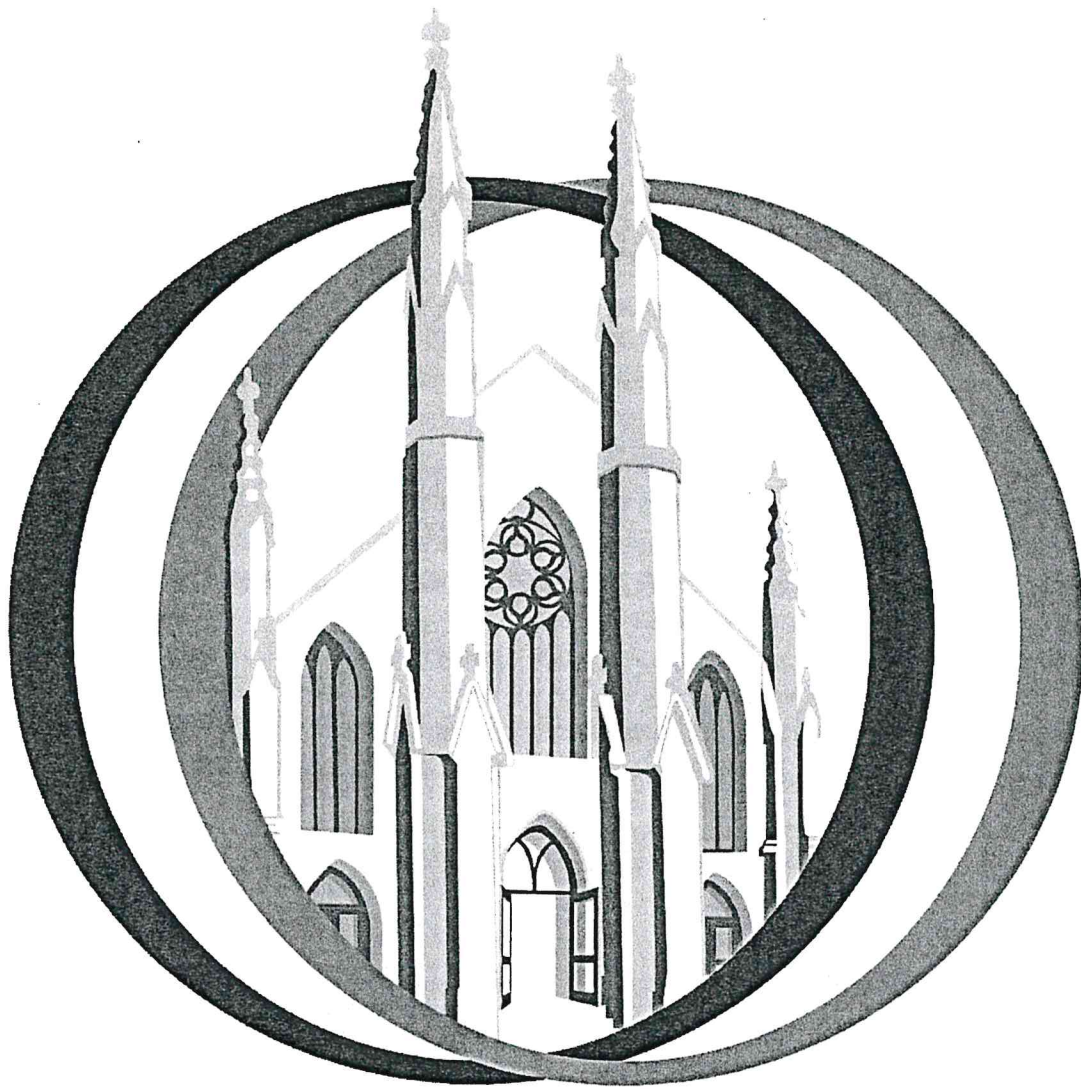




FIRST UNITARIAN
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY
BROOKLYN

A UNITARIAN  UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

ORDER OF SERVICE

August 23, 2026 | 11 am

Blessing of the Animals

The Sounding Bowl Calls Us Into Silence

Prelude | *I Love My Dog* by Cat Stevens

Call to Worship*

*Whoever you are, Whomever you love,
Wherever you are on your life journey,
You are Welcome Here.*

Hymn* | All Creatures of the Earth and Sky (#203)

Lighting the Chalice*

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.

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.

Welcome

Hymn* | We Celebrate the Web of Life (#175)

Homily

Blessing of the Animals Ceremony (Insert)

Prayer & Meditation

Candle Lighting

Offertory | *If I Could Talk to the Animals* by Leslie Bricusse

Hymn* | A Place in the Choir by Bill Staines (Insert)

Closing Words

**You are invited to stand as able*

Worship Leader: Jocelyn Smith
Worship Associate: Beth Evans
Worship Assistant: Brian Elig
Summer Music Director: Allie Lewis

~ Please join us for refreshments in the Frances White Room ~

All Creatures of the Earth and Sky

$\text{♩} = 84$

1. All crea - tures of the earth and sky, come,
 2. Swift rush - ing wind so wild and strong, white
 3. Cool flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make

kin - dred, lift your voic - es high, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
 clouds that sail in heav'n a - long, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
 mu - sic for all life to hear, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -

lu - ia! Bright burn - ing sun with gold - en beam, soft
 lu - ia! Fair ris - ing morn in praise re - joice, high
 lu - ia! Dance, flame of fire, so strong and bright, and

Words: Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226, alt.

Music: From *Ausserlesene Catholische Kirchengesang*, 1623, adapt. and
 harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958, music used by perm. of

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
 8.8.4.4.8.8.

with Alleluia

shin - ing moon with sil - ver gleam: Al - le -
 stars of eve - ning find a voice: Al - le -
 bless us with your warmth and light: Al - le -

lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
 lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
 lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -

lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

4. Embracing earth, you, day by day,
 bring forth your blessings on our way,
 Alleluia, Alleluia!
 All herbs and fruits that richly grow,
 let them the glory also show:
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,
 Alleluia!

5. All you of understanding heart,
 forgiving others, take your part,
 Alleluia, Alleluia!
 Let all things now the Holy bless,
 and worship God in humbleness:
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,
 Alleluia!

Blessing of the Animals Ceremony

- If you have brought your pet for a blessing, please proceed up the middle aisle and return to your seat along one of the side aisles. As the animal is brought up and named, the Congregation will say the animal's name and then "We bless you."
- If you do not have your pet, but wish for a blessing, please fill out one of the index cards that is being passed out and put it on the easel on the left. The names will be read off – at the end the Congregation will say together "We bless you."
- If your pet is deceased, please fill out an index card and put it on the easel to your right. We will read the names – at the end the Congregation will say "thank you for your joy and love."

175 We Celebrate the Web of Life

$\text{♩} = 126$

1. We cel - e - brate the web of life, its
 2. A frag - ment of the per - fect whole in
 3. Of an - cient dreams we are the sum; our
 4. Re - spect the wa - ter, land, and air which

mag - ni - tude we sing; for we can see di -
 cac - tus and in quail, as much in ti - ny
 bones link stone to star, and bind our fu - ture
 gave all crea - tures birth; pro - tect the lives of

vin - i - ty in ev - ery liv - ing thing.
 bar - na - cle as in the great blue whale.
 worlds to come with worlds that were and are.
 all that share the glo - ry of the earth.

⊕ Words: Alicia S. Carpenter, 1930- , © 1990 Alicia S. Carpenter
 Music: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1560-1616

CHRISTUS DER IST MEIN LEBEN
 C.M.

A Place in the Choir by Bill Staines

All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wires
And some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they got now.

**CHORUS: All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wires
And some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they got now.**

Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big t'do
And the old cow just goes moo.

The dogs and the cats they take up the middle
While the honeybee hums and the cricket fiddles
The donkey brays and the pony neighs
And the old coyote howls.

CHORUS:

Listen to the top where the little birds sing
On the melodies with the high notes ringing
The hoot owl hollers over everything
And the jaybird disagrees.

Singin' in the night time, singing in the day
The little duck quacks, then he's on his way
The 'possum ain't got much to say
And the porcupine talks to himself.

CHORUS:

It's a simple song of living sung everywhere
By the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear
The grumpy alligator and the hawk above
The sly raccoon and the turtle dove.

CHORUS 2X

❖ **Today, Religious Naturalism Study Group meet at 1:00 in the Library.**

All members and friends of First U are invited to attend. To add your name to the Google Group, send email to the address below. We look forward to seeing you there.

Maggie Norris, Communications Coordinator maggienorrisllc@gmail.com

❖ **Monday, August 24th, The Men's Group will meet from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Library**

❖ **Friday, August 28th, 10:00 am. GREENFAITH USA pilgrimage for climate and immigration justice. Details here: <https://tinyurl.com/2hsv7xpj>**

Start at 26 Federal Plaza at 10:00, end at the Metropolitan Detention Center at 80 29th St. in Sunset Park at 4:00. Contact Tom Check for more info checktf@cs.com. **Sponsored by the Green Team.**

One more chance to sing with the Summer Choir! Join the Summer Choir at 10am in the Chapel on September 6th! **Questions? Reach out to Allie Lewis at allie26lewis@gmail.com.**

Upcoming Summer Services:

Aug 30 - Rock Botton

Elena Karpoff

Sept 06 - The Greatest Lessons in Life

Sean Hastings

Sunday, Sept 13th, 2026

Water Communion

We'll be back in the Sanctuary with Rev. Micah C. Ma.
Bring a small amount of water from your summer adventures!

We will make our holy water together.

Faith in Action: Ingathering and Expo

following the service – until 2:00 p.m.

Undercroft, McKinney Chapel, and Frances White Room

Begin the new worship year by gathering and exploring the many ways to connect, serve, learn, and belong at First U! Following worship, join us for an open-house-style Ingathering Reception and Faith in Action Expo.

Visit tables hosted by First U's committees, groups, and ministries; enjoy small treats as you go; meet your fellow congregants and discover opportunities to get involved in the life of our congregational community. Whether you are looking for a new way to participate or simply curious about all that happens at First U, come explore and find your place!

Questions? Please contact Tyrone Davis, Jr. at tyrone@firstubrooklyn.org.

Our Summer Share the Plate recipient is *The Wildlife Conservation Society*



The Wildlife Conservation Society conducts research and deploys efforts globally to save wildlife from extinction. They also operate four zoos and the NY Aquarium here in NYC, where they educate the public to care about wildlife and provide excellent care to many species in their collections. Learn more here <https://www.wcs.org/>.

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.

FIRST UNITARIAN BROOKLYN

CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

CONGREGATION ORGANIZED IN 1833

BUILDING DEDICATED IN 1844

CLERGY & STAFF

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

Adam Podd, adam@firstubrooklyn.org
Director of Music

Elizabeth Ann Terry, elizabethann@firstubrooklyn.org
Director of Religious Education (beginning Aug 1)

Wendy Russell, wendy@firstubrooklyn.org
Congregational Administrator

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

Sean Sellers, sean@firstubrooklyn.org
Youth Coordinator

OFFICERS

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Linda Donaldson Guidi, Luke Messina,
Amanda Nietzel, Mark Weiss

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Lee Pardee | *Treasurer*

James Goward | *Moderator*

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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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Summer Office Hours

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