



# GET CONNECTED

## PICK UP YOUR ANNUAL GIVING PACKET TODAY

We're striving for *All In* with annual giving this year! This means that we are asking every individual and family – whether you are an official church member or someone who attends services, participates in the choir or small groups, or whose children are registered in religious education classes – to make whatever gift you can to support the work of the church. Pick up your packet after either service today (just outside the sanctuary) or in the office through Thursday, March 22. Remaining packets will be mailed after that. Help us save on postage by picking up your packet in person!

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WITH THE ARCHITECTS 3/25

After taking additional time to explore a design direction that hadn't previously been thought possible, we are excited to invite you to our rescheduled congregational meeting with the architects to review the preferred design direction for our renovations and construction. Please join us for this meeting in the sanctuary next Sunday, March 25 after the second service (12:45 P.M.) - the meeting will include a short presentation by the architects and time for Q&A.

# 14% *In*

*\$185,842 in committed annual gifts as of 3/15/18*



**Annual Giving 2018–2019**  
[firstuniversalistchurch.org/annual-giving](http://firstuniversalistchurch.org/annual-giving)

## TODAY! BENEFIT CONCERT: INDIGENOUS YOUTH TO THE VATICAN

Join us for a benefit concert today that will help fund a trip for 12 First-Nation youth and elders to visit the Vatican to discuss the historical and intergenerational trauma resulting from the Doctrine of Discovery. The concert features an incredible line-up of performers: renowned singers Prudence Johnson and Larry Long; Hollywood actor and director Max Gail; and First Nation performers Dorene Day Waubanewquay, Tom LaBlanc, Joe Savage, Keith Secola and Mitch Walking Elk. Doors open at 1 p.m. with refreshments and a silent auction, followed by the concert at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 at the door.

## SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

The Nominating Committee is recruiting candidates for leadership positions on the Board of Trustees, Foundation Board, and Nominating Committee for the next church year. We encourage you to step forward and share your time and skills! Position descriptions and application are available online: <https://tinyurl.com/NomCom1U>. Applications are due April 2.

## RESCHEDULED CONVERSATION ON HOUSING INEQUITY AND SYSTEMIC RACISM

Your thoughts and input are needed! Join us on Tuesday, March 20 (7-9 p.m.) for a round table discussion exploring the intersection between systemic racism and housing inequity. The session will be preceded by a simple complimentary soup and bread supper at 6:30 p.m. Sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/1Uconversations>.



# 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](mailto:sandy@firstuniv.org) or 612-825-1701. If you would like support, contact the church office or Rev. Ruth MacKenzie at 612-825-1701 or any member of our Pastoral Visitor Team.

## Are You Visiting?

Come to a brief orientation to First Universalist and Unitarian Universalism.

## 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](mailto:lauren@firstuniv.org).

## CELEBRATING OUR GENEROSITY

Offering plates from Sunday Service:  
2/18 Close the Gap \$47,382  
2/25 Simpson Housing Services \$969.60  
3/4 Mni Ki Wakan \$925.95

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

## New: Text to Give!

To make a donation to the offering plate via credit card, use your smartphone to text **firstuniv** to **73256**. You'll receive a link to a secure form where you can enter your information. You may also still use the Square Cash app using our cash tag, \$firstuniv. Thank you for your generosity!

## 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](http://firstuniversalistchurch.org).

## NEED A RIDE?

We can help with at least one week's notice. Contact Anne McBean at 612-388-0660 or [mcbea001@yahoo.com](mailto: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*, our email newsletter is published on Thursdays. Subscribe at: [firstuniversalistchurch.org/the-weekly-liberal/](http://firstuniversalistchurch.org/the-weekly-liberal/).



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



WORSHIP THEME: WRESTLING WITH JOY

# WRESTLING THE ANGEL

REV. JEN CROW

MARCH 18, 2018

*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

Franco Holder

## Words of Welcome

Rev. Jen Crow

## Bellsound

## Community Singing

*Kumbaya*

- Gullah (West African/English language) African Spiritual

## Call to Worship

Karen Heegaard

## Community Singing

*Woyaya*

- Sol Amarino (Osibisa), lyrics by Annie Masembe from Uganda

## New Member Ceremony

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink  
Eric Cooperstein

## 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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## Musical Interlude

## 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

*Smart Cookie*

- Richard Schiffman

Rev. Jen Crow

## Community Singing

*There's a River Flowin' In My Soul*

- Rose Sanders

## Sermon

*Wrestling the Angel*

Rev. Jen Crow

## Offertory

*Lead With Love*

- Melanie DeMore

## Community Singing

*There Is More Love Somewhere*

- African American Hymn

## Closing Words

Rev. Jen Crow

## Blessing in Song #413

*Go Now in Peace*

## Worship Leaders

Rev. Jen Crow

Executive Minister

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Minister

Karen Heegaard

Worship Associate

EricCooperstein

Board of Trustees President

Franco Holder

Pianist

Lucy Vokes-Ruffcorn

9:30 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Amelie Vdakes

11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

## Song Leaders

Alix Dvorak

Mary Helmin

Fawzia Khan

Maya Lee

Sarah Lindsay

## Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Rita Franchett of the Visual Arts Committee.

## Offering: Tech Dump

Tech Dump, a division of Jobs Foundation, provides ex-offenders a stabilizing environment with employment and training to successfully move on to livable wage employment. They provide the community secure electronics recycling and repurposing, and develop a comprehensive process that results in zero landfill.

They believe in their model so much, their staff reflects their clients:

Demographics of staff:

History of incarceration or criminal conviction 69%

Substance or alcohol abuse or addiction problem 51%

Mental illness or mental disability 74%

History of homelessness, trauma 64%

## March Worship Theme: Wrestling with Joy

What purpose does joy serve? What is its function? Joy has no utilitarian use, so why is it so necessary? Why does life feel so flat without it? In Jack Gilbert's poem, *A Brief for the Defense*, he states: "We must risk delight. We can do without pleasure, but not delight." Joy lightens the heavy lifting of justice work, or the difficulty of simply living. Joy is about experiencing life welling up, of lithe spirit having its way with us even in the midst of sadness. This month we wrestle with the meaning of joy, something that serves no practical purpose but is absolutely necessary. We cannot make it come to us, nor can we corral it into staying. Still we can invite it, become more prone to its appearance. Most certainly, it takes some wrestling with all the ways and means by which we tell ourselves and one another, that joy is frivolous.