WE WELCOME YOU

To The Visiting Families Welcome Station
after the 11:15 a.m. service.

Alternative Hymn:
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.

JOIN US TODAY

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.

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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.

WE CELEBRATE 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 susanw schoenfeld@gmail.com.

THE WEEKLY LIBERAL

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

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REV. JUSTIN SCHROEDER

MARCH 4, 2018

WORSHIP THEME: WRESTLING WITH JOY

FINDING JOY IN UNEXPECTED PLACES

REV. JUSTIN SCHROEDER

MARCH 4, 2018

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.

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. $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 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 of Indigenous peoples. 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. $10 suggested lunch donation.

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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.

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.

Get Connected

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.

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Music for Gathering
Franco Holder

Words of Welcome
Rev. Justin Schroeder

Bellsound

Prelude
Chalice Singers
Ellis Delaney

The Tide is Rising
- Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman and Yotam Schachter

The Tide is Rising
- Dr. Randal Buikema
- Arr. Shawn Kirchner

The Tide is Rising
- Ludovico Einaudi

Hymn of Prayer #123 (Please remain seated)
Rev. Justin Schroeder

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
(Reprinted with permission by the UUA)

Opening Hymn #315 (Please rise in body or spirit)
Rev. Justin Schroeder

This Old World

Reading
Rev. Jen Crow

Anthem
First Universalist Choir
Dr. Randal Buikema
Unclouded Day
- Arr. Shawn Kirchner

Unclouded Day
- Dr. Randal Buikema

Unclouded Day
- Louisvico Einaudi

Offertory
Franco Holder

Le Onde

Le Onde
- Ludovico Einaudi

Silence

March Worship Theme: Wrestling with Joy
Rev. Justin Schroeder

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.

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.

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.

Blessing in Song #413
Rev. Justin Schroeder

Go Now in Peace

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