

FIRST UNITARIAN  
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY  
BR  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.

## CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL

Musical notation for the Children's Recessional. The first line of music is in 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Above the staff, the following chords are written: F, F/A, Bb, F, F, F/A, Gm7, and C. Below the staff, 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 of music continues the melody, also in 4/4 time. Above the staff, the following chords are written: Dm, C/E, F, Gm7, Am7, Bb, F/A, Bb/C, and F. Below the staff, 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 of music is in 6/8 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Below the staff, the lyrics are: "From all that dwell be-low the skies\_\_\_\_\_ Let songs of hope and faith a - rise\_\_\_\_\_". The second line of music continues the melody, also in 6/8 time. Below the staff, the lyrics are: "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.*

February 15, 2026

# The Nerve Center of My Consent

Welcome to First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn, where we are exploring the themes of ***purpose*** and ***action*** 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.*

♪ **More Waters Rising** (insert)

♪ **Whoever You Are** (inside cover)

**Chalice Lighting** (inside cover)

♪ **Song of Hope** (inside cover)

**Greeting**

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## Deepening **Wisdom Story**

**Children's Blessing & Recessional**

**Silent Meditation & Prayer**

**Candle Lighting**

♪ ***My Heart is Ready*** by Cindy Kallett

**Sermon**

♪ **From the Crush of Wealth and Power** (#125)

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## Connecting **Offering**

♪ ***Ella's Song*** by Bernice Johnson Reagon

**Announcements**

♪ **More Waters Rising** (insert)

**Benediction**

## **More Waters Rising** *by Saro Lynch-Thomason*

There are more waters rising, **this I know, this I know**

There are more waters rising, **this I know**

There are more waters rising, **they will find their way to me**

There are more waters rising, **this I know, this I know**

There are more waters rising, **this I know**

There are more fires burning...

There are more mountains falling...

I will wade through the waters, **this I know, this I know**

I will wade through the waters, **this I know**

I will wade through the waters, **when they find their way to me**

I will wade through the waters, **this I know, this I know**

I will wade through the waters, **this I know**

I will walk through the fires....

I will rebuild the mountains...



# From the Crush of Wealth and Power

125

*♩ = 80 Unison*

1. From the crush of wealth and pow - er some - thing  
2. E - ven now our hearts are wa - ry of the  
3. When our love for one an - oth - er makes our  
4. Ev - 'ry time our spir - its lan - guish ter - ri -

bro - ken in us all waits the spir - it's si - lent  
friend we need so much. When I see the pain you  
bur - dens light to bear, find the sis - ter and the  
fied to draw too near, may we know each oth - er's

hour plead - ing with a poi - gnant call, bind  
car - ry, shall I, with a gen - tle touch, bind  
broth - er, hun - gry for the feast we share; bind  
an - guish and, with love that casts out fear, bind

all my wounds a gain.  
all your wounds a - gain?  
all their wounds a - gain.  
all our wounds a - gain.

Lyrics: Kendyl L. R. Gibbons, 1955- , © 1992 Unitarian Universalist Association  
Music: Peter Cutts, 1937- , © 1969 Hope Publishing Co.

BRIDEGROOM  
8.7.8.7.6.

LOVE AND COMPASSION

**Worship Leader** Rev. David Olson

**Wisdom Story** Dawn Elane Reed

**Music Director** Adam Podd

**Our Lay Worship Leader & Announcements** is Octavia Findley

**Our Lay Pastoral Minister** is Michelle Kuchuk

**Our Livestream Producer** is Robin Bossert

**Our Connections Table Host** is Luke Messina

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## **NOTES:**

**Mystical reading** by Howard Thurman

**Reverend David Olson** is the Associate Minister for Congregational Life at Shelter Rock UU on Long Island. Rev. Olson has been a Unitarian Universalist minister for 25 years. He came to UUCSR after ministries at the Community Church of Boston (Unitarian Universalist), Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint Michigan, and First Unitarian Church of Baltimore. Rev. Olson has extensive experience in music and community organizing.

## **MUSIC NOTES:**

The lyrics for ***Ella's Song*** were created from statements by Ella Baker whose legacy of organizing against exploitation, racism and injustice stretched more than fifty years.

*"In order for us as a poor and oppressed people to become part of a society that is meaningful, the system under which we now exist has to be radically changed. This means that we are going to think in radical terms. I use the term radical in its original meaning - getting down to and understanding the root cause. It means facing a system that does not lend itself to your needs and devising means by which you change the system."* - Ella Baker

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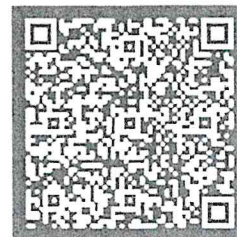
## **Today in Religious Education:**

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

**Grades K-5: Sunday Funday!** *The children will exit the Sanctuary during the Children's Recessional and proceed directly to the McKinney Chapel. Pick up is at 12:30 from the Chapel.*

*Many of the older kids will be attending the family retreat. All others are invited to attend Worship*

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



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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](http://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](mailto:tyrone@firstubrooklyn.org))

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### **Today at First Unitarian:**

❖ ***Young Adult Spiritual Discussion 2/15***

Join the First U Young Adults after the service for a discussion group in the Library! Each month, we meet to discuss a specific topic related to spirituality and well-being, and to continue the conversation from the sermon. This month, we will be discussing The Nature of Storytelling, so come with recommendations of your favorite stories that have most inspired you and what made them so special! There will be pizza!

❖ ***Shawls and Crafts Ministry, Today, Following Worship***

We will meet during Fellowship Hour in the undercroft to craft together. Yarn, needles and guidance are all available. We look forward to spending time with our fellow crafters.

### **Looking Forward:**

❖ ***Friday Night Open Mic! Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 - 9:00 PM, McKinney Chapel***

Bring your favorite song, poem, story, monologue, or comedy routine to share. We'll have an accompanist for singers (or for background music for a spoken piece if you choose).

Refreshments will be available. Future dates are: Mar 20, Apr 24, May 8, Jun 12.

For more info or to RSVP, contact Wendy Russell ([wendy@firstubrooklyn.org](mailto:wendy@firstubrooklyn.org)).

❖ ***Chalice Circle, Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 - 8:00 PM, Zoom***

**Remaining session dates are: March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>**

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 U Family Game Night, Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:00-8:00 PM***

Fun, Food, & Fellowship. We're serving pizza! Please bring a dessert or beverage to share. Bring a favorite game or play one of the many games we have, or just sit back and enjoy the goings-on! Undercroft.

❖ ***Is Nuclear Power New York's Future?, Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1:PM In the Chapel***

Governor Hochul's proposal to expand nuclear energy is stirring debate across the state. Join the Green Team for a lively panel discussion and hear diverse perspectives from climate, energy, and community leaders. Come learn, ask questions, and be part of the conversation shaping New York's energy future. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

❖ ***First Unitarian Women's Retreat, March 20<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026***

Retreat Payment Due: Thanks to everyone who braved the freezing weather and made our brunch last Saturday so successful. It's now time to claim your spot at our March retreat with your payment of \$190. It should be made on our First U digital payment site, you can use the QR code to access the site. Please remember to note that it's for the retreat. Need more information? Email [Judithsdts@gmail.com](mailto:Judithsdts@gmail.com).



❖ ***The Hundred Years' War on Palestine Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 PM***

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. Ticket Information: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/the-hundred-years-war-on-palestine>

**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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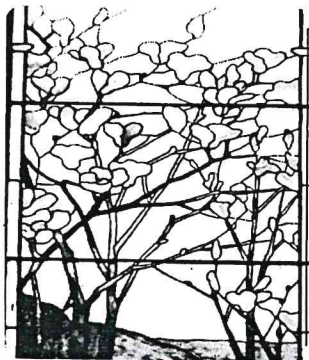
**Share the Plate February: The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota**



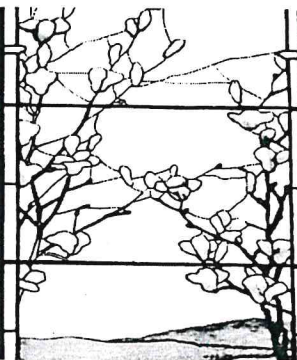
The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota enhances opportunities for immigrants and refugees through free immigration legal representation for low-income individuals, and through education and advocacy with diverse communities.

**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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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  
*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

48 Monroe Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Tel (718) 624-5466  
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