



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

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Church of Rochester

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Sunday Services | June 2025

June 1 | *The Time is Now*

Unitarian Universalist congregations, in partnership with faith communities and the broader community, have a unique gift to offer in this time—safe space, spiritual depth, a community that holds diversity in high regard. To what are we called right now?

— Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

June 8 | *Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me...*

A “question box” sermon where Rev. Lane-Mairead answers questions submitted through the chat for folks joining online and questions written down on cards during the service. It might be hard to get to them all, but bring wonderings about Unitarian Universalism, about our central values, about spirituality. We will try to get to them all! And who knows? You might end up answering one yourself!

— Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

June 15 | *The Diversity of the Flowers* - Rev. Lane-Mairead's Last Sunday

An annual celebration of the Flower Communion, a Unitarian Universalist ritual where everyone brings a flower and everyone take a different flower home. This Sunday will be Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell's last Sunday at First Universalist, so come and join in a celebration of the last seven years.

— Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

June 22 | *My Empathy is Out of Network*

The killing of a health care CEO has elicited a lot of surprising reactions from justice-oriented people. People who would normally decry murder seem to be justifying it in certain cases. Are there lessons to be drawn from this situation?

— Peter House

June 29 | *Offer It Up as a Sacrifice*

When I was growing up in Catholic School, the nuns would often advise us to “offer it up as a sacrifice” when we were going through something difficult. As we enter an unprecedentedly painful period in American history, are we being presented with a spiritual opportunity to deepen our compassion?

— Peter House

❖ **Services begin at 10:30am** ❖

Worship will be online and in-person at First Universalist Church. Check our website for more updated info! Please join us – Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/131764422>; Phone number: 1-646-558-8656 with Meeting ID: 131 764 422. ❖



The Ending of a Season

*A Message from
Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

Well, dear ones, here we are. My last month with you all as your settled minister. The summer is upon us and so the seasons are changing. And as the seasons of our natural world change, so too does my season as your minister pass.

How do we sum up the seven years spent together? How do we fully thank and appreciate one another for all that has transpired? Where do we make room to tie up loose ends, to apologize for hurt or harm? It is possible there is no perfect way to fully create the perfect gift ending complete with a sparkly, rainbow bow. But I do know this...

This ministry has been such a gift to me, to our community and to our world.

Thank you for the moments of “Yes” that brought us into deeper relationship with the divine and our neighbors.

Thank you for all you bring to this congregation—your time, your heart, your spirit, your questions.

Thank you for the moments when we felt connected to one another and to our larger world through our strivings for justice and a better way.

As is often said, the Unitarian Universalist church is certainly not about the minister, it’s about the people. And so I am wishing you a bright and beautiful future from a place of knowing your foundations are firm, trustworthy, and there are good bones here.

May the connections you make with one another carry you forward in the years, decades, and moments to come!

Blessings,

Rev. Lane-Mairead ❖



Our Community

*A Message from
Rev. Michelle Yates*

Compared to many of you, my 11 years is a short time to be a part of this community. And like a family, ever growing, we have many newer members since I came. New to Unitarian Universalism, or just new to First Universalist Rochester.

One of my favorite things over the years is when we prepare for a staff search, have a visiting consultant, or bring on a new staff member, because that’s when I get to hear you retell your story as a community. That’s when you revisit your institutional memory about where you’ve been, and what you’ve achieved and overcome.

I love getting to talk to new members, staff and even UUs from other churches about First Universalist. It’s not just because I’m proud to be a part of it, or because I’m inspired by this faith. It’s because it feels like how telling family stories tells you who you are and what you’re part of. Then we get to be curious about what will happen next in the story, knowing that the people in the room now are as important as the next who will walk in to join the story.

I love passing on lessons we’ve learned and good ideas we haven’t had a chance to get to yet. I love being able to say, “I was there for this part of the story.”

The gift of valuing pluralism means we strive to “embrace our differences and commonalities with love, curiosity and respect,” whether you’ve been here for 50 years or it is your first time visiting. It means that we are preparing ourselves and our welcome for whoever walks through the door to join us on this adventure.

I look forward to welcoming our newest members into leadership efforts that match their callings and talents, challenging each other and our systems to try something new, of saying “thank you and farewell” to Rev. Lane-Mairead, and “welcome, how can I help?” to Rev. Eileen.

Here is what I know about First Universalist. You show up. You step up. You answer the call. You sing your hearts out (and show up with food). I can’t wait to see what happens next!

Yours in the Journey, Rev. Michelle ❖



House News

Submitted by Ed Deller, Outgoing House Chair

Sixteen members and friends worked together at our May 3 Spring Work Day to beautify our church and prepare for warmer weather. Many indoor and outdoor projects were accomplished including installation of window screens, building a compost container, general gardening, deep cleaning of many church spaces, decluttering storage areas, inspection of smoke detectors, installation of bathroom paper towel dispensers and much more.

Many thanks to Marcy Klein, Karen Dau, Tom Ruganis, Newcomb Losh, Michael Scott, Grant Fish, Adam Durand, Jay Harwood, Moritz Wagner, Sarah Singal, Joe Ott, Joy Perrone, Tom Kurzdorfer, Katherine Mattice and Eileen Fernandez for the help.

Are you interested in connecting with people and forming a closer relationship with our fascinating building and grounds? The House Committee is a great way to work with others to learn more about, and to help maintain, our sacred space. Contact Moritz Wagner, incoming House chair, or others on the House Committee to learn more! ❖

Calling All Musicians!

Submitted by Ann Rhody

Our summer services will be starting on June 29. This year, music for these services will be provided by volunteers, as our Music Director, Dr. Brock Tjosvold, is off for the summer.

Could you be one of those volunteers? Even if you have just one piece of music that you've always wanted to perform, we'll make a time for you to do it, whatever your voice or instrument! Please contact the summer music coordinator, Ann Rhody, at summermusic@uuroc.org for details and to get on the summer schedule! ❖



These Worship Times, They Aren't A-Changin'

Daylight Savings Time these days comes with news articles about why it started, complaints about why it continues, and wonderings about when we will stop doing it. When an organization, or a whole country, changes the time they do things, twice a year even, confusion and disorientation are often the result.

A visitor might have looked at our church online or been told by a friend to check us out. Finally, they are able to get around to visiting when life slows down in the summer. Alas, their first impression might be embarrassment or frustration that they are late. That the time worship starts is different than what they had seen or been told a month or so ago.

While many changes are inevitable, and perhaps a defining characteristic of these times that are driving people to church as a place of refuge, we don't want confusion about our worship start time to be one of them.

So tell your neighbor. Tell your companion in the pew. Never have that time change conversation again. **Worship at First Universalist Rochester starts at 10:30am on Sundays ALL YEAR ROUND!** ❖



it's NOT A PHASE.

@BLESSTHEMUSIC

Drop-In Discussion

Submitted by John Lukes

Drop-in discussions are held Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm via the church Zoom account, and in-person on the first Sunday of each month in the Chalice Room at 9:15am. Phil Ebersole is the contact for in-person discussions. Contact DropInDiscussion@uuroc.org for the link, or look on uuroc.org!

Sunday, June 1 | Whiskers on Kittens and Warm Woolen Mittens . . . What Makes You Happy?

In-person

An introduction to the science of happiness chemicals and how to hack them. Will discussing happiness make us feel happy? Find out! Beth Ares presents. All are welcome. We meet at 9:15am the first Sunday of the month through June 2025 in the Chalice Room.

June 3 | How To Be An Activist

How can we stay politically engaged for the long haul in the current context? Join MJ Curry and others for a discussion on ways to get and stay involved at multiple levels of our political system. MJ will share her own approaches and will ask folks to share their experiences and ideas as well.

June 10 | Cheers to the Past, Moving Towards the Future

Let's take time to reminisce and share memories of the last seven years at First Universalist. What has happened? Where have we been? And Rev. Lane-Mairead (for their last drop-in discussion with this church community) will share thoughts on the future of this church and churches in general. All are welcome!

June 17 | The Happy Atheist

As with agnostics, Western society has looked upon atheists and naturalists as discredited individuals who attempt to understand this world without invoking God or the gods. We'll review the different ways that four philosophers made their arguments for atheism without resorting to a religious foundation. But were they happy? Let's discuss with Daniel Chadwick.

June 24 | Trade War With China?

Do we need to wage a trade war against China? Can we win? Phil Ebersole will present some background info and lead a discussion of this controversial topic.

Have a topic for us? Contact our team with your proposal at DropInDiscussion@uuroc.org. ❖

Instructions on Not Giving Up: A Recital of Hope

Submitted by Dr. Brock Tjosvold

Hope is not a frivolous thing in these unprecedented times. It is necessary to hope in order to see a way forward. This recital will be held on June 14 from 7:30-9:30pm in our sanctuary. It features Heather Holmquest, soprano and Brock Tjosvold, piano, along with choir members from the community. It will include two world premieres by Rachel Singh and Karen Goldfeder, compositions by Charity Lofthouse-Cricco, Melissa Dunphy, Jason Robert Brown, Errollyn Wallen, Florence Price, Antonin Dvorak, Ricky Ian Gordon, and Richard Strauss. ❖



June Social Justice Plate: DRUUMM

Our June Social Justice Plate Offering is designated for DRUUMM, short for Diverse & Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries and will be collected on June 15.

DRUUMM is a grassroots, membership-led Unitarian Universalist (UU) Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) anti-racist/anti-oppressive ministry based in the US. Their members from around the world democratically elect our leadership, known as the Steering Committee, serve in official capacities, and help lead our programs.

Please contribute to support this important work. For more info, visit their website, druumm.org. ❖

Church Picnic—June 15!

Submitted by Karl Abbott

The church picnic will be held on Sunday, June 15, 1-4 pm. The location is the Longhouse Shelter in Seneca Park (it is accessible, with bathrooms nearby). A map will be posted in church. Need a map/directions? Contact Karl Abbott!

Bring a dish to pass along with a list of ingredients for those that have food allergies (NOTE: please don't bring nuts or make any dishes containing nuts). Also bring something to grill, along with something to hold what you grilled, and a beverage. The church will provide:

- Plates, utensils, cups, napkins, & serving utensils
- Bottled water
- Condiments
- A charcoal fire (aluminum foil will be available for vegetarian /vegan grilling)
- Some grilling tools will be available

Please note that this will be the last year Karl will be organizing the church picnic. If you wish to do the future picnic organizing, please contact Karl Abbott. He is happy to assist new organizing folks. ❖



Game Night & Potluck!

Submitted by Rev. Michelle Yates

On Monday, June 23, 2025, join us from 6-8pm in the Clara Barton Lounge. Those who can are invited to bring something for potluck.

Families are invited to just come and be fed, no potluck offering required. We know it's the last week of school for most. We will have a sheet pizza, salad, and vegan soup (at least).

We'll talk about game options while we eat. We will provide four different levels of games. You are welcome to bring a game or craft to share. Kari Espinosa will help us navigate, "what game is your speed?"



Let Rev. Michelle know at edu@uuroc.org if you are planning to attend and know what food you might bring, or come if you can, just as you are. We can't wait to see you! ❖



Summertime Church

Submitted by Karen LoBracco

"Summertime, and the living is easy" – so a perfect time to try online Zoom church when you are away or have a busy Sunday! Our website, uuroc.org, has a link to click for online participation every Sunday at 10:30am. For more fun and excitement, partner with an experienced Online Ministry Team member and learn how the Zoom church magic works!



If you own a computer and have experience using Zoom (expert status NOT required), plus a desire to serve the congregation from the comfort of your own home, then contact Karen LoBracco, Online Ministry Team Coordinator, for a conversation. No long-term commitments, but a perfect opportunity to meet interesting people and learn new skills! ❖

Book Group

Submitted by Dolores Da Lomba

The Book Group will meet Sunday, June 8, after coffee hour, in the Chalice Room to discuss the novel “*Demon Copperhead*” by Barbara Kingsolver.

This 2022 novel was a co-recipient of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, and won the 2023 Women's Prize for Fiction. Kingsolver was inspired by the Charles Dickens novel “*David Copperfield*”.

You do not need to read the book to participate. Questions? Contact bookgroup@uuroc.org. ❖



“Side With Love” Info Session: A Resource for Social Justice Connection & Action from the UUA

Submitted by Rev. Michelle Yates

Side with Love is the Organizing Strategy Team of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). It is a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness Love’s power to stop oppression. It offers support and structure to engage our commitment to putting our faith into action, and providing opportunities to connect with other UUs. Side With Love has four intersectional justice priorities:

- **Climate Justice** (inclusive of Indigenous sovereignty and Climate Resilience) with Create Climate Justice
- **Democracy and Electoral Justice** (inclusive of Voting Rights and electoral participation) with UU the Vote
- **Decriminalization** (inclusive of Racial Justice and Immigration Justice) with Side With Love
- **LGBTQIA2S+ and Gender Justice** (inclusive of reproductive justice and abortion access) with UPLIFT Action

Please join us Sunday, June 8, 2025, at noon, either in the Sanctuary or on the same Zoom worship link that day.

Rev. Michelle, with the support of FIAC (our Faith In Action Council), will share information and facilitate Q&A. We look forward to hearing about what tools and resources interest you, and to connect folks with similar interests.

If you have been looking for a way to feel connected and DO something in this time, this could be what you are looking for!

If you need childcare to attend please contact Rev. Michelle at edu@uuroc.org. ❖



FIAC News

Submitted by Joy Leccese & Connie Valk, Co-Chairs

It's almost time for summer! The Faith In Action Council (FIAC) wishes to thank Marti Eggers and Chris DeGolyer for leading the congregation's all-church Social Justice project of Housing For All for two years. They have made significant inroads into helping us understand the scope of the issues and connecting us with organizations that we have partnered with to serve people with housing needs. Thank you, Chris and Marti, for your dedication and hard work!

As we will welcome a new minister in August, we are taking the opportunity to wait a year before we choose another all-congregation project. That will give all of us time to get to know our new minister, reflect on the direction we want to take with our Social Justice activities, and discern the next topic at this time next year. In the meantime, please continue to support our Social Justice Plate offering each month for the organizations that you vote to support throughout the year. Thank you! ❖



More About Cultural Misappropriation

Submitted by Karen LoBracco

During the May 11 sermon, Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell referred to helpful resources on the UUA's website. If you want to dig a little deeper, check out:

- Reckless Borrowing or Appropriate Cultural Sharing? by Jacqui James | uua.org/multiculturalism/introduction/misappropriation/reckless-borrowing



- Cornrows, Kwanzaa and Confusion: The Dilemma of Cultural Racism and Misappropriation, by Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley | uua.org/multiculturalism/introduction/misappropriation/37852.shtml

It's complicated and important work for all of us to wrestle with! ❖



Rochester Pride Parade: Join us on July 19!

Submitted by Kitty Forbush

Come one, come all to the 2025 Rochester Pride Parade on Saturday, July 19, starting at 11am!

The parade will begin at the intersection of South Avenue and Science Parkway and will travel north on South Avenue to the festival at Highland Park.

First Universalist will have signup sheets in the Clara Barton Lounge on Sundays during June—you can be a watcher (cheerer on) or a marcher. If you sign up, you get a free FIAC pen! Save the date—it is so much fun and a wonderful way to support Rochester's LGBTQIA2S+ community! ❖



Membership Committee

Submitted by Donna Anderson, Membership Chair

Membership Committee hosted a New Member Sunday on May 25. Kathleen Shaffer signed the book at that time.

Kathleen agreed to share her story with us. Here is her story. This month we will be welcoming Kathleen into our church community.

“Since moving back to Rochester, in November 2024, from Prescott Arizona, after almost forty years, I've been yearning for a church to call home. My previous church was a Unitarian Universalist Congregation for fourteen years. It was an integral part of my life that I felt deeply connected to and so it was one of the most important adjustments to my relocation to find the right fit in a church home.

First Universalist Church of Rochester had a profound effect on me, when I walked into the Social Hall and was greeted warmly, and in the Sanctuary, Eileen Fernandez made me feel very welcome. Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell offers me guidance with loving words of wisdom to carry me through the week. These are some of the reasons that this church felt like home to me.

Being part of a church that speaks for those who are unable to speak for themselves, that helps those with food or housing insecurities, that respects and dignifies all and so much more is the place that I want to be a part of.”

With much gratitude, Kathleen Shaffer, *May 2025*

Kathleen, thank you for sharing with us!

We're planning for the next church year. If you have suggestions please contact: Clinton Swingle, Shirley Malone, Grant Fish, Kevin Parkes, or our new Congregational Life Coordinator, Justin Wilson.

Happy Spring! ❖



NYSCU: Two Hundred Years? That's Something to Celebrate!

Submitted by Ann Rhody

This fall, the Annual Meeting of the New York State Convention of Universalists (NYSCU) will take place at the UU Church of Canton, NY. This is the bicentennial year for both NYSCU and UU Canton, and we are going to celebrate!



What is NYSCU? The organization was formed to support Universalist clergy and promote Universalist values in New York State. Since that time, as in any organization, there have been changes, especially since the UU merger in 1961. Today, NYSCU functions primarily as a grant-making organization, supporting congregations and projects that promote UU values. Many members of First Universalist Rochester have played significant roles in NYSCU over the years. Today, Ann Rhody serves as NYSCU President, Michael Scott is the webmaster, Karen Dau serves as archivist, and Richard Reed is a member of the Nominating Committee.



The Annual Meeting in Canton will be October 24 & 25, and we hope that many of you can join us there! UUA President, Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, will deliver the keynote address, and there will be workshops, celebrations, and fellowship with other UU's. If you serve as a delegate from our congregation, NYSCU will partially subsidize your hotel room. For more information about NYSCU, please see page 11 or visit nyscu.org. ❖

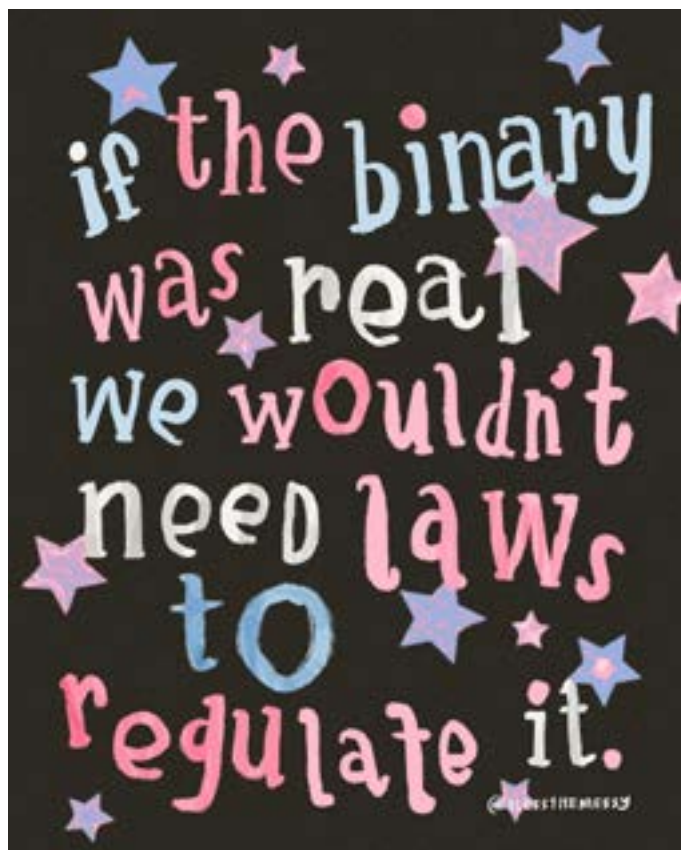
HFA: Reflecting on Two Years of “Housing For All”

Submitted by Chris DeGolyer

At the June 2023 annual meeting, First Universalist members voted to start the Housing For All project, agreeing to learn more about homelessness, to serve unhoused people, and to advocate for providing housing for all. Over the last two years, we held a book discussion, attended numerous meetings and forums, and hosted a community forum on the topic. We have collected and distributed socks, winter clothes, and snack bags. Several members joined the Homeless Outreach Team (H.O.T.), doing weekly outreach to people on the streets. We also served at H.O.T.'s ice cream socials and lunch at Nick Tahou's, as well as hosting a H.O.T. breakfast. For Family Promise (FPGROC), we cleaned apartments (even made curtains!), provided holiday gifts, assembled “move-in” kits, and bowled to raise funds. Several of us joined the REACH Advocacy team. A group presented toilet paper to City Council while asking for public restrooms. The H & H Committee met numerous times to find solutions for unhoused people who use the church alcoves for shelter. The committee brought in Andy Carey, who taught us how to safely interact with and help homeless people, and Captain Person, who gave us other options to pursue.



So where are we now? As a church, we know more about the housing situation in Rochester, and we have contributed to clothing, feeding, and housing people. Unfortunately, the number of people that need housing is continuing to rise. REACH, which two years ago ran six shelters, had to close its last shelter this spring for lack of funds. Rochester still has very limited access to public restrooms. The federal budget for supporting shelters and low-income housing is in danger of being slashed. There is still plenty to be done. However, we (Marti and Chris) plan to step down as co-coordinators of HFA this June. It's time to re-evaluate the project and choose new coordinators, or perhaps it's time to try a new church project. Many thanks to everyone who participated in HFA! ❖



ROC

6.19

5K Run/Walk

Please join us for the live **Roc 6.19 2025 5K Run/Walk** on Thursday, June 19, at 1:00 PM at Genesee Valley Park, Riverbend Shelter. A virtual option will also be available. Register for either option at itsyourrace.com.

Join us after the race for an **evening of Jazz** from 4:00–6:00 PM at the Genesee Valley Park, Roundhouse Shelter. This event is free and open to the public. Donations benefit the construction of the **Civil Rights Heritage Park at Baden Park**.

These events will feature a variety of vendors, food, and a whole lot of FUN to be had with friends, family, and the community!

NO ONE IS FREE UNLESS WE ARE ALL FREE!





Save the Date!



New York State Convention of Universalists
2025 Annual Meeting

Two Centuries of Love at the Center

October 24 & 25, 2025
Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton, NY



- *Keynote address by UUA President Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt*
- *Bicentennial celebrations*
- *Workshops on stewardship, resistance, and more*
- *Tours, talks, hikes, music, and fellowship*

*Join us as we joyfully celebrate
the Bicentennials of NYSCU and
the UU Church of Canton!*



*Housing at Holiday Inn Express, Canton, NY.
Local hospitality options available www.uucantonny.org*

Registration and details coming August 2025 at nyscu.org



First Universalist Church of Rochester

150 South Clinton Avenue
Rochester, NY 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.

Minister | Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

Minister of Lifespan Faith Dev. |
Rev. Michelle Yates

Music Director | Dr. Brock Tjosvold

Office Manager | Mx. Emma Barry

Finance Admin | Maresa Carmody

Cong. Life Coordinator | Justin Wilson

Nursery Care Providers |
Carol Williams & Lily Thatcher

Worship begins at 10:30am on Sundays

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Editor, monthly newsletter, *Our Outlook*, & *This Week at First Universalist* (digital): Emma Barry

More info is available on our website: uuroc.org

**The usual deadline for all submissions to
Our Outlook is the 15th of each month.**