

GET CONNECTED

CONVERSATIONS ON RACIAL JUSTICE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, AND HOMELESSNESS

Join us today (1-3 p.m.) or Tuesday, March 6 (7-9 p.m.) for a round table discussion exploring our individual and collective perspectives and hopes around the issues of racial justice, affordable housing, and homelessness. Our congregation is holding these conversations to explore the intersection between systemic racism and housing inequity. As congregational members of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, our collective ideas will help form future decisions on the next steps in eliminating homelessness and creating affordable housing in the Twin Cities. Drop in today or register for Tuesday at tinyurl.com/1uconversations.

ELECTRONICS COLLECTION EVENT MARCH 17

Drop off your unneeded electronics in the church parking lot on Saturday, March 17 between 9 a.m. and noon! We're partnering with Tech Dump, a local nonprofit which provides job training and practical experience for adults facing barriers to employment, for this electronics collection event. Tech Dump reuses and recycles, offering a "green" alternative to throwing away your old electronics. Find details in our email newsletter and on our website.

13TH — DOCUMENTARY SCREENING & DISCUSSION

The powerful documentary *13th* analyzes the criminalization of African Americans, the U.S. prison boom, and their relationship to the abolishment of slavery via the 13th Amendment. Join us for a two-part screening and conversation on Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 18, 12:30 p.m. This is a drop-in opportunity led by members of the First Universalist Racial Justice Education Team.

DAYTIME CONNECTIONS: "THE TALK" WITH FAMILY

Not the birds and the bees—this "talk" with family focuses on end-of-life matters from medical care to memorials. At Daytime Connections on Thursday, March 15, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., you'll hear helpful stories and lively interaction led by Harlan Limpert, longtime First U member, minister and outgoing UUA executive. Register by March 11 with Sandy at 612-825-1701 or sandy@firstuniv.org. \$5-10 suggested lunch donation.

RACIAL JUSTICE & OUR UU FAITH - MARCH 10 & 17

Join us for an interactive, reflective workshop exploring a framework and tools for understanding race, racism, and whiteness and the spiritual imperative that drives our racial justice work. This two-part workshop will be offered next on Saturdays, March 10 & 17, 9-11:30 a.m. Sign up with Sandy at sandy@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701.

MARCH 18 BENEFIT CONCERT: INDIGENOUS YOUTH TO THE VATICAN

The Environmental Justice and Racial Justice Teams and Veterans for Peace are co-sponsoring a benefit concert at church on **Sunday, March 18** that will help fund a trip for 12 First-Nation youth and adults to visit the Vatican to discuss the historical and intergenerational trauma resulting from the Doctrine of Discovery. **Performers include: Waubanewquay Dorene Day; Max Gail; Prudence Johnson; Tom LaBlanc; Larry Long; and Mitch Walking Elk.** Indigenous youths will do story-telling. Doors open at 1 p.m. for a silent auction and food; concert begins at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Purchase tickets online at www.youthtothevatican.eventbrite.com.

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 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.

CELEBRATING OUR GENEROSITY

Offering plates from Sunday Service:
1/21 Beacon Interfaith Housing \$1,503.31
1/28 Navigate MN \$1,167.96
2/4 TruArtSpeaks \$956.64

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

MEAL SUPPORT

If the ground has shifted beneath your feet, let us bring a meal or two to offer comfort and care. Whenever possible, the Congregational Care team enables congregants to provide meals for each other on a short-term basis in times of need. Contact: Susan Schonfeld at susanwschonfeld@gmail.com.

THE WEEKLY LIBERAL

The Weekly Liberal, our email newsletter is published on Thursdays. Subscribe at: firstuniversalistchurch.org/the-weekly-liberal/.



WORSHIP THEME: WRESTLING WITH JOY

FINDING JOY IN UNEXPECTED PLACES

REV. JUSTIN SCHROEDER

MARCH 4, 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 GatheringFranco Holder

Words of WelcomeRev. Justin Schroeder

Bellsound

PreludeChalice Singers
Ellis Delaney
The Tide is Rising
- Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman and Yotam Schachter

Wisdom StoryRev. Jen Crow

Opening Hymn #315 (Please rise in body or spirit)
This Old World

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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Music for the JourneyEllis Delaney and Congregation
The Tide is Rising

The tide is rising, and so are we! (3x)
This is where we are called to be! (2x)

The task is mighty...
The world is ready... (repeat v.1)

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
Dr. Randal Buikema
Unclouded Day
- Arr. Shawn Kirchner

Oh, the land of cloudless day,
Oh, the land of an unclouded sky,
Oh, they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise,
Oh, they tell me of an unclouded day.

Oh, they tell me of a home where my friends have gone,
Oh, they tell me of that land far away,
Where the tree of life in eternal bloom
Sheds its fragrance through the unclouded day.

SermonRev. Justin Schroeder
Finding Joy in Unexpected Places

OffertoryFranco Holder
Le Onde
- Ludovico Einaudi

Closing Hymn #298 (Please rise in body or spirit)
Wake, Now, My Senses

Closing WordsRev. Justin Schroeder

Blessing in Song #413
Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Justin SchroederSenior Minister
Rev. Jen CrowExecutive Minister
Franco HolderPianist
Ellis DelaneyMusical Guest
Dr. Randal BuikemaDirector of Choral Arts
First Universalist Choir
Chalice Singers
Zoe Wagner9:30 A.M. Chalice Lighter
Cooper Pappajohn-Goldade11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are in celebration of the March 3rd wedding of Kristi Fuller and David Duling in Sedona, AZ. They were arranged by Dick Rueter of the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: Mni Ki Wakan: World Indigenous People's Decade of Water Summit

Mni Ki Wakan seeks to create an ecologically sustainable future of clean and healthy water by strengthening the broader community's relationship with the sacredness of water and convening the annual Mni Ki Wakan (Water is Sacred): World Indigenous Peoples' Decade of Water Summit. They coordinate local and international collaborative initiatives that raise the goals of the Mni Ki Wakan World Water Agenda to planetary proportions and center the voices and preferences of indigenous youth to design the collective path towards a future of clean and healthy water. And they establish indigenous water ambassadors and convene Mde Maka Ska (White Earth Lake) Community Conversations to elevate a future where the sacredness of water is respected and protected at all levels.

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 purpose but is absolutely necessary. We can not 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.