



FIRST UNITARIAN
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY
BR  **KLYN**
A UNITARIAN  UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

THE ORDINATION OF DR. YVONNE C. GARRETT

June 6, 2026 | 1 pm

Welcome to First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn, where we are proud to ordain our Intern, Dr. Yvonne C. Garrett, into the Unitarian Universalist Ministry.

Clergy Processional

♪ *This Joy* by Shirley Caesar

This joy that I have, the world didn't give it to me (x3)

The world didn't give it, the world can't take it away

Chalice Lighting: Lydia Garrett (words); **Tom Check** (lighting)

Welcome: Reverend Micah Ma,
Interim Minister, First Unitarian

Words from Robert Wesley Anthony Taylor, Jr.
Assistant Director MindfulNYU, Center for Global Spiritual Life, NYU

Words from Nelson Nunez,
President, Teamsters Local 1205

♪ **Lean on Me (#1025)**

Sermon "Cotton Candy and Steel: Tools for Ministry" Reverend Karen L. Hutt,
Unitarian Universalist Minister & Chaplain

♪ **Love Will Guide Us (#131)**

Offering, Tyrone Davis, Jr.,
Membership Coordinator, First Unitarian

Offertory Music: "This Little Light of Mine" (#118)

Act of Ordination (see opposite page)

Exchanging of Gifts

Charge to the Minister, Reverend Kevin Jagoe,
Minister, BuxMont UU Fellowship; American Humanist Association

♪ ***Come On Up to the House* by Tom Waits**

Laying on of Hands, Reverend Micah Ma

Collegial Welcome, Reverend Meagan Henry*
Associate Minister, UUCSR, Shelter Rock

♪ **This Joy**

Benediction

Recession of Clergy & Family

All are welcome at a reception in the chapel following the service.

ACT of ORDINATION

First U Board Member: In the living tradition of Unitarian Universalism, the authority and privilege of ordaining ministers rests solely with the people of the congregation. It is a meaningful and joyous acknowledgement of our faith tradition when a congregation comes together to recognize someone who has answered the call to Unitarian Universalist ministry. Yvonne, would you please come forward?

First U Internship Committee Member: Yvonne, we recognize your calling and desire to serve our faith. During the two years of your internship, we have witnessed your dedication to our faith, your theological knowledge, your desire to support those in need, and your commitment to social justice. We honor and value the recommendation of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association, who welcomed you into preliminary fellowship this year. By the authority of a vote of the members of our Board, we desire to ordain you into Unitarian Universalist ministry.

First U Board Member: Yvonne, we offer you ordination, and all its attendant rights, privileges, and responsibilities. Among us, and wherever you may be called to serve, we would have you preach the truth in love, minister to joys and sorrows alike, work for social justice transformation and collective liberation, nurture spiritual growth, lead our faith into the future, and embody in your life the values and principles of our faith. In our eyes and in our hearts, you are a minister. Today, we confirm your calling. Are you prepared to embark, formally and fully, upon the path of Unitarian Universalist ministry?

Yvonne: I am.

First U Internship Committee Members: Members of the First Unitarian Congregational Society of Brooklyn, New York will you please rise in body or in spirit? Members, please join together in the words in your Order of Service.

MEMBERS of the First U CONGREGATION: Yvonne, may you comfort the suffering and do your part in healing a broken world. Remember those in our tradition who came before and help prepare a place for those who will come after. Keep an open and eager mind. Keep ready your loving heart. Speak the truth in love. Build the Beloved Community. Call your people to their best selves. Be an agent of transformation. Be ever mindful of your calling to lead, live, love, and serve with grace, mercy, strength, and humility. We, the members of the First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn, hereby ordain you, The Reverend Doctor Yvonne Celia Garrett into the Unitarian Universalist Ministry.

First U Internship Committee Member & Board: And will Yvonne's friends and family please rise in body or spirit and join in speaking together the words printed in your Order of Service.

Yvonne's Friends & Family: We celebrate with you and enter into the spirit of your ordination, offering you our continuing support and love.

Yvonne: Profound thanks to all of you here today and online who have helped me to this place on my journey. I profess my solemn vow to continue to minister to all living beings who cross my path. To do the hard work of good trouble, of speaking truth to power, with love at the center, and guided by the steadfast hope that defines our faith.

First U Internship Committee Member & Board: Will all who wish to add their love and encouragement to this ceremony please also rise in body or spirit, and those online join us all in affirmation of this ordination?

All Gathered: Today, as we recognize your ordination, we bless your ministry and ours with it.

First U Internship Committee Member & Board: Let us all say Blessed Be, In Solidarity, and Amen with whatever words work for you!

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.

Music Direction Emily Gaggiano (piano)

Many thanks to all who worked, volunteered, donated time & funds,
and everyone who supported this Ordination Service in any way.

NOTES:

*The Reverend Meagan Henry previously served First Unitarian Brooklyn as Director of Religious Education and Family Ministry (2013-2023) and Assistant Minister (2023-2026).

Yvonne Garrett's Internship Committee: Beth Evans (Chair), Jay Sheth, Cindy Reynolds, Allison McCluer, Alexis Perlmutter

MUSIC NOTES: *Come On Up to the House* features Yuri Weber, Dawn Elane Reed, and Daniel Walters

Share the Plate: World Central Kitchen



Founded in 2010 by Chef José Andrés, World Central Kitchen (WCK) is a nonprofit organization that is first to the frontlines providing fresh meals in response to crises. Applying our model of quick action, leveraging local resources, and adapting in real time, WCK has served more than 600 million nourishing meals around the world.

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.



CONGREGATION ORGANIZED IN 1833

BUILDING DEDICATED IN 1844

CLERGY & STAFF

Rev. Micah C. Ma, micah@firstubrooklyn.org
Interim Minister

Adam Podd, adam@firstubrooklyn.org
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Yvonne Garrett, yvonne@firstubrooklyn.org
Intern Minister

Phylisa St. Fleur *Nursery Caregiver*

Ruby Stackhouse *Nursery Caregiver*

OFFICERS

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

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Vicki Antonini, Robert Brackbill, Anne Calder,
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Todd Ogin | *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*