that are opening before us. Put the date on your calendar now to make sure that you are part of the Pledge Day fun!

WELCOME

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.

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.

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!

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. Childcare is provided after the 11:15 service.

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.

CELEBRATING OUR GENEROSITY

Offering plates from Sunday Service:

1/10 Trust \$936.59

1/17 TruArtSpeaks \$853.96

1/24 Exodus Lending \$1,021.49

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!

MEAL SUPPORT

New baby? Illness? Accident? Let us know if you or somebody in our community would like us to create a meal train for you. Meal trains typically run two to six weeks depending on need and give congregants a way to help. Contact Kathy Urberg, kathyurberg@gmail.com.

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.

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 you'd like published? Fill out the submission form on our website!



WORSHIP THEME: BROKENNESS

It's ALREADY BROKEN

REV. JEN CROW

FEBRUARY 7, 2016

Music for Gathering

Rivers Set 1, No. 1

- Ann Southam

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Words of Welcome

Rev. Jen Crow

Prelude

Alleluia

- Traditional Israeli Folk Tune

Children’s Choir

Colleen Cook

Narissa Bach

Audrey Slote

Wisdom Story

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Opening Hymn #18 (Please stand in body or spirit)

What Wondrous Love

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 for the Journey #169

One More Step

(children are dismissed to their classes)

Pastoral Care Team Commissioning

Rev. Jen Crow

Musical Interlude

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Silence

Cycle of Life

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

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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Reading

Medicine

- Alice Walker

Rev. Jen Crow

Musical Offering

Rivers Set 3, No. 7

- Ann Southam

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Sermon

It’s Already Broken

Rev. Jen Crow

Offertory

Glass Houses No. 11

- Ann Southam

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Closing Hymn #298 (Please stand in body or spirit)

Wake, Now, My Senses

Closing Words

Rev. Jen Crow

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Jen Crow

Executive Minister

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Minister of Worship & Coming of Age

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Pianist

Children’s Choir

Colleen Cook

Director of Children’s Choir

Narissa Bach

Children’s Choir Accompanist

Audrey Slote

Cellist

Luca Knych

9:30 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Neela Hammer

11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Chancel Flowers

Today’s flowers are donated in memory of Peter Dane Bauer, 6/9/64-7/9/07, by his mother, Marion. They were arranged by Meredith Sims of the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: Prepare + Prosper

Prepare + Prosper is an organization focused on financial capability for low and moderate income households. P+P leverages the help of more than 540 volunteers each year to provide free tax assistance and integrate financial services and products into the tax-time money-moment. By partnering with financial institutions, P+P connects customers with resources and products to help them build assets and income. P+P is also deepening its services for customers through financial coaching to help them reach their financial goals.

Musical Notes by Jerrod Wendland

Ann Southam (1937-2010) was a Canadian composer and philanthropist, known for her electronic music, collaborations with dancers, and immense cycles of piano music, much of it in a minimalist style. The 15 pieces called *Glass Houses* all use a repeated pattern in the left hand with an endlessly varying melody in the right; the title might be an oblique reference to Philip Glass, or it might just be a warning to potential stone-throwers. I found two quotes of particular interest: “Being gay and growing up gay in the fifties was not amusing. Life was pretty much a social nightmare. The perfect solution was to be an artist. I could be as moody and anti-social as I liked.” And: “I really like what happens to the player, what happens to the listener when there’s nothing happening. What are you going to do with that time? ... I’m exploring how you might set up periods of waiting in which nothing happens. Things are definitely happening. It’s just having to keep still and having to wait. That’s very hard to do. Patience — this is a whole lesson in patience.”

February Worship Theme: Brokenness

“Life will break you. Nobody can protect you from that, and living alone won’t either, for solitude will also break you with its yearning. You have to love. You have to feel. It is the reason you are here on earth,” - Louise Erdrich.

Brokenness is part and parcel of being human. We are born into families that fall short, or social constructs that privilege one group over another. Brokenness is. When we don’t admit brokenness, the truth of our stories, then we don’t make room for understanding, the healing balm of confession, and the deep well of compassion. All is available to us, but first we must admit brokenness.