

FIRST UNITARIAN  
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY  
BR<sup>Ⓢ</sup>KLYN  
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.

## 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.*

## CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL

Musical notation for the Children's Recessional. The first line is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: F, F/A, Bb, F, F, F/A, Gm7, C. The lyrics are: "We bless you on your jour-ney through from shel-tering arms to the wide sky blue. In your". The second line continues the melody. Chords are indicated above the staff: Dm, C/E, F, Gm7, Am7, Bb, F/A, Bb/C, F. The lyrics are: "joy - ful jumps and your sad times too, you bless us by be - ing you."

## SONG OF HOPE FOR JAZZ SUNDAY

Musical notation for the Song of Hope for Jazz Sunday. The first line is in 6/8 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: "From all that dwell be-low the skies\_\_\_\_\_ Let songs of hope and faith a - rise\_\_\_\_\_". The second line continues the melody. The lyrics are: "Let peace, good-will on Earth be sung\_\_\_\_\_ Through ev - 'ry land by ev - 'ry tongue\_\_\_\_\_".

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.

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### 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

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### 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)

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### Connecting Offering

♪ *All Will Be Well* by Will Todd

Announcements

♪ Joy in the Morning (insert)

Benediction

## Winds Be Still

$\text{♩} = 56$

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 GEESSE

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 ex-  
citing—over and over announc-  
ing your place in the family of  
things.*

MARY OLIVER

# The Lone, Wild Bird

15

$\bullet = 108$  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

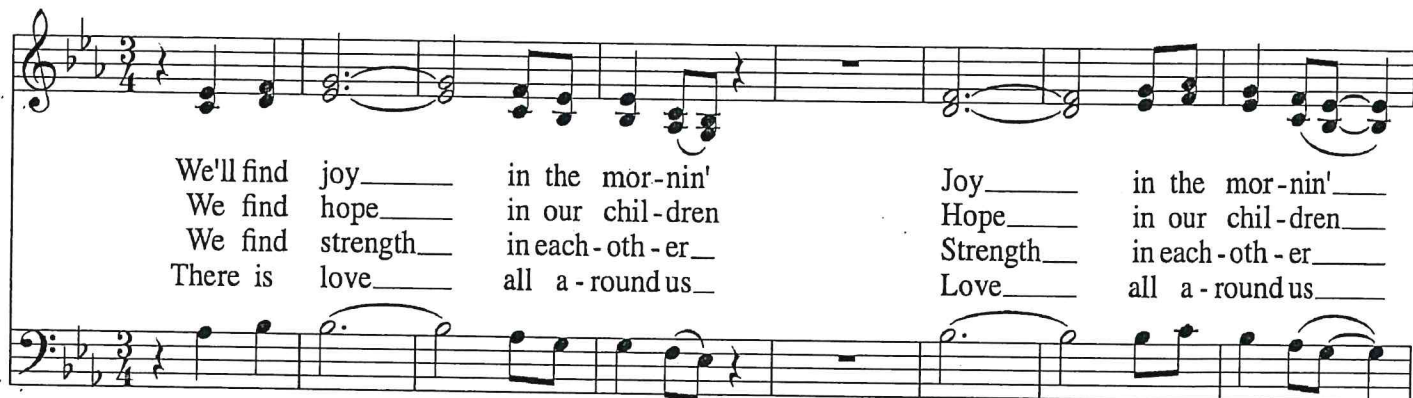
Music: William Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835

PROSPEC'  
L.M.

THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE

# JOY IN THE MORNING

by ADAM PODD



The first system of the musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a time signature of 3/4. It contains a melody with various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment with mostly quarter and half notes. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the musical phrases.

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\_\_\_\_\_



The second system of the musical score continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It also consists of two staves in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of two flats and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the staves, continuing the narrative of the song.

Joy\_\_\_\_\_ in the mor-nin'  
Hope\_\_\_\_\_ in our chil-dren  
Strength\_\_\_\_\_ in each-oth-er  
Love\_\_\_\_\_ all a-round us

In the mor-nin' we'll find joy.  
In our chil-dren we find hope  
In each-oth-er we find strength  
All a-round us 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

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**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.

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**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*

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**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@@firstubrooklyn.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 26<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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@firstubrooklyn.org](mailto:yvonne@firstubrooklyn.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](mailto: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.

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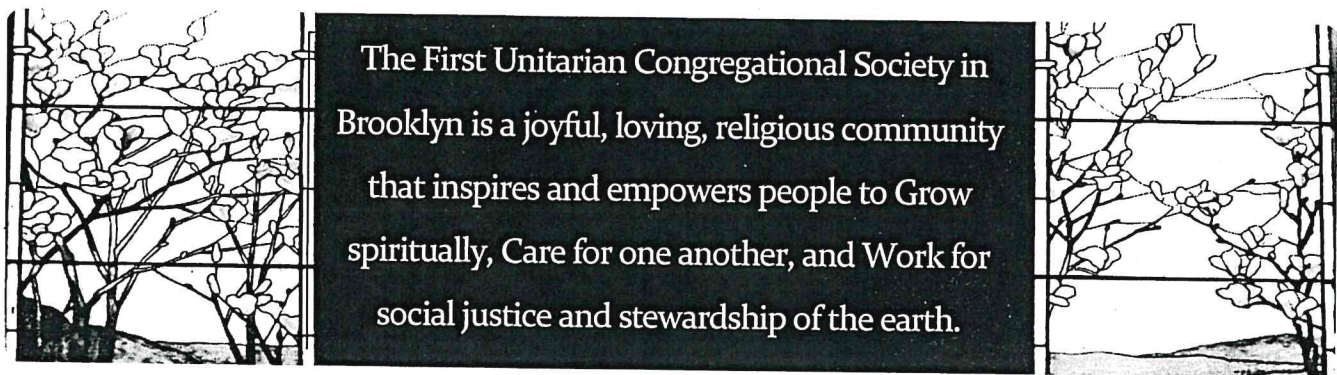
**Share the Plate January: Undue Medical Debt**



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

A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

CONGREGATION ORGANIZED IN 1833

BUILDING DEDICATED IN 1844

## CLERGY & STAFF

**Rev. Micah C. Ma**, [micah@firstubrooklyn.org](mailto:micah@firstubrooklyn.org)  
*Interim Senior Minister*

**Adam Podd**, [adam@firstubrooklyn.org](mailto:adam@firstubrooklyn.org)  
*Director of Music*

**Wendy Russell**, [wendy@firstubrooklyn.org](mailto:wendy@firstubrooklyn.org)  
*Congregational Administrator & RE Assistant*

**Renee Strickland**, [renee@firstubrooklyn.org](mailto:renee@firstubrooklyn.org)  
*Director of Facilities*

**John McKeown**, [john@firstubrooklyn.org](mailto:john@firstubrooklyn.org)  
*Building Engineer*

**Bobby Blackman**, [bobby@firstubrooklyn.org](mailto:bobby@firstubrooklyn.org)  
*Sexton*

**Tyrone Davis, Jr.**, [tyrone@firstubrooklyn.org](mailto:tyrone@firstubrooklyn.org)  
*Membership Coordinator*

**Becky Huffman**, [becky@firstubrooklyn.org](mailto:becky@firstubrooklyn.org)  
*Interim RE Coordinator & RE Council Chair*

**Sean Sellers**, [sean@firstubrooklyn.org](mailto:sean@firstubrooklyn.org)  
*Youth Coordinator*

**Yvonne Garrett**, [yvonne@firstubrooklyn.org](mailto: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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Brooklyn, NY 11201

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[Info@firstubrooklyn.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@firstubrooklyn.org)

**WEB:** [www.fuub.org](http://www.fuub.org)

**INSTAGRAM:** FirstUBrooklyn

**YOU TUBE:** FirstUnitarianBrooklyn

### FACEBOOK:

First Unitarian Universalist Society in Brooklyn

**GIVE BY TEXT** (855) 799-2543