

# GET CONNECTED

## GENDER: BEYOND THE BINARY

Join us for a class led by Forrest Mainville on **Saturday, Feb. 29**, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Cummins Room, to define the social construction of gender, learn about a constellation of gender options, and discuss ways our gender assignment at birth has impacted us. Come with your questions and stories! Sign up online at <https://firstuniversalistchurch.org/spiritual-deepening/>

## "THE CONDOR & THE EAGLE" FILM SCREENING

Join First Universalist's Racial Justice Education Team (RJET) and Environmental Justice Team (EJT) for a drop-in screening of the movie "The Condor & The Eagle." This film offers a glimpse into the developing spiritual renaissance of four Indigenous environmental leaders as they learn from each other's long legacy of resistance to colonialism and its extractive economy. Showing Sunday, **March 1, 1-2:30 p.m.** in Room 200. Light snacks will be provided.

## NEWCOMER CIRCLE BEGINS MARCH 2

Are you new? Whether you are a recent visitor or a new member, you're invited to join a Newcomer Circle. These four-session gatherings of 6-10 newcomers offer a chance to get to know Unitarian Universalism, reflect on our spiritual journeys, and connect with other folks who are new to church. The Next Newcomer Circle will be held on **Mondays, March 2, 9, 16, & 23**, 7-8:30 p.m. Registration is open until filled, and attendance at the first session is required. Register at [firstuniversalistchurch.org/circles](http://firstuniversalistchurch.org/circles).

## POCI CIRCLE: TODAY

Anyone who identifies as a Person of Color or Indigenous Person is welcome to attend POCI Circle **today** at 1 p.m. in the Chancel Room. As we understand the important role of white allies, we also hold dearly the safe spaces where POCI communities can be in UU fellowship together. This group seeks to explore and understand each other's truths, and talk about topics of interest to us.

## NEW EXHIBIT: ARTWORK BY GORDON COONS

Gordon Coons is a painter and printmaker who is largely self-taught. He paints in the Ojibwa Woodland style and creates fumage (smoke art) by burning cedar which he embellishes with 24-karat gold leaf, and also prints with linoleum block. Gordon draws inspiration from his Anishinaabe heritage. His work is on view in the social hall today through March 29. There will be an artist's reception on March 8 after both services.

## WHITE PRIVILEGE CONFERENCE TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS

Several members of the Racial Justice Education Team (RJET) will attend the White Privilege Conference this year in Tempe, Arizona, April 2-4, and are making several tuition scholarships available to folks in our congregation. WPC is a conference to examine issues of privilege beyond skin color, including gender, sexuality, class, disability, etc. All are invited. The scholarships cover tuition only. Lodging and transportation are not covered by the scholarships. To learn more and to apply, please contact RJET members Eric Richard ([erichard\\_hr@yahoo.com](mailto:erichard_hr@yahoo.com)) and Jeff Sylvestre ([jeff@bluemoonpro.com](mailto:jeff@bluemoonpro.com)). Details about WPC can be found at [www.whiteprivilegeconference.com/](http://www.whiteprivilegeconference.com/)

# 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: March 1

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, or if you would like support, contact Rev. Ruth MacKenzie at [ruth@firstuniv.org](mailto:ruth@firstuniv.org) or 612-825-1701.

## 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)

## 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:

2/2	ISAAH
	\$1,010.13
2/9	Youth Cultural Exchange
	\$465.15
2/16	Nawayee Center School
	\$927.54

To make a donation to the offering plate via credit card, use your smartphone to **text firstuniv to 73256**. Or, use the Square Cash app using our cash tag, \$firstuniv.

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

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

### Comfort Shawls

Do you like to knit? Contact Pat Foulkes, [pfoulkes@hotmail.com](mailto: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 Julia Skowronski ([jskow@fastmail.com](mailto:jskow@fastmail.com))



FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
OF MINNEAPOLIS

*In the Universalist spirit of love and hope,  
we give, receive, and grow.*



FEBRUARY WORSHIP THEME: BREAKING DOWN AND BUILDING UP

# BUILDING HOPE

REV. MEG RILEY

REV. KATE TUCKER

KEVEN AMBRUS

FEBRUARY 23, 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

*Come, Come Whoever You Are*

Though you've broken your vows a thousand times,  
you've broken your vows a thousand times...

*(Melody joins when invited)*

Come, come, whoever you are  
Wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving.  
Ours is no caravan of despair.  
Come, yet again, come.

## Words of Welcome

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

## Prelude

*Freedom Come*  
- Ben Allaway

First Universalist Choir  
Dr. Randal Buikema, conductor

## Call to Worship

Monroe Chumklang

## Opening Hymn #1018 (Please rise in body or spirit.)

*Come and Go With Me* (v. 1 and 2)

Come and go with me to that land,  
Come and go with me to that land,  
Come and go with me to that land where I'm bound.  
*(Repeat.)*

There'll be freedom in that land,  
There'll be freedom in that land,  
There'll be freedom in that land where I'm bound.  
*(Repeat.)*

## 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  
(Reprinted with permission by the UUA)

## Reflection

Rev. Meg Riley

## Community Singing

*Come and Go With Me* (v. 3)

There'll be justice in that land,  
There'll be justice in that land,  
There'll be justice in that land where I'm bound.  
*(Repeat.)*

## 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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## Welcoming in Joy

*Where You Go* (Rise in body or spirit when you hear the music start.)

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.

- Shoshana Jedwab  
(Printed by permission)

## Reflection

Keven Ambrus

## Anthem

*O Light, Awaken*  
- Mark Patterson

First Universalist Choir  
Dr. Randal Buikema, conductor

## Reflection

Rev. Kate Tucker

## Offertory

Franco Holder

## Closing Hymn

*Come and Go With Me* (v. 4)  
There'll be singing in that land,  
There'll be singing in that land,  
There'll be singing in that land where I'm bound.  
*(Repeat.)*

## Closing Words

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

## Blessing in Song #413

*Go Now in Peace*

## Worship Leaders

Rev. Meg Riley	Senior Minister of Congregation of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)
Rev. Kate Tucker	Minister Emerita
Rev. Ruth MacKenzie	Minister
Keven Ambrus	Treasurer of the Board of Trustees
Monroe Chumklang	Worshop Associate
Franco Holder	Pianist
Will Kemperman	Djembe
Dr. Randal Buikema	Director of Choral Arts
First Universalist Choir	
Lillian Knuttila	9:30 Chalice Lighter
Lamont Schanen	11:15 Chalice Lighter

## Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Dick Rueter of the Visual Arts Committee, and donated by John and Becky Shockley, in celebration of their 50th Anniversary on February 21.

## Offering: First Universalist Church

Today's offering will support all of our ministry efforts at First Universalist, including pastoral care, Religious Education, Circles, and so much more. Together, we give, receive and grow in the Universalist spirit of love and hope, and your gifts help make this possible!

## February Worship Theme: Breaking Down and Building Up

What we know about this life is that it is transitory: everything is falling apart and coming back together in some related but different configuration, all at the same time, over and over again. We are part and parcel of an ever-creating creation. What helps us navigate this journey of life's breaking down and building up? Do we hide in a shell, wary of what's out there, or what's next? Or do we venture out into the vulnerability and creativity of this flowing life, leaving the shell by the shoreline? Are there currents and patterns that are reliable and trustworthy in an ever-changing world? This month, we explore the dynamics of this impermanent life, and the bonds of community and faith that keep us strong and supple for what's ahead. "For each generation, the challenge is the same:" writes Mark Nepo, "How to leave our shell, and to help each other live once out of their shell."



Today we kick off our 2020-21 Annual Giving drive. This year, we're asking for your financial support as we head into a year of exciting changes. Let us know your giving intentions for the coming fiscal year (beginning July 1) by March 22, and then join us on March 25 for our annual Gathering in Gratitude dinner as we celebrate the generosity and support of this community. Learn more: [firstuniversalistchurch.org/annual-giving/](http://firstuniversalistchurch.org/annual-giving/).