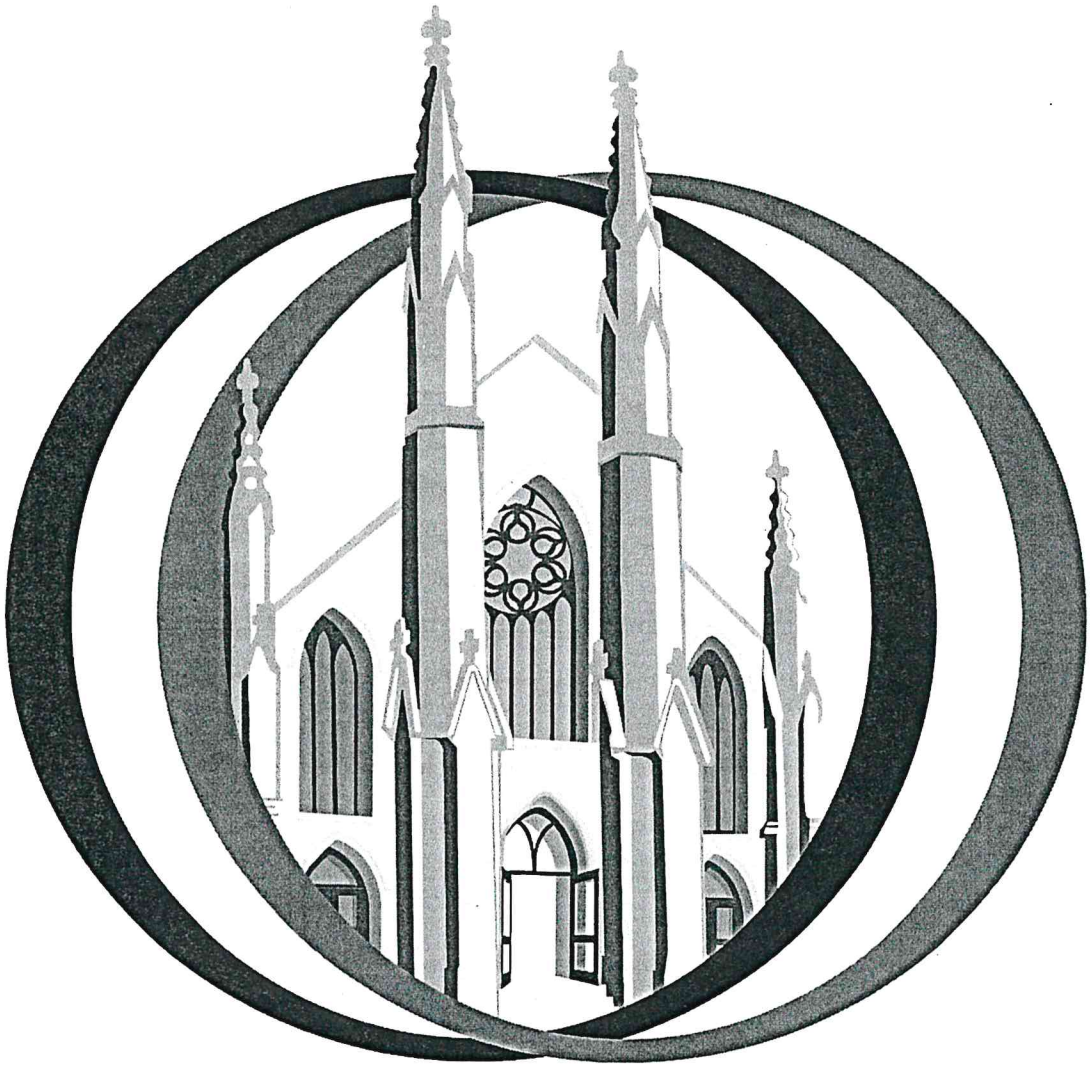


FIRST UNITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY BROOKLYN

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
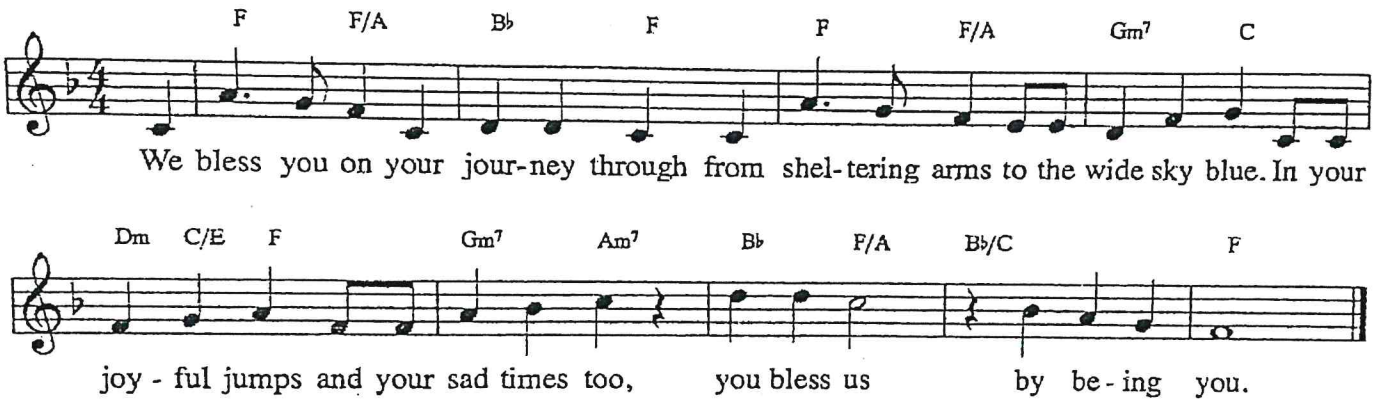
Read Responsively:

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

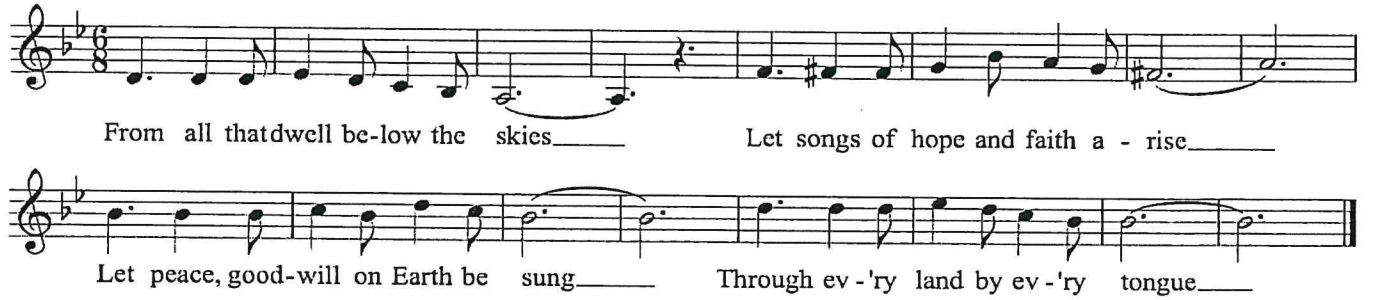
Blessed is the transient flame we kindle here;
Blessed is the illuminated moment of our gathering.

Blessed is the light of the eternal;
Blessed is the sacred call of life to which we give ourselves in answer.

CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL



SONG OF HOPE FOR JAZZ SUNDAY



November 15, 2026

The Gnarly Path, Together

Welcome to First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn, where we are exploring *the practice and promise of community* 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.

♪ ***We Choose Love*** by Ana Egge and Adam Podd

As we gather together, and we hold in our hearts, the spirit that unites us (3x)
We choose love, we choose love, we choose love.

We choose love, love chooses us.

♪ **Whoever You Are** (inside cover)

Chalice Lighting (inside cover)

♪ **Song of Hope** (inside cover)

Greeting

Deepening

Wisdom Story | *Ribbit*

Children's Blessing & Recessional

Silent Meditation & Prayer

Candle Lighting

♪ ***Ubi Caritas*** by Ola Gjeilo / ad. Sophia Miller

Where charity and love are, God is there.

Reflection and Reading

♪ **Woyaya** (insert)

New Member Ceremony (insert)

Connecting

Offering

♪ ***A Song to Sing*** by Coco Love Alcorn

Announcements

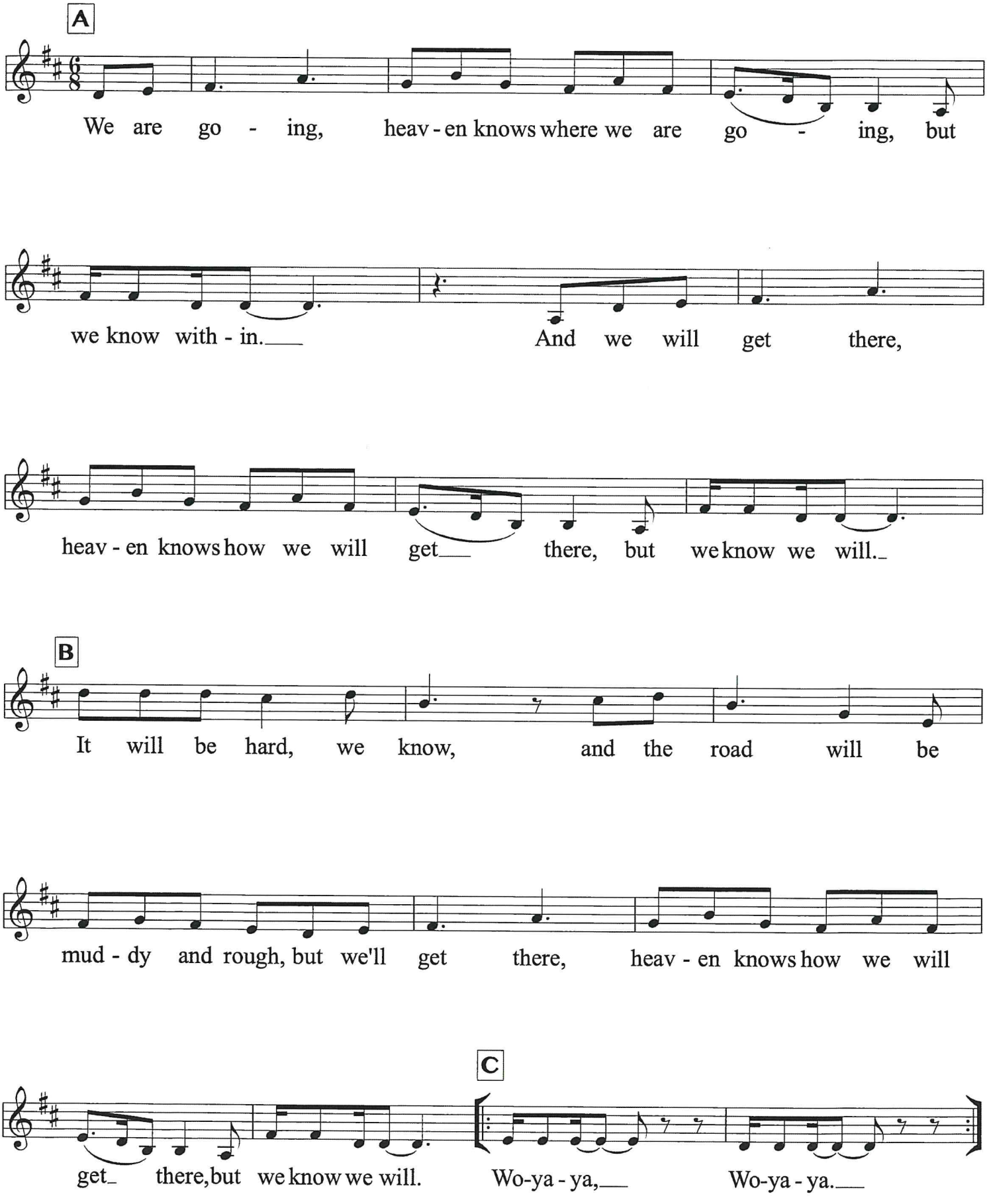
♪ **Lead With Love**

Chalice Extinguishing (inside cover)

Benediction

WOYAYA

SOL AMARFIO



New Member Ceremony

New members come forward as their names are called.

Congregational response to each:
"We welcome you and we bless you."

President:
To our new members this morning: we welcome you each to our fellowship. We ask you now, by joining this Society, do you commit yourself to stand in right relationship with our community and to accept the responsibilities of membership? Are you ready to lend your time, financial support, and creative energy in support of the goals and shared work of this congregation?

New Members:
I am. I pledge to work with this community toward the healing and transformation of our world, offering the gift of myself – my insights, my compassion, my dreams, and my vital energy.

President:
And now, will the current members please rise in body or in spirit and join together in our words of welcome.

Congregation:
We welcome you to the First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn:
To its idealism and its freedom,
To the depth of its inheritance and the breadth of its community,
To the faith and hope and love which bring us together.
We pledge our affection, interest, and support in your spiritual growth and life journey.

Children, Youth and RE Community:
We welcome you with open minds. We welcome you with helping hands. We welcome you with loving hearts. Together we care for the earth and work for peace and justice.

New Members come into the midst of the community and receive their gifts.

Song: From you I receive, to you I give,
Together we share, and from this we live.

President:
This is a happy occasion for us all. It is with joy and gratitude that I recognize you as members of the First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn!

Wisdom Story: Becky Huffman, Religious Education Council Chair
Reading: Tyrone Davis, Jr., Membership Coordinator
New Member Ceremony & Announcements: Tyrone Davis, Jr.
Greeting: Madi Markham

Worship Associate: Kate Caudill
Lay Pastoral Minister: ET Boyle
Livestream Producer: Lukas Bauer
Online Host: Luke Messina
Connections Table Host(s): Allen Kone

Mystical Reading by Simone Weil
Reading: ***Because Church*** by Rev. Sean Neil-Barron

Music Notes:

Music is led this morning by **Sophia Miller**, with **Allie Lewis** at the piano.

A Song to Sing features **Ramona & Jean Shepherd.**

Today in Religious Education:

Activity Packs are available for little ones

Nursery, Toddler, Pre-K / 11 -12:30 PM, drop-off to 50 Monroe Classroom. Pick up after service.

Grades K-6, Sunday Music with Elena & Sean
Following the Wisdom Story, the children will recess down to the Chapel
Pick up your child(ren) from the Chapel at 12:30.

OWL, Grades 7-8, 11 AM – 12:30 PM, Third Floor Teen Room

HS Youth Group, Grades 9-12, 12:30-1:30, Third Floor Teen Room

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

Share the Plate: The Miriam Campobasso Fund

The Miriam Campobasso Fund makes grants to any woman who meets the following criteria: has a medical issue, the treatment of which is creating an emotional, financial, or logistical drain; is a member of the First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn or of the Women's Leadership Alliance; and has a specific financial need.
The fund was created in memory of Miriam Campobasso, a longtime member of First U and the Women's Leadership Alliance. As of 2026, our funds are at a historic low, and we need support from the First U community to maintain our mission.

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.

All are invited for fellowship in the undercroft, following the service.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Today at First Unitarian:

❖ **Shawl & Craft Ministry, Undercroft.**
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. 12:45-2:15. Frances White Room.**
Newcomers Welcome!

❖ **The Great Kitchen Clean-Up! 2:00 pm. Kitchen.**
The Kitchen has gotten THREE new appliances: an induction range, a double oven, and a refrigerator. Now it's time for us to channel our inner Marie Kondo and join the Facilities Committee in cleaning up our new and improved kitchen, just in time for Thanksgiving, UniFair, and beyond. We'll provide gloves, spray cleaners, cloths, paper towels, and brooms. Sign up using the QR Code.

❖ **YAM Spiritual Discussion: Reconnecting and Reimagining 12:45-2:30 pm. Library.**
The Young Adult Ministry meets in the Library on the third Sunday of each month for conversation and community. Open to adults around 18 to 35, and anyone who identifies as a young adult. YAM welcomes longtime church members and newcomers alike, including those exploring faith, spirituality, or simply looking for connection. Interested in getting to know other young adults in our community, curious about what we've done together, or just looking to connect? Join us for a casual discussion about how YAM has brought people together, while also making space for new ideas, fresh perspectives, and the chance to shape this community together. We will have pizza!

❖ **Also on the calendar today**
- **Soul Matters** w/Linda Guidi & Luke Chu, 12:30-2:30 – Eastman Room
- **Religious Education Pageant Rehearsal**, 12:45-1:15 – Sanctuary
- **UniFair Sort,** 1:00-3:30 – Undercroft

Looking Forward:

Saturday, November 21st, 10:00 – 3:00.
Join the search committee for the UUA-led workshop, Break Barriers, Build Beliefs.

The 'B4' workshop will help us examine unconscious bias as we choose our next minister. To participate, please ***take this short survey. QR code to the left.***

Then ***sign up*** for the B4 workshop on Nov. 21 on Zoom, from 10:00 am- 300 pm There's a one-hour lunch break. ***Register with the QR code to the right***

❖ **Sunday, November 22nd, Hunger Communion & Community Fast Activities**

On Nov 22, the Sunday before the feast of Thanksgiving, First U will hold our annual Hunger Communion and (optional) fast, accompanied by activities after the service to lead up to our break-fast at sundown. We take this time to remember that almost a billion people worldwide don't have enough to eat.

The Worship Committee is looking for volunteers to help organize our slate of fast activities and break-fast for that afternoon. Please email ***worship@firstubrooklyn.org*** if you would like to assist.

❖ **Also on the calendar for Sunday, November 22nd:**

- **Search Committee**, 12:30-1:30 pm – McKinney Chapel
- **Poetry of Doubt & Devotion**, 12:45-2:15 – Frances White Room
- **Religious Naturalism**, 12:45-2:15 – Library
- **Unifair Sort**, 1:00-3:30 – Undercroft

❖ **Thursday, November 26th, Community Thanksgiving Potluck**

WHAT: 2026 Annual Thanksgiving Potluck
WHEN: Thursday, November 26 | 2 pm arrival, 3 pm meal
WHERE: Undercroft, 50 Monroe Place, Brooklyn, NY 11201
WHO: Congregants, friends, community - all are welcome!
HOW: ***RSVP using the QR code to the right***

We still have a few spaces open for Soul Matters participants on Wednesday evening at First U, 6:30-8:30 pm. Each month, you'll receive a reflection guide with thoughtful questions, readings, and exercises to explore at your own pace before we gather to share, honor each other's stories, and grow together. Please email ***elizabeth.zehe@gmail.com*** if you're interested.

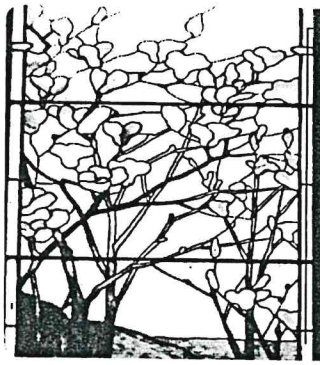
Guest at Your Table

Support our partners with UUSC's longest-running program for congregations
For half a century and counting, UUSC has worked with faith communities across the country to bring our partners' stories and experiences to your family table. The long-running Guest at Your Table program is a chance to learn about our partners' work and support our shared efforts to advance human rights.

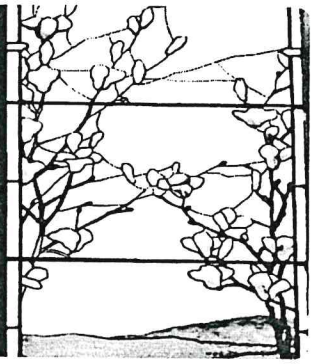
It's UniFair Time, and we need a CHAIRPERSON!

Please reach out to any board member if you are interested in participating. Sign up for sorting, setting up, and selling, not to mention baking and decorating. Volunteering at Unifair isn't just about giving back—it's a great opportunity to connect with old friends, meet new faces, and get early inspiration for your own fair shopping!

If you receive an email from Rev. Micah requesting money, do not open it, click on any link, or send anything. Someone used Reverend Ma's illness as a cover and tried to email one of our congregants, urging them to send a $200 Amazon gift card to someone else in his name. We checked with Reverend Ma, and it was a scam.
If in doubt, please contact Wendy in the office at wendy@firstubrooklyn.org.



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.

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.

Donations to First Unitarian are received with gratitude.
Scan the QR code to the left to be taken directly to our online portal.
Checks or cash may be dropped in the offering plate.
Thank you for your generosity.

FIRST UNITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY BROOKLYN

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

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
Nursery Caregiver

Ruby Stackhouse
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

48 Monroe Place
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Tel (718) 624-5466

***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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WEB: ***www.firstubrooklyn.org***

INSTAGRAM: FirstUBrooklyn

YOUTUBE: FirstUnitarianBrooklyn

FACEBOOK:
First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn

GIVE BY TEXT (855) 799-2543