GET CONNECTED

Winter/Spring Program Registration Open
Registration for winter/spring programming is now open! A variety of offerings beginning in February offer opportunities for spiritual growth and connection, including circles, workshops, classes, and films. Pick up a program catalog outside the sanctuary today to learn more. Registration for Circles is open through February 2.
Sign up online at the Info Desk in the Social Hall today or any of the following Sundays through Feb. 2.

Foundation Seeking Nominations for Grants
The First Universalist Foundation Board is beginning its 2020 granting season and wants to hear from congregants about potential grant recipient organizations that address human rights at risk, racial justice, and climate justice. It especially seeks organizations whose leadership includes people of color, women, and other underrepresented groups.
Nominations will be accepted until January 28 online at tinyurl.com/1UFoundation2020. Last year the Foundation received 24 nominations and awarded $100,000 in grants to 11 organizations. If you have questions, email foundation@firstuniv.org.

Artist’s Reception with Debbie Cash 1/26
On view in the Social Hall now through Feb. 16 is the mosaic and photography exhibit “Karibu Tanzania” by Debbie Cash — her first solo exhibit. “Karibu Tanzania” is a collection of mosaics of various animals, people, and landscapes encountered during two trips to Tanzania in 2016 and 2018. Debbie will be available to talk about her work after both services on Sunday, Jan. 26.

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, or if you would like support, contact Rev. Ruth MacKenzie at ruth@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701.

Accessibility
Hearing devices are available, ask an usher. Cushions for the pews are located near the entrances to the Sanctuary. Please return them to their home after the service. Designated fragrance-free rows are located in the balcony.

Open Hearts and Spiritual Care
We know that worship can take 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.

Offering Plate
Recent offering plates from Sunday Service:
12/29 Minister’s Discretionary Fund $290.00
1/5 First Universalist Church $1,273.35
1/12 Augsburg Preparatory Academy $1,268.96
To make a donation to the offering plate via credit card, use your smartphone to text firstuni to 73256. Or, use the Square Cash app using our cash tag, Firstuni.

Nominating the Organism that Shares our Commitment to Justice and Equity
Nominate an offering recipient: firstuniversalistchurch.org/offering-plate

Congregational Care
Need a Ride?
If you’re going to church or a doctor’s appointment, we can help with at least one week’s notice. Contact Ann McBean at michael001@yahoo.com or 612-388-0650 (email or text message preferred).

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

Worship Theme: Your Life as Sacred Text

Radical Imagination
Rev. Jen Crow
January 19, 2020

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

Preparing our Hearts
Sanctuary
- John Thompson and Randy Scruggs
O prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary, for you.

Words of Welcome
Arif Mammadani
Rev. Karen Hutt
Franco Holder

Prelude
La Linea Scura
- Ludovico Einaudi

Wisdom Story
Susan Searing

Opening Hymn (See below; Please rise in body or spirit)

Music for the Journey #301
Touch the Earth (v. 1 and 2)
- James V. Blake
(Reprinted with permission by the UUA)

Silence

Cycle of Life
Arif Mammadani

Hymn of Prayer #123 (Please remain seated)
Spirit of Life
Rev. Karen Hutt

Welcoming in Joy
Where You Go (rise in body or spirit when you hear the music start)
Rev. Karen Hutt
Where you go I will go, Beloved
Where you go I will go. (Repeat)
And your people are my people, Your people are mine.
Your people are my people. Your Divine, my Divine.
- Shubhada Jodha
(Reprinted by permission)

Reading
In the Spirit of Martin
- Nikkii Giovanni

Anthem
Rise Up
First Universalist Choir
Dr. Randal Buikema, conductor

Sermon
Radical Imagination
Rev. Jen Crow

Offertory
Quinta Notte
- Ludovico Einaudi
Franco Holder

Closing Hymn #1018 (Please rise in body or spirit)
Come And Go With Me
Rev. Jen Crow

Closing Words
Rev. Jen Crow

Blessing in Song #413
Go Now in Peace
Rev. Jen Crow

Worship Leaders
Co-Senior Minister
Rev. Jen Crow
Director of Membership and Adult Ministries
Arif Mammadani
Adjunct Minister
Rev. Karen Hutt
First Universalist Member and Storyteller
Susan Searing
Pianist
Franco Holder
Musical Guest
Thomas Yoder
Musical Guest
Danny Thompson
Musical Guest
Maddy Stoekmann
Director of Choral Arts
Dr. Randal Buikema
First Universalist Choir
Elizabeth Haugen
9:30 Youth Reader
Alex Kimball
11:15 Chalice Lighter
Neela Hammer
11:15 Youth Reader

Musical Guests
Today we welcome Anoka-Ramsey Community College musicians
Thomas Yoder, Danny Thompson, and Maddy Stoekmann.

Chancel Flowers
Today's flowers are by Betty DeMars of the Visual Arts Committee.

Offering: Exodus Lending
When a payday store opened nearby a church in South Minneapolis in 2011, the congregation took notice. They took a stand with their fellow community members facing economic crisis, and opened Exodus Lending, a first-of-its-kind nonprofit helping Minnesotans families break their cycle of payday loan debt. Exodus enrolls and supports them in a 0% interest alternative program, and lends up to $1,000 to qualified participants.
Exodus envisions a world where all people are free from the cycle of debt caused by predatory lenders. They seek lasting change for the individuals and families, for financial institutions, and for our society.

January Worship Theme: Your Life as Sacred Text
How do you know what you know as a spiritual person? What are the insights, texts, communities, and observations in which you place your trust, and from which your faith arises? Our liberal religious ancestors questioned creeds, picked over the Bible, examined church teachings, and proclaimed that an authentic faith must be free as well as bound by compassion and justice. They said we are gifted with reason and curiosity, and that Universalism must be shaped by our observations and interactions with the natural world and own lives. This month, we invite you to see your life and its unfolding as one of your sources of faith, and as a sacred text the two, hardships, joys, grace, oppressions, pleasures, and setbacks. Together we will exegete (draw out) the context and meanings in the different passages in our lives, examine the psalms of hardships we've encountered, and come to greater insight into the gospel of an awakened life. Your life is a sacred text.