



Our Outlook

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Church of Rochester**

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Sunday Services | May 2021

May 2 | *Embracing Authentic Joy*

Where do we find actual joy in our days and in our lives? Not the joy we feel we should have to look good or to ease other people's minds, but joy from our own depths, joy just for us. Where can we find joy as a community as well as individually?

— *Rev. Lane Campbell*

May 9 | *Parenting in a Pandemic: Oh What a Joy!*

It is no secret that our parents have been balancing so much in this pandemic—working, parenting, schooling from home, hybrid schooling models, being involved in your kids' schooling and routines way more than any parent has had to before. Let us explore the joys still found and the challenges to the joy of parenting that this past year has been.

— *Rev. Lane Campbell*

May 16 | *The Joy of Cooking: Spiritual Practices that Sustain Us*

What are some of the practices that have been touch points for you in your life? How do you access beauty? Awe? Wonder? A celebration of creating, making, meditating, and finding sources of our spiritual sustenance.

— *Rev. Lane Campbell*

May 23 | *TBA*

TBA

— *Melissa Jeter*

May 30 | *Complicating Joy*

Have you ever had an experience where someone's joy just seems oppressive? Like, you are being asked to share in an overly-joyful experience when you really just aren't feeling it. Or how about moments when we desire joy but it is nowhere to be found? Let's get real with one another about some of the complications of joy.

— *Rev. Lane Campbell*

❖ **Service begins at 10:30am** ❖

*Worship will be meeting online into the foreseeable future. Please join us—
Internet link: <https://zoom.us/j/131764422>; Phone number: 646 558 8656
with Meeting ID: 131 764 422. ❖*



The Joy of Spring

Message from Rev. Lane Campbell

Giving praise and thanks for the closed bud that opens, for the rain and the bright colors, for the trees that go from bare branches to little tufts of delicate green. This is a time for new life to grow. It is a time of watching the world come alive again after a very long winter. A winter that was longer than most.

And it feels like the joy of this season is not just about the natural world—it is also in all of us. I am hearing the hope of people connecting again with family they have not yet seen. I am hearing the hope of some parts of life in “the before times”, resuming things we did not take part in for the last year that we are coming back to again. This whole new life thing isn’t just about the seasons of the earth, but it is also about the cycles of our lives.

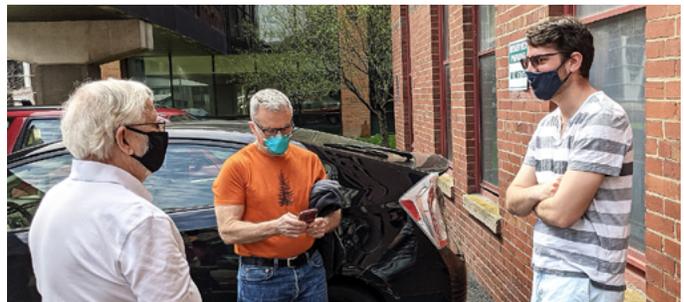
Joy is found when we can know we are safe, when we can be who we are, when we are content with the ways our days unfold mostly. Joy comes out of gratitude for what we live in, out of laughter, out of acceptance of what is there before us.

If you are feeling the joy of this season, I see you. If you are not really there, I see you too. This time certainly is a mix. And the overwhelming weight of the world has not disappeared with a renewing of the earth and with change in the air. No one needs to feel joyful and cheery all of the time. And yet, I wonder if there is something you are awakening to. Something that has been watered within you that is blooming or at least budding, waiting to burst forth. I wonder where you are in touch with living and the joy of this season. ❖



Stewardship: Park & Pie Event!

Thanks to all who came to our Park and Pie event on Saturday April 10! And special thanks to all who donated food to our Community Food Cupboard at Nester Street. It was such a joy to connect with everyone who came out!



We Want YOU to Lead!

Submitted by the Nominating Committee

It takes a village to raise a child and it takes dedicated members to support a church. Church leadership is a labor of love that allows members to express commitment to the mission and covenant of our congregation beyond attendance and stewardship. If you are interested in learning more about the church and each other, committee involvement may be a good choice for you—and the Nominating Committee is here to support you!

Who is on the Nominating Committee? Our current members are Bill Elwell, Ed Deller, Joy Leccese, Kathi Milch and Rachel Irato. We have been tasked with finding candidates for the various leadership positions available for the 2021-2022 church year. Church members who would like to be considered for any of the open positions listed can contact us at nomcom@uuroc.org.

Board of Trustees: The representative body on behalf of the congregation that sets church policies with the perspective for sustaining the church.

- Term Length: 3 years
- Requirements:
 - 1) member of the church.
 - 2) active in the congregation for at least a year.

Nominating Committee: The committee in charge of the recruitment of eligible members for church leadership roles as they become available.

- Term Length: 2 years
- Requirements:
 - 1) member of the church.
 - 2) active in the congregation for at least a year.

Committee on Ministry: This committee works alongside the minister and lay leaders as they help to fulfill the mission and covenant of the congregation through mutual collaboration.

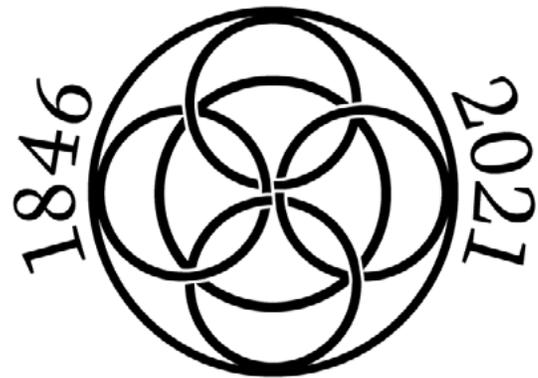
- Term Length: 3 years.
- Requirements: member for at least three years.

Faith in Action Council: FIAC is the driving force behind the social justice enterprises of First Universalist, working with the board, congregation and social justice circles throughout Rochester.

- Term Length: up to 2 years.
- Requirements: passion for social justice.

General Assembly Delegates: General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists. Each certified member congregation provides a few delegates based on the reported membership. Delegates are responsible for casting votes during General Session to determine UUA elected leaders, amend the bylaws that govern our Association, and focus the justice work we undertake as a community.

- Term Length: 1 General Assembly.
- Requirements: voting member of the church.
More Info: www.uua.org/ga. ❖



Stewardship News

Submitted by Brian Murney, Kathi Milch, & Jim Milch

Our Stewardship Campaign for 2021 has come to a successful end. We would like to thank everyone who pledged so generously. If by chance you have not pledged yet, we still welcome your pledge, small or large. Every contribution helps us to move “Forward though the Ages!”

We are honored to serve as campaign co-chairs and would like to thank everyone who helped in this year’s campaign. Once more we had an industrious committee: Ann Rhody, Bill Jones, Jillian Beaman, Karl Abbott, Katherine Flynn, Paula Marchese, and Richard Reed. Rev. Lane provided essential guidance. Emma Barry designed our logo and produced all the pledge packet materials. Marcy Klein once again designed a beautiful brochure.

All of us appreciated heartfelt testimonials from Clint Swingle, Heather Jones, Jillian Beaman, and Jodi and Chris Reynolds.

Your ongoing support moves us further toward realizing the values we profess. Your pledge to fund our “Downtown” church, its ministries, and outreach is truly appreciated. ❖

Drop-In Discussion

Submitted by Beth Ares

Current drop-in discussions are held each Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30pm via the church Zoom account. Contact DropInDiscussion@uuroc.org for the Zoom link, or look on uuroc.org!

Sometimes our discussions are based on books/articles, but you don't have to do any preparation to participate. Just drop in. People of all viewpoints are welcome to make presentations or join.

May 4 | *What are We Looking Forward To?*

Dare we say that we are on the road to normal? Many have received or planned our corona vaccination. As the flowers push up, we look toward a more usual life. But before we leave our masked, socially distanced and somewhat secluded life, what have we learned? Did some dreams get better as we had longer to plan? Did we daydream an even better dream? Let's hold on to the good part as we move on to the future. Janet Rothbeind will guide us through this conversation.

May 11 | *We've Been on F.I.R.E!*

A conversation about "things done and undone" by the First Universalist's Initiative for Racial Equity over its 2-year span of activities. A review of the Civil Rights Heritage Site plans will be offered and our experiences of F.I.R.E. programs will be invited. We will ponder the state of our own hearts for racial justice work, and also review the denomination's proposed adoption of an 8th Principle. We seek your feedback and suggestions to this welcome table. Presented by Theo Munson and Elizabeth Osta.

May 18 | *This Summer at First Universalist.*

What a year it has been! Let's come together to discuss the next phase of this year: what we are doing for summer as a congregation. Rev. Lane welcomes your thoughts and ideas and will likely have some updates to share.

May 25 | *The China Syndrome.*

Should we be worried about the rise of China? If so, what should we do about it? Phil Ebersole will present some facts and ideas and lead a discussion.

Do you have a topic for us? Contact our team members with your Drop-In Discussion proposals: DropInDiscussion@uuroc.org. ❖

Finance News & Notes

Submitted by Ann Rhody, Finance Chair

Budgeting in Uncertain Times

Budgeting 101: How do we develop the church's annual operating budget? We look at sources of income, and the costs of running the church, and try to accurately predict the numbers.

Predictions, though, are often based on past church years, and what is "typical." But how do we predict when *nothing* is "typical?"

This is what we faced when we created the current year's budget. As it turned out, our predictions were close to the reality in some cases, and in others, they were way off. The good thing is that they were off in the right direction, and we are now fortunate enough to have a significant surplus going into the last quarter of the fiscal year.

If there's anything we want in the world of finance, it's to feel confident and secure. So how do we budget confidently in the current atmosphere of unpredictability?

We may not be able to predict down to the penny, but we DO know some things that help us to have confidence in the church's financial future:

- We have a profoundly generous congregation, and our members make and fulfill financial pledges.
- Our endowment is managed well and can withstand ups and downs in the markets.
- We have a healthy carryover "buffer" fund which can provide a cushion should we have a difficult fiscal year.

With these three "pillars" providing stability and reassurance, the Finance Committee will meet to predict income and costs as best we can. Stay tuned for the 2021-22 Operating Budget, to be presented at this year's annual meeting.

Ann Rhody, *Finance Committee Chair* ❖



FIAC News: *Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me: The First Universalist Social Justice Quiz*

Submitted by *Connie Valk*

This is a quiz that tests your knowledge of how social justice efforts are organized at First Universalist Church. There is no time limit! Only you know the results. Peeking is welcomed!



Quiz:

1. What is FIAC?
2. What are Social Justice Circles?
3. On what issue did the congregation vote for a church project?
4. What does the acronym F.I.R.E. stand for?
5. How can you participate in social justice efforts?

Answers:

1. First Universalist designed a framework for implementation of social justice. The Faith In Action Council (FIAC) became the pilot of the process—FIAC administers the social justice efforts. The council works to identify issues, and communicates with the board to vote on whole church projects. They also communicate with the congregation about social justice, which is why you are reading this!

2. Social Justice Circles are opportunities to engage in issues not necessarily related to the church project. Love to knit or crochet? Join the SJC “*Crafting Blankets for our Homeless Neighbors*”. Worried about climate change? Join the “*EcoJustice Group*”. Check out the other SJ circles on our website: www.uuroc.org/social-justice-circles.

3. The issue that the church chose was “Racism.” We have a Black Lives Matter banner on the inside and front of our building, but we are more than a banner. In an era when it is apparent that Black lives are considered less than others, we strive to change the dynamic.

4. F.I.R.E. stands for *First Universalist Initiative for Racial Equity*. The members of F.I.R.E. educate

through films and dialogues. They work with Spiritus Christi Church on a Heritage Park. (This was placed on the back burner during COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter protests in our country and city.) The F.I.R.E. Team, along with our minister, arranged for support of the protesters in many ways. Our restrooms were made available, and masks, snacks, and water were offered. Our Clara Barton lounge housed street medics serving injured protesters

Scoring:

- 5: You are familiar with the organization of social justice in our church.
- 4: You are familiar with almost all aspects, and have opened yourself to learning more.
- 3, 2, or 1: You are learning about how social justice works in our church
- 0: No problem! This means you are willing to learn.

Check out our website, and/or feel free to contact FIAC@uuroc.org for more info. ❖

Spring Has Sprung: *Show Us Your Garden!*



Life continues to thrive and grow at First Universalist, both inside and outside! Share your garden with the UURoc community; send pictures of spring growth happening in your garden and/or backyard to office@uuroc.org to possibly be included in future publications!

Family Promise of Greater Rochester: Homelessness & Justice

Submitted by Chris DeGolyer

“Homelessness is a justice issue. Institutional racism is inextricably intertwined with the crisis of family homelessness. We cannot solve homelessness without solving our issues with racism.” —*Family Promise National*

We know that RAIHN/FPGROC provides shelter for temporarily homeless families, since so many of us have volunteered for First Universalist’s RAIHN Weeks for the past 16 years. Since the shelter program started, RAIHN has expanded its programs to include preventing evictions, providing life skills or enrichment classes, and providing an aftercare program to help families keep the housing they find. At the beginning of 2021, RAIHN changed its name to Family Promise of Greater Rochester (FPGROC) to reflect its expanding programs and to make clear its affiliation with Family Promise National. In addition, our local Family Promise and the national Family Promise are working to remove the root causes of much homelessness by promoting racial justice. FPGROC now has a Racial Equity & Advocacy Committee. FPGROC’s Statement on Racial Equity includes these facts:

“Systemic racism is particularly apparent in Rochester, as we live in one of the most racially segregated cities in America. This bears out when studying housing in Rochester, both historically and currently. In reviewing our community’s history, restrictive racial covenants and redlining that occurred through the Fair Housing Administration and VA loans in the 1930’s and 40’s and continued with the 1968 Fair Housing Act translate directly into one of the highest rates of concentrated extreme poverty in the nation. In fact, those areas of the city that were redlined in the 1930’s remain 92% occupied by people of color today...92%. Which means a divided city, one side more likely to be white, privileged, less likely to be stopped or harassed by law enforcement and the other more likely to be black or brown, marginalized, and at greater risk for

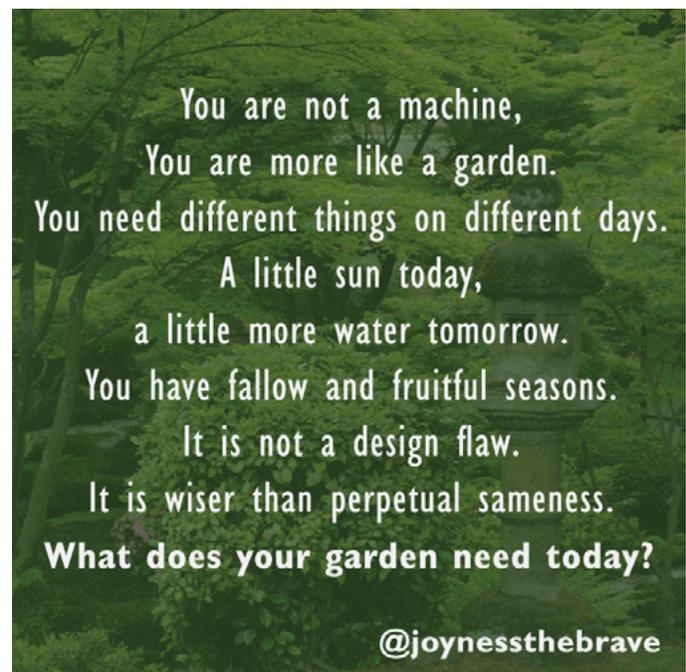


racially charged encounters with or death from law enforcement.”

In addition to other weekly updates, Kim Hunt-Uzelac, FPGROC director, emails local volunteers about local resources and events related to racial justice and housing. In a recent update, she highlighted the local report "No Time for Excuses: It's Time for Action by the Commission on Race and Structural Equity (RASE)". Eric Van Dusen and others worked on local housing issues for this report. The report outlines key issues, for example zoning laws that limit where affordable housing can be built, and makes recommendations such as encouraging the building of affordable housing in all Monroe County communities.

If you would like to receive Kim’s updates, email degolyerchris@gmail.com.

Family Promise of Greater Rochester (FPGROC)
Keeping families together. Getting families home for good. ❖



Pets of First Universalist: *Keep the pics coming!*

Submitted by Emma Barry & UURoc Members

Throughout this past year, our furry and not-so-furry friends have been such a joy and have given us sanctuary from the troubles of the world. Please send pictures of your animal friends that have been helping you get through this past year to office@uuroc.org to be included in future newsletters!



▶ Alfie is the cutest music assistant ever on Sunday mornings with our fabulous music director Brock Tjosvold!

▶ Ben prefers to spend his days lounging luxuriously around Lois and Greg Baum.

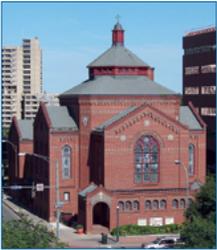


▶ Gala loves to watch the nature going by outside when she is not snuggling Catherine Coates!



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.

Worship service begins at 10:30am on Sundays

Minister | Rev. Lane Campbell

Minister of Life Span Faith Development |
Rev. Michelle Yates

Music Director | Brock Tjosvold

Office Manager | Emma Barry

Nursery Care Providers |
Carol Williams & Sundae Hodge

Board of Trustees 2020–2021

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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.