



GET CONNECTED

HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Our Christmas Pageants, Solstice Celebration, and Christmas Eve Candlelight Service are cherished traditions at First Universalist Church. Mark your calendar and join us!

Christmas Pageants: Sunday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. each day

Winter Solstice Celebration: Friday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m. doors, 7:30 p.m. ritual

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

Singing Sunday: Sunday, Dec. 30, one worship service at 10 a.m. only

12-STEP SPIRITUALITY: CENTERING PRAYER MEDITATION

12-Step Spirituality meets one Saturday per month in the Social Hall at First Universalist and is designed for those actively working a 12 Step program, as well as those wanting to explore & deepen their spirituality through meditation. Each session includes Centering Prayer meditation instruction, two 20-minute Centering Prayer sessions, reading from 12 Step literature, and presenters sharing personal experiences and sharing on selected topics. The next meeting is Saturday, Dec. 8, 9 a.m. to noon. No registration necessary.

OPEN HEARTS AND SPIRITUAL CARE

We know that worship takes us into deep and surprising places. If you find yourself needing to talk with someone about what is stirring for you on a Sunday morning, please speak with one of our pastoral visitors sitting in the narthex during and after the service. This is how we care for one another.

YOUNG ADULT LUNCH: TODAY!

Are you in your 20s or 30s? Join the First Universalist Young Adults group for lunch today! Meet at the info desk in the social hall at 12:45 p.m. before heading out. The group meets for lunch and conversation on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month after the 11:15 a.m. service. Email Molly Work at mollywork88@gmail.com with any questions.

CHOIR TO PERFORM VIVALDI'S GLORIA DEC. 16

On Sunday, Dec. 16, the First Universalist Choir will lead worship with a performance of *Gloria* by Antonio Vivaldi. Hidden inside this seasonal classic is a story of sanctuary. Vivaldi wrote *Gloria* for Ospedale della Pietà, a charitable institution established in the 14th century to house and care for orphaned and abandoned children. To support its mission of providing sanctuary for children, the Pietà' formed a girls orchestra and choir which became known throughout Europe. Their most famous teacher and concert master was Vivaldi. Please join us for this beautiful and joyous work!

HATS FOR THE HOMELESS

Now in its 10th year, First Universalist knitters are asked to donate beautiful knit caps to Hats for the Homeless to sustain our tradition of bringing warmth and love to our less fortunate neighbors. Barb Melom and Pat Gottschalk have already begun distribution to shelters, schools and community resources. Donated hats and scarves can be brought to our collection basket near the elevator in the atrium, or they can be given to Sandy DiNanni at the hub on Sundays.



WELCOME

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.

Are You Visiting?

Come to First Step, a brief orientation to First Universalist Church and Unitarian Universalism. First Step is generally offered on first and third Sundays.

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.

CYCLE OF LIFE

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.

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 info**, stop by our Information Center in the Social Hall downstairs, call 612-825-1701, or visit our website: firstuniversalistchurch.org.

OFFERING PLATE

Recent offering plates from Sunday Service:

- 11/11 First Universalist Church \$2,957.50
- 11/18 Simpson Housing \$1,181.74
- 11/25 Augsburg Fairview Academy \$1,085.88

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

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 info. You may also use the Square Cash app using our cash tag, \$firstuniv. Thank you for your generosity!

GET OUR NEWSLETTER

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

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Comfort Shawls

Do you like to knit? Contact Pat Foulkes, pfoulkes@hotmail.com, for directions for the comfort shawls that we distribute to congregants in times of need. If you know somebody who is in need of a Comfort Shawl, contact Susan Schonfeld, susanwschonfeld@gmail.com or Mary Ellison, maryellison2491@comcast.net.



DECEMBER WORSHIP THEME: SANCTUARY

Image: "Coffee Klatch" by Ricardo Levins Morales (used with permission)

FINDING SANCTUARY IN EACH OTHER

REV. ELAINE ARON TENBRINK

DECEMBER 2, 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. Karen Hutt

Prelude

Road to Altair I

- David Lanz

Franco Holder

Wisdom Story

The Umbrella Sanctuary

- Tim Atkins

Lauren Wyeth

Opening Hymn

Where You Go (I Will Go)

Where you go, I will go,

Beloved, where you go, I will go. (Repeat)

Where you lie, I will lie,

Beloved, where you lie, I will lie. (Repeat)

Chorus:

And your people are my people,

Your people are mine.

Your people are my people.

Your divine, my divine.

Where you go, I will go, Refugee...Children...

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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Youth Readers

Music for the Journey

Where You Go (Reprise)

Where you go, I will go,

Children, where you go, I will go. (Repeat.)

(Children are excused to go to their Religious Education classes.)

Community Prayer and Cycle of Life

Rev. Karen Hutt

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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Welcoming In Joy

Reading

Second Attempt Crossing

- Javier Zamora

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Anthem

Prayer of the Children

- Kurt Bestor

First Universalist Choir

Dr. Randal Buikema

Sermon

Finding Sanctuary In Each Other

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Offertory

Road to Altair II

- David Lanz

Franco Holder

Final Community Song #1024

Do When the Spirit Says Do

Closing Words

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink

Minister

Rev. Karen Hutt

Adjunct Minister

Lauren Wyeth

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Franco Holder

Pianist

Knut Remmem

9:30 A.M. Youth Reader

Neela Hammer

11:15 A.M. Youth Reader

Allison Carberry

9:30 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Niigann Andrews

11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Holiday Decorations

The Visual Arts Committee has added holiday flourishes to our worship spaces—with best wishes to the congregation.

Offering: Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is active around the world. One of their focuses is Central American Migrant Justice. Violence, impunity, and corruption have forced thousands of Central Americans to flee their homes. Upon reaching the United States, they can be detained, prosecuted, or have their family members taken from them. After years spent building their lives in the United States, they may still be at risk of deportation. UUSC's strategy uses a regional lens, aimed at three aspects of the issue: the right to safety in Central America, the right to safety on the migrant trail, and human rights and the U.S. immigration system. These three aspects are inextricably linked. As with all of the UUSC's initiatives, they focus their grant-making and partner support on grassroots organizations working for systemic change. They believe that connecting groups across the migrant trail from El Salvador to Mexico to the United States will create a strong movement centered on the rights of people, not borders.

December Worship Theme: Sanctuary

In ancient times, finding an inn was more than finding a place to spend the night. Certainly, the inn was a place for the traveler to rest, but it also provided safety and healing to the wayfaring stranger. There were no hospitals in those times, so the inn functioned as one. It was a place to tend to the physical body, and to gather one's spiritual resources for the continuing journey. When we hear the story of the Nativity, when an innkeeper provided a place for the Christ child to be born, perhaps we could imagine ourselves as the innkeeper, and our church as the inn, a place of respite and healing. This is one of our strengths as a faith community. We are a sanctuary, a place one can go to find health, healing and community. When people ask, "What do you believe?" We might respond: "Come with me to a place on 34th and Dupont Avenue South. This is a place where people are nourished, where people begin ministries, where people invest in something beyond self interest, growing in community and ever widening circles of compassion." Theologian Gary Gunderson writes, "I may have trouble articulating what I believe, it is easy to say where I believe." This month we explore the where of what we believe.