



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.

CHALICE EXTINGUISHING

We extinguish this flame but not the light of
truth, the warmth of community, or the fire
of commitment. These we carry in our
hearts until we are together again.

-Elizabeth Selle Jones

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.*

CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL

Musical notation for the Children's Recessional. The first line is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: F, F/A, Bb, F, F, F/A, Gm7, C. The lyrics are: "We bless you on your jour-ney through from shel-tering arms to the wide sky blue. In your". The second line continues the melody with eighth and quarter notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: Dm, C/E, F, Gm7, Am7, Bb, F/A, Bb/C, F. The lyrics are: "joy - ful jumps and your sad times too, you bless us by be - ing you."

SONG OF HOPE FOR JAZZ SUNDAY

Musical notation for the Song of Hope for Jazz Sunday. The first line is in 8/8 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "From all that dwell be-low the skies_____ Let songs of hope and faith a - rise_____". The second line continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Let peace, good-will on Earth be sung_____ Through ev - 'ry land by ev - 'ry tongue_____".

September 20, 2026

Return Again

Welcome to First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn, where we are exploring the themes of *atonement* and *beginning again* 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.

- ♪ Hashiveinu (#216)
 - ♪ Whoever You Are (inside cover)
 - Chalice Lighting (inside cover)
 - ♪ Song of Hope (inside cover)
 - Greeting
-

Deepening Wisdom Story | *The Hardest Word; A Yom Kippur Story*

by Jacqueline Jules, illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn

Children's Blessing & Recessional

Silent Meditation & Prayer

Candle Lighting

Reading

- ♪ *Psalm 150* by Rabbi Zach Fredman

Sermon

Reading Adapted from the *New Union Prayer Book*, with gratitude
to Rev. Paul Ratzlaff

- ♪ Return Again (#1011)
-

Connecting Offering

- ♪ *Olam Chesed Yibaneh* by Rabbi Menachem Creditor

עולם חסד יבנה

I will build this world from love.

And you must build this world from love.

And if we build this world from love,

then God will build this world from love.

Announcements

- ♪ Avinu malkeinu

Avinu malkeinu, Avinu malkeinu

Avinu malkeinu honenu va'anenu

ki ein banu ma'asim.

Aseih imanu, tzedakah va-hesed

Aseih imanu, tzedakah va-hesed

v'hoshi einu.

Chalice Extinguishing (inside cover)

Benediction

first, the last, be - yond all thought or time - less years.
 ev - ery - where, a - bove, be - low, is per - fect praise.
 writ up - on the hu - man heart, on sea and land.
 was, and is, and is to be, for aye the same.

Hashiveinu

216

$\text{♩} = 60$

①

Ha - shi - vei - nu, ha - shi - vei - nu, A - do - nai ei -

②

le - cha ve - na - shu - va. Ve - na - shu - va.

③

Cha - deish, cha - deish ya - mei - nu ke - ke - dem.

Words: Traditional Hebrew
 Music: Traditional Hebrew

HASHIVEINU
 Irregular

READING 1

READER: God before whom words must be true, we acknowledge our faults and our failings. Help us now to strengthen the good impulse within us.

***ALL:** Help us to care about wrongs from which we have been spared, to seek forgiveness for the wrongs we shall do; to forgive the wrongs that are done to us.*

READER: Create in us a clean heart, and place a willing spirit within us.

***ALL:** Shed Your light upon us, O God, that we may see the goodness in each of Your children.*

READING 2

ALL: We all have committed offenses; together we confess these human sins:

READER: The sins of arrogance, bigotry and cynicism; of deceit and egotism, flattery and greed, injustice and jealousy.

ALL: Some of us kept grudges, were lustful, malicious, or narrow-minded.

READER: Others were obstinate or possessive, quarrelsome, rancorous or selfish.

ALL: There was violence, weakness of will, fear of outsiders.

READER: We yielded to temptation and showed zeal for bad causes.

ALL: We have committed sins under duress and by choice.

READER: consciously or unconsciously; openly or secretly;

ALL: In our thoughts and with our words;

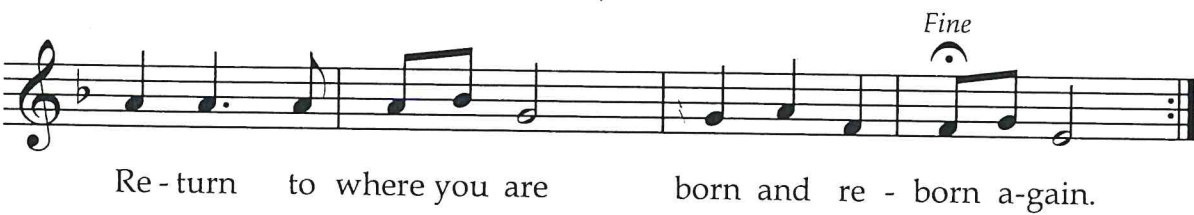
READER: by the abuse of power and by hardening our hearts.

ALL: Knowing our failings, let us be patient with those of others. Knowing our will to goodness, may we see in others a dignity that is human, a beauty inviolate forever.

Return Again

1011

♩ = 108



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Sermon Rev. Micah C. Ma, Interim Minister
Wisdom Story Elizabeth Ann Terry, Director of Religious Education
Music Kiena Williams and Allie Lewis
Announcements Tyrone Davis, Jr, Membership Coordinator
Reading 1 Rev. Nina Grey, Rita Pearl
Reading 2 Barbara Ratzlaff, Allen Kone
Prayers Dana Cheryl, Bert Eisenstadt

Worship Associate Josh Davidoff
Lay Pastoral Minister Daniel Walters
Livestream Producer Lukas Bauer
Online Host Charlotte Hoogenboom
Connections Table Host Cyndi Kerr, Board Co-President

Mystical Reading from Chabad.org.

Music Notes:

The choir is led this morning by **Kiena Williams**, with **Allie Lewis** at the piano. We are thrilled that **Rabbi Zach Fredman** is joining us as well.

Rabbi Zach Fredman is a teacher, essayist, composer and multi-instrumentalist. He is the founder of Temenos Center – a spiritual community and home for ritual and creativity that honors the wild humanity of all people. Its focus is to create transformative offerings and events rooted in the particular open to the universal. temenosnyc.com

Olam Chesed Yibaneh (עוֹלָם חֶסֶד יִבְנֶה) is a promise, which translates from Hebrew to English as: "The world will be built with loving-kindness" or "I will build this world with love."

Today in Religious Education:

Activity Packs are available for little ones

Nursery, Toddler, Pre-K / 11AM-12:30PM

Drop off to the 50 Monroe Classroom. Pick up after the service.

Grades K-6, Regular RE Classes

*During the children's recessional, the children will go to the Chapel to meet with their teacher, who will bring them to the classrooms. **Pick up will be in the Chapel** - the teachers will bring the children back to the Chapel when classes have finished.*

Grades 7-8, OWL, Frances White Room: Youth and parents will head to classroom after wisdom story. Parents will stay for a brief orientation, then head back to worship. Kids will stay in class.

Grades 9-12, HS Youth Group,

PIZZA PARTY – Come and meet Elizabeth Ann Terry, our new Director of Religious Education! Following worship in the McKinney Chapel

REGISTRATION IS OPEN! Your child/children must be registered in order to participate in our programs. Use the QR code above to register your child today!



Join us for fellowship in the undercroft, following the service.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Today at First Unitarian:

❖ Today, 12:45 PM, The Women's Leadership Alliance

is having its welcome back meeting, election and luncheon in the Frances White Room. Join us for some good conversation and program planning for the upcoming year. The late departed feminists Gloria Steinem and Dolly Parton (Dolly Parton was a feminist?!) are sure to be a part of the conversation. Interested? You can find the WLA in Realm or contact Beth directly at beth.evans.is@gmail.com.

❖ Today, Shawls and Crafts Ministry, following worship

We will meet during Fellowship Hour in the undercroft to craft together. Yarn, needles and guidance are all available. We look forward to spending time with our fellow crafters. The Shawls and Crafts Ministry also meets online on the first Thursday of each month on Google Meet: meet.google.com/rzi-tppr-arh.

❖ Men's Group, 12:45-2:00 pm, Library. If you identify as male, you are welcome!

Looking Forward:

❖ Join Our Soul Matters Facilitator Team!

We are seeking small group facilitators for our **Soul Matters** spiritual sharing circles soulmatterssharingcircle.com. Soul Matters groups meet monthly to foster deep listening, personal reflection, and sacred connection. No prior experience is necessary! Rev. Scott Tayler, founder of Soul Matters, is offering a 2-hour online training covering conversation tools and small group dynamics to help you lead with confidence. *The \$20 registration fee is fully covered by the church.* **Ready to help nurture this powerful ministry?**

Email Cyndi Kerr at cyndikerr@gmail.com today! Training Dates (Pick One):

Tue, Sept 22 | 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM ET Sat, Sept 26 | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM ET

❖ THE ATLANTIC ANTIC! Sunday, September 27, 12:00 pm -6:00 pm

For a second year, First Unitarian will have a table at the Atlantic Antic. We need folks to staff the table and one or two people with cars to bring a table, chairs, banners, and materials to and from the Antic. *Let's show Brooklyn why they should visit us.* Click the QR code!



❖ Sunday, September 27th, 12:45-2:00, The Poetry of Devotion and Doubt

Journey with poets as they express the struggles of the soul in search of and sometimes rejecting faith. Join in discussions about the poetry and with fellow congregants and friends. All are welcome. If you have any questions contact Beth beth.evans.is@gmail.com or Daniel dpwalters@gmail.com or message them in Realm. Meet in the Frances White Room.

❖ Sunday, September 27th, 1:00 The Religious Naturalism Study Group

All congregants and friends of the congregation are invited to attend. A draft agenda will be distributed for comments through the RN Google Group. Please contact the Study Group Communications Coordinator at maggienorris112@gmail.com to be added to the Google Group. Meet in the Library.

❖ Sunday, September 27th The First U Social Justice Committee

will host an Open House after services on the patio outside (weather permitting). We welcome anyone with a desire to work towards social change to join us as we outline our coming events and brainstorm new ideas! All are welcome.

In Gratitude to Nancy Witherell

First Unitarian is immensely grateful to Nancy Witherell, a longtime member, who passed away in March. She bequeathed to First Unitarian's endowment \$100,000.

❖ **Thursday, October 1st, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm, BIPOC Affinity Group Meeting**

Are you looking to meet, gather, ponder, and fellowship with other congregants of color? Join us for our first meeting of the program year on Thursday, October 1st, from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM! Meetings take place on the first Thursday 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.

❖ **Saturday, Oct. 24th: Bids, bites, and boos! The Spring Auction you love is now**

a Halloween fall fest. Costumes, dinner, and drinks are on the menu. Mark your calendars! More details creeping up soon... Email Spencer@firstubrooklyn.org with items/experiences/dinners to donate, questions, or interest in getting involved!

❖ **Sunday, October 25th 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Community Recycling Event**

Electronics & Textiles. Pierrepont St between Clinton St & Monroe Pl.

Introducing the Worship Committee!

The Worship Committee helps maintain First U's tradition of dynamic, uplifting worship services by supporting the professional worship team and securing guest speakers, with an eye toward diversity, inclusion, and equity.

You'll be seeing their faces and hearing their voices in worship services this program year!

Bob Bero ~ Kate Caudill ~ Josh Davidoff ~ Ginny Fahs ~ Octavia Findley ~ Paul Robinson

Rev. Micah C. Ma, Interim Minister ~ Adam Podd, Music Director

Elizabeth Ann Terry, Director of Religious Education

You can reach the team at worship@firstubrooklyn.org. The Worship Committee welcomes all feedback and ideas regarding Sunday services.

Ministerial Search Update:

Please remember to fill out the **Congregation Ministerial Search Survey**. It is open until October 3, and can be accessed directly at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FUUB>. Computers will be set

up downstairs today and search committee members will be available to answer any questions. The survey is also available here.



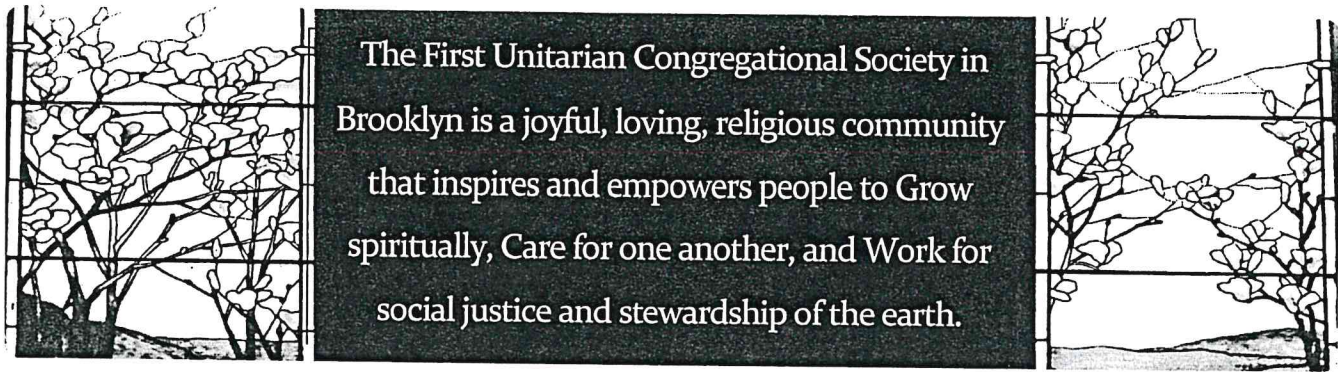
Share the Plate: The Minister's Discretionary Fund



The Minister's Discretionary Fund provides small gifts to members & friends of First Unitarian in times of need.

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.



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.

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, we invite you to come and connect with them. We very much want to hear from you.

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FIRST UNITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY



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

Renee Strickland, renee@firstubrooklyn.org
Director of Facilities

John McKeown, john@firstubrooklyn.org
Building Engineer

Wendy Russell, wendy@firstubrooklyn.org
Congregational Administrator

Bobby Blackman, bobby@firstubrooklyn.org
Sexton

Tyrone Davis, Jr., tyrone@firstubrooklyn.org
Membership Coordinator

Sean Sellers, sean@firstubrooklyn.org
HS Youth Coordinator

Phylisa St. Fleur **Ruby Stackhouse**
Nursery Caregiver *Nursery Caregiver*

OFFICERS

Board of Trustees Co-Presidents:

Michael Dore, Cyndi Kerr

Trustees:

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

Clerk of the Society: Todd Ogin

Treasurer: Lee Pardee

Moderator: James Goward

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

Children's Music Director: Bert Eisenstadt

OFFICE

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Office Hours:

Sunday 9:00-2:00 Mon by appt
Tues-Wed-Thurs | 9:30 am-4:00 pm

Office Closed Friday & Saturday

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YOUTUBE: FirstUnitarianBrooklyn

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Brooklyn

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