



Our Outlook

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Sunday Services | January 2019

January 6 | *Unity in the Fires*

Fire has the power to unite us as well as burn us out. How do we move from a burnt out feeling to a place of renewal and risk-taking as individuals and as a community? This Sunday we will be launching a new initiative in Religious Education, so don't miss out on the fun!

— Rev. Lane Campbell

January 13 | *This Broken Chalice*

In loving this faith, there are times when we also struggle with its shortcomings. What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist when we realize its limits?

— Rev. Joel Miller

January 20 | *Legacies of Justice*

Martin Luther King Jr. told the Unitarian Universalist Association during his 1966 Ware Lecture, "Don't sleep through the revolution!" These words have great meaning for our congregation today as well as for our denomination. In the age of Black Lives Matter, we are being called to wake up and to take action.

— Rev. Lane Campbell

January 27 | *Study War No More*

As we enter African-American History month and in these troubled times, the old African-American spiritual, "Down by the Riverside" can inspire us, but its hidden meanings can empower us. Join First Universalist member from Boston, Verdis Robinson, as we explore deeply into its lyrics for hope and power.

— Verdis Robinson

All services begin at 10:30 am





The Choice We Make Again and Again

Message from Rev. Lane

This month, we begin exploring monthly themes in our worship services and in our newsletter articles. For the month of January, the topic that was discerned is Unitarian Universalist Identity.

The Unitarian Universalist identity I had when I was a child and being raised in this tradition is certainly not the identity I have now. There are parts of this identity that have stayed—valuing a diversity of beliefs and opinions, a healthy questioning/skepticism, knowing we are better together than we are alone. But many things have evolved. I was raised in a predominantly atheist community that placed high value on logic and communicated to me as a child that anyone who believed in God was just not smart. There are pluses and minuses to the identities we are born into. And one thing about Unitarian Universalism is that we are encouraged to grow in our beliefs.

Our third Unitarian Universalist principle speaks to acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations. I am so grateful for this invitation to grow spiritually, to allow our personal identities and our congregational identities to evolve. One of the things I love about this faith is that it is large enough to hold many beliefs because we have embraced a theological expansiveness. There are limits to what we can believe as Unitarian Universalists and there is always room to grow.

Growing up in this faith, I heard so often from adults in my community about their choice to become Unitarian Universalist. It was a homecoming, finding a place you wished you had always known existed. For some this was a choice instead of the religious tradition they were raised in. For others, this was a choice in addition to their current religious community.

Whether you are someone who has chosen to convert to UUism or you were born into it, the decision to embrace Unitarian Universalist identity is a choice we make

again and again. It is a choice to live into our values in our interactions. It is a choice to stay with our communities even when we may not be happy about everything that goes on there. It is a choice to claim Unitarian Universalism in conversation with people or in the public sphere. It is a choice we come to when we are faced with doubt about our church or our beliefs or what we thought we knew about the world.

I love that we choose this faith again and again and again. I love that this faith calls us to choose because we are active agents in making this faith what it is for us personally as well as communally. To choose Unitarian Universalism is to ask ourselves what our faith calls us to and to act on that calling. Through choice, we grow and evolve. Through choice, we make promises to one another that we don't keep perfectly. But there is always an option to choose to own our mistakes and to come back into the covenant, the promises we make to one another.

May this year be full of choices for you. May this year bring a growth in our faith and a growth in each of us personally.

Happy new year, dear ones! ❖

2019 Stewardship News

Submitted by Richard Reed

Hello fellow congregation members and friends of First Universalist Church. Happy New Year to everyone. Soon thoughts of spring will begin and it's also the time of our annual Stewardship Campaign.

This year's co-chairs are Jillian Beaman and Richard Reed. This year's theme is "Let's Show Up," with Stewardship Sunday being March 31, slightly earlier this year. As usual we will share in our annual pie celebration after service that day.

You will be hearing more in the next two months through the *Outlook* and inserts in Sunday's Order of Service, and you will be receiving your pledge information and card mid-March.

During the campaign we will be asking each of you to consider the importance of, and your support to, the programs and ministries here at First Universalist. Everyone's support is important, no matter the amount. We thank you for your support in the past, currently and in the future. ❖



Walking Together

*Message from Rev. Michelle Yates,
Director of Life Span Faith
Development*

Rearranging the Furniture

I am so excited to explore our monthly worship themes in Children’s Worship and other Faith Development programming. It’s appropriate that for January, the first month of the new year, we look at our UU Identity. We might consider “who are we,” or “who do we want to be” as Unitarian Universalists? What IS a Unitarian Universalist? Who are some well known UUs? How has Unitarian Universalism changed over time? What makes you UU?

Our identity, who we are or who we think we are, is something that changes over time. It’s a lot like our rooms or houses. When we are young, our parents choose and arrange our furniture, books, toys, and clothes. As we get older we start to make choices of our own. We choose new things we like, discard things that don’t fit, and rearrange or re-purpose other items.

Sometimes these choices are hard. I loved my great aunt and want to keep her desk, but it doesn’t really fit the rest of the room. I may grow up, but I still keep my favorite stuffed animals that gave me comfort as a child. If I want to welcome new people, I need to make room for them to come in.

My Unitarian Universalist identity is not only a fixture in the room, but its values guide me in my choices as I “rearrange the furniture.” My UU Identity tells me that its everyone’s responsibility to make the world more peaceful and just. This means letting go of my aunt’s judgements about people of color, discerning ways “my comfort and security” hurts others, and considering ways

I am welcoming or exclusive. This means giving myself a “time out” sometimes and modeling healthy ways of dealing with anger and frustration to my kids. It means being compassionate with myself and others when we fail.

In this process, it helps me to think of famous UUs and the ways the denomination has changed over time. Like me, they were not perfect. They strived to be better and stumbled along the way, but the arc of the universe still bends towards justice.

My mantras for bringing my UU Identity into my daily life are: “WWUUD?” (What would a UU do?) and “May they know I am a UU by my Love.” What others can you think of?

Yours in Faith,
Rev. Michelle ✦

Spirit in Practice Faith Development Program

Submitted by Rev. Michelle Yates

The Spirit in Practice Workshops were created to help UUs develop regular spiritual 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 6:30–8:30 pm (NEW TIME) in the Clara Barton Lounge. Come to each session or when you can.

In Session 4 on Wednesday, January 16, we will consider Spiritual Partnerships: more than just meeting for coffee. Please email our facilitator Rev. Michelle 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 2–4 pm at the Irondequoit Public Library starting January 15!!

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



Finance News and Notes

Submitted by Ann Rhody for the Finance Team

Thank you...

...for your generous contributions for staff bonuses! The board was able to distribute a meaningful bonus to our staff members, who are very grateful.

Next up...

The Annual Service Auction! February 3, 2019

It's our big fund-raiser, and so much fun! If you've participated in the Service Auction before, you know that it's a great time and helps raise funds for our church's programs.

If you're new to the Auction, please know that you are welcome and encouraged to participate! Here's how it works:

- Members and friends donate services or goods... perhaps a dinner, outing, homemade treat, or specialty item. Donations can be made until January 23, online at uuroc.org or by using the paper form available at church.
- A booklet of auction items is produced and will be available one week prior to the auction. You can look through the items and plan your bidding strategy and budget. Prices can range from a few dollars to... well, the sky's the limit! There is something for every budget.
- Auction Sunday arrives, we enjoy a lunch after the service, and the bidding begins! It's a user-friendly event whether you're an experienced auction participant or if you've never bid on anything before.

How to get started? Think about what YOU can donate and place up for bid, AND be sure to plan to attend the auction on February 3. Watch for updated information with each week's announcements. If you have questions about the Auction, please contact Paula Marchese (pmarchese@rochester.rr.com) or Katherine Flynn (kmcmfly@gmail.com). Don't miss out on the fun!

January means... thinking about the future

Although the congregation votes on a budget at our annual meeting in June, the Finance team actually starts preliminary planning for the budget NOW! We

start by taking a look at the church's needs—are there areas where we need to spend more? Areas where the budgeted amount isn't doing enough? Do we anticipate having to spend extra funds on building needs, or to buy a new computer? The Finance Committee and Board of Trustees work together throughout the process, and other church leaders and congregation members have a role here, too. If you know of a need or have a suggestion regarding what could be in the 2019–2020 budget, please reach out to the Finance Committee chair Ann Rhody (annrhody@gmail.com). ❖

Secret Santas for RAIHN*

Submitted by Marti Eggers

Christmas can be a very stressful time for families that have graduated from RAIHN into their own homes. Many families lost everything before they entered the RAIHN program, so they have myriad expenses just setting up their new place, leaving very few resources for Christmas gifts.

The congregation at First Universalist adopted one such family for Christmas, offering to provide gifts for a dad, two “tween-age” daughters and a grandma. The folks in the photo below volunteered to shop and wrap gifts for our adopted family. The Change Drive and the RAIHN Discretionary Fund made the shopping spree possible. Many thanks to our shoppers and to the congregation for supporting RAIHN in this season of giving!

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



From left to right: Marti Eggers, Donna Anderson, Heather Jones, Eileen Fernandez, Wyatt, Jennie Sutliff and Emma (striped arm). Not shown: Carol Williams. ❖



Sign Up for RAIHN Week

Submitted by Chris DeGolyer

During RAIHN Week, January 20–27, 2019, we will turn our church into a home for temporarily homeless families. We'll convert our classrooms into bedrooms, cook meals, stay overnight, and provide other help. To join our volunteer team, sign up in the lounge after church on Sunday, or contact Chris DeGolyer, chrisdeg@frontiernet.net with questions. If you'd like to learn more before volunteering, we have opportunities to "shadow" experienced volunteers. ❖

Cozy Night Supper

Submitted by Kathy Russell

A Cozy Night Supper will be held Friday, January 25, from 5:30–7:30 pm in the Clara Barton Lounge. Our potluck dinner will be from 5:30–6:30. The program from 6:30–7:30 will focus on our church selected theme of racial justice.

Please let us know that you will be attending, noting what you would like to bring—salad, dessert, main dish, bread, hand-held fruit or vegetables. Please 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 and just how many corn casseroles we will have!! A sign-up sheet is posted on the hall and CBL bulletin boards, or you can RSVP to the church office. And for those who like to plan ahead, dates for our remaining dinners are March 1 and April 12. ❖

Safety Planning

Submitted by Kate Fleury for the Safety Plan Team



At our first meeting December 18 we identified several safety concerns in our building, such as reducing fire hazards, securing the building during church service, and use and maintenance of the AED. As we begin our planning process, we would appreciate your input on any "safety gaps" that you may have noticed. Please drop a line to Kate Fleury at ekard2911@gmail.com listing any safety concerns you may have noticed. We want our list to be as comprehensive as possible. Thank you! ❖

Drop-In Discussion Schedule

Submitted by Beth Ares

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.

January 6 | *Why is it so difficult for white people to talk about racism?*

Join Project Team members Shelley Adams and Elizabeth Osta for a discussion of the 2018 new book, *White Fragility*, in which author Robin DiAngelo addresses some of the reasons for this difficulty and what we can do to move forward.

January 13 | *The Death of Expertise: Why it Matters, a book by Tom Nichols*

Technology and rising levels of education means that more people are exposed to information than ever before. It has also fueled a surge in narcissistic and misguided intellectual egalitarianism. We have an army of angry citizens who denounce intellectual achievement. Bill Elwell, presenter.

January 20 | *Liberal Parents, Radical Children*

A David Brooks Op Ed article, *NY Times*, November 26. If a new generation gap exists, how does this impact the future of our church? Why would young folks want to join us? Why would we want young folks to join us? Katherine Flynn, presenter.

January 27 | *Mother Nature Speaks*

The human race was facing big problems, serious enough to prompt Mother Nature to address humanity. Her address calls the question of whether we are prepared to claim the long and successful future that is our birthright. Hank Stone will facilitate.

Do you have a topic for us? Please contact any of our Drop-In Discussion Team members: Shelley Adams, David Damico, Kate Fleury, Bob Remley, or Beth Ares, coordinator. ❖

Living Our Values, Making a Difference

Helping students and the homeless



▲ **TASK FORCE:** The Task Force on Homelessness met on December 1 to plan ways our congregation could connect with our neighbors who are homeless in a mutually respectful way. *Left to right: Ed Deller, Sarah Singal, Lois Baum, Rev. Lane, Tim Mullins, Tom Ruganis.*



▲ **BLANKETS:** This beautiful blanket was created by our Blankets for the Homeless Social Justice Circle. The group consists of about ten craft volunteers led by Lisa Gwinner. This blanket was delivered to the House of Mercy just before Christmas by Carole Hoffmann—it was the 20th blanket we sent to House of Mercy in 2018!

▼ **MITTEN TREE:** The Communications Committee sponsored the Mitten Tree again this year, collecting dozens of scarves, hats and mittens for children at School No. 7 and for the homeless.



▶ *Do you have an action photo or two of our members and friends being inclusive, living our values or making a difference? Send them to Newcomb Losh at jnewcomb.losch@yahoo.com. ❖*

Social Justice Plate Focus: REACH

Submitted by *Becky Elwell* for the Social Justice Plate Committee

REACH is an advocate for the chronically homeless, providing housing and other needs for those that do not have shelter during the cold days of fall and winter.

What would you do if you lost your housing and there was no bed available for you? You're on the street, it's cold, you have no access to a bed, you're hungry and developing a bad cold. What would you do? You could look for services of a social worker, health aides, food and shelter. Putting emphasis on housing first, you try to get permanent housing and the services you're entitled to as a citizen of Monroe County. The volunteer-managed REACH home provides beds for the homeless when Monroe County's beds are full. REACH saves people from sleeping in the cold without protection from the elements. Now you know that there is a bed, food and help to put your life back together.

First Universalist is asking you to support REACH by contributing to the third Sunday social justice plate offering. Thank you. ❖

Eastman at Washington Square Concerts

Concerts are held at our church at lunch time on Thursdays. Each concert begins at 12:15 pm and ends at approximately 12:45 pm. Admission is free. Bring your brown bag lunch and enjoy.

- **January 3 | A Debussy Offering**
The colorful sound of Claude Debussy with Juli Elliot, soprano and Michelle Steffers, piano.
- **January 10 | Eastman Community Music School Faculty Showcase**
- **January 17 | Composer David Temperley**
Compositions by ESM faculty member David Temperley, performed by Andrew Brown, clarinet, and David Temperley, piano, include a world premiere.
- **January 24 | An Afternoon with Brahms**
Music of Brahms performed by violinist Soo Yeon Kim and pianist David Keep.
- **January 31 | Various Variations!**
Three fascinating and contrasting sets of variation by Busoni, Schumann, and Rachmaninoff. ❖

What You're Saying When You Say, "I Don't Need a Mic"

Submitted by *Connie Valk* for the Communications Committee

Members of the Communications Committee were delighted to see an article by Erika A. Hewitt on the UU website. We have decided to use excerpts to stress the importance of using a microphone in the Clara Barton Lounge as well as Sanctuary for church events.

"At a recent ministers' meeting I attended, the culture was such that when someone starting to speak didn't have a mic, multiple people would say, "Please use the mic." I can't tell you how much that meant to me, not to be the one complaining about not being able to hear. That was real inclusion."

—*Rev. Barbara Meyers*

Failing to use a microphone is a form of exclusion. It's that simple. It does not help to speak more loudly. Many hearing aids have a hard time adjusting to loud sounds.

Our hearing loop at First Universalist connects directly to the microphones. This means that a person with a hearing aid can click the button on the back of the hearing aid and the microphone sound goes directly from the mic into the hearing aid. Presto! Inclusion!

Here are more thoughts from the UUA article:

- *If someone needs you to repeat something, and especially if they have to ask twice, change your wording.*
- *People speaking while facing another direction are harder to hear, and impossible to lip-read.*
- *When possible, have someone carry a second microphone to the people speaking; cultivate patience to wait for the microphone.*
- *We know that a third of adults between 65 and 74 years old have hearing loss, and half of those over 75 years of age do.*

If we truly wish to nurture our spirits and serve the community, we need to pay close attention to these little reminders of how we need to communicate. ❖





EcoJustice

Grey Water!

Submitted by Kate Fleury for the EcoJustice Committee

Visiting my husband's family near Austin, Texas, in the semi-arid Hill Country, I noticed the dry sandy/caliche limestone terrain and wished we could divert grey water from the household to the yard. Sounds simple, just install a few pipes and let the water from dishwashing, laundry, showering, and bathroom sink help to water plants.

The simplest way to use "grey water" is to bucket flush your toilet with shower water or to take the dishpan outside after doing dishes and toss it into the yard. It sounds almost like camping, right? Beyond this extremely low-tech approach, however, there are things to know to recycle household water that is not from the toilet.

First, for any reuse of grey water onto plants, you want to start with using safer soaps and detergents that will not hurt the plants. Some of these include Oasis or ECOs, Dr. Bronner's soaps, and Aubrey Organics. Plants do not like salt or boron, ingredients in many household cleaners. You also want to be aware that grey water will contain some bacteria, so you wouldn't allow grey water to stand more than 24 hours. This avoids unpleasant smells caused by decomposition. It is recommended to avoid using grey water on root vegetables. In general, you would direct grey water to flower beds, landscaping, and plants whose roots we don't use, such as fruit trees and berries.

Second, it is important to find out the local codes and restrictions that exist in your area for use of grey water. Western states are liberalizing their grey water codes as water conservation becomes more critical. Typical household use is thought to be safe, as long as reasonable precautions are taken. For example, it is better to direct grey water onto mulch than directly onto topsoil. Mulch filters grey water, a low-impact form of keeping the effluent processed. There are high-tech solutions to process and store grey water, including tanks, pumps and filters. Good resources include Greywater Action, Oasis Design Gray Water Policy Center, *The Water-Wise Home*, and the *San Francisco Graywater Design Manual for Outdoor Irrigation*.

Third, it is a good idea to think about which plants may like or not like grey water. Plants that would not enjoy it include azaleas, ferns, begonias, hydrangeas, impatiens and bleeding hearts. Plants more suited to grey water irrigation would be honeysuckle, roses, sedum, junipers, rosemary, and oaks. There are many suggestions online about how to ensure good drainage, avoid standing water, and use gravity in landscape design. While high-tech machinery will provide a cleaner end product, low-tech solutions are easier to maintain and cost less. In every case, grey water is NOT recommended as drinking water for pets or people.

So, my first step will be finding the safer detergents and soaps as I consider in what ways I can conserve fresh water by making use of grey water in my home. ❖

RESOLVE!

Submitted by Sarah Singal for the EcoJustice Committee



Climate action is serious business. The planet needs global change in the way people live to lessen the shock that we are already feeling. But never, never think that there is nothing an individual can do. Here are suggested New Year's resolutions inspired by a Cozy Supper in October, 2017:

- ❖ Eat a more plant-based diet, cook only what you need, reduce wasted food.
- ❖ Buy less, and buy earth-friendly products.
- ❖ Avoid plastics, refuse Styrofoam. Recycle curbside, to store, to the Ecopark.
- ❖ Share. Promote family planning.
- ❖ Walk more, bike more. Use less gas. Dry your clothes in the air. Plant trees.
- ❖ Harvest the power of the sun, water, wind. Choose sustainable energy supply company (ESCO) with RGE.
- ❖ Rely less on air conditioning and heating. Dress for the weather in winter and summer.
- ❖ Learn about Community Choice Aggregation, heat pumps, composting.
- ❖ Read *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*.
- ❖ Join others in petitions, phone calls, rallies, protests in support of Climate Action. Vote!
- ❖ Change your routine. Embrace a new way of life. Hold the earth in reverence. ❖

Faith In Action Council (FIAC)— *Autumn 2018 Reflections*

Submitted by Heather Jones for FIAC

Becky Elwell, Joy Leccese and I, the members of FIAC, have been keen to keep before us our major goal, which is to enlarge our church's focus and support action related to the realities and ravages of systemic racism as it exists and persists in the city of Rochester and surrounding communities. Below are some highlights from the past few months:

- ❖ **Testimonials:** Joy and Becky both told their stories about their own social justice awakenings. As Becky said, "Show up!"
- ❖ **Second Sundays:** On these days with Rev. Michelle as leader, we are examining various social justice issues. This fall we have focused on Native Americans and the homeless. Upcoming Second Sunday programs will have to do with migrant workers and eco-justice.
- ❖ **The Project Team,** with the fantastic Dolores Da Lomba at the helm, is charting the course that will culminate in the selection of a congregation-wide project focused upon systemic racism in our community. They are ardent in their transparency about process and have reached out to everyone in the church for thoughts and feedback.
- ❖ **On October 20, 2018,** FIAC invited the Project Team, members of the Social Justice Circles, Rev. Lane, Rev. Michelle and other church leaders to a breakfast where we were able to hear of so many ways our members are living our mission—*nurturing the spirit and serving the community*. Our numbers may be small, but our impact is not.
- ❖ **The post-Thanksgiving Cozy Night Supper:** FIAC and the incredible Kathy Russell (also a Project Team member), chose to focus on gratitude and also to explore white privilege. I am encouraging everyone to read *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo—it is a knockout and caused me to squirm in recognition of my own thin, white-skinned fragility.
- ❖ **Reverend Lane:** FIAC is thrilled that our new minister is thoroughly invested in social justice action and has taken lots of time to work with us, the Project Team and Social Justice Circles. Rev. Lane and the FIAC folks are currently working on ways to collaborate with

members of the Winton Road church on social justice issues.

❖ **Joy, Becky and I** would like to add another FIAC member. Are you a fantastic communicator? Do you like reaching out to great people and organizations in the Rochester community? Do you have an affinity for social media? Yes?

Contact Heather at heathermenziesjones@gmail.com.

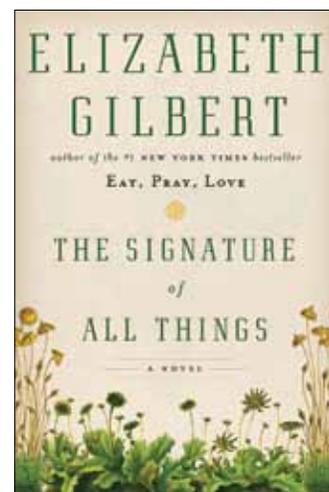
❖ **Keeping up with FIAC:** Do check out the Court Street bulletin board, *Our Outlook* and the trusty Order of Service. ❖



Book Group

Submitted by Shirley Bond

January's book group selection is *The Signature of All Things* by Elizabeth Gilbert. This work of fiction takes a botanist's look into the mysterious world of evolution. She is forever changed by this. Many characters play a role in this clearly fictionalized interpretation of the spiritual, the divine and the magical.



Give this book a try as it was highly recommended by the book group. What is your opinion? You didn't have time to read the book? No problem. We have all been there! We just hope it piques your interest. So come to a lively discussion January 27 at 12 noon in the Chalice Room and relax.

For those wanting a head start, February's selection is *Visionary Women* by Andrea Barnet. ❖

Project Team Update

Submitted by Dolores Da Lomba

The Project Team has been working in accordance with its task: to find and recommend to the congregation a group that is working against racism with which we could partner, toward the goal of finding an “all-church project.” This project would be one that everyone could support and be involved with in some way. Accordingly, the Project Team has been reviewing local organizations to see which group might be a good fit for our church. We have found that there’s a lot of good work going on in the community, some with which we are already involved.

The Team is continuing to explore possibilities and we plan to narrow down the selection of possible partnerships soon. In the meantime, under the leadership of FIAC (Faith in Action Council), the SJ (Social Justice) Circles, Adult Faith Development, and the Project Team, there will be an abundance of opportunities for the congregation to learn about local issues, causes that need support, and ways by which we can help make a difference.

As we narrow down the prospects, the Project Team will hold Listening Circles with the congregation in order

to hear what members think about these opportunities for involvement. We hope to give as much notice as possible so that many will be able attend. The better informed we are as a congregation, the more likely we will be successful in finding a good fit that allows us to truly “live our religion,” as our former pastor, Martha, so often admonished us.

This is the month that we celebrate the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr., a man who certainly lived his religion. He established a practice of non-violent action that stirred the courage and devotion to justice of Americans of all colors. Many Unitarian Universalists demonstrated their devotion to our principles by walking with him. We have some members old enough to remember that struggle and some who actually participated in it.

Fifty years later and the struggle continues. New organizations have evolved to continue the work toward the goal of a just and peaceful society. Much remains to be done and some lost gains need to be recaptured. As a denomination and as a church, we have committed to participate in that struggle.

We are reminded every Sunday that “Love is the doctrine of this church.” May we continue to find ways to spread that love beyond these doors so that we might truly live our religion. ❖

Roc/ACTS Initiatives

Submitted by Shirley Bond

We made considerable progress this past year and especially concerning the area of criminal justice reform. Roc/ACTS worked with other faith-based organizations, unions and community neighborhood groups to bring change. The focus was in two areas: getting a Police Accountability Board (PAB) passed that has the five pillars that we asked for, and concentrating efforts in the area of solitary confinement.

The PAB Alliance met with the mayor and members of City Council. Strategies included five community forums, phone calls, press conferences and organizing large turnouts for monthly City Council meetings. The UU’s are well represented at the table! Solitary confinement work involved coordinating with other state groups to seek changes in the penal system. Their policies continuously target people of color.

The Education Task Force could use more help,

especially because UU’s are particularly knowledgeable about the subject and are always willing to share information. Immigration reform is also being worked on and involves many trips to Albany and Buffalo.

Roc/ACTS had two huge upsetting and sad occurrences this past year. First our “go-to guy,” Jon Greenbaum, decided to go back to school so he resigned from Roc/ACTS. Even though he gave us ample time to adjust we were late to accept the news.

Then just very recently Marvin Mich, the “rock” of Roc/ACTS, with the strength and the calm optimistic attitude that was with Roc/ACTS since its birth in 2015, died unexpectedly and left us heartsick. We will continue on as Marv would want us to and we have hired a recruiter who is going to lead us forward. We continue to learn and grow and especially reach out to other faith organizations! Let’s open the doors.

If you are interested in getting involved please reach out to either Bob Remley or me, Shirley Bond. We are in the Church directory. ❖



Central East
Region

The Healthy Congregation

Every congregation has its own unique character and culture, yet vital and vibrant congregations all have something in common: healthy communication and behavior habits.

This day-long workshop will give you tools, techniques and practices to help your congregation to accept differences, keep anxiety from taking over, learn how to disagree without destructive conflict, and work together to serve your greater purpose in the world.

Date: Saturday, March 9, 2019
Arrive: 8:30am
Program: 9:00am – 4:00pm
Registration: <https://www.uua.org/central-east/events>

Cost: \$25 (includes lunch & materials)

Location:

**Calvary St. Andrews Church
95 Averill Ave.
Rochester, NY 14620.**

Please bring a canned good or non-perishable food item for our host church's food pantry.

WHY TAKE THE HEALTHY CONGREGATION?

Congregations whose leaders participate this training and incorporate it in their practices experience less destructive conflict and more growth.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

Ministers, religious educators, board members, committee chairs, potential leaders, etc.

Sponsored by:

- 1st Universalist Church of Rochester
- 1st Unitarian Church of Rochester

Facilitator:

Rev. Renee Ruchotzke



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 in the Jewish and Christian traditions.

Worship service begins at 10:30 am Sundays

Minister | The Rev. Lane Campbell
Director of Life Span Faith Development |

The Rev. Michelle Yates

Music Director | Brock Tjosvold

Sexton | Brandon Fagan

Nursery Care Provider | Carol Williams &
Sundae Hodge

Office Administrator |

*Office hours, Tuesday—Friday, 9:00 am to 3:45 pm;
closed Monday. 585-546-2826*

Board of Trustees 2018–2019

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Office Administrator

Editor, monthly newsletter *Our Outlook*, this month:

Marcy Klein

More information is available on our website:

uuroc.org.

The usual deadline for all submissions to *Our Outlook*
is the 20th of each month.