



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

Minster

The Rev. Lane Campbell

minster@uuroc.org

(585) 325-5092

Minister of Life Span

Faith Development

The Rev. Michelle Yates

edu@uuroc.org

(585) 310-2484

Director of Music

Brock Tjosvold

music@uuroc.org

Office Administrator

Andrea Lewis

office@uuroc.org

585-546-2826

Fax (585) 546-7559

Our Outlook Editor

Andrea Lewis

office@uuroc.org

First Universalist Church

150 South Clinton Avenue

Rochester, NY 14604

Visit us online: <https://www.uuroc.org>

Inside

Rev. Lane Campbell	Pg. 2
Walking Together	Pg. 2
Spirit In Practice/RAIHN	Pg. 3
Project Team/M&M	Pg. 4
Lunchtime Concert/Finance	Pg. 5
EcoJustice	Pg. 6
Installation	Pg. 7
Living Our Values-MAD	Pg. 8
Criminal Task Force	Pg. 11
Drop In/Book Group	Pg. 12
House/Cozy Night	Pg. 13
Animal Ministries/Events	Pg. 14
UU Book Note	Pg. 15

Sunday Services | December 2018

December 2, 10:30 am | *Peace Within, Among, and Between.* As December begins, this is often a season for us to think about peace. What does peace feel like within ourselves? Among others? Between communities? Come explore what peace could look like for us and for our neighbors and join in praying for peace for our larger world.

—Rev. Lane Campbell

December 9, 10:30 am | *Remember The Dark.* A special service for Choir Sunday to celebrate the winter solstice. This season can be a season of darkness and a season of hope. Through song and a moving story, we will explore the central message of coming together in the midst of stresses to be called again to be our best selves.

—Rev. Lane Campbell

December 16, 10:30 am | *Embracing Joy.* Not the kind of sparkly, fleeting joy of the commercials, but a joy that lasts, a joy that is consistent in our lives. Come explore how we live from a baseline of joy, from a feeling of knowing we are enough and knowing contentment.

—Rev. Lane Campbell

December 23, 10:30 am | *The Light of Expansive Love.* The longest day of the year, winter solstice falls around December 21. We will gather to tell stories of light and hope, stories of the sun's return. Join in this service for the whole church that invites us to know love through light, to know hope in the longest day of the year.

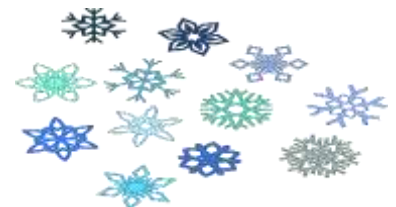
—Rev. Lane Campbell

December 24, 7:00 pm | *Following Yonder Star.* An old story, the story of the three wise men, told in a new way - through the eyes of their spouses. We will sing the carols of the season and take part in a no-rehearsal Christmas pageant. Come celebrate Christmas in contemplation, joy, and candlelight.

—Rev. Lane Campbell

December 30, 10:30 am | *Poetry Service.*

—Worship Associates





Rev. Lane

As we enter December, the weather begins to get colder, snow is falling, and our surrounding world is beginning to slow down. The beautiful transformation of Fall has come to an end. And now it is time to slow down, to rest for a time in preparation for the season to come.

It seems almost counter-intuitive, doesn't it?! This month is FULL of opportunities to get to events, work parties, holiday celebrations, family obligations, preparations for Christmas, concerts, the list could go on and on. It seems to me that in this time when the season is communicating to us that it is time to slow down, we are speeding up.

Unitarian Universalism draws inspiration from many world traditions, including Christianity. In this season, many of our Christian neighbors and First Universalist members are entering into a season of Advent, a time of quiet anticipation before the joyful celebration of Christmas. For many, this is a time to draw inward and reflect on what this season has to teach us, how to embrace the dark, the frozen, the brightness, the calm of a first snow. Throughout the 25 days leading to Christmas, there are times to focus on Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace, messages much needed in all of our lives.

The days leading up to Winter Solstice are often embraced as quiet days as well. This connection between preparation for Solstice and Advent should come as no surprise as the Christian tradition appropriated many earth-based observances. We are waiting for the return of the sun, for a joyous celebration of the longest day of the year.

My invitation to you is to embrace this season of waiting and quiet. Find time in your days for stillness. Take a moment to light a candle and draw inward. Make space to sit and watch the snow fall.

This season is giving us time to slow down. Rather than fighting against the ways our world is turning, embrace it and see where that embrace takes you.



Walking Together

Minister of Life Span Faith Development
Rev. Michelle Yates

Our Adult Faith Development offering, *Spirit in Practice*, I'll Consider *Communal Worship Practices* in December. Here I would like to highlight the programs and *communal worship practices* of our congregation's children and families.

When it's time for the Story portion of our worship on a Sunday morning, we as a congregation get to note the children who are in service. You may have noticed we've been having more children more often! More kids and families worshipping with us for the first third of our regular *communal worship service*.

On most Sundays, after the Story, children ages 5-12 are invited to the 3rd floor for Children's Worship. Younger children may join us or go to Childcare on the 2nd floor. In Children's Worship we light a chalice, sing a song, share joys and sorrows, reflect on the Story told in service, engage in an activity that further explores the worship theme of the day or the month, and close with a circle to extinguish our chalice.

This year, Rev. Lane and I aspire to have one Whole Church Worship each month. Our November *Stone Soup* Worship was a great example of this! Having positive experiences in the sanctuary when children are young is critical for them feeling at home in that space as adults.

Recently, we had our first Family Night of the year. We had two last year. At these events which happen on a Friday night, we provide a dinner, share a brief family worship, and offer a time for activities for the children and conversation for the parents. They have been a hit!

As our numbers of children and families increase, I have noted two things. First, many of you are excited to see them and are curious about what programming and support we are offering. Second, we are in need of more volunteers to make these programs possible and positive.

In answer to both of these needs, my charge to the congregation is for each member to volunteer to support our children and families at least one time each year. Opportunities could include being our second adult or special guest for Children's Worship, helping with food or activities at a Family Night in January or spring, helping with welcoming families on Whole Church Worship days, being a "guest" at the kids table during Social Hour or much more.

This could transform our welcome culture for including children and families in the fabric of our congregation! You will hear more about this in the coming months, but feel free to reach out to me if you are ready to discuss how you can be a part of the action! In Faith and Love, Rev. Michelle



Spirit in Practice Faith Development Program

*Submitted by Rev. Michelle Yates
Minister of Lifespan Faith Development*

The *Spirit in Practice* workshops were created by UU minister Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom to help Unitarian Universalists develop regular disciplines, or practices, of the spirit-practices that help them connect with the sacred ground of their being, however they understand it. The workshops offer a forum for learning, sharing, and growth that can enrich our faith journeys.

Workshops will take place on the third Wednesday of each month from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm in the Clara Barton Lounge. Come to each session or when you can.

In session 3 on Wednesday, December 19, we will consider *Communal Worship Practices*. We will reflect on what elements of worship leave us with a deep sense of connectedness and share a reverent worship experience. Please email our facilitator Rev. Michelle Yates at edu@uuroc.org if you plan to attend or have questions. Walk-ins are also welcome.

The Spirit in Practice Workshops will also be offered every other Tuesday from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm at the Irondequoit Public Library starting January 15, 2019!!

The full schedule of dates for the ten sessions are as follows: January 15 and 29, February 12 and 26, March 12 and 26, April 9 and 23, and May 7 and 21, 2019.

RAIHN Works!



*Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network
Keeping families together.
Getting families home for good.*

Submitted by Marti Eggers

The Greatest Gift a true RAIHN story

It was the week before Christmas. It was her 10th birthday, and she and her family were homeless. But earlier that day another homeless family, a couple with two small children who were RAIHN guests at First Universalist that week, moved out of the church and into their own place. Now, there was a room for the Birthday Girl, her parents and her siblings, and they moved into First Universalist that very afternoon. They were extremely grateful to be together and to be safe and warm again.

It was too late to put on a birthday party that day, but a few days later dinner volunteers prepared a cake and some special birthday cupcakes. There were candles and birthday napkins. A few little gifts also appeared; a journal, a sticker and crafts book, and a Jamaican piggy bank, all to the surprise and delight of the Birthday Girl. Her parents were overcome with appreciation, and the volunteers were happy to have been able to serve.

Remember the young family that moved into their own place earlier in the week? They were overcome with joy the following day when they received a Christmas tree along with some ornaments and lights from a Secret Santa. (Remember the tree that used to adorn the front of the sanctuary at First Universalist? Shhhh!)

Gifts abound in this true story – family finding safe shelter, the birthday party, the little birthday gifts, the joy the party volunteers felt, the Christmas tree and all the trimmings, and the note of gratitude written with care by the Birthday Girl. Which do you think is the greatest gift?



Project Team Update

Submitted by Dolores Da Lomba

Black Lives Matter Discussion. On Sunday, November 11, about 26 church members gathered at the rear of the Sanctuary to discuss the pros and cons of our church displaying a Black Lives Matter banner. It became evident to me, as we discussed the cons, that information about UUA activities in this area might be useful.

So briefly: In 2015, at the General Assembly, member congregations were called to Action of Immediate Witness. A partial listing of black people recently killed (12) was among the many reasons cited for the call.

The Summer 2015 issue of UUWORLD reported that more than two dozen UU congregations had placed Black Lives Matter (BLM) banners on their buildings. In the Winter 2015 issue of UUWORLD, Ken Wiley outlined “Five Ways to Support Black Lives Matter.”

See the current issue of UUWORLD (Winter 2018) for Crystal M. Fleming’s article “Why Are We Talking About White Supremacy” for challenging issues well worth thinking about and discussing. If you’ve already passed on your copies, not to worry, these articles are accessible on line.

In addition to UUWORLD articles, over the past year or so, opportunities to learn more about racism and how it affects us all have been offered here in our church in many ways by several groups. We have had book discussions, taped presentations, worship services, Cozy Night Suppers, and discussions. More opportunities to learn about ways to witness our faith will be available in the coming months as we work together toward determining our goal of defining a church wide anti-racism project. We hope you’ll be able to fit

something into your schedule so you can make an informed decision when the Project Team presents its suggestions for potential church wide activities for your review.

Recommended reading. *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond. *Evicted* follows several families in one city as they try to seek safe, adequate housing with limited incomes. It documents the outrageous rental fees charged to the poor, often leaving them with barely enough money to pay for food and utilities. The instability of constantly changing homes wreaks havoc on children’s educations as they move from school to school. And it often affects the adults’ ability to maintain employment, never mind the challenge of trying to be healthy in substandard housing. It is well researched and written and is highly recommend by the Project Team.

Mindfulness & Meditation

Minding Our Own Business

Submitted by Joy Leccese

When life gets under our skin, it’s easy to get “all up in someone’s business.” What we mean by that is that we take things personally when perhaps we would do better not to; or what *is* meant for us – and we *do* take personally – gets under our skin and foment. It’s hard to let it go. So, this month, in our Mindfulness & Meditation session, we’ll address once more some of the ways we can help ourselves do just that: view things from a different perspective, learn some practical mindfulness tools to help us detach when it might be difficult but oh, so much better for one’s blood pressure, not to mention mood. Join us on Saturday, December 15, from 9:30 am until 11:30 am. Glenda Brayman’s Renaissance Music Group *Sanctuary* will add their beautiful voices to our time together. It’s a time for reflection, contemplation, and some very needed peaceful moments in our hectic lives. Come a few minutes early for coffee and indulge in one of the blessings of being part of this beloved community. Email me if you’re not on the reminder list already. Joy Leccese via office@uuroc.org. Namaste.



Fifty years-ago this month, December 15, 1968 to be exact -- Jan Hickman signed the First Universalist Membership Register and became a member of our church. Give her a congratulatory "thumbs up" when you see her.



Eastman at Washington Square Lunchtime Concerts

Thursday Lunchtime Concerts are located at the First Universalist Church. Each concert begins at 12:15 pm and ends at approximately 12:45 pm. Admission is free. Bring your brown bag lunch and enjoy.

December 6 | *An Afternoon with Brahms*. Don't miss hearing violinist Letitia Jap, violist Sunwoo Lee, cellist Heewon Lee, and pianist Cameron Fuhrman perform Brahms' *Piano Quartet No. 1, Op. 25*.

December 13 | *Silent Night! Holy Night!* The New Horizons Chorus, under the direction of Juli Elliot, will celebrate the 200th anniversary of its first performance (Christmas Eve, 1818) with settings of this beloved carol.

Concerts Resume January 3, 2019.
See you in the New Year!

Finance News and Notes

Investment report are now available

The Service Auction is Coming: Sunday, February 3, 2019. So why do we call it the "SERVICE" Auction? For this main fund-raising event of our church year, we focus on fellowship and fun, rather than selling objects. So, the tradition has been for members and friends to donate a *service*; a meal, event, or personal talent. While we do have our share of objects in the auction each year, these *services* provide a chance for us to interact with one another and build community.

Our wonderful co-chairs of the Service Auction, Paula Marchese and Katherine Flynn, lead a team of many volunteers. Each year, we make an effort to have the Service Auction run more smoothly. To that end, here are some things to think about when considering what to donate:

- Theme dinners, custom baked goods, and homemade jams and jellies are typically great sellers.
- If you are donating an object which must be seen to be appreciated (such as artwork), we must have the object at church at least one week prior to the auction, so folks can consider whether or not to make a bid.
- The Service Auction is NOT the place for garage sale objects, getting rid of household clutter, or downsizing. To keep the Auction, and the donation booklet to a manageable length, we encourage you to donate such items to Goodwill, or to rehome them in another way.

Paula Marchese, Katherine Flynn, and the team are happy to provide information about specific donations you may be considering, so please don't hesitate to contact them via office@uuroc.org.

Donation forms will be available in early January, and much more information will be coming soon.

And finally, mark those calendars and plan to attend the Service Auction on February 3, 2019!



Submitted by Kate Fleury

What makes a "Healthy Building"?

In Port Orchard, Washington, the King County Administration Building, completed in 2006, has 70,000 square feet of features that reduce impact on the environment and that support the health of workers and visitors. The award-winning building is now such a part of the landscape that locals take it for granted. It was built into the side of a hill to take advantage of geothermal insulation. Several outdoor cisterns collect rainwater, which is channeled by gravity to sustainable plantings. "Living roofs, terracing in the building design, skylights, and specially coated glass reduce energy use and make maintenance easier", said Mr. Robin Kruetzfeldt, Facilities Supervisor. One challenge, as the project ages, is that the dedicated landscaper retired, and county pay scales do not readily attract staff who will be enthusiastic about maintaining the living roofs. The site is beautiful with outdoor art, streambeds, gardens, and overflow from the cisterns creates waterfalls when there is abundant rain.

On nearby Bainbridge Island, "Town and Country Market" remodeled their 1957 grocery store. By following strict criteria from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), they were able to earn "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design" (LEED) Gold certification. A multiracial organization since its beginning, Ed Loverich and Japanese American brothers John and Mo Nakata responded to a community that included the town of Winslow and the nearby countryside farmers ("Town and Country"). Special features of the redesigned building include solar panels, LED and natural lighting, low Volatile Organic Compound (VOC = toxic) materials, low water flow toilets, filtering of parking lot runoff to protect the surrounding habitat and increased natural planting areas. Family members of the founders continue working in the store and there is strong local support.

Just up the street is another building that has achieved LEED Gold status. The Bainbridge Island Museum of Art (BIMA) took advantage of an outstanding location in the center of town. It is within walking distance for many locals and businesses, as well as within reach of the Seattle ferry to Winslow. Tourists and visitors do not need cars, they can walk to the BIMA. During building, construction waste (which can account for as much as 50% of landfill waste) was recycled and carefully controlled. This avoided damage to the adjacent Winslow Ravine habitat and saved energy. "Geothermal" is cleverly accessed with fourteen 400-foot bores into the ground, where 50-degree temperature helps maintain a stable building temperature above. Recycled crushed blue jean material was used as insulation material in the walls. Solar panels, living roofs, sustainable plantings all create/conserves energy and reduce expense. An ingenious light-sensitive louver system on the windows automatically opens and closes to control light, heat and energy.

Do we have any energy saving or sustainable features in our 110-year-old building? Tom Ruganis, co-chair of the House Committee, provided information. Last year we installed LED light bulbs in our light fixtures. We replaced 11 older windows with new, energy-efficient storm windows. Our heating is provided by a steam and hot water system. We do some recycling and some composting. We have gardens. Could we do more? Yes, although we might not be ready to seek *any* level of LEED certification, we could work on a "Zero Waste Initiative." We could commit to using low VOC materials for future painting, repair, and remodeling projects. We could make sure the janitorial cleaning products we use are "green." There might be additional ways to save energy, water, and expense. These are small steps, but important ones, to groom our building into improved "HEALTH."

Installation Service for Rev. Lane Campbell

November 18, 2018



Rev. Lane Campbell: With this shared faith as our guide and with the promises we have made to one another, I gratefully accept this call to serve you as your minister. With joy and gratitude, I come to you ready to serve, knowing I am not alone in this ministry, but surrounded by a congregation to partner with. May our ministry together bring more justice, more love, and more beauty to a world sorely in need.

ALL: Amen. Blessed be. May it be so.

Living Our Values,
Making A Difference

United Response to Trump's Racism and Hatred February 17, 2018

On February 17, 2018, members and friends of First Universalist joined other community groups in a march to the Liberty Pole in downtown Rochester for the United Community Response to Donald Trump's Hatred and Racism event led by Minister Franklin Florence Sr. of Central Church of Christ. Several hundred people attended.



Rev. Peggy Meeker (left) and Christine DeGolyer (right) carry
'COMMUNITY not empire' bumper stickers.



Ed Deller (left), MJ Curry, carrying 'All Are Welcome Here' Sign, and Mortiz Wagner (right) listen to the Speaker.



Connie Valk carries one of the signs our church made to loan to our members and friends.



The Rev. Dick Gilbert (foreground) listens to the rally speakers.



(left to right) Ed Deller, the Rev. Peggy Meeker, Bill Elwell, Katherine Flynn and Robert Remley line up to march.

United Community Response to Trump's Hatred and Racism. Speakers called President Trump to task for his hate-filled policies and racist rhetoric; they found him guilty. The crowd cheered!



'HATE Has No HOME Here'

Criminal Task Force To Pass H.A.L.T Solidarity Confinement Act (Human Alternatives to Long-Term)

The first Action Event of the Criminal Justice Task Force was held November 13, 2018 at the Carriage Factory Apartments. We are excited to be moving toward a greater commitment to acting on our issues. At the gathering the Roc/ACTS Criminal Justice Task Force met to plan future actions regarding solitary confinement but also to join in the November 14 statewide *Speak Out Against Injustice* event. The task force put together a press release that was followed by a press conference, November 15, at 11:00 am at the Open Arms Christian Fellowship Ministries, 461 Webster Avenue. We invited everyone to join us, especially those who represent or who are part of a local connection in support of the agenda – which was shared by a number of UUs locally.

We realize that this is a Social Justice action. We need direct results to affect change in Albany. We need to show up in numbers to challenge the status quo of mass incarceration.



Criminal Justice Task Force of Roc/ACTS





Drop-in Discussion

Submitted by Beth Ares
DECEMBER 2018

Drop-in discussions are held each Sunday morning in the Chalice Room on the second floor of our church, starting at 9:15 am during the regular church year. Sometimes our discussions are based on certain books or articles, but you don't have to read anything or do any advance preparation to participate. Just drop-in. People of all viewpoints are welcome to make presentations or join in the discussions.

December 2 | *The Real World.* The world we live in is real. Every child knows this! But especially in times of social transition, it's important to recognize that the real worlds people live in may be different. Hank Stone will facilitate.

December 9 | *In the Wake of a Wave: Albany 2019.* Dick Gilbert, President of Interfaith Impact of New York State, will preview issues before the state legislature. There are unprecedented opportunities for passage of legislation many have sought for years: reproductive justice, environmental progress, voting reform, health care and others. How can we make a difference?

December 16 | *Anthony Bordain: Why I loved him, why I'll miss him.* An honest acerbic rogue chef who traveled the world and connected with people who loved food and people. Kate Fleury presenter.

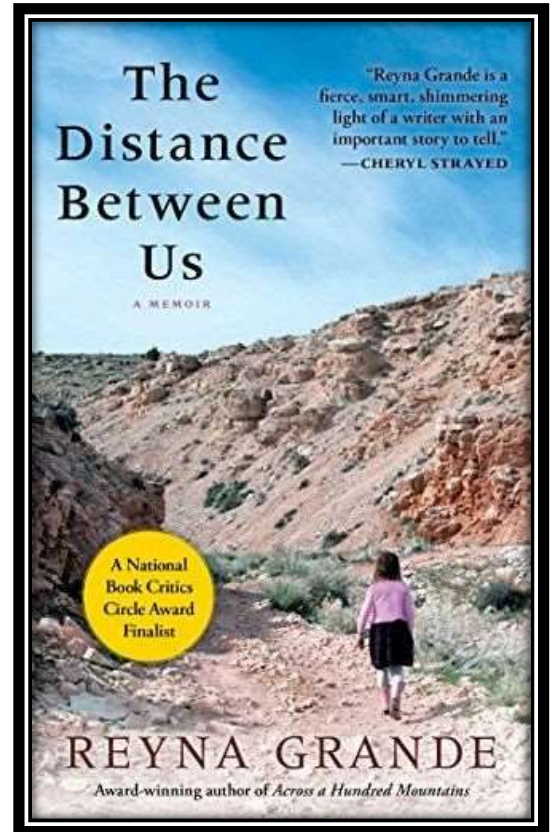
December 23 | *Campaigning for Liberals in a Conservative District.* Janus Mary Jones describes what it's like going door to door for liberal candidates in the conservative town that she loves. She will present and lead a discussion on why this was worth doing and why it brings her closer to her community.

December 30 | *Confused cows, reluctant sheep, horses who refuse to stand up.* The adventures of serving on a farm animal shelter's rescue team. Beth Ares.

Topics/Presenters Wanted For January 2019: Have you read or written a book or article, attended or presented a workshop or talk or have a topic that you would like to share with us? Please contact any of our Drop-In Discussion Team members: Shelley Adams, John Belli, David Damico, Kate Fleury, Bob Remley, or Beth Ares, coordinator.

Book Group

Submitted by Shirley Bond



The selection for the December Book Group is *The Distance Between Us* by Reyna Grande. Our Book Group discussion will be held on December 30, upstairs in the Chalice Room at 12:00 pm. All are Welcome!

House Committee News

Submitted by Ed Deller

We're grateful to all those who helped in the Fall Cleanup day on November 3: Sarah Singal, Karen Dau, Chelsea and Steven Hunt, Michael Scott, Moritz Wagner, Pat Stott, Paula Marchese, Connie Valk, Eileen Fernandez, Richard Reed, Kitty Forbush and Shirley Bond. Together we cleaned, painted, repaired, improved outdoor lighting, and helped winterize our sacred space. Many hands made for light and effective work.

New storm windows were installed on the parking lot side of the volunteer office. They provide both an aesthetic and functional improvement. Thank you to Keith and Pat Stott for a generous donation to support this improvement.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Ruganis and Ed Deller, Co-Chairs



Cozy Night Supper

Submitted by Kathy Russell

A Cozy Night Supper will be held Friday, December 28 from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm in the Clara Barton Lounge. Our potluck dinner will be from 5:30 pm until 6:30 pm with the program following from 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm. The focus will be holiday pastimes now and in years gone by.

Please let us know that you will be attending this potluck, and it is appreciated if you list the ingredients in your dish. Drinks, silverware and dishes will be provided. Childcare is available if requested one week in advance. Your RSVP will allow us to know how many folks to plan for. Sign-up sheets are posted on the hall bulletin board and in the Clara Barton Lounge or you can RSVP to Kathy Russell at the church office.

For those who like to plan ahead, here are the other Cozy Night Suppers planned for this church year.

February 2019	March 2019	April 2019
1	8	12

ANIMAL MINISTRIES

Submitted by Lois Baum

Nonhuman beings are part of our daily lives. How depends on our individual perception of animals. Are they here for us to use, eat, wear, control? Are they sentient beings, with their own language, living inherent lives? How do we decide?

I say: *"If they can flee, let them be."* Consider a potato, nestled in the earth, when a shovel forces its way into potato's space ... no movement. Yet come after an animal with the same shovel and see them flee. That tells me all I need to know.

When I first became vegetarian, my philosophy was never to eat that which was once alive. Eventually, I couldn't eat much, not even popcorn! So, I dug deeper, learned more, embraced the Vegan Ethic, and my choice became clear to no longer support abusive industries. Abuse? What abuse?

Foie gras (*fwa gra*) is popular around the holidays. You can google the gory details. Ducks are force-fed, incrementally, by overworked migrant workers who are also victims of this wretched industry. Who but the desperate would choose such work. This is just one example of abusive industry.

"But for the sake of some little mouthful of flesh, we deprive a soul of the sun and light, and of the proportion of life and time it had been born into the world to enjoy." -Plutarch

The good news is that we can each become more aware of our choices. Let's start with words, they help shape what become preconceived notions.

IN OTHER WORDS; "Kill two birds with one stone." "Other fish to fry." "A wolf in sheep's clothing." I challenge you! Dig into your vocabulary and think of other ways to state the phrases above, without using any reference to animals.

For a more compassionate world,
Lois Baum, Animal Ministries

"Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

Some Upcoming Events At First Universalist



December 9, 2018 - Music Sunday

December 25, 2018 - Christmas Day

January 1, 2019 - New Year

January 20 - 27, 2019 - RAIHN Week

February 3, 2019 - Service Auction

March 2, 2019 - Rochester Model
Railroad Club Open House

March 10, 2019 - Chili Cook Off

March 31, 2019 - Stewardship Sunday

April 14, 2019 - Palm Sunday

April 14 - 21, 2019 - RAIHN Week

April 21, 2019 - Easter Sunday

April 26, 2019 - Passover Seder

May 3 - 4, 2019 - Seaway Gathering

May 12, 2019 - Mother's Day

June 2, 2019 - Annual Meeting

June 16, 2019 - Annual Church Picnic

UU Book Note

***JUSTICE ON EARTH: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class and the Environment,* edited by Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom (2018)**

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

The stereotype of environmentalists is that they are affluent white people who want to preserve nature because they like backpacking or birdwatching. But the fact is that environmental destruction hurts poor people and minority groups more than they do anybody else.

Pollution is bad for everyone, but minority neighborhoods and Indian nation tribal lands get the largest share of polluting factories, toxic waste sites or potentially unsafe oil and gas pipelines.

Justice on Earth is a collection of essays about how racism, poverty and the environment are not separate issues, and how Unitarian Universalist tradition and theology unite love of justice, love of nature and spirituality. It is the recommended UU Common Read for 2018-2019.

Manish Mishra-Marzetti tells of standing in one of Detroit's poorest neighborhoods and seeing the trucks coming in from the wealthy suburb of Grosse Pointe to deposit their trash in a dump there.

The essayists say Unitarian Universalists should show support for poor and minority communities that are targets of pollution and environmental destruction, while taking care to defer to community leaders whose knowledge of the situation is almost certainly greater than ours.

For example, a member of the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship on Puget Sound took it upon herself to learn the culture and history of the Lummi Nation, the original inhabitants of the area.

Because of her, the fellowship was able to build a relationship with the Lummi nation, and to help when the Lummi land and fishing grounds were threatened by a proposed coal export terminal. Later the Bellingham Unitarians formed relationships with

other indigenous nations in the Northwest that were threatened by the fossil fuel industry.

Some of the essayists wrote of the need to learn or re-learn homesteading and gardening skills, and to form resilient communities that can provide mutual aid in the face of the environmental and climate crises. Many UU churches promote urban gardens.

When a private company allowed the poisoning of a water system serving 300,000 people in a nine-county area of West Virginia, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Charleston rallied by helping to supply bottled water to low-income families and those who could not get to distribution sites.

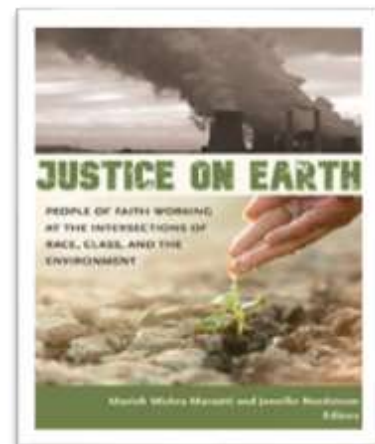
Just obtaining water for their own coffee hour meant a lot to the UU community. Later the Charleston UU church became a rallying point for those advocating for safe water legislation.

What Unitarian-Universalists bring to the environmental justice movement is an understanding of the religious and spiritual reasons for environmental justice.

We look to Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, who united a spiritual bond with the natural world with a fierce opposition to slavery and wars of conquest.

We recognize the unity of our First Principle, *the inherent dignity and worth of every person*, and the Seventh Principle, *respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part*. And, as UUs, we respect and draw on the nature-respecting spiritual traditions and practices of other traditions.

This book may be borrowed from the church library or bought for half-price (\$9) from the church bookstore during MOCHA (Ministry of Coffee Hour Activities).





First Universalist Church

150 Clinton Avenue South
Rochester, New York 14604

First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY

Nurture the spirit and serve the community

First Universalist Church is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, a liberal religion with historical roots in the Jewish and Christian traditions.

Worship Service Begins at 10:30 am Sundays

Minister | Rev. Lane Campbell (585) 325-5092

Minister of Life Span Faith Development | The Rev. Michelle Yates

Music Director | Brock Tjosvold

Sexton | Brandon Fagan

Nursery Care Providers | Carol Williams & Sundae Hodge

Office Administrator | Andrea Lewis

Office Hours, Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 am - 3:45 pm

Closed Monday. **Telephone** 585-546-2826

Board of Trustees 2018 - 2019

Nancy Gaede (President), Karen Ruganis (Clerk), Kitty Forbush,
Richard Reed, Theresa McFarland-Porter, Tim Mullins, Eric VanDusen,
The Rev. Lane Campbell (ex-officio)



Editor, *This Week at First Universalist* (digital) and monthly newsletter *Our Outlook*: Andrea Lewis.

More information is available on our website: <http://uuroc.org>. The usual deadline for all submissions to *Our Outlook* is the 20th of each month.