

FIRST UNITARIAN
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY
BR○OKLYN

A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

WHOEVER YOU ARE

Whoever you are
Whomever you love
Wherever you are on your life journey
You are welcome here.

SONG OF HOPE

From all that dwell below the skies
Let songs of hope and faith arise.
Let peace, good will on earth be sung
Through every land by every tongue.

CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL

We bless you on your jour-ney through from shel-tering arms to the wide sky blue. In your
joy - ful jumps and your sad times too, you bless us by be - ing you.

SONG OF HOPE FOR JAZZ SUNDAY

From all that dwell be-low the skies _____ Let songs of hope and faith a - rise _____
Let peace, good-will on Earth be sung _____ Through ev -'ry land by ev -'ry tongue _____

LIGHTING THE CHALICE

Read Responsively:

Blessed is the fire of our faith,
and the chalice of our community;

*Blessed is the living tradition that is carried
forward in our work and in our love*

Blessed is the transient flame we kindle here;

*Blessed is the illuminated moment
of our gathering.*

Blessed is the light of the eternal;

*Blessed is the sacred call of life to which
we give ourselves in answer.*

January 4, 2026

Spaghetti & Marshmallows

Welcome to First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn, where we are exploring the themes of *experimentation* and *failure* through words, music, silence, prayer, and community.

Gathering ♪ Prelude

- ♪ **Love Will Guide Us** (#131)
- ♪ **Whoever You Are** (inside cover)
- Chalice Lighting** (inside cover)
- ♪ **Song of Hope** (inside cover)
- Greeting**

Deepening Wisdom Story

- Children's Blessing & Recessional**
- Silent Meditation & Prayer**
- Candle Lighting**
- ♪ **Turn** from *The Book of Rounds* by Julie Flanders (lyrics) & Emil Adler (music)
arr. Keiji Ishiguri
- Sermon**
- ♪ **Building Bridges** (#1023)

Connecting Offering

- ♪ **Let It Go (from Frozen)** by Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez
arr. Adam Podd
- Announcements**
- ♪ **Woyaya** (insert)
- Benediction**

Love Will
Guide Us

1. Love will guide us, peace has tried us, hope in -
 2. If you can - not sing like an - gels, if you
 3. Love will guide us, peace has tried us, hope in -

side us will lead the way on the
 can - not speak be - fore thou - sands, you can
 side us will lead the way on the

road from greed to giv - ing. Love will
 give from deep with - in you. You can
 road from greed to giv - ing. Love will

guide us through the hard night.
 change the world with your love.
 guide us through the hard night.



Building Bridges

1023

$\text{♩} = 96$

1 Fm Cm Fm Cm

Build - ing Bridg-es— be - tween our di - vi - sions, I

2

reach out to you, will you reach out to me? With

3

all of our voic-es— and all of our vi-sions,

4

friends, we could make such sweet har-mo-ny.

Words: The women of Greenham Common peace occupation in England, 1983
Music: Contemporary English Quaker Round

WOYAYA

SOLAMARFIO

A



We are go - ing, heav - en knows where we are go - ing, but

we know with - in.

And we will get there,

heav - en knows how we will get there, but we know we will...

B



It will be hard, we know, and the road will be

mud - dy and rough, but we'll get there, heav - en knows how we will

C



get there, but we know we will. Wo-ya - ya, Wo-ya - ya.

Senior Minister Rev. Micah C. Ma

Wisdom Story Wendy Russell, Congregational Administrator

Music Director Adam Podd

Our Lay Worship Leader is Jayesh Sheth

Our Lay Pastoral Minister is Daniel Walters

Our Livestream Producer is Justin Parkinson

Our Online Host is Yvonne Garrett, Intern Minister

NOTES:

Mystical reading by Jake the Dog

MUSIC NOTES:

It isn't too late to make a New Year's resolution that serves *you*. Consider joining our fantastic choir! There is no audition, and rehearsals are on Sunday morning before worship. (No weeknights!). Email adam@firstubrooklyn.org if you'd like to know more. We'd love to have you!

Today in Religious Education:

- **Nursery, Toddler, Pre-K** / 11 AM-12:30 PM. Drop off at the 50 Monroe Classroom. Pick up after the service.
- **Grades K-5, Children's Chapel** following *The Wisdom Story*, *the children will be led to the McKinney Chapel for this month's JETPIG session, TRANSFORMATION!* Pick up after the service. **Who will take Wilbur home this week?**
- **Grades 6-7**, Building Bridges / Third Floor Teen Room
- **Grades 8-9**, Coming of Age / 11:00 – 12:30 Library
- **Grades 10-12**, HS Youth Group / 12:30-1:30, Third Floor Teen Room

Registration is Open and Ongoing! Use the QR code to register your child today! Your child/children must be registered in order to participate in our programs.



All are welcome at fellowship in the undercroft, following the service.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Today at First Unitarian:

❖ ***Newcomer Orientation, Today, 12:45PM, Library***

Join our Membership Coordinator, Tyrone Davis, Jr. for this introduction to Unitarian Universalist theology and history. Rev. Micah C. Ma will be there too! If you can't make it this month, mark your calendars for the first Sunday in February or March.

❖ ***YAM Brunch, Today, Following Worship***

The first Sunday of each month, First U's Young Adult group gathers to have brunch together after the service. Join us in the undercroft after the service to come for our first brunch of the New Year!

❖ ***How Do First U Finances Affect Our Ministry Model? Today, 1:00-2:30, Chapel***

How does our financial capacity shape key decisions? This question emerged in the Annual Meeting on May 18; during interviews with 150 congregants over the summer; and at the Congregational Meeting on October 26.

The Board is adjusting staffing in response to Rev. Meagan's and Garnett departures, and in February the Congregation will decide on our future ministry model. All these decisions are strongly affected by our finances.

The Transition Team and Finance Committee invite you to an interactive discussion on our finances and how they impact our path forward. Please come and bring your questions, concerns, ideas and solutions.

Looking Forward:

❖ ***Stewardship Team Info Session, Sunday, January 11th, following the worship service***

Do you enjoy meeting new people, sharing what we love and growing what we need? We're the stewardship team, we reach out to prospective new members to learn about their gifts and help them discern their financial contributions. We also create and implement the annual pledge drive. Please reach out to Vicki Antonini (victoriaantonini@msn.com) to let her know you're interested. All are welcome!

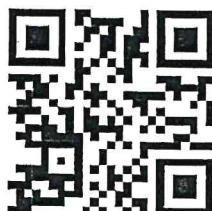
❖ ***Soul Matters Info Session, Sunday, January 11th, following worship***

In January, First Unitarian is launching a new small group ministry called ***Soul Matters***, a monthly space to deepen connection with each other and ourselves by discussing the “Big Questions.” Through individual and small group work, we’ll delve into monthly themes like belonging, practicing resistance, and paying attention—to name a few! We will meet in the Frances White Room. Learn more at soulmatterssharingcircle.com.

❖ ***2026 MLK Day of Service, Monday, January 19th, 10:30AM-2:30PM***

Tuff Art Media will screen the 35-minute film about closing Rikers “Closing the Last Penal Colony.” Tuff Art Media Founder Edwin Santana will speak about the film after it screens. Lunch will be served, followed by a 1:15 – 2:30 PM training sponsored by the Immigrant Solidarity Committee/Social Justice Committee. Please reach out to the committee at socialjustice@firstubrooklyn.org for more details on that training. **We need volunteers! We can't make this happen without help. Childcare will be provided.** Sponsored by the First Unitarian Social Justice Committee.

Share the Plate January: Undue Medical Debt

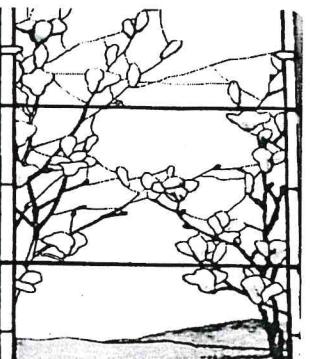
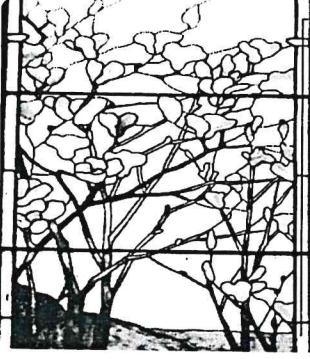


Undue Medical Debt is a national nonprofit whose purpose is to strengthen communities and families by erasing financially burdensome medical debt. Undue purchases medical debt from hospitals and clinics for pennies on the dollar and, instead of collecting the debt from individuals, forgives it. For instance, a donation of \$500 can erase \$50,000 in debt. The organization strives to be a moral force for systemic change to ensure a future where everyone can access healthcare without hardship or fear.

Donations to First Unitarian are received with gratitude. Scan the QR code to the left to be taken directly to our online portal. Checks to First Unitarian or cash may be dropped in the offering plate. Thank you for your generosity.

Please be respectful of the scent free area below the west balcony.

Choose another area of the Sanctuary if you use perfumes, scented soaps, essential oils or scented laundry supplies.



The First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn is a joyful, loving, religious community that inspires and empowers people to Grow spiritually, Care for one another, and Work for social justice and stewardship of the earth.

Unitarian Universalist Values and Covenant

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our Association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love.

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our **shared values**. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

Our congregation is located on a hill near a place where two waterways join and empty into the Atlantic Ocean.

We honor with gratitude the land and the Lenape people who cared for it through many generations. We acknowledge the contributions and experiences of Native peoples, and in tribute to them, pay homage, and strive to learn how to be in better relationship with the earth we all inhabit.

In order to reduce our use of paper, this order of service cover is re-used. If there's information you need, feel free to take it with you, otherwise, please leave it in your pew.

To protect our historic building, please refrain from bringing food into the Sanctuary. Liquids in closed containers are welcome.

At First U, it's very important to us that we care for one another.

After the service a member of our Caring Ministry will be in the Chapel of All Faiths. If you are going through a hard time or if you are concerned about someone else, we invite you to come and connect with them. We very much want to hear from you.

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Checks or cash may be dropped in the offering plate.

Thank you for your generosity.



FIRST UNITARIAN BROOKLYN

CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY



A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

CONGREGATION ORGANIZED IN 1833

BUILDING DEDICATED IN 1844

CLERGY & STAFF

Rev. Micah C. Ma, micah@firstbrooklyn.org
Interim Senior Minister

Adam Podd, adam@firstbrooklyn.org
Director of Music

Wendy Russell, wendy@firstbrooklyn.org
Congregational Administrator & RE Assistant

Renee Strickland, renee@firstbrooklyn.org
Director of Facilities

John McKeown, john@firstbrooklyn.org
Building Engineer

Bobby Blackman, bobby@firstbrooklyn.org
Sexton

Tyrone Davis, Jr. tyrone@firstbrooklyn.org
Membership Coordinator

Becky Huffman, becky@firstbrooklyn.org
Interim RE Coordinator & RE Council Chair

Sean Sellers, sean@firstbrooklyn.org
Youth Coordinator

Yvonne Garrett, yvonne@firstbrooklyn.org
Intern Minister

OFFICERS

Anne Calder & Mark Weiss
Co-Presidents, Board of Trustees

Trustees:

Vicki Antonini, Michele Ascione,
Barbara Bornmann, Luke Messina,
Amanda Nietzel, Jake Powell

Sarah Morgan | *Clerk of the Society*

Lee Pardee | *Treasurer*

James Goward | *Moderator*

Deacons:

Robert Bero, Thomas Check, Liz Davis,
Beth Evans, Patrick Gunn, Laurel Lesio-
Eisenstadt, Edwin Lord, Lee Pardee,
Nancy Wolf

Senior Deacon: Constance Newsom

Music Director Emeritus: William Peek

Bert Eisenstadt *Children's Music Director*

Phylisa St. Fleur *Nursery Caregiver*

Ruby Stackhouse *Nursery Caregiver*

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Sunday 9:00-2:00 / Monday by appt
Tues - Wed - Thurs | 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Office Closed Friday & Saturday

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First Unitarian Universalist Society in Brooklyn

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