

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

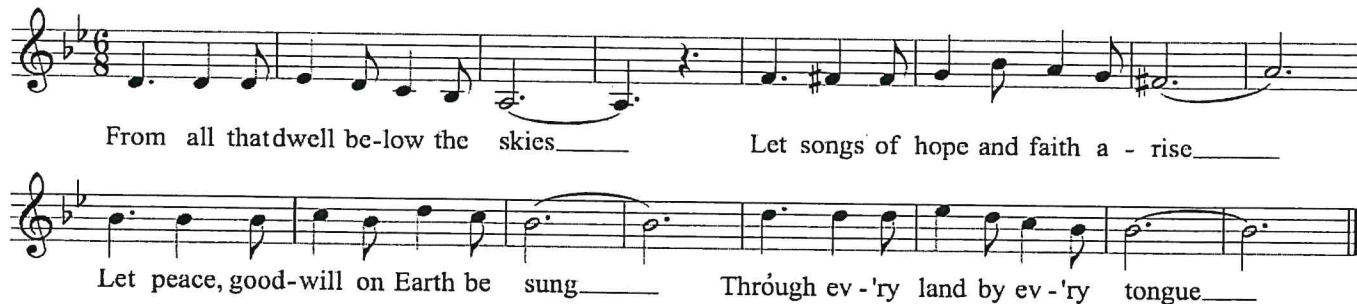
From all that dwell below the skies
Let songs of hope and faith arise.
Let peace, good will on earth be sung
Through every land by every tongue.

CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL



Musical notation for the Children's Recessional. The first line of music is in 4/4 time and contains the lyrics: "We bless you on your jour-ney through from shel-tering arms to the wide sky blue. In your". The second line of music is in 4/4 time and contains the lyrics: "joy - ful jumps and your sad times too, you bless us by be-ing you." Chord symbols are written above the notes: F, F/A, Bb, F, F, F/A, Gm7, C, Dm, C/E, F, Gm7, Am7, Bb, F/A, Bb/C, F.

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 and contains the lyrics: "From all that dwell be-low the skies. Let songs of hope and faith a - rise". The second line of music is in 6/8 time and contains the lyrics: "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.*

April 19, 2026

Always Arriving

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

♪ Just as Long as I Have Breath (#6)

♪ Whoever You Are (inside cover)

Chalice Lighting (inside cover)

♪ Song of Hope (inside cover)

Greeting

Deepening **Baby Blessing**

Children's Blessing & Recessional

Silent Meditation & Pastoral Prayer

Candle Lighting

♪ Spirit of the Living God by Daniel Iverson

Homily I

Homily II

♪ I Know This Rose Will Open (#396)

Connecting **Offering**

♪ Landslide by Stevie Nicks

Announcements

♪ Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire (#34)

Benediction

6 Just as Long as I Have Breath

$\text{♩} = 120$

1. Just as long as I have breath, I must ans - wer,
 2. Just as long as vi - sion lasts, I must ans - wer,
 3. Just as long as my heart beats, I must ans - wer,

"Yes," to life; though with pain I made my way,
 "Yes," to truth; in my dream and in my dark,
 "Yes," to love; dis - ap - point - ment pierced me through,

still with hope I meet each day. If they ask what
 al - ways: that e - lu - sive spark. If they ask what
 still I kept on lov - ing you. If they ask what

I did well, tell them I said, "Yes," to life.
 I did well, tell them I said, "Yes," to truth.
 I did best, tell them I said, "Yes," to love.

396 I Know This Rose Will Open

$\text{♩} = 112$

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 112. The lyrics are: "I know this rose will o - pen. I know my fear will burn a-way. I know my soul will unfurl its wings. I know this rose will o - pen." There are four numbered circles (1, 2, 3, 4) placed above the notes, likely indicating fingerings or breath marks. The first circle is above the first note, the second above the eighth note, the third above the thirteenth note, and the fourth above the nineteenth note.

1 I know this rose will o - pen. I

2

3

4 know my fear will burn a-way. I know my soul will un-

furl its wings. I know this rose will o - pen.

⊕ Words & music: Mary E. Grigolia, 1947- , © 1989 Mary E. Grigolia

GRIGOLIA
7.8.9.7.

Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire

$\text{♩} = 72$

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 72. The lyrics are arranged in three verses, with the first verse starting at the beginning of the first system and the second and third verses starting at the beginning of the second, third, and fourth systems respectively.

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire,
 2. Though I may give all I possess,
 3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,

and have the gift to all inspire,
 and striving so my love profess,
 our spirits long to be made whole.

and have not love, my words are vain,
 but not be given by love within,
 Let inward love guide every deed;

as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
 the profit soon turns strangely thin.
 by this we worship, and are freed.

Words: Hal Hopson, 1933- , (1 Cor. 13:1-3), © 1972 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: Trad. English melody, adapt. by Hal Hopson, 1933- ,
 © 1972 Hope Publishing Co.

GIFT OF LOVE
 L.M.

Our Worship Leader today is Bob Bero

Our Worship Associate today is Rev. Micah C. Ma

Music Director Adam Podd

Announcements Tyrone Davis, Jr., Membership Coordinator

Our Lay Pastoral Minister is ET Boyle

Our Livestream Producer is Robin Bossert

Our Welcome Table Hosts are Colleen Olson & Anne Calder, Board Co-President

NOTES:

Mystical reading by Margery Williams, author of *The Velveteen Rabbit*

MUSIC NOTES:

Today's music is led by **Sophia Miller** and **Allie Lewis**, and of course the First Unitarian Brooklyn Choir

Landslide will be performed by **Elena Karpoff** and **Sean Hastings**. Elena and Sean are regular members of the First U choir. They are both music teachers here in NYC, and they have an indie folk project together called Elk, My Deer (on Instagram @elkmydeer)

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 go to the chapel during the children's recessional, after the baby blessing.

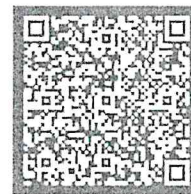
Grades K-3: Children's Chapel - Generosity!, McKinney Chapel

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

Grades 6-7: *Building Bridges, Invited to attend service

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/children today. Children must be registered in order to participate in our programs

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

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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Today at First Unitarian:

❖ *The UU World is joining us today!*

Allyse Pullman (photographer) and Pete Kramer (journalist) are joining us this Sunday for a feature in the UU World about how congregations in New York are using their buildings to meet the moment! Please give them a warm welcome. **If you prefer not to be in any photos, be sure to sit underneath the balconies this coming Sunday.** Allyse will avoid photographing those areas. Thank you!

❖ *Pie Party, Today, 1:00 PM, McKinney Chapel.*

Save the date! We're celebrating the official end of this year's Stewardship Campaign "Lighting Our Fire" with a pie party in the Chapel. Our goal was to enlarge our piece of the pie in our revenue pie chart, depending just a little more on ourselves and a little less on outside revenue. All are welcome to enjoy a slice of pie, and be on the lookout for a raffle!

❖ *Shawls and Crafts Ministry, following service, Undercroft.*

We meet the third Sunday of every month during fellowship hour. Bring your needlework to the Crafts table in the Undercroft. You can get yarn, needles, and good conversation. We look forward to spending time with our fellow crafters.

❖ *Young Adult Spiritual Discussion, today, Library.*

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, our discussion will be about Seeking Joy Amidst the Chaos - how we all continue to find joy and motivation despite everything going on in the world. There will be free pizza!

Looking Forward:

❖ *Friday Night Open Mic! Friday, April 24th, 6:30 -9:00 PM, McKinney Chapel*

Bring your favorite song, poem, story, monologue, or comedy routine to share. For more info or to RSVP, contact Wendy Russell wendy@firstubrooklyn.org.

❖ *Memorial Service for Nancy Witherell: Saturday, April 25th, 11:00 AM*

On March 14, Nancy Witherell, a beloved member of First Unitarian since 1989, passed away peacefully at home. All are invited to a celebration of her life at 11:00 AM on Saturday, April 25 in the Sanctuary or by Zoom, followed by a reception. Please RSVP at bit.ly/4s7noMb. The Zoom link will be sent to people who RSVP that they will attend by Zoom.

❖ *Notes of Gratitude: Writing Thank you Cards for National Letter-Writing Month Sunday, April 26, 12:45-2:30, Frances White Room*

Give a gift that lasts forever - a hand-written thank you card. Join the Connections Committee in expressing appreciation to the people who have made a difference to you: teachers/mentors, friends, family, coaches, service providers. We provide lovely cards and stamps, stickers, pens, and other goodies; you bring the name(s) and address(es) of folks you'd like to thank. Can't wait to see you!

❖ *Immigrant Solidarity Vigils: First U folks are invited to join two weekly immigrant solidarity vigils:*

- *Tuesdays, 6-7 PM*, 29th Street and 3rd Avenue next to the Metropolitan Detention Center where immigrants are taken by ICE. This Vigil for Democracy is organized by Indivisible Brooklyn.
- *Saturdays, Noon-1 PM*, 44th Street and 5th Avenue. This Vigil for Justice and Peace is organized by Sunset Park Neighbors. - For more information contact Lee Pardee, leepardee54@gmail.com.

❖ *Qingming at Green-Wood Cemetery rescheduled for Sunday, May 3rd, 1:00 PM*

Grab a picnic lunch to go (and some food offerings, if desired) and meet on the Sanctuary steps at 1:00 PM. Wear walking shoes. We will burn offerings (including from last fall's ancestors service) and picnic among the gravestones at First U's cemetery plot.

Join the Summer Worship Coordination Committee

Spring has just begun, but that hasn't stopped some of us from thinking about the summer. Our senior minister takes a well-deserved break from leading our services for part of June, July and August. In their place members of the congregation step up to the pulpit and become our lay worship leaders for Sunday services. Part of what makes these services successful are the support people who come together to

- assist with arrangement of the service and editing of the homily;
- provide a back-up person for the service leader;
- arrange for the music for the service;
- assure that ushers are there to welcome congregants and friends; and
- communicate to the congregation what to expect at each upcoming service.

If you are interested in helping to ensure that summer services are a smoothly run and welcoming experience, please contact Judith Sedaitis - judithsdts@gmail.com. The Leadership Development Committee looks forward to hearing from you.

Call for potential Trustees

Are you looking to bring your talents to bear in healing a hurting world? The Leadership Development Committee is now looking for members in good standing to join our Board of Trustees starting in the next fiscal year. As a Trustee, you would have the opportunity to participate in high level discussions with our paid professional staff and fellow trustees on important business matters that concern the congregation. The Board establishes policies that set the direction of the congregation, prepares the annual budget and hires senior staff. The term of service is three years. Trustees are expected to

- keep abreast of congregation activities and programs
- attend monthly, in person Board meetings
- attend congregational meetings whenever possible and
- participate fully in congregational life.

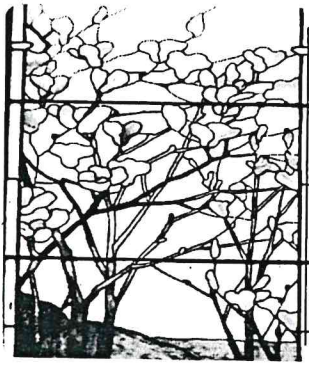
If you would like to explore this honor for yourself, or have a member in mind that you'd like to raise up, please email Tyrone Davis, Jr., Membership Coordinator, - tyrone@firstubrooklyn.org. Questions? Email Judith Sedaitis, Chair of our LDC - judithsdts@gmail.com.

Share the Plate April: NYC Books Through Bars

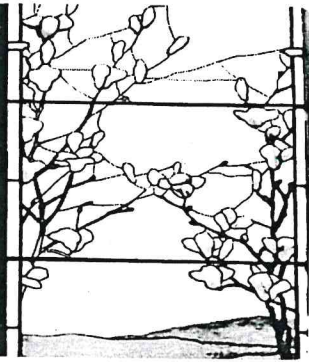


NYC Books Through Bars is a volunteer-run group that sends free, donated books to incarcerated people across the nation.

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
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*

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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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