

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 'CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL' in 4/4 time, key of F major. The melody is written on a single staff with lyrics underneath. Chords are indicated above the notes.

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

Lyrics: 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.

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

SONG OF HOPE FOR JAZZ SUNDAY

Musical notation for 'SONG OF HOPE FOR JAZZ SUNDAY' in 6/8 time, key of F major. The melody is written on a single staff with lyrics underneath.

Lyrics: 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.*

May 24, 2026

Keep Alive the Memory

Welcome to First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn, where we are exploring the themes of *peace* and *military service* 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.

♪ Gather the Spirit (#347)

♪ Whoever You Are (inside cover)

Chalice Lighting (inside cover)

♪ Song of Hope (inside cover)

Greeting

Deepening Wisdom Story

Children's Blessing & Recessional

Silent Meditation & Pastoral Prayer

Candle Lighting

♪ *Meditation on My Country Tis of Thee* with *This Is My Song* / arr. Adam Podd

Sermon

♪ How Sweet the Darkness (#1055)

Connecting Offering

♪ *Instruments of Peace* by Kirk and Deby Dearman

text adapted from *Prayer of Saint Francis*, by Francis of Assisi (13th century)

Please join in singing the final refrain:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred let our love increase.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Walls of pride and prejudice will cease, when we are your instruments of peace.

Announcements

♪ For All That Is Our Life (#128)

Benediction

Gather the Spirit

347

♩ = 108

F Gm7 F7/A B♭ B♭7 Eb/B♭

1. Gath - er the spir - it, har - vest the power.
 2. Gath - er the spir - it of heart and mind.
 3. Gath - er the spir - it grow - ing in all,

Cm7 B♭/D Gm7 G7 Cm7

Our sep - 'rate fires will kin - dle one flame.
 Seeds for the sow - ing are laid in store.
 drawn by the moon and fed by the sun.

F Gm7 F7/A B♭ D7 Gm Gm7

Wit - ness the mys - ter - y of this hour. Our
 Nur - tured in love, and con - science re - fined, with
 Win - ter to spring, and sum - mer to fall, the

C7 Bb/F Bb/F Cm/F Bb F/A

trials in this light ap - pear all the same.
 bod - y and spir - it u - nit - ed once more.
 cho - rus of life re - sound - ing as one.

Gm Cm7 F Bbm9/D D7

Gath - er in peace, gath - er in thanks.

Gm Dm/F Cm/Eb Bb/D Gm7 G7 Cm7

Gath - er in sym - pa - thy now and then.

D7 Gm Gm7 Dm7

Gath-er in hope, com - pas - sion and strength.

Bb7 Eb/Bb Cm7 F7 Bb

Gath - er to cel - e - brate once a - gain.

1055 How Sweet the Darkness

$\text{♩} = 50$

Em C/G Am6 Bsus4 B

1. When win - dows that are black and cold are
 2. When wings pur - sue their pro - per flight and
 3. And when the sky is swept of wars and

Am7 Bm7 CM7 Dsus D/C

lit a - new with fires of gold; When
 bring not ter - ror but de - light; When
 keeps but gen - tle moon and stars, That

G/B CM7 Dm11 Em6 Em/D

dusk in qui - et shall des - cend and
 clouds are in - no - cent a - gain and
 peace - ful sky, that harm - less air, how

Am7 G/B Em/B Am D(add9)

dark - ness come _____ once more a friend.
 hide no storms _____ of dead - ly rain;
 sweet, how sweet, _____ the dark - ness there.

For All That Is Our Life

$\text{♩} = 76$

1. For
2. For
3. For
4. For

all that is our life we sing our thanks and praise; for
needs which oth - ers serve, for ser - vic - es we give, for
sor - row we must bear, for fail - ures, pain, and loss, for
all that is our life we sing our thanks and praise; for

all life is a gift which we are called to use to
work and its re - wards, for hours of rest and love; we
each new thing we learn, for fear - ful hours that pass: we
all life is a gift which we are called to use to

build the com - mon good and
 come with praise and thanks for
 come with praise and thanks for
 build the com - mon good and

make our own days glad.
 all that is our life.
 all that is our life.
 make our own days

1.-3.

glad.

4.

Interim Minister Rev. Micah C. Ma

Music Director Adam Podd

Wisdom Story Marci Lucia, RE Council

Announcements Tyrone Davis, Jr., Membership Coordinator

Our Lay Leader is Octavia Findley

Our Lay Pastoral Minister is Daniel Walters

Our Livestream Producer is Jay Lawrence

Our Welcome Table Host is Linda Guidi and Amanda Nietzel, Board

Mystical reading by Canadian physician, soldier, and poet Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae

Music Notes:

Julie Tramontana, French horn

Dennis Wees, soloist (This Is My Song)

Brandon Hornsby-Selvin, soloist (Instruments of Peace)

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 & Music with Bert, McKinney Chapel

Grades 6-7 / Invited to attend worship

Grades 8-9 / Coming of Age, Wilderness Retreat

Grades 10-12 / HS Youth Group, Third Floor Teen Room

Learn to Live Stream for Free: Our Live Stream Team will train you to handle audio or video or graphics, depending on your interest. Are you recently out of college, do you have an adult child living at home, are you recently retired, are you none of the above? Contact the Live Stream Team jay.lawrence@firsttubrooklyn.org or robinbossert@gmail.com for more information

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

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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Today at First Unitarian:

❖ **Today! The “You Be You” T-shirts are for sale after services.** In the Undercroft. Come check them out!

❖ **TODAY! 2:30-3:45 PM *Sean Hastings and Elena Karpoff's Wedding Ceremony: Love in Community!***

First U members Sean Hastings and Elena Karpoff are getting married in the sanctuary after the Sunday morning service! All who wish to attend the ceremony and celebrate the couple are welcome. Children are welcome to attend! The bride and groom are delighted to be opening their ceremony to the wider community. Featuring a homily by Rev. Micah Ma and music by Adam Podd and members of the First U Choir.

Looking Forward:

❖ **Wednesday, May 27th, FUUB's BIPOC Spiritual Affinity Group**

Are you looking to meet, gather, ponder, and fellowship with other congregants of color? Join us for our next virtual meeting on Wednesday, May 27th, at **6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**. Meetings take place on the last Wednesday of every month. Meetings are for anyone who identifies as a person of color. If you'd like to attend or have any questions, please reach out to Tyrone for the virtual meeting link: tyrone@firstubrooklyn.org

❖ **Tuesday, June 2nd, 7:00 PM - *Songs for the People* (A Fund-Rising Recital)**



Join members of our music team Kiena Williams, Brandon Hornsby-Selvin, and Adam Podd for a recital in the First U Sanctuary on Tuesday evening, June 2nd at 7pm. The program includes a compilation of art songs, arias, and spirituals. Proceeds will go toward the unexpected purchase of new choir risers this past fall. Tickets are now available! Scan the QR code on the event poster or go to tinyurl.com/fund-riser to purchase your ticket.

Please help ensure the success of the event by buying tickets in advance.

❖ **Saturday, June 6th, 1:00 PM, Yvonne Garrett, our intern minister, is being Ordained!**

Help show Yvonne our love and support this event by making a secure, tax-deductible donation on Zeffy. Visit this link

<https://tinyurl.com/YvonneGOrdination> or use this QR code. Thank you, from Yvonne's Internship Committee: Beth Evans, chair, Allison McCluer, Lexi Perlmutter, Cindy Reynolds, Jay Sheth.



We need volunteers to help with set up, clean up, ushers, music, and more! If you're interested and would like to help out, please contact Yvonne yvonne@firstubrooklyn.org or Beth Evans beth.evans.is@gmail.com as soon as possible. Thanks!!

❖ **Thursday, June 11th, 7:00 PM, First U Book Club:**

We are reading *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby van Pelt.

The Zoom link is <https://tinyurl.com/4e4rpvzr>. For information, contact Langdon Holloway l.a.holloway35@gmail.com

❖ **Friday, June 12th 6:30-9:00 PM, Friday Night Open Mic, McKinney Chapel**

Last open mic of the program year! Bring your favorite song, story, or poem. An accompanist will be available. And we have snacks! Questions? wendy@firstubrooklyn.org.

❖ **Saturday, June 20th, The First Unitarian Women's Leadership Alliance Annual Meeting and brunch. *Please save the date.***

More information to follow. Questions? Contact Beth Evans, beth.evans.is@gmail.com.

June is Pride Month!

The Queer Community and the Social Justice Committee kindly request that everyone mark their calendars and save the following dates:

-Sunday, June 7 - *Pride Service*

-Sunday, June 7 - *Pride Celebration & Charity Fundraiser benefiting The Ali Forney Center after services in the Undercroft.*

-Saturday evening, June 13 - *Brooklyn Pride Parade*

-Wednesday evening, June 17 - *Interfaith Pride Service, in the Sanctuary at First U!*

-Sunday, June 28 - *NYC Pride March. You must be registered to march and enter the parade route; <https://forms.gle/.uJ7YVKsUYRASf5mq5>. The march is open to all!*

Join us as we stand proud, have fun and celebrate. Details for each event forthcoming.

Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to volunteer and participate.

For more information please email queercommunity-admin@firstubrooklyn.org.

Share the Plate May: The Trinity Immigration and Citizenship Team Clinic (TICT Clinic)

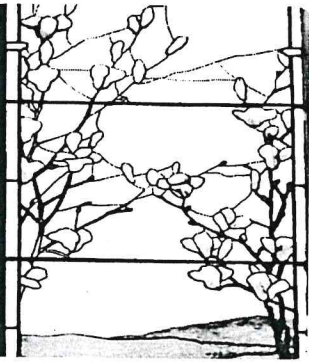


Trinity Lutheran Church of Staten Island sponsors the Trinity Immigration and Citizenship Team Clinic (TICT Clinic) which provides no-cost legal services to our immigrant neighbors. The Unitarian Church of Staten Island is a proud partner.

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 BR@KLYN 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

Michael Dore, Cyndi Kerr
Co-Presidents, Board of Trustees

Trustees:

Vicki Antonini, Robert Brackbill, Anne Calder,
Linda Donaldson Guidi, Luke Messina,
Amanda Nietzel, Mark Weiss

TBD | *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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Office Hours:

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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INSTAGRAM: FirstUBrooklyn

YOU TUBE: FirstUnitarianBrooklyn

FACEBOOK:

First Unitarian Universalist Society in Brooklyn

GIVE BY TEXT (855) 799-2543