

FIRST UNITARIAN
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY
BROOKLYN

A UNITARIAN  UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

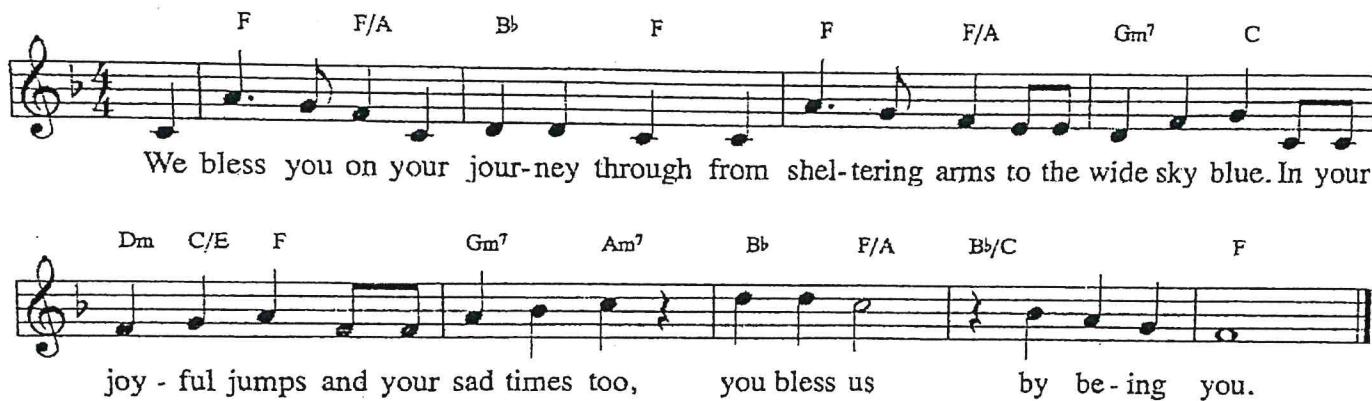
WHOEVER YOU ARE

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

SONG OF HOPE

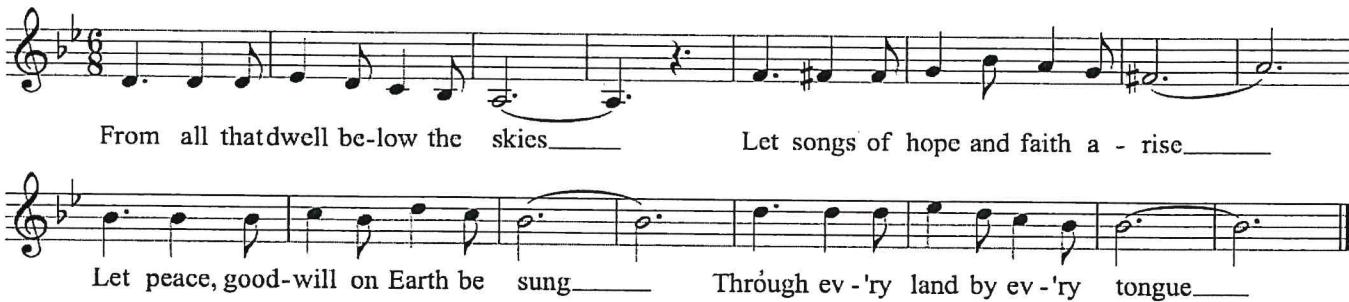
From all that dwell below the skies
Let songs of hope and faith arise.
Let peace, good will on earth be sung
Through every land by every tongue.

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 25, 2026

Trust

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

Gathering ♪ Gathering Music

During this gathering time, let's sing together, creating warm, sacred space. We stand, sit, and dance as we feel moved, and we may light candles to bring our private prayers into the sanctuary.

- ♪ **Winds Be Still** (#83)
- ♪ **Whoever You Are** (inside cover)
- Chalice Lighting** (inside cover)
- ♪ **Song of Hope** (inside cover)

Greeting

Deepening **Wisdom Story | The Garden** from *Frog and Toad Together* by Arnold Lobel

Children's Blessing & Recessional

Silent Meditation & Prayer

Candle Lighting

Reading | *Wild Geese* (#490)

- ♪ ***Be Here, Be Still*** by Melissa Monforti

*Be here, be still, breathe in awareness
Let go, let go, judgement and attachment
Accept what is, gently with compassion
You are where you should be. Be here, be still.*

Sermon

- ♪ **The Lone, Wild Bird** (#15)

Connecting Offering

- ♪ **All Will Be Well** by Will Todd

Announcements

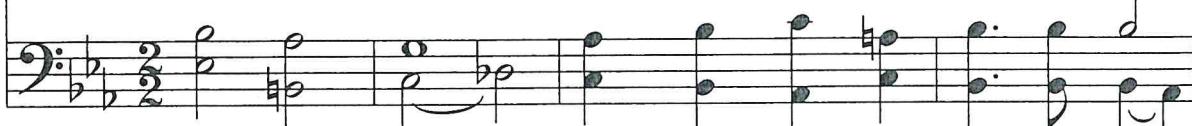
- ♪ **Joy in the Morning** (insert)

Benediction

Winds Be Still

 $\text{d} = 56$ 

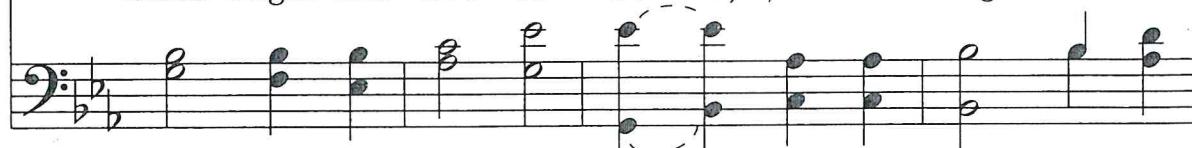
1. Winds be still. Storm clouds pass and si-lence come.
 2. Bird fly high. Lift our gaze toward dis-tant view.
 3. Light shine in. Lu - mi - nate our in-ward view.



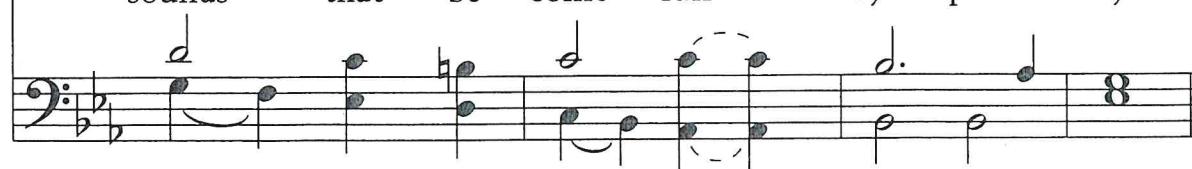
Peace grace this time with har - mo - ny.
 Help us to sense life's mys - ter - y.
 Help us to see with clar - i - ty.



Fly, bird of hope, and shine, light of love, and in
 Fly high and far, and lead us each to see how we
 Shine bright and true so we may join our songs in new



calm let all find tran - quil - li - ty.
 move through the winds of e - ter - ni - ty.
 sounds that be - come full sym - pho - ny.



WILD GEESE

You do not have to be good.

You do not have to walk on your knees for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.

You only have to let the soft animal of your body love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.

Meanwhile the world goes on.

Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain are moving across the landscapes, over the prairies and the deep trees, the mountains and the rivers.

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air, are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting—over and over announcing your place in the family of things.

MARY OLIVER

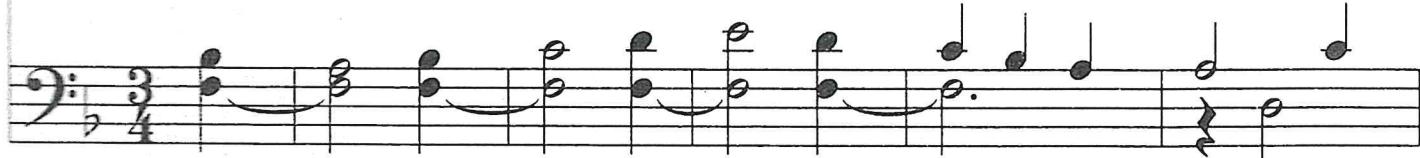
The Lone, Wild Bird

15

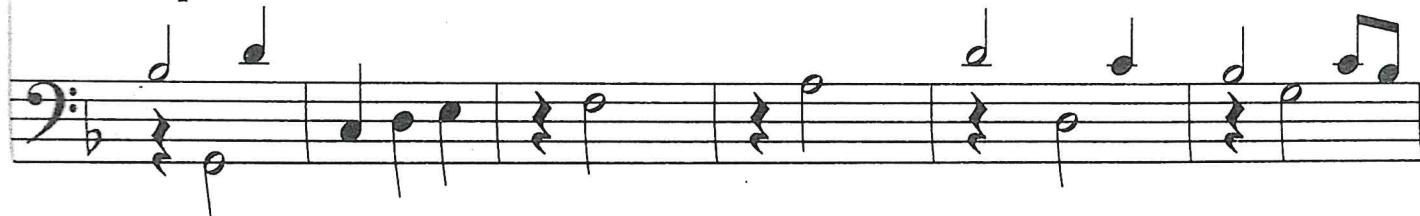
= 108 Unison



1. The lone, wild bird in loft - y flight is still with
2. The ends of earth are in thy hand, the sea's dark



thee, nor leaves thy sight. And I am thine! I rest in
deep and far - off land. And I am thine! I rest in



thee. Great spir - it come and rest in me.
thee. Great spir - it come and rest in me.

Another accompaniment, 232

Words: H. R. MacFayden, 1877-1964

Music: William Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835

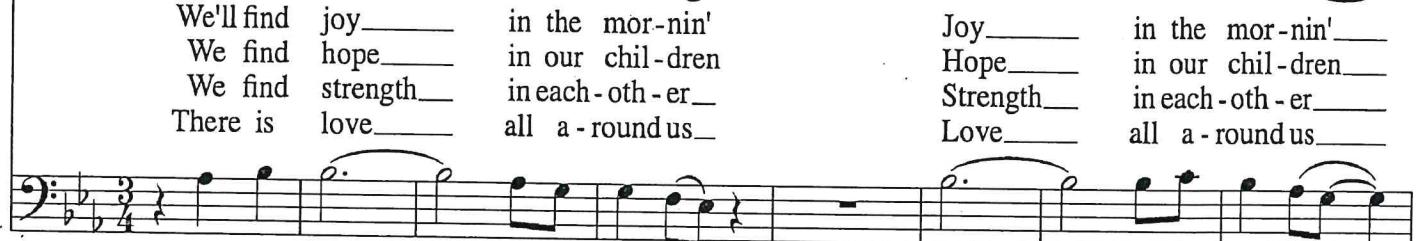
PROSPEC
L.M.

JOY IN THE MORNING

by ADAM PODD



We'll find joy_____ in the mor-nin'
We find hope_____ in our chil-dren
We find strength_____ in each-oth - er
There is love_____ all a - round us



Joy_____ in the mor-nin'
Hope_____ in our chil-dren
Strength_____ in each - oth - er
Love_____ all a - round us



Joy_____ in the mor-nin'
Hope_____ in our chil-dren
Strength_____ in each - oth - er
Love_____ all a - round us

In the mor-nin'
In our chil-dren
In each - oth - er
All a - round us

we'll find joy.
we find hope
we find strength
there is love.



Sermon Rev. Ned Wight

Wisdom Story Emily Hockaday, RE Council

Music Director Adam Podd

Announcements Tyrone Davis, Jr., Membership Coordinator

Our Lay Worship Leader is Octavia Finley

Our Lay Pastoral Minister is Michelle Kuchuck

Our Livestream Producer is Jay Lawrence

Our Connections Table Host is Lee Pardee

NOTES:

Mystical reading by Frederick Buechner

Rev. Ned Wight retired in August 2019 from his position as Interim Senior Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, New York. Prior to that, he served for a decade as Executive Director of the same congregation's UU Veatch Program, which makes grants to social change organizations around the country. He has also served UU congregations in California and Massachusetts. He holds degrees from Harvard Divinity School, Boston University and Stanford University.

Today in Religious Education:

Nursery, Toddler, Pre-K / 11 AM-12:30 PM. Drop off anytime in the 50 Monroe Classroom. Pick up after the service.

The children will exit the Sanctuary during the Children's Recessional and proceed directly to the McKinney Chapel before going to their classroom. Pick up is at 12:30 from the classroom.

Grades K-1: Love Surrounds Us - Eastman Room

Grades 2-3: Moral Tales - Green Room

Grades 4-5: OWL - 11:00-12:30, Frances White Room

Grades 6-7: *Building Bridges – Attend Service

Grades 8-9: *Coming of Age – Attend Service

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.

**Building Bridges and Coming of Age are subject to change*

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.

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

Notice of Congregational Meeting:

Sunday, February 22nd, 12:45 PM in the Sanctuary.

Documents, including the agenda, will be made available on our website, fuub.org, as they become available. All are invited. Only members of the congregation in good standing may vote. *Members must have signed the membership book at least 60 days before the meeting and completed a current year pledge form.* If you are unsure of your voting status, please contact Tyrone Davis, Jr. (tyrone@@firstbrooklyn.org)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Today at First Unitarian:

❖ ***The Hundred Years' War on Palestine, Today, 2:00 PM, Sanctuary***

We invite you to an afternoon talk with Professor Rashid Khalidi, an esteemed scholar, author, and historian of the Middle East, the Edward Said Professor of Modern Arab Studies Emeritus at Columbia University, and author of The Hundred Years' War on Palestine. He will discuss the region's history, the roots of the current crisis, and a path toward a sustainable future for Palestine. Also featuring Rev. Meagan Henry of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, who will discuss her experiences from her most recent trip to Gaza. Scan the QR code for Ticket Information:



❖ ***Religious Naturalism, Today, 12:45-2:15 PM – Frances White Room***

❖ ***Poetry of Devotion and Doubt, Today, 1:45 PM***

January marks the beginning of a new year, and a new year is often a time of deep reflection and thoughts about change. We will continue looking at poetry of faith and doubt. Daniel Walters will lead off with poems from George Herbert and Algernon Charles Swinburne. Participants are invited to bring poems written by others and themselves. All are welcome. Contact Beth Evans (beth.evans.is@gmail.com) with any questions.

Looking Forward:

❖ ***Men's Group meets Monday, January 26th, 6:00-8:00 PM. In the Library***

❖ **Last Call: Join a Soul Matters Cohort for Spring 2026!**

First U is launching a new small ministry group 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 such as belonging, practicing resistance, and cultivating compassion. Groups meet once per month beginning in February. For more information, check out <https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com> or reach out to Cyndi Kerr (cyndikerr@gmail.com). **Ready to join? Use the QR Code before January 29th.**

❖ **Chalice Circle, 6 Weekly Zoom Sessions Beginning Monday, February 2nd, 6:30 - 8:00 PM.** Session dates; M 2/2, M 2/9, M 2/23, M 3/2, M 3/9, M 3/16 (no meeting M 2/16)

Join facilitator Yvonne Garrett, Intern Minister, for this second series exploring our shared Unitarian Universalist theology. We will follow a covenant group model, starting with a chalice lighting, check-in, opening reading or video, and discussion questions. Each member of the group will be given equal time to respond before moving to a more open discussion. We will practice listening deeply to each other as we explore the UU Values. Limited to 10 people. **Contact Yvonne (yvonne@firstbrooklyn.org). The Zoom link will be sent to all those registered prior to our first meeting.**

❖ **First Unitarian Women's Retreat, March 20-22, 2026**

LAST CALL for interest in our First U **March 20-22 retreat** where we nourish ourselves and our community at the Stony Point Center in the Hudson Valley. The cost of the retreat is \$190 and covers food and lodgings. Scholarship support will be available. Please email the WLA board if you'd like to join us or would like to know more! judithsdts@gmail.com.



The Social Justice Committee is still sponsoring a weekly food collection.

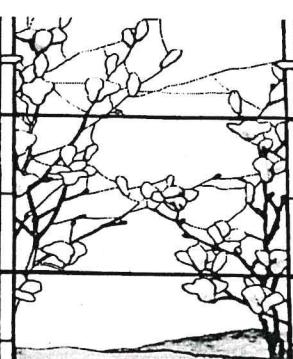
We seek shelf-stable donations of food items in cans, plastic, or cartons—**no glass please**—that we'll bring to the community food pantry at our neighbor, First Presbyterian. Look for the donation basket in the vestibule as you enter the church. Items of all kinds, including cereals, pasta, sauces, canned fruit and vegetables, Parmalat, and more, are very well received.

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.



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@firstubrooklyn.org
Interim Senior Minister

Adam Podd, adam@firstubrooklyn.org
Director of Music

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

Renee Strickland, renee@firstubrooklyn.org
Director of Facilities

John McKeown, john@firstubrooklyn.org
Building Engineer

Bobby Blackman, bobby@firstubrooklyn.org
Sexton

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

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

Sean Sellers, sean@firstubrooklyn.org
Youth Coordinator

Yvonne Garrett, yvonne@firstubrooklyn.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*

OFFICE

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Info@firstubrooklyn.org

Office Hours:

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

EMAIL: info@firstubrooklyn.org

WEB: www.fuub.org

INSTAGRAM: FirstUBrooklyn

YOU TUBE: FirstUnitarianBrooklyn

FACEBOOK:

First Unitarian Universalist Society in Brooklyn

GIVE BY TEXT (855) 799-2543