

FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
3400 DUPONT AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55408



THE
liberal

Upcoming Sunday Services

One 10:00 a.m. Service

July 4

"We the People..."

Led by Ben Cooper and
Ginny McAninch

July 11

"Dead Sea Scrolls, Living Tradition"

Led by Teresa Schwartz,
On Call Summer Minister

July 18

OFF SITE: Lake Harriet Service

"Friends"

Led by Rev. Justin Schroeder,
Rev. Kate Tucker, Heidi Mastrud, and
Teresa Schwartz

July 25

"Original Sin: Setting the
Record Straight"

Led by Rev. Justin Schroeder

More Information at:

www.firstuniv.org/worship

Words from Kate & Justin

*My eyes already touch the sunny hill,
going far ahead of the road I have begun.
So we are grasped by what we cannot grasp;
it has inner light, even from a distance—
and changes us, even if we do not reach it,
into something else, which, hardly sensing it,
we already are...*

—Rainer Maria Rilke

MAPQUEST: "A LIFE OF FAITH"

MapQuest can be a big help. When the MapQuest page appears on the computer screen, it asks for two pieces of information: (1) What's your starting place? and (2) Where do you want to end up? Type in those two data-bits and click "Get Directions" and MapQuest will show you the map and give you a step-by-step list of maneuvers. Most times it will get you where you're going.

When it comes to matters of spirit and faith, it would be handy, wouldn't it?—to have some kind of MapQuest program designed to help us find our way within this lively liberal congregation and to help us move along the path to faithful living. If we, as a church, could enter our "destination" into such a program, our destination might include:

- relevant, powerful, song-filled worship
- reliable ways for all the generations to get to know each other
- mechanisms for discovering our gifts and sharing them widely
- abundant on-ramps for guests and seekers

- clearly-marked "next steps" for everyone
- growing gratitude for our Universalist message of love and hope

If we typed in this (rather lengthy and challenging) destination and clicked "Get Directions," what kind of map would pop up to guide us? This is the question we've been studying and brainstorming for months.

Soon you'll begin to witness developments around this place—beautified rooms for our children, office spaces renovated to make them more efficient, Social Hall and Chalice Room reconfigured to make them more beckoning and welcoming, continued enthusiastic invitations into Small Group exploration, clearer step-by-step guidance for guests and seekers. When you see these things taking shape at 3400 Dupont Ave. S., know they are not disconnected events or random gestures.

They are all part of a larger vision for our congregation. They are part of a map meant to build muscle and momentum for our next 150 years. They are part of a plan to help us become more fully who we already are, to turn our desire into direction, our seeking into finding, and our energy into power.

May it be so.

Rev. Kate Tucker Rev. Justin Schroeder

Kate *Justin*

July 1-31, 2010
ISSUE NO. 1

All Church News

Sign Up for Summer Small Groups 3-Session Summer Series Starts Soon

Have you wondered about sermon-based small groups? Want to try one before you sign on for a longer commitment? This summer we're offering a chance for you to join a small group that will meet for three weeks in a row, leaving you plenty of time for other summer fun. We'll be choosing a sample of some of our most thought-provoking and spiritually rich sermons from the year around the themes of forgiveness, gratitude, and God. This facilitated group is not a sermon discussion group, however. The group welcomes you into the spiritual practice of deep listening, invites you to witness how others have experienced spiritual growth by listening to their life stories, and asks you to reflect on your own understanding and experience of the sacred.

Our group will meet Thursdays - July 8, 15, 22 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Participants are expected to attend all three meeting dates. To sign up, or to find out more, please contact Heidi in the church office, 612-825-1701 x124, or heidi@firstuniv.org.

Save the Date: Annual Lake Harriet Service and Picnic

Join us on Sunday, July 18, for the annual Lake Harriet Service, held at the Lake Harriet bandshell. The vibrant 10:00 a.m. service will be followed by an all-church potluck picnic. Bring a dish to share, a serving utensil, and a picnic blanket. Drinks, cups, paper plates, and cutlery will be provided. Volunteers are needed to help set up the potluck, and to hold the picnic spot we'll be using. Interested in helping at this easy and fun event? Contact Heidi in the church office, heidi@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701 x124. Put it on your calendar today!

Sesquicentennial Youth Art Show

On display in the Social Hall throughout the summer are pieces created by First Universalist Church youth for the Sesquicentennial Youth Art Show.

Lead by Church member Jane Johnson, youth in the Coming of Age program created Mandalas as part of their spiritual tool box ritual. The majority of the pieces were created by youth of various ages in a Sunday morning art experience again lead by Jane. The photo collage was created independently and submitted by Field Kline.

Thanks to all of the youth who participated and to Jane Johnson for organizing the exhibit.

It's Time to Clean Up!

Our poor building is used by so many people throughout the year that dirt, wear, and tear is really

noticeable by June. A charter school Monday - Friday, hundreds of worshipers on Sunday, and numerous meetings, events, and gatherings throughout the week mean we don't have a lot of downtime to pay the building the attention it deserves. All this and we have only had 25 hours of staff time per week to clean more than 40,000 square feet of space. It's time to say "Help!"

With the departure of Emily Grey Charter School, this is our chance to make a real, lasting dent in the appearance of the building — and have fun doing it!

If you care about the building, and want to do something about it, join us on July 11 from 11:30-2:00 p.m. Bring rags, we will provide green cleaning supplies, and we'll spend the afternoon getting to know one another, and caring for our building. Please, remember your name tags. All are welcome! Bring kids! No experience necessary!

Questions? Contact Chrystal in the church office, 612-825-1701 x100 or chrystal@firstuniv.org. The building and the community will thank you.

Caring for Our Building

It takes all of us to care for our church building and grounds. If you notice something that needs attention: a damaged bench, a loose cupboard door, a crooked sign, a carpet stain, a weedy flower bed... PLEASE take a moment to fill out a "Caring for Our Building" form. The blue forms are available in the Welcome Center and on Chrystal Teachout's desk in the main office. Please return completed forms to the office for Chrystal.

Lifespan Faith Development

*UU Identity, Ethical
Development, and Spiritual
Practice for All Ages*

Additional Religious Education: Volunteer Sign-up Meetings Scheduled for Summer

Parents! Please mark your calendars for one of these two dates. They are the best way to sign your children and youth up for Religious Education for 2010-2011 church year for 2/3 year-olds through High School.

- Wednesday, August 11, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 19, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Meetings will be held in the Cummins Room and childcare is available with advance notice. Thank you!

Adults Welcome & Needed for Religious Education Teaching Teams in the Fall!

Whether or not you are a parent, join our ministry to children and youth! You can play a significant role helping children learn more about UUism and the sources of our faith. As of this issue of *The Liberal*, we still need teachers on the following teams:

0-2 years old (Nursery) 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
2&3 year-olds (Growing Together) 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
4&5 year-olds (Celebrating me and my World) 11:15 a.m.
Kindergarten (Rainbow Path) 11:15 a.m.
1st grade (We Believe) 11:15 a.m.
2nd grade (We Believe) 11:15 a.m.
3rd grade (Stories from Hebrew Scriptures) 11:15 a.m.
4th grade (We Believe) 11:15 a.m.
Grade 5 (Social Justice) 9:30 a.m.
Grade 6 (Social Justice) 11:15 a.m.
Grade 9 (Coming of Age) Advisors needed 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.

Educating our children and youth is an important ministry to this congregation. If you have questions about being a volunteer teacher or would like to volunteer with Lifespan Faith Development in a different way, please call Marsha at 612-825-1701 x111 or marsha@firstuniv.org.

Children's Program (ages 0 – 6th Grade)

Summer Religious Education
Registration has begun for summer religious education! There will be Sunday programming for Nursery-6th graders at 10:00 a.m. Sign up now for one of these classes:

Nursery (0-3 years) Lily, our professional childcare worker, will work alongside caring volunteers to provide a safe, nurturing environment.

Preschool: Rainbow Summer! (Three-year-olds through children going into Kindergarten). Staff and volunteers will lead the preschoolers in developmentally appropriate activities that

introduce them to the Rainbow Path.

1st-6th: UUs Around the World

(Children going into 1st grade through children going into 6th grade) Explore the countries and cultures where UUs live today. Each week we'll visit a country, do an activity, and see how being a UU is different in different parts of the world. Activities will include art, service projects, cooking, games, and more!

Classes meet June 6 - August 29, with the exception of June 27 and July 18, when services are moved offsite. We understand that families have busy summertime schedules. Registered children are not expected to attend every Religious Education class in the summer. If you have any questions about summer programming, or would like to register or volunteer, please contact: Marsha Partington, Children's Program Coordinator, 612-825-1701 x111, marsha@firstuniv.org.

Feeding Hungry Children Around the World

Volunteers from *Food For Kidz* will be helping our children package and prepare meals to send to hungry children internationally on Sunday, August 8. This service activity will take place in the Chalice Room at 10:00 a.m., and is funded by the children's offering collected last year. If you are interested in participating, please join the children in the Chalice Room on August 8. Adults, youth, and families are all welcome. Questions? Call Marsha at 612-825-1701 x111.

Youth Program (for Grades 7-12)

Summer Programming for Youth

All youth entering grades 7-12 this fall are invited to the Junior/Senior High Picnic:

**Tuesday, July 13, 5:00-7:30 p.m.
at Lake Calhoun**

Meet at the BBQ pit by the beach volleyball courts (near 36th and Zenith). We'll bring the drinks and the grilling meats/veggie burgers, **you bring a dish to share** (veggies, chips, fruit, homemade herb butter and french bread . . .) We'll play games, eat some good food and hang out together. If you *can* attend, please contact Katie Heaton at katie@firstuniv.org **by Sunday, July 11**, so we know how much food to buy. See you there!

Mission Statement

We join together at First Universalist Church in a welcoming, spiritual community that affirms our liberal religious heritage. Our ministry is to bring the Universalist message of love and hope to one another, to our children, and to the work of social justice.

The Sounding Board graphic features the title in white serif font against a dark background with abstract, wavy shapes in shades of gray and black.

By John Jensen

Not too much to say now except Whew! As I look back on the past year, musically, I feel so grateful to have such an assortment of volunteer talent in our midst. I often get outside parties wanting to offer their musical services during Sundays and I always respond with "we have it all covered with in-house talent, thank you very much."

Probably four or five times a year I receive these queries. So thanks to you all for your gracious support and capabilities. This summer, I will not be off to Park City International Music Festival—for the first time in twenty years! Our dates could not mesh. I will be around in the area all summer this year and will plan my summer time away from First Universalist soon.

Sundays:

July 4: David Lauth

June 13: John Jensen

June 20: Universal Rock Band at Lake Harriett

June 27: TBD

Faith in Action graphic features the title in white serif font against a dark background with abstract, wavy shapes in shades of gray and black.

Brush with Kindness: A First Universalist Housing Ministry Project

From serving meals at Simpson Housing to collecting socks for the sock drive, and from knitting hats to volunteering at Project Homeless Connect, members of First Universalist have supported numerous homeless and affordable housing issues. On July 31, there is a new opportunity to make a difference.

Brush with Kindness is a neighborhood outreach program of Habitat for Humanity that offers painting, landscaping, and minor repair to low-income homeowners. *Brush with Kindness* enables the volunteers to connect with one family to improve their homes while also improving a block and a neighborhood.

Please consider joining us on Saturday, July 31, as we — members and friends of First Universalist — work together on a home in need of repair in Minneapolis. It is a whole day event from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You can come for part of the day or stay the whole day.

For more information or to sign up contact Chuck Coskran at chuck4199@aol.com or at 612-202-9322, or contact Debra Rodgers, debra@firstuniv.org or at 612-825-1701 x106.

Unity Leadership Institute

Seventeen years ago a group of congregants, led by their minister and social justice coordinator, dreamed of a program that would bring youth together to learn about each other and how to create change in our community. The Unity Summer program grew out of this vision and over the years has continued to be an integral part of First Universalist's social justice work. Each year the youth in the program speak of how their lives were changed through their Unity Summer internship... of how it helped them decide on a major or a career, of new friendships that were formed and still exist today, of how they honed their interest in activism, of the development of their leadership skills....

Seventeen years later, the program has exceeded its expectations. It has broadened its reach and has created new opportunities for growth. Today, Unity Leadership

- Reaches more than 100 youth through its summer internship program and winter retreats. Youth from 30-plus area high schools participate;
- Partners with 15 organizations as summer placement or work sites, including organizations in both Minneapolis and Saint Paul;
- Partners with more than 20 organizations in its youth recruitment efforts;
- Brings together youth from diverse backgrounds, cultural groups, and neighborhoods to learn and begin acting together.

Interim Minister Charlotte Cowtan recognized the potential of the program. She initiated action that led the Board of Trustees to appoint an Ad-Hoc Committee to study options and recommend a long-term organizational structure for the program to take the program to the next level as well as serve the ongoing social justice needs of the congregation.

After much deliberation, the Ad-Hoc Committee issued a number of recommendations, with the top recommendation being that Unity Leadership should become its own 501(c)(3) organization but remain connected to First Universalist Church via bylaws and formal agreements. Rev. Justin Schroeder approved this recommendation and has been working with the First Universalist Foundation and Unity Leadership program staff to begin putting a transition plan in place. For many of the 17 years, First Universalist Foundation has been the primary funding source for the program. Now, in a more consultative role, the foundation has committed to funding the critical first years of the transition.

Debra Rodgers will operate as the program's director (part time) and also continue (part time) as director of Faith in Action at the church. Alicia Steele, program assistant for Unity Leadership, will be allocated additional hours and handle much of the day to day administration of the summer program. A consultant with extensive experience in launching new nonprofits has been retained to provide strategic planning and implementation assistance. The work plan for the next year includes the development of: A mission and vision, a new board of directors and development committee, incorporation and filing

for tax exempt status, relationships with funders, operation of the program in 2010 and 2011, etc.

The transition of Unity Leadership in the fall of 2010 will be a pivotal step in aligning resources for both the current Faith in Action activities as well as for the program itself. It creates new opportunity for the program in that it can make decisions based on what is best for the youth leaders it touches without the tether to a large and sometimes slow-moving congregation. At the same time it heeds the call of the social justice needs and dreams of this congregation. For more information please contact Debra at debra@firstuniv.org or at 612-825-1701 x106.



Labyrinth News & Views

First Universalist Open Walks will be taking a hiatus this summer. Please rejoin us for Open Walks the FIRST WEDNESDAY (rather than the first Tuesday) of every month starting in September and continuing through December. Thank you for your continuing support this past year!

Cyber Coffeehour and Pastoral Care

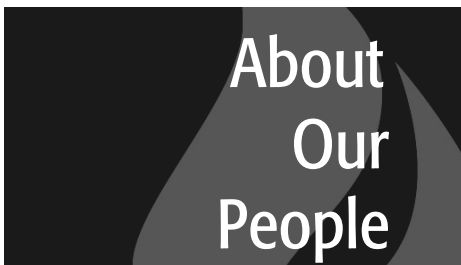
Are you a member of the Cyber Coffeehour? If so, great! If not, please consider joining this First

Universalist Yahoo Group that is another church communication vehicle for staying in touch on a day-to-day basis. There are at least weekly announcements entitled "People We Care About" that can inform you about congregants that need our support—especially if you miss a Sunday service and don't hear the minister's Cycle of Life announcements. It is also a way for the Pastoral Care Team to quickly and broadly recruit volunteers when help is needed with driving, meals, etc. To join, please visit:

www.firstuniv.org/events/getconnected/cyber-coffeehour

Comfort Shawls

Thanks to the generosity of our Comfort Shawl creators, we have a colorful abundance of shawls that are now being kept in the Chancel Room. If you know of a church member who would appreciate receiving one, please contact Margit Berg at 612-377-4776/ margitkb@comcast.net or Sue Schiess at 952-929-7311/ sschiess@alumni.princeton.edu in order to prevent duplicate gifting.



Please Note: announcements written June 6 or earlier:

On May 15 **Johannah McMullen Krueger and Ryan Alexander Shreuer** were joined in marriage at First Universalist Church. Our

blessings are with them and their families.

Kelli Clement, after six years in seminary, on May 23, graduated from United Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. In December, she will go before the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, the next step on the road to ordination.

Jill Oliveri's mother died May 18. All six of her children were with her when she died. Nancy and her husband were one shy of 60 years of marriage.

Mary Hoaglund-Vedder, longtime member recently fell and broke three ribs. She is recuperating in her regular room at the Memory Care Center in Illinois.

Joan Hummel's mother, Marion Hummel, died on May 13 in a care facility in Mississippi. Marion was 90 years old.

Susan Scott was recently diagnosed and completed treatment for Lung Cancer. Susan has a caringbridge website: caringbridge.org/visit/suescottmn

Kelli Clement's husband, Mike Potegal, had surgery on May 25 at the U of M and is recovering well.

After eight years of preparation and study, **Steven Protzman** has received Preliminary Fellowship as a minister in the UUA. He was recognized during the Service of the Living Tradition at GA and will be ordained at the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis on September 26.

Sydney Dunitz's father, Jack Irwin, died at home with family at his bed side, at age 89. He served in the USCG during WWII, serving in the Pacific, including the Battle of Okinawa. He is survived by his wife Mary and five children, including **Sydney and Jordan Dunitz**. He had

eight grandchildren and the youngest were **Madison and Jackson Dunitz**.

Betsy Long fell off her husband's bike on May 22 and spent a few days in the hospital before returning home to mend three broken pelvic bones. She is hoping for a quick recovery.

Kit Ketchum is done with chemotherapy, and back at work. Her energy is good as she looks forward to one more minor surgery by the plastic surgeon sometime this summer, and 5 years of Arimidex medication, and a very good prognosis for no more cancer! She and partner **Ginny McCarthy** are looking forward to getting back to "normal" life. After 13 years together, they will be married this summer, with a legal wedding ceremony in Iowa in July, then a joyous reception at home in August.

Barbara Benner fell off of a curb June 6 and broke three of her limbs! She had surgery to repair a broken left wrist which is now held together with 18 pins and a plate. She cracked her right elbow, which will be in a sling for comfort, and broke her right ankle, which will be in a boot until she's well-healed!

Congratulations to **John Cummins**, our beloved Minister Emeritus, who was ordained as a Universalist minister on June 4, 1950, 60 years ago! He was ordained by his father, the Reverend Robert Cummins, also a Universalist minister. He and his wife, Drusilla (Dru), served our congregation for 23 exciting, eventful years, from 1963 until 1986.

George Dow's father, George Dow, Sr., passed away June 9. He was 91 years old. There is a service planned for Saturday, July 10, in the afternoon at St. John's Episcopal Church in Saint Paul. Our love and sympathy goes to the Dow family.

Calendar of Events July 1-31

available online at:
www.firstuniv.org

~ Denotes an event to which more information can be found in this issue of the Liberal.

* Event is closed.

Sunday, July 4

Independence Day
One Service at 10 a.m.
11:00 a.m. What We're About

Monday, July 5

12:00 p.m. Career Transition Grp

Friday, July 9

*FUYAG Retreat at Camp St. Croix
(off-site)*

Saturday, July 10

*FUYAG Retreat at Camp St. Croix
(off-site)*
9:30 a.m. AUW Board Meeting

Sunday, July 11

*FUYAG Retreat at Camp St. Croix
(off-site)*
One Service at 10 a.m.

11:30 a.m. Congregational Deep
Cleaning Day

Monday, July 12

8:00 a.m. Unity Leadership
Workshop
12:00 p.m. Career Transition Grp

Tuesday, July 13

5:00 p.m. Jr/Sr High Picnic at
Lake Calhoun (off-site)

Sunday, July 18

*Annual Lake Harriet Service and
All-Church Picnic*
One Service at 10 a.m. OFFSITE

Monday, July 19

12:00 p.m. Career Transition Grp
7:00 p.m. RiseUp Singing

Sunday, July 25

One Service at 10 a.m.

Monday, July 26

8:00 a.m. Unity Leadership
Workshop
12:00 p.m. Career Transition Grp

Friday, July 30

6:30 p.m. Wheel of the Year:
Lammas

Saturday, July 31

A Brush with Kindness
Habitat for Humanity Build
More info. on page 4

The Liberal is Published
Monthly
by First Universalist Church

Looking for Discussion?

The Cyber CoffeeHour is a great place to chat with other First U members and friends about various issues, both in our congregation and in the world.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CyberCoffeehour/>

First Universalist Church Is Served By:

Senior Minister

The Reverend Justin Schroeder x102

Associate Minister

The Reverend Kate Tucker x103

On Call Summer Minister

Teresa Schwartz x127

Minister Emeritus

The Reverend John Cummins

Director of Congregational Life

Heidi Mastrud x124

Youth and Young Adult

Ministries Coordinator

Katie Heaton x109

Children's Program Coordinator

Marsha Partington x111

**Program Assistant and
Sunday Childcare Provider**

Lily Franz x107

Membership Support

Sandy DiNanni x125

Director of Faith in Action

Debra Rodgers x106

Director of Administration

Patti Frazee x104

**Facilities Coordinator and
Financial Assistant**

Chrystal Teachout x100

Communications Coordinator

Kevin Watson x110

Sound System Operator

Ben Burger

Music Director

John Jensen

Choral Director

Janice Hunton

Cleaning Custodian

Mike Higgins

Custodian

Chris Azar

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, July 11

Congregational Deep
Cleaning Day
(p. 2)

Sunday, July 18

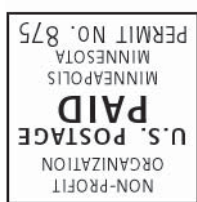
Annual Lake Harriet
Service and Picnic
(p. 2)

Saturday, July 31

First Universalist Church
Brush with Kindness Project
(p. 4)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday	8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Phone: 612-825-1701
Friday	8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Fax: 612-825-8879
Saturday	Closed	firstuniversalist@firstuniv.org
Sunday	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	www.firstuniv.org



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PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY
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FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
3400 DUPONT AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55408