



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY

September 2017

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Sunday Services | September 2017

September 3 | *Welcome to Baghdad*

Since the election of Donald Trump, we've all been on edge as we experience unprecedented political uncertainty and instability. Is this an opportunity for spiritual growth? We will explore how this past election may bring about more good and compassion than we might expect.

- Peter House, summer minister

Beginning September 10th, Sunday services will start at 10:30 a.m.

September 10 | *Ingathering and Water Communion*

This will be water communion with a twist. Instead of bringing water, spend these last days of summer paying attention to water, in all the ways it comes into your life. Whether it's rain drops, the St. Lawrence River, or water from your kitchen faucet, watch it. Listen to it. Pay attention to what you smell, feel, taste. Then come and share with us one thing that you are especially grateful for. This service will be intergenerational, so kids will need to pay attention to water too!

- The Reverend Peggy Meeker

September 17 | *The Year Ahead*

What will this interim year be? It will certainly be a year of transition, and likely some uncertainty, and it will also and simply be a year in which you move forward on your mission of nurturing the spirit and serving the community, navigating life's changes and living into the future, while I listen and accompany and support you. Let's covenant to that!

- The Reverend Peggy Meeker

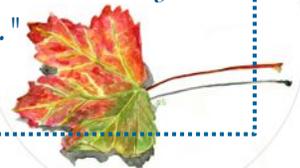
September 24 | *To Autumn!*

As the seasons turn, what wisdom and beauty can we find in the changing colors, the shorter days, the dying back, and the dance of the falling leaves?

- The Reverend Peggy Meeker

"When autumn darkness falls, what we will remember are the small acts of kindness: a cake, a bug, an invitation to talk, and every single rose. These are all expressions of a nation coming together and caring about its people."

- Jens Stoltenberg





Pastor's Perspective

Message from The Rev. Peggy Meeker

Ingathering Time

It's toward the end of August as I write these words, and I'm both sorry to see summer coming to an end and excited about the church year ahead. I've been mulling over a poem by David Budbill since I read it on the Writer's Almanac a few days ago. Here's part of the poem:

Toward

the end of August I get nostalgic for what's to come, for that quiet time, time alone, peace and stillness, calm, all those things the summer doesn't have. The woodshed is already full, the kindling's in, the last of the garden soon

will be harvested and then there will be nothing left to do but watch fall play itself out, the earth freeze, winter come.

I love the feel of this poem—the peace and stillness of it—but “nothing left to do” doesn't quite describe my situation right now, and it passes over fall in just five words: “watch fall play itself out.” For us at First Universalist, fall will be full of so many things: getting to know each other; thinking about the year ahead and what it means; sharing our stories; nurturing our children; working toward racial justice through FIAC; hosting our RAIHN families; and so much more as we learn and worship and walk together. And in case you ever wonder about that word, “worship,” it comes from Middle English and Old English words meaning worth or worthiness, so what we do together on Sunday mornings is to seek and name what is worthy, find the wisdom in it, and—we hope!—be transformed by it, and transform our world. So for us, much is contained in the words “watch fall play itself out.” Through it all, though, may we be grounded in that stillness and peace!

No, I'm not quite ready to let summer go. But I am very much looking forward to gathering together with you on September 10th. Remember to prepare for Water Communion by paying attention to water, as this summer ebbs. You don't need to bring any water that day. Just watch water, listen to it, feel it, smell it, taste it. And when we come together on the 10th we'll share our gratitude and celebrate our community. ❖

Welcome to the start of a new church year!

Submitted by Nancy Gaede, President of the Board of Trustees

This is a special time for those of us at First Universalist as we begin the process of searching for our next settled minister. To help us on this journey, the Reverend Peggy Meeker will serve as our interim minister. Reverend Peggy is no stranger to our congregation. She has led our RE program and served as summer minister. She is also a member of our congregation. Her wisdom and skills will help us to keep moving forward while we are in search. Please join the Board of Trustees in warmly welcoming Reverend Peggy as our interim minister. We are in the best of hands during this time of transition. ❖



Memorial Service for Charlie Gibson

Submitted by The Reverend Peggy Meeker

A memorial service for Charlie Gibson, long-time and beloved member of our congregation, will be held Saturday, September 23rd, at 10:30 a.m. in the church sanctuary. The Reverend Peggy Meeker will be officiating. Per Charlie's wishes, the service will include lots of music and a few good words. Also per his wishes, we will have a good time. There will be a light lunch served afterwards.

If you would like to help with the service or reception, please stop by the sign-up table in the Clara Barton Lounge on September 10th or 17th. The Caring Committee welcomes all who sign up for ushering, set-up, clean-up and other little tasks that help to make ours a nurturing community. ❖





Walking Together

Submitted by *The Rev. Michelle Yates,*
Director of Life Span Faith Development

To kick off the church year we will revisit the Faith Development theme of **Covenant**; the foundation of our Unitarian Universalist faith.

Early Puritans first voiced in the Cambridge Platform of 1648 a belief that not everyone has to believe the same things to be a church community together. More important than theological beliefs are the ways we believe we should be together; **how we promise to treat each other.**

A Covenant is an agreement or promise. As Unitarian Universalists, our congregations covenant to affirm and promote our seven principles, which we will consider over the course of this church year. Our individual congregations and groups are encouraged to develop covenants to help create a safe space and clarify our expectations for behavior. While covenants can be seen as laws or ground rules, UUs appreciate that we are all human and will make mistakes. “We are a covenant making, covenant breaking, covenant remaking people.”

The most important thing to remember about living in covenant with each other is that **we are promising to keep “coming back to the table,”** to work together, to be accountable, to make amends, and to begin again in love. Living in covenant is not always easy. I believe that this is what makes us “people of faith.” That we try to live out our values and to live into our commitments, in our families, communities, and out in the world every day, especially when it is not easy.

When have you felt someone break a promise to you?

When did you act “out of covenant” with another person or group?

Was it hard to “come back to the table” to work it out?

What helps remind you of your promises and commitments, or motivates you to “come back to the table?”

“A covenant is not a definition of a relationship; it is the framework for our relating. ...This calls for a level of

trust, courage and sacrifice that needs to be nurtured, renewed and affirmed on a regular basis. ... Abiding in covenant is an art form. A mutual creation.”

— The Rev. Lisa Ward ❖

“...and service is our prayer”

Submitted by *Joy Leccese, for FIAC (with Becky Elwell and Heather Jones)*



Your Faith in Action Council (FIAC, long “I”) has been working diligently all summer, in collaboration with the Lifespan Faith Development folks, members of the Social Justice Project Team, and the Communications Committee, as well as organizations in the wider community of Rochester.

We’re exploring how all of us can work together to create transparency and flow of information among us; we’re setting goals for activities during the church year that will entice, inspire and engage members and friends of our congregation in a variety of Social Justice activities. Now, more than ever, we are surrounded by opportunities to get involved in creating a more just and equitable world.

I’m reminded of the phrase “...and service is our prayer,” in our doxology. In E.W. Wikstrom’s book *Serving with Grace*, he speaks about congregations who suffer from the “80/20 rule” – 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people, and ultimately, those few yeomen end up getting burned out.

On October 1st, our service will include a Commission ceremony, to formally dedicate all those who have signed on for various opportunities to serve in some way in Social Justice activities.

Wikstrom quotes the author Howard Thurman, “Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and then do that thing. Because what the world needs is people who are alive.” The same is true for our congregations, Wikstrom says. We who are privileged to serve on the Faith In Action Council invite all to live our mission: to nurture the spirit, and serve the community. We become what we do when we act on our values, and that is what makes us come alive, individually and together.

Join us on October 1st, and bring your joyful spirits with you. We’re on the move! ❖

Garden Joys and Wonders

Submitted by Sarah Singal



Sometimes it seems that things just aren't working out. All those strawberry plants, and all you see are a few berries rotting on the ground. The durn parsley plant that has given up making tasty leaves and just wants to go to seed. And then there's the milkweed. Somehow without any help from gardeners, milkweed arrives in the garden. So we encourage it, hoping to attract the monarch butterflies that depend on the dwindling milkweed supply. Year after year this pushy plant, overgrown, unruly, flopping over, is catered to and year after year we see no butterflies.



Well, just when it seems like a good idea to rip out the strawberries to allow room for more reliable harvests, a friend from the neighborhood comes by and says, "Are you sure it's OK for me to pick the strawberries?" "Absolutely!" "I cannot tell you how much it means to me to be able to eat these fresh berries! It's really wonderful." And a weekly harvest is gathered.

And when the parsley seems like an embarrassment next to the zucchini and cucumber patches, another friend from the neighborhood says, "It looks seedy, but I was able to pick a little fresh parsley all winter long, and it was wonderful!"

And when you're not even looking, something orange flits by the corner of your eye, and you're following a monarch butterfly toward the flower garden and those milkweed plants. It's a first, at least for this observer, for all those years. How does this delicate creature find this perfect caterpillar nursery? How does this interdependent web of all existence come to be? One thing for sure, it's not man-made. And it's wonderful. ❖

EcoJustice News



Submitted by Sarah Singal

Breaking It All Down: Compost

The EcoJustice Group is looking for households to supply vegetable trimmings, melon rinds, grass clippings, shredded newspaper printed with soy based ink, and such. Don't add coffee grounds--we'll have plenty from coffee hour. Don't add meat, fat, or dairy products. Please chop up the bigger pieces because we are impatient. You can collect compostables all week and store in your freezer. Come Sunday, bring your offering to church and give it to Sarah, Marcia, Shelley, Juanita, or anyone at the EcoJustice table and we will add it to our compost bin. We will suspend collection January through March. If you are interested, please see one of us at church.

Why compost? It's basically recycling. Plant nutrients break down and become a natural fertilizer, replenishing the soil. For a long list of reasons to compost, visit <http://bit.ly/2h0kwRD>.

Basics of how to compost are providing "green" material (rich in nitrogen) and "brown" material (rich in carbon), mixing it together, and allowing it to decompose with the help of some worms and bacteria. The simplest operation is cold composting, which is what we have for our garden. Read more by searching "[the best way to compost](http://www.wikihow.com)" at [wikihow.com](http://www.wikihow.com). ❖

Join the MOCHA Team!

Submitted by Bill Elwell



Without more volunteers, some Sundays will feature only coffee and juice until more volunteers come forth. Some of our past volunteers are busy this year on the Search Committee or find personal family concerns keep them from being able to commit to this service. Volunteers are provided a list of possible foods, are reimbursed for expenses, and find deep satisfaction in extending First Universalist Hospitality to members, friends, and importantly, visitors to our church. Please contact Bill Elwell (williambearcat@gmail.com) if you are able to volunteer this year. ❖

Washington Square Park Community Association (WSPCA)

Submitted by Newcomb Losh

WSPCA is busy building its website – <https://rocwashingtonsquare.org>. Watch for a listing of what's happening in the neighborhood. If you're working on an event that'll be open to the public, let Newcomb Losh know the details. You'll see some of First Universalist's events there.

The Park's Soldiers and Sailors monument, featuring Abraham Lincoln, has been cleaned recently. The City is also replacing the missing medallions and cleaning and repairing the monument's base.

The Austrian cannon that we thought would arrive, refurbished, at the beginning of this summer has finally arrived in Rochester. Plans are underway for a rededication ceremony. As yet, no ceremony date has been announced. The next stage in the restoration process is to refurbish the cannon's base. ❖

Monthly Mindfulness and Meditation Sessions

Submitted by Joy Leccese

During the past church year, several Mindfulness and Meditation sessions were held as part of an expanded effort to provide support for coping with the challenges we all have been facing since the last national election. We believe that the more grounded we are as individuals and congregations, the better we will be able to live out our faith and make a difference.

From the UUA web site: "Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. We live out these Principles within a 'living tradition' of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience."

During this church year, we will offer a Saturday Session

once a month, and each month we will focus on one of the Seven Principles. We'll explore its meaning, and discuss how to practice it, along with applying principles of Mindfulness and Meditation to cultivate compassion, loving kindness, joy and equanimity as part of our individual spiritual practice.

The Sessions will be held on the second Saturday of each month, except for September (since we have Labor Day weekend before the official church year begins). It will be on the third Saturday this month. More details about time, location, etc. will be in the weekly e-bulletins.

As The Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove explains, "The Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in Unitarian Universalist religious communities." Please join us, and bring a friend, spouse, and even your service pet. All are welcome. ❖

Roc/ACTS News

*Submitted by Shirley Bond, Roc/ACTS
Board Representative*



This has been a busy summer! FIAC is working closely with Roc/ACTS and especially with their organizer, Jon Greenbaum. It was decided that the summer project would be a commitment to transforming the Police Accountability Board in Rochester to one that would have some subpoena power and a disciplinary matrix. Working with various faith groups, we collected over 2,000 signed postcards to deliver to the City Council candidates forum. We will also be delivering them to the Mayoral candidates at a forum on November 2nd.

This is not a new issue and the time has come for change. Heather Jones and I, among others, had citizens sign cards at the farmers market, Corn Hill Festival, Park Avenue Festival, and a couple other venues. We got quite good at it! It is hard to approach strangers, but the reception was about 80 percent positive, which shows what a huge issue this is.

Another project is to go to our elected officials to encourage them to act on increased child care subsidies.

So, just wanted you to know that Roc/ACTS is ROCKIN-ON. ❖

Living Our Values, Making A Difference

Submitted by Newcomb Losh

Journey to Justice workshop attendees (l to r) **Karen Ruganis, Beth Ares, Harvey Rothbeind, Phyllis Bentley** (foreground), **Janet Rothbeind** (background), **Connie Valk** and **Eric Van Dusen** were among 35 members and friends who listened to Jon Greenbaum from Roc/ACTS (not pictured) explain the racist aspects of dog whistle politics on June 10th.



(l to r) **The Rev. Peggy Meeker, Peter Perine, Marie Sidoti, Thomas DeMond Sr.** (Roc/ACTS Board President), **Paula Marchese** and **Heather Jones** worked on a planning task during the Journey to Justice workshop on racism in our Clara Barton Lounge.

Youth Bridging Sunday - (l to r) **Meg Parks, Iris Wilcox, Ian Parks, Elizabeth McFarland-Porter, and Soren Kilmer** paused before they led the service on Youth Bridging Sunday on June 11th. This service marked the shift from childhood to adulthood.

Church Picnic - Several of our members and friends met at Seneca Park on Sunday, June 11th for our annual church picnic. We celebrated the end of another successful church year, living our values and making a difference. (l to r) **Peter Perrine, Martha Welch, Lois Baum, Shelley Adams, Kyle Kafka, Kitty Forbush, Stacy Yang, Connie Valk.**



Photo by Tess McFarland-Porter

To show their support, members and friends of First Universalist Church formed a protective covered bridge during the Youth Bridging service for Meg, Iris, Ian, Elizabeth and Soren to pass through.



(l to r) **Bill Hickok, Phil Ebersole, Jayne Miller, Joy Lecsese.**

Rev. Celie's Last Day - Lois Baum (at left) was among many of our members and friends to say good-bye and best wishes to Rev. Celie Katovich on June 18th. (Photos by Greg Baum)



Rev. Celie's goodbye cake said it all for the many members and friends who wished her well during coffee hour on June 18th.



Mayoral Candidates Forum - Richard Reed (far right) moderated a forum featuring Rochester mayoral candidates (1 to r) James Sheppard, Rachel Barnhart and Mayor Lovely Warren, on behalf of the Dunn-Nester Neighborhood Assn at the Carter Street R-Center on August 16th.



Photo by Bridget Watts

ROC Pride Parade - On July 15th, our members and friends joined our fellow UUs from the Genesee Unitarian Universalists Standing Together (GUUSTO) cluster of congregations to celebrate ROC Pride in a Summer of Love themed parade in the city. This is our 21st year parading with the LGBTQ+ community. (Photos by Karl Abbott)

(1 to r) **Karl Abbott, Lois Baum, Becky Elwell, Greg Baum, Kitty Forbush, Bill Elwell, Eleanor Siegfried, Tom Williams** and **Richard Reed** are ready to march.



Eleanor Siegfried waves a ROC Pride flag as Lois Baum drives.



(1 to r) **MJ Curry, Shirley Bond, Richard Reed** and **Tom Williams**.



All photos by Newcomb Losh unless otherwise noted.

Have an action photo or two of our members and friends being inclusive, living our Unitarian Universalist values or making a difference? Send them to Newcomb Losh at newcomb.losh@yahoo.com.

Summer Music... an Embarrassment of Riches!

Submitted by Ann Rhody, Summer Music Coordinator

Many, many thanks to all of the volunteers who made our sanctuary a place of musical beauty this summer! Our spirits were nurtured because of you, and we loved the variety of music we got to hear. Please know that the congregation appreciates all who shared their talent! ❖

Charles Courtsal	Martha Welch
Lisa Gwinner	Lew Ward Baker
Theo Munson	Glenda Brayman
Nancy Gear	(and friends from Glenda's
Richard Reed	vocal ensemble!)
Patti Goodwin	Howard Spindler
Karen Kral	Kate Fleury
John Akers	Ed Deller
Keith Stott	Kitty Forbush



Submitted by Howard Spindler

Join us on Sunday, September 24th at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for a special edition of Eastman at Washington Square, in collaboration with The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

This is one of many concerts that will be taking place all across the United States on this day. The event, called A Concert Across America, is in remembrance of the victims of gun violence. Participating artists will include faculty members and students of Eastman Community Music School and some members of our own First Universalist Church. Musical numbers will be interspersed with lessons and readings. Julia Figueras (WXXI) will be our MC. This is a free event; donations are welcome. ❖

Sharing the Wealth

Submitted by Ann Rhody, Finance Committee Chair

Our church's fiscal year ended on June 30, 2017 with an unprecedented surplus. While a surplus is always nice, it makes one wonder how our financial outcomes were so different than we expected.

Much of our surplus came from spikes in our income: fully rented parking spaces, increased use of the church for special occasions and community events, and contributions and pledges from an increase in membership - all good things! However, we also had many budget lines which were unspent or underspent. What good might we do in our church and community if we put those funds to work toward our mission? The finance team will be working with church leaders this year to consider how our funds might be spent in a positive and proactive way.

Meanwhile, the finance team has recommended that the 2016-17 surplus be used in the following way:

- The unneeded endowment draw of \$21,500 will stay in the endowment and continue to grow
- \$5,000 will be set aside to be used for a meaningful gift to the community. The Board of Trustees, as well as some members of this past year's Committee on Ministry, are considering some options as we go into the fall.
- We will spend about \$3,000 to pay off the outstanding loan from our endowment, enabling us to retire this debt 8 years ahead of schedule.
- \$1,000 will be transferred to the House Discretionary Fund. This fund can enable the House Committee to make small improvements as needed in the church.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our congregation members, who support the church through pledges and contributions. It is truly a blessing to serve in such an atmosphere of abundance!

Full financial details of the 2016-17 fiscal year will be available in the treasurer's report in early October. As always, if you have questions about any specific funds or expenditures, please contact a member of the finance team. ❖



Matching Gift Challenge Succeeds

Submitted by Connie Valk

First Universalist members and friends raised the full amount to match an anonymous donor's \$2,000 gift for the church's Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN) discretionary fund.



Plans are in the works to use the money to purchase items to make the spaces used by families much more comfortable. Guests will appreciate the new carpets, lamps, and baby equipment. No longer will we have to borrow air mattresses!

The generosity of the donor and of our congregation has once again found a way to carry out our mission to "nurture the spirit and serve the community."

To learn more about RAIHN, please visit www.raihn.org. ❖

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"For it is in giving that we receive."

- Francis of Assisi

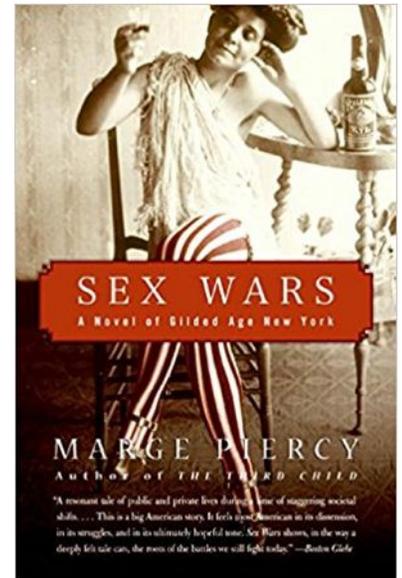
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Book Group

Submitted by Shirley Bond

We have read and discussed at least 37 books in the last four years! What fun! Luckily, Jane Hickok compiled a list, and what a joy it was to walk down memory lane.

Hopefully, everyone has had a chance to read *Sex Wars* by Marge Piercy. I was pleasantly surprised by this book. I gained knowledge and was entertained, and although I am not a huge historical fiction fan, I must say she did a good job. I thought she only wrote poetry! What a pleasant surprise.



Please join us on September 24th at 12 noon in the Chalice Room for a lively discussion of this book. If you have a couple of books you would be willing to recommend for our 2017-18 year, please bring the titles with you. All are welcome and it is not necessary to have read the book. Hope to see you there.

Questions? Contact Shirley Bond (Bondshirl1@gmail.com) or Sarah Singal (ssingal@rochester.rr.com). ❖

Social Justice Plate News Submitted by Shirley Bond

It is that time of year again. Back to School! Many of our volunteers work with the children of School 7. Our September collection will be earmarked for the purchase of backpacks. We have done this previously and the excitement and thanks by the children cannot be overstated. Please be as generous as you feel comfortable, and thank you.

Speaking of thank you's, a huge pat on the back goes to *us*, as we were able to collect \$412 in June for the organization ROCoverly Fitness. The organization is dedicated to providing free programs to all who are in recovery. We received a beautiful thank you letter from them!

Thank you again! The Social Justice Plate Committee: Shirley Bond, Becky Elwell, and Marcia Weaver. ❖

Drop-In Discussion Schedule

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

Drop-in discussions are held each Sunday in the Chalice Room on the second floor of our church. 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.

Discussions begin at 11:15 a.m. through September 3rd.

September 3 | *Charity vs. Justice*. Community activist Mary Lupien will talk to us about charity versus justice. Check out her TED talk on the topic at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_LrZ4jcEwM.

Starting September 10th, discussions begin at 9:15 a.m.

September 10 | *Between Two Shores: Immigration, Identity and Home*. Chaudry will discuss ideas in the novel, *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, which is about the life of a young Nigerian woman in the post 9/11 USA, and also draw on the ideas of Edward Said in *Nationalism and Colonialism*.

September 17 | *Hard Facts*. A new report indicates that African-Americans and Hispanics in the Rochester area are worse than average for New York state and the USA as a whole, both in absolute terms and in comparison to non-Hispanic whites. Phil Ebersole will summarize the report and lead a discussion of why this is so. Read the full report at ACTRochester.org or racf.org/Reports.

September 24 | *The State of the Church*. We find ourselves at the beginning of another interim year, a time to mark the end of one chapter and look toward a new beginning. The Rev. Peggy Meeker will lead a discussion on where we're at, how we're feeling about it, and what we hope the future will bring.

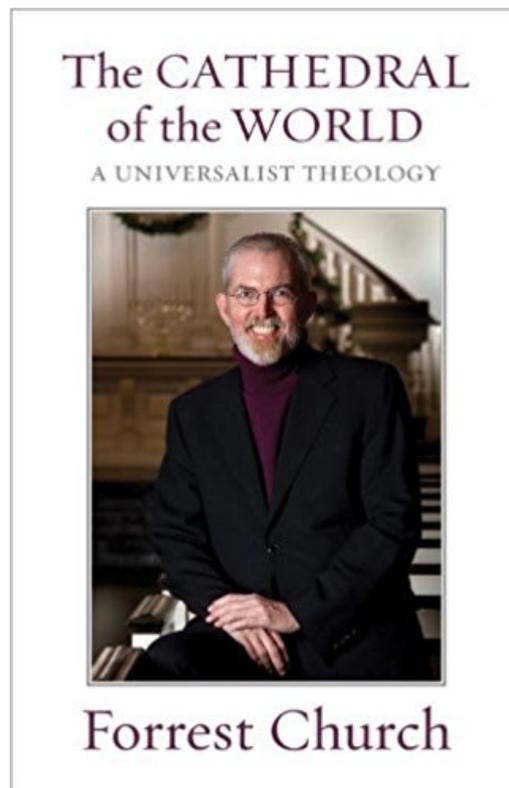
If you wish to have a topic discussed or, better still, are willing to lead a discussion, contact Phil Ebersole at discussions@uuroc.org. ❖



A Universalist Theology

Who said “Love is the beating heart of Universalism?” To whom was it said? Why? The quote is from a book in our library, *The Cathedral of the World: A Universalist Theology*, by Forrest Church. The book is dedicated to the author's wife. “To Carolyn, the love of my life.” It is a plain-spoken description of his Universalist theology and liberal faith. In it we read such fascinating chapters as “Mother God”, “What would Jefferson Do?”, “Shall we overcome?”, and “Love and Death”. For an inspiring read sign out Church's book. **Call number is 289.1C.**

Remember how lucky we Universalists are to be in the hand of an all-powerful, loving God! ❖



Library and Bookstore Re-open Sept. 10th

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

The church library and bookstore will resume normal operation on Sundays during coffee hour, starting September 10th. To celebrate the re-opening, we'll have a special sale of cookbooks, donated by Jan Hickman, with proceeds to be added to the bonuses of our hard-working paid staff.

We have a lending library of books of liberal religious interest, which is open to members and also to friends who've been coming long enough to have name tags. The library books are arranged along the wall shelves in order of Dewey decimal number. If you have a book you borrowed last spring or before, please return it.

We have a bookstore in which we sell new books, ordered from the UUA Bookstore, at half price and also sell donated books for 50 cents each. These books are on the freestanding shelves. If you have books in reasonably good condition that you think others would be interested in reading, please leave them in the donation box.

We have a shelf of free children's books. It's a bit rickety. If you have a small set of bookshelves you'd be willing to donate, speak to Phil Ebersole or Jan Hickman

We also have a box for free books, representing overflow from our bookstore, and a rack of donated magazines, also free for the taking.

You may take free children's books, free magazines and free overflow books at any time, but please wait to buy or borrow books until we have a library committee member on duty during coffee hour. ❖

Photo Use Notification

The First Universalist Church occasionally takes photographs during services and other congregational events. These photos of members and other individuals are intended for use in various forms of church-related media. Members/Friends not wanting their images or images of their children under the age of 18 so used may add their names to a list by notifying the church office (office@uuroc.org). When a single image is used, or an individual's image is dominant in a group photo, First Universalist will make a good faith effort to contact the individual for courtesy notifications and express consent prior to the photo's placement in a public medium.

House Committee News

Submitted by Tom Ruganis

The Clara Barton Lounge renovation is nearing completion. New carpet has been installed in the foyer and coat room area as well as the lounge. New sound absorbing panels have been installed on the walls to help with sound issues. New chairs and a new arrangement will help with traffic flow. Thanks again to Sarah Singal and the renovation committee for their hard work!

The restrooms near the coat rooms have also been re-painted and re-tiled by Brandon Fagan, our Sexton. Thank you Melissa Davies for spearheading this.

The annual elevator inspection has taken place and the City of Rochester permit for the limited use elevator was renewed.

After experiencing the disappearance of two of the three refuse/recycling totes from the parking area, we have once again started locking the units.

As always, if you are interested in helping with the planning and maintenance of the building please feel free to contact anyone on the committee. The Committee is currently: Tom Ruganis, Chair (tom.ruganis@frontier.com), Sarah Singal, Marcy Klein, Michael Scott, Ed Deller and Shirley Bond. We would love to hear from you! ❖



First Universalist Church

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 from the Jewish and Christian traditions.

Worship service begins at 10:30am Sundays

Minister | The Reverend Peggy Meeker

Director of Life Span Faith Development | Rev. Michelle Yates

Music Director | Stacey Yang

Sexton | Brandon Fagan

Nursery Care Provider | Carol Williams & Sundae Hodge

Office Administrator | Melissa Davies

Office hours, Tuesday - Friday, 9-3:15. Closed Mondays. Telephone 585.546.2826

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