

GET CONNECTED

WORSHIP AT 10 A.M. ONLY SUNDAYS, 12/25 & 1/1

Please note that on the coming two Sundays, we'll be offering a single worship service only, at 10 a.m. On Sunday, Dec. 25, the service will be a Contemplative Christmas with Music and Poetry; this service will be multigenerational and childcare will not be offered. The service on Sunday, Jan. 1, will be a multigenerational Singing Sunday.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

This December, First Universalist Church is supporting the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) through the Guest At Your Table campaign. Return your Guest At Your Table box today, and look for the link on our website to make your tax-deductible donation online. You can also donate in the social hall using a credit card after each service today. Thanks to the generosity of the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock (New York), donations of \$125 or more will be matched dollar-for-dollar! The UUSC is our human rights organization, reflecting UU values in the world. UUSC advances human rights through grassroots collaboration. In more than a dozen countries, UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression. UUSC's innovative approaches and measurable impact - in promoting economic justice, bolstering environmental justice, and protecting rights at risk - are grounded in the belief that all people have inherent power, dignity, and rights.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANTS: TODAY AND 12/24

Our annual Christmas Pageant is a beautiful telling of an ancient story. It is a tale of hope and hospitality, a reminder that every child is born a redeemer, a story that speaks to us all of what it means to be a seeker, a star, a wise one, a wanderer. The Pageant is held twice; on Sunday, Dec. 18 and Saturday, Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. each day. Drop-in childcare is available during the Dec. 18 pageant only (no childcare Dec. 24). There will also be a cocoa and cookie reception immediately following this afternoon's pageant.

WINTER SOLSTICE SERVICE 12/21

For 36 years, First Universalist has honored the longest night of the year, and joyously celebrated the return of the Sun! Join us on Wednesday, Dec. 21, as we observe another turning of the year. Sanctuary doors open at 7 p.m., and the service begins at 7:30 p.m. The evening includes a 12-minute period of darkness. As always, we will move through the evening with beautiful music, participation for all ages, and spreading of the light.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

The Candlelight Service at First Universalist is a time of mindfulness, meaning making and music. This service is a weaving of scripture readings, poems, musical offerings, silence, and lighting our hearts and spirit with the candlelight and hope. Join us on Saturday, Dec. 24 for this 9:30 p.m. service.

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 listen deeply to where love is calling us next; and we act with humility, bravery, and compassion in service to justice. 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 the church office at 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 during the session after the 11:15 a.m. 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:

11/27 MUUSJA \$1,187.11

12/4 Habitat for Humanity \$1,841.40

12/11 Minnesota Host Home Network \$957.87

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

If you'd like to make a donation but don't have cash, use the Square Cash App. It takes no time at all to set up and use! First Universalist's cash tag is \$firstuniv. For more information, go to <http://firstuniversalistchurch.org/new-giving-option-square-cash/>.

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.

CHORE TEAM

Do you need help with simple household tasks, such as removing or installing an air conditioner, changing lightbulbs, or window washing? These are chores that most of us do easily until we can't. Chore Team helpers are also needed! Contact Bob Friedman at rmarcf@usfamily.net or 612-722-4705 if you need help, or if you would like to join the chore team.

THE WEEKLY LIBERAL

The Weekly Liberal 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: PRESENCE

WITH-NESS

REV. JUSTIN SCHROEDER

DECEMBER 18, 2016

We welcome, affirm, and protect the light in each human heart; we listen deeply to where love is calling us next; and we act with humility, bravery, and compassion in service to justice. We do all this as a faith community committed to racial justice.

Music for GatheringDr. Jerrod Wendland

Words of WelcomeRev. Jen Crow

Bellsound

PreludeFirst Universalist Choir
Veni, Veni Emmanuel
- TraditionalDr. Randal Buikema

Call to WorshipSophia Morales

Opening Hymn #389 (Please rise in body or spirit)
Gathered Here
(sung as round)

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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Songs of Presence
Hymn #224 Let Christmas Come
Hymn #388 Dona Nobis Pacem

(sung as round)

Silence

Cycle of LifeRev. 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
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ReadingRev. Justin Schroeder

AnthemFirst Universalist Choir
A Christmas Round
- Sir John TavenerRandal Buikema

SermonRev. Justin Schroeder
With-ness

OffertoryDr. Jerrod Wendland
Memories of Tomorrow
- Keith Jarrett

Closing Hymn #225 (Please rise in body or spirit)
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Closing WordsRev. Justin Schroeder

Blessing in Song #413
Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders
Rev. Justin SchroederSenior Minister
Rev. Jen CrowExecutive Miniser
Sophia MoralesWorship Associate
Dr. Jerrod WendlandPianist
Dr. Randal BuikemaDirector of Choral Arts
First Universalist Choir
Avery Lindon9:30 A.M. Chalice Lighter
Neela Hammer11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Holiday Decorations
The holiday decorations throughout the church are a gift to our congregation from the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)
UUSC advances human rights through grassroots collaboration. In more than a dozen countries throughout the world, UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression. UUSC’s innovative approaches and measurable impact — in promoting economic justice, bolstering environmental justice, and protecting rights at risk — are grounded in the belief that all people have inherent power, dignity, and rights.

December Worship Theme: Presence
Sufi teacher and scholar, Kabir Helminski, writes, “Presence signifies the quality of consciously being here. It is the activation of a higher level of awareness that allows all our other human functions—such as thought, feeling, and action—to be known, developed and harmonized.” Presence is named as awakening, mindfulness, dhyana, or remembrance in other religious traditions. Some might be surprised to discover that repentance, derived from the Greek, metanoia, means to enter the big mind/presence. Common to all the great spiritual traditions is a spiritual philosophy of presence. In this season of advent, of waiting and listening, we will explore and experience Presence, the intersecting places of sense and spirit.