

GET CONNECTED

A SYMPHONY OF CAROLS NEXT SUNDAY

Don't miss next week's special music-filled worship service on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.! The First Universalist Choir and Orchestra will be leading worship, performing "A Symphony of Carols" by Randol Alan Bass. Arranged to resemble a four-movement choral symphony, this 1997 work is an arrangement of six holiday carols.

HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Our Christmas Pageants, Solstice Service, and Christmas Eve Candlelight Service are cherished traditions at First Universalist. Please note that Sunday services on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 will be offered at 10 a.m. only. Mark your calendar and join us!

Christmas Pageants: Sunday, Dec. 18 and Saturday, Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. each day

Winter Solstice Service: Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Saturday, Dec. 24 at 9:30 p.m.

Contemplative Christmas with Music and Poetry: Sunday, Dec. 25 at 10 a.m. only

Singing Sunday: Sunday, Jan. 1 at 10 a.m. only

DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY FILM SCREENING

The Environmental Justice and Racial Justice teams at First Universalist are co-sponsoring a screening of the film, *The Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code* with film director Sheldon Wolfchild of 38 Plus 2 Productions present on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. in the Cummins Room. The film tells the story of how little-known Vatican documents of the fifteenth century resulted in a tragic global momentum of domination and dehumanization.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

This December, First Universalist Church is supporting the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) through the Guest At Your Table campaign. Watch for Guest At Your Table boxes and brochures, 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 on Dec. 4, 11, and 18. 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.

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR NEW PASTORAL CARE TEAM MEMBERS

Do you have an open heart, a compassionate presence, a listening ear and a few hours each month to offer? If so, we invite you to consider joining our Pastoral Care Team. Members of this team provide confidential pastoral care to friends and members of our congregation. For more information, visit the Pastoral Care page on our website where you can obtain an application and job description. Applications are due by Dec. 16, 2016.

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:

11/13 Standing Rock Sioux Tribe DAPL Fund
\$4,332.36

11/20 Million Artist Movement \$1,307.75

11/27 MUUSJA \$1,187.11

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.

NEED A RIDE?

We can help with at least two weeks' notice. Contact Anne McBean at 952 938-2897 or mcbea001@yahoo.com if you need help with a ride or would like to offer a ride to a congregant.

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!



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



WORSHIP THEME: PRESENCE

EVERYTHING WE NEED IS HERE

REV. JEN CROW

DECEMBER 4, 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 Gathering

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Words of Welcome

Rev. Jen Crow

Bellsound

Prelude

Where Do We Come From?

- lyrics by Paul Gauguin, music by Brian Tate

Chalice Singers
Chandler Yorkhall

Wisdom Story

Guest at Your Table

Lauren Wyeth

Opening Hymn #112 (Please rise in body or spirit)

Do You Hear?

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)

Song for Journeying

Hymn #116 *I'm on My Way*

Faithful Action Spotlight on Habitat for Humanity

Musical Interlude

Hush the Mind

- Ron Parker and Dick Hensold

Folk Band
Dick Hensold

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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Reading

Words

- Rev. Angela Herrera

Rev. Jen Crow

Musical Offering

My Soul

- Peter Mayer

Folk Band
Dick Hensold

Sermon

Everything We Need Is Here

Rev. Jen Crow

Offertory

Where Is the Light?

- Peter Mayer

Folk Band
Dick Hensold

Closing Hymn (Please rise in body or spirit)

This Little Light of Mine

- African American Spiritual

Folk Band
Dick Hensold

Closing Words

Rev. Jen Crow

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Music for Journeying

Christmas Day in the Morning/ I Saw Three Ships

- Traditional

Folk Band
Dick Hensold

Worship Leaders

Rev. Jen Crow

Executive Minister

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Minister of Membership and Adult Ministries

Lauren Wyeth

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Guest Speaker

Habitat for Humanity

Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Pianist

Lilia Yorkhall

9:30 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Ava Bleifuss

11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Chandler Yorkhall

Chalice Singer Director

Chalice Singers

Folk Band

Ben Binder

Clarinet

Sylvia Scoggin

Voice and Violin

Jill Conrad

Voice and Violin

Mary Lee

Voice and Guitar

Ron Parker

Voice and Guitar

Howard Hobbs

Voice, Autoharp, and Guitar

Allan Steinhauer

Voice

Dick Hensold

Folk Band Director, Northumbrian Smallpipes, and Reel Pipes

Chancel Flowers

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

Offering: Habitat for Humanity

The mission of Habitat for Humanity is to create a world where everyone has a decent place to live, and to put God's love into action. By doing this, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

About Dick Hensold

Dick Hensold (B.M., Oberlin Conservatory) is the leading Northumbrian smallpiper in North America, and for the past 20 years has performed and taught in England, Scotland, Japan, Canada, and across the United States. He has been composer-in-residence at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in St Paul since 2002, providing music for a Celtic contemplative service. As a church musician, Dick uses his instruments to help create sacred space for worship, using his sounds and melodies to help the congregation interpret the service in an intuitive way.

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.