



# GET CONNECTED

## FLOWER COMMUNION IS NEXT SUNDAY

Please bring a flower from your yard to contribute to the creation of beautiful bouquets for Flower Communion Sunday on June 2 at 10 a.m. We celebrate the variety of peoples, contexts, and faiths represented in bouquets of beauty that is this congregation.

## SUMMER SUNDAYS: 10 A.M. WORSHIP

From Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, we offer a single worship service at 10 a.m. Please join us for worship at 10 a.m. on Sundays this summer!

## JUNE 9: "MS. MARVEL'S SANDBOX CIRCUS"

Bring your lawn chairs and join us in the parking lot on **Sunday, June 9** at 11:15 a.m. for a BBQ lunch, followed by a 1 p.m. performance of "Ms. Marvel's Sandbox Circus" presented by Open Eye Figure Theatre as part of their Driveway Tour, a roving Twin Cities puppet show. About the show: Ms. Marvel, the cat, is the madcap merry-maker that lives and prowls in your neighborhood. Every summer, Ms. Marvel transforms the sandbox into a circus where thrills, chills, and spills await. No charge to attend, but we'll pass the hat for donations. There will be vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free lunch options available.

## 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.

## ANNUAL MEETING IS JUNE 2

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held following our 10 a.m. Flower Communion Service on Sunday, June 2, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This is a time when we celebrate a successful year and conduct the business of this church that only church members can do. We need a quorum to conduct the meeting – please give us the gift of your time so that we may complete this work!

## CELEBRATING REV. ELAINE JUNE 2

Join us in the Social Hall next Sunday between the service and the annual meeting for a celebration in honor of Rev. Elaine Aron Tenbrink, who will be stepping away from her ministry at First Universalist on June 2. Please help us celebrate her incredible contributions to our community and her decision to make a life-giving transformation to "where love is calling her next."

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

On **Tuesday, May 28**, 6-8 p.m., the Environmental Justice Team is hosting Congresswoman Ilhan Omar and a panel of local environmental leaders here in the Sanctuary to address social justice, the climate crisis, fossil fuel subsidies, zero waste, and the Green New Deal. It is open to the public. Advance registration is required at: <http://bit.ly/2Jojptt>. Come, and invite your friends! But please note: the location of this event is being provided only to our congregation and registered attendees; please refrain from sharing the location on social media.



# 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: June 16

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).

## 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](mailto:sandy@firstuniv.org) or 612-825-1701. If you would like support, contact 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.

## OFFERING PLATE

Recent offering plates from Sunday Service:

	Close the Gap (updated total raised)	\$42,500.00
5/12	CloseKnit	\$768.41
5/19	First Universalist Senior High	\$909.60

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

## GET OUR NEWSLETTER

*The Weekly Liberal*, our email newsletter, is published on Thursdays. Subscribe at: [firstuniversalistchurch.org/the-weekly-liberal](http://firstuniversalistchurch.org/the-weekly-liberal)

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE 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, [susanwschonfeld@gmail.com](mailto:susanwschonfeld@gmail.com)



MAY WORSHIP THEME: THRESHOLDS

# LIVES KNIT TOGETHER

REV. RUTH MACKENZIE

MAY 26, 2019

*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.*

## Preparing Our Hearts (please remain seated)

*Sanctuary*

O prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving,  
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

–John Thompson and Randy Scruggs

## Words of Welcome

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

## Bellsound

## Prelude

*Xtoles* (Mayan work song)

- Jorge Cózatl

Let's go.  
The sun is setting.  
Let's go.  
The night is coming.

First Universalist Choir  
Dr. Randal Buikema, conductor

## Call to Worship

Drew Rosielle

## Opening Hymn #129 (please rise in body or spirit)

*Let Love Continue Long*

## 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. Ruth MacKenzie

## 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

*Rising*

- Wendell Berry

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

## Anthem

*When a Soldier Makes it Home*

- Arlo Guthrie

David Lauth

Alan Ware

## Sermon

*Lives Knit Together*

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

## Responsive Reading #583

*The Young Dead Soldiers*

## Ritual of Remembrance

## Offertory

*In Times Like These*

- Arlo Guthrie

David Lauth

Alan Ware

## Closing Hymn #159 (please rise in body or spirit.)

*This Is My Song*

## Closing Words

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

## Blessing in Song #413

*Go Now in Peace*

## Worship Leaders

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Minister

Drew Rosielle

Worship Associate

Narissa Strong Bach

Pianist

Dr. Randal Buikema

Director of Choral Arts

First Universalist Choir

David Lauth

Guest Musician

Alan Ware

Guest Musician

Jennifer Wilson

Guest Accompanist, ram's horn

## Musical Guests: Alan Ware and David Lauth

Alan Ware and David Lauth were founding members of our former Universal Rock Band. Alan has studied jazz and classical guitar and classical voice, and has performed in various rock bands over the years. David trained as a classical musician and now sings frequently for the services of Unitarian Universalist congregations in Minnesota and Wisconsin. A longtime First Universalist member, David also serves as President of the Board of Trustees for the UUA's MidAmerica Region.

## Chancel Flowers

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

## Offering: Mile in My Shoes

Incarceration, immigration, and homelessness can all create a sense of isolation and hopelessness. Based in homeless shelters and transitional housing facilities, Mile in My Shoes (MiMS) brings together people who are finishing incarceration, people facing homelessness, immigrants, and running mentors to run together regularly. They build community, boost health and wellness, and build leadership, confidence and self-efficacy through the power of running.

## May Worship Theme: Thresholds

The nature of thresholds is that there is one foot in what was, and one foot in what is to become. We may look back, wondering if this step is the right step. We may look forward with resolve and anticipation. The spiritual life is one in which being present to threshold moments is an opportunity in pausing, noticing, remembering, and dreaming. This month we practice suspending our wish to know, our penchant for planning, and surrender ourselves to the deep life of thresholds, of not knowing, and living into our bravery and our love.