

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.

## CHILDREN'S RECESSONAL

Chords: F, F/A, B $\flat$ , F, F, F/A, Gm $^7$ , C

We bless you on your jour-ney through from shel-tering arms to the wide sky blue. In your

Chords: Dm, C/E, F, Gm $^7$ , Am $^7$ , B $\flat$ , F/A, B $\flat$ /C, F

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.*

March 8, 2026

# No Guilty Pleasures

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

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Gathering ♪ **Prelude** | *St. Louis Blues* by W.C Handy

♪ **There's a River Flowin' in My Soul** (#1007)

♪ **Whoever You Are** (inside cover)

**Chalice Lighting** (inside cover)

♪ **Song of Hope** (inside cover)

**Testimonial**

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Deepening **Wisdom Story** | *Julius' Candy*

**Children's Blessing & Recessional**

**Silent Meditation & Prayer**

**Candle Lighting** | *Never Never Land* by Jule Styne

♪ *Are You Havin' Any Fun?* by Jack Yellen & Sammy Fain

**Sermon**

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Connecting **Offering**

♪ *First U Choir's "Feel Good" Mega-Mix Sing-along*

**Announcements**

♪ **Joy to the World** by Three Dog Night

*Joy to the world, all the boys and girls*

*Joy to the fishes in the deep blue sea,*

*Joy to you and me!*

**Benediction**

# There's a River Flowin' in My Soul

Slow gospel feel ♩ = 120

E<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>7 A<sup>b</sup>/C E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>7

There's a riv-er flow-in' in my soul. —  
heart. —  
mind. —

E<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>/G B<sup>b</sup>

There's a riv-er flow-in' in my soul. —  
heart. —  
mind. —

B<sup>b</sup>7 E<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>/G E<sup>b</sup>/B<sup>b</sup> G

And it's tell - in' me that I'm some - bo - dy -

There's a River Flowin' in My Soul - 2

Cm A<sup>b</sup>sus2 E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

— There's a riv-er — flow-in' in my soul. —  
heart. —  
mind. —

The first system features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staves. The key signature is C minor (three flats). The vocal line begins with a whole note 'There's a riv-er' followed by a half note 'flow-in' and a quarter note 'in my soul.' The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a more complex melody in the right hand.

1, 2 3 *Sing this section several times* A<sup>b</sup>

There's a — There's a — riv-er — flow-in'. There's a —

The second system is a repeat section. It starts with a first ending bracket labeled '1, 2' and a second ending bracket labeled '3'. The instruction 'Sing this section several times' is written above the staff. The key signature changes to A-flat major (two flats). The vocal line has a rest for the first two measures, then sings 'There's a riv-er flow-in'. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

Last time E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

riv-er — flow-in' in my soul. —

The third system is the final ending. It is marked 'Last time' and returns to the key signature of E-flat major (three flats). The vocal line has a rest for the first two measures, then sings 'riv-er flow-in' in my soul.' The piano accompaniment concludes the piece with sustained chords and a final melodic flourish.

**Interim Minister** Rev. Micah C. Ma  
**Wisdom Story** Becky Huffman, Interim Religious Education Coordinator  
**Music Director** Adam Podd  
**Announcements** Tyrone Davis, Jr., Membership Coordinator  
**Our Lay Worship Leader** is Kate Caudill  
**Our Lay Pastoral Minister** is ET Boyle  
**Our Livestream Producer** is Jay Lawrence  
**Our Connections Table Hosts** are Colleen Olson & Charles Lynch

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**NOTES:**

**Mystical reading** by Canadian activist and author Michael Kaufman

**MUSIC NOTES:**

Welcome to Second Sunday Jazz Worship. Each month, we bring you a jazz worship service featuring some of the best musicians in NYC, as well as our great choir. Every Sunday, but especially on Jazz Sundays, we invite you to take a moment to recognize the origins of the music that moves you here at First U. Much of it traces back to a Black tradition. We can best honor those traditions by listening with our hearts, responding with our bodies, and opening ourselves up to the depth of expression.

This monthly series is made possible entirely by your donations to the Julie McKinney Special Music Fund. Thanks so much to those who donate and have sustained our Second Sunday Jazz programming over the years. You can give at [fuub.org/musicfund](http://fuub.org/musicfund)

Today's musicians include: **Jason Prover**, trumpet / **Skye "Blue" Carranza**, saxophone / **Peter Traunmueller**, drums / **Rob Jost**, bass / **Pat Lawrence**, soloist (*Are You Havin' Any Fun?*)

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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. 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**, Site Visit – St. James Cathedral Basilica

**Grades 8-9: \*Coming of Age** – Fundraiser Lunch Prep, Kitchen

**Grades 10-12: HS Youth Group** – 12:30-1:30, Third Floor Teen Room

*\* Building Bridges and Coming of Age subject to last minute changes*

**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.



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

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Today at First Unitarian:

- ❖ *Coming of Age Lunch Fundraiser –Today, following worship. Undercroft.*
- ❖ *FUUB World Café! Today, following worship, Chapel, Frances White Room, & Sanctuary.*

You're invited to FUUB World Café! After worship, come on this fun, interactive tour to learn about these important aspects of First U's operations: Worship/Pastoral Care, Finance/Administration, and Programming/Engagement. Here you'll learn not only about "Who Does What" but "How Things Happen" around here. You will travel in three small groups to different areas where our clergy and staff will provide information and answer your questions. Sponsored by the Transition Team to give you a better understanding of how our church runs as we prepare to enter Ministerial Search. Bring a friend!

- ❖ *The Men's Group will meet Today, 1:00-2:45 PM, Library.*  
Newcomers are welcome.

### Looking Forward:

- ❖ *Chalice Circle, Mondays, 9<sup>th</sup>, & 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 - 8:00 PM, Zoom*

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.  
[yvonne@firstubrooklyn.org](mailto:yvonne@firstubrooklyn.org).

- ❖ *Book Club is meeting Thursday, March 12th, at 7 on Zoom.*

The book is *The Wren, The Wren* by Anne Enright. Next month we are reading *Afterlife* by Julia Alvarez. Please email Langdon Holloway at [l.a.holloway35@gmail.com](mailto:l.a.holloway35@gmail.com) for the zoom link. All are welcome.

- ❖ *Poetry of Devotion and Doubt, Sunday, March 15th, 12:30 -2:00 PM, Frances White Room*

We are on the brink of spring, a time of change. A time of leaving, a time of arriving. The spiritual path we take from doubt to devotion, from devotion to doubt, can be a lifelong process. Please join the First U poetry group as we move through this continuum. The Poetry of Doubt and Devotion group will be meeting Sunday, March 15 from 12:30-2 pm in the Frances White Room. Bring your open minds and thoughts as we explore poems from Anne and Branwell Bronte. Contact Beth Evans [beth.evans.is@gmail.com](mailto:beth.evans.is@gmail.com)

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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.

❖ **Friday Night Open Mic! Friday, March 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). Let's celebrate spring! Refreshments will be available. Future dates are: Apr 24, May 8, Jun 12. For more info or to RSVP, contact Wendy Russell ([wendy@firstubrooklyn.org](mailto:wendy@firstubrooklyn.org)).

❖ **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 the West Bank. Ticket information: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/the-hundred-years-war-on-palestine>

**Ministerial Search: Help Shape the Future of First U!**

First U is officially beginning its search for our next Senior Minister. We are looking for dedicated members to form the Ministerial Search Committee. This is a rare, rewarding opportunity to have a significant long-lasting impact on the life of our congregation.

**Commitment:** This is a year-long commitment requiring steady work (August 2026 – May 2027). You can read more about what the search committee entails here: <https://tinyurl.com/ff8p4wpX>

**Apply:** If you are interested in serving, please apply here: <https://tinyurl.com/mv3nkpjx>

**Nominate:** If you would like to nominate another member of First U for consideration, please email [NomCom2026@firstubrooklyn.org](mailto:NomCom2026@firstubrooklyn.org) with their name and a short explanation of why you think they'd make a great committee member.

**Questions?:** Contact one of the members of the Special Nominating Committee listed below or send an email to [NomCom2026@firstubrooklyn.org](mailto:NomCom2026@firstubrooklyn.org).

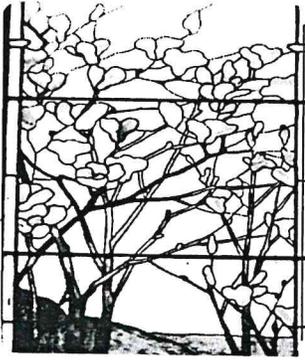
**Share the Plate March: The First U High School Youth Group**



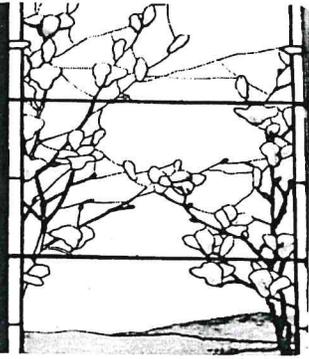
This collection fundraises for the youth group service trip to McDowell County, West Virginia, where they do construction work and other community services through Big Creek People in Action, in an attempt to help one of the most impoverished counties in the nation and to meet people from backgrounds that are incredibly different from their own.

**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