



Our Outlook

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Church of Rochester

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Sunday Services | April 2022

April 3 | *Vulnerability and Risk: The Power of We*

The last two years have been a time of powerlessness, crisis, and fear. How do we continue to allow ourselves to be vulnerable and open to joy in the face of risk and the unknown?

— Rev. Kelly Spahr

April 10 | *For All That Is Our Life*

...We sing our thanks and praise. Celebrating generosity and the many layers of our experience, join First Universalist in creating a future for our community and a robust present day. Please plan to have your pledges for the 2022-2023 church year in by this Sunday!

— Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

April 17 | *Rising to the Occasion*

In Jesus of Nazareth's story, we see him resurrected to show up in the lives of the disciples at odd and unexpected times. He is seen and known even when he is not easily recognized. What does this kind of resurrection have to say to our lives in the present day?

— Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

April 24 | *It's the End of the World As We Know It...*

During the week of Earth Day, we gather to mourn the destruction that human beings have caused to our beautiful home and to recognize the changes that must be made in our present-day climate apocalypse. How can we meet the challenge to honor the earth? And what is at stake if we are unwilling to change?

— Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

❖ **Services begin at 10:30am** ❖

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

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Recognizing Grace

*Message from
Rev. Lane-Maired Campbell*

Grace can be a hard concept for us Unitarian Universalists. Grace is often interpreted as the unearned gifts from the divine present in our lives. It is often couched in terms of theologies that are not ours—theologies that see humanity as very low, that prize God and others above. Some of us do not even believe in God, let alone in a divine figure who sees us as low and occasionally throws us a few gifts.

What has been helpful to me in relating to Grace is to think of graceful motion. It could be in dancing or in tai chi or on a kayak moving through the water or a bird flying through the sky. Grace is about ease and flow, finding moments to coast upon or even alongside nature’s forces. It is a balance of bending with and holding firm. I see this in the branches of the trees when heavy winds blow, in the bending with the wind rather than remaining rigid.

Grace is about those moments in our life of ease and flow. Those days that might feel ordinary (or maybe less so these days) where all comes together and one is able to move through time and activities with appreciation and ease. Sure, these moments may feel rare, but when we take the time to recognize and honor them, it makes life on the hard days much easier. Where are you finding ease and flow in your life? Where are you recognizing movement and balance in your days? Wishing you more grace as the spring continues to blossom and bloom.

In Faith and Courage,
Rev. Lane-Maired ❖



The Idea of Grace

*Message from
Rev. Michelle Yates*

Grace can be theologically tricky for a Universalist. Sayings like, “There but for the grace of God go I,” imply to me that God’s gift of grace keeps me from suffering the same fate as my neighbor. But what about my neighbor? Why did they come up short in the grace department? In recent years, I’ve decided to use phrases like “that could just as easily be me.” Instead of saying, “I’m blessed” I prefer to say “I am lucky” because I believe that Love, God’s Love and Grace, Universal Love, whatever you want to call it, is for everyone and that our circumstances in life have nothing to do with how much we get.

Since that idea of Grace is set in my mind, I wanted to further consider this month’s theme of Grace as something different. Something I revere or aspire to.

When I think of Grace as a quality I admire, I think of people who can react or respond quickly with almost magical precision. Dancers, acrobats, or the way my husband can catch a falling object.

I think of people who seem well grounded and flexible to go with the flow. Having a kind of unflappable quality.

I think of people who are grateful and generous, who embody hospitality.

I think of people who are humble and honest. Who can admit when they are wrong, and serve as a role model for growth. Who are a generous example that we are all imperfect works in process doing the personal work to process challenges along the way.

And finally, I am back to that universal Grace and Love in the form of forgiveness. I will never be all of these things, certainly never all of them at the same time. I will drop glasses and trip over curbs. I will struggle to keep my heart open through “hostess anxiety.” I will bump into self-pity, defensiveness, and bias. But I, like you, will be forgiven and keep on trying. For Grace, like Love, is for everyone.

Yours in the Journey,
Rev. Michelle ❖

To Our Beloved Frequent Visitors: Path to Membership April 30

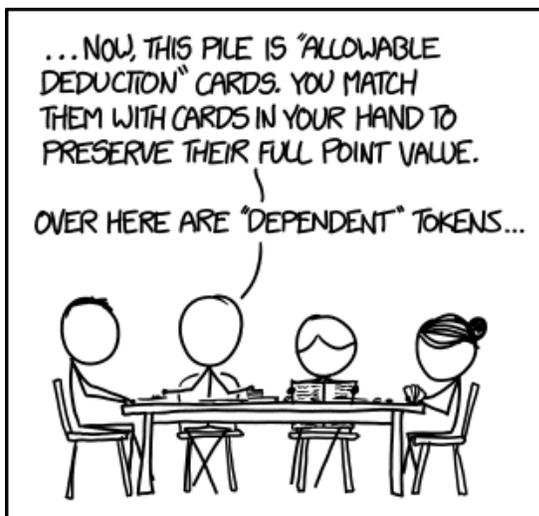
Submitted by *Connie Valk*

So, you've been Zooming our Sunday Services and/or attending in-person during the "safer" times during the pandemic. In any case, you've felt a connection to our Unitarian Universalist faith and are interested in learning more and maybe even becoming a member.

This session is for you! Join us on Saturday, April 30 at 9:30am for a morning of information and connection. According to our present guidance from the COVID Task Force and Board, it seems that we are fortunate that the session will be in-person. You'll discover how First Universalist Church carries out its mission to "nurture the spirit and serve the community" and enjoy each others' company over brunch.

Let us know your dietary needs. If you have children, let us know two weeks ahead of time if they'll be with us, as we have a program to orient kids to the church while the grownups learn about our church.

Please register for this session by sending an email to our minister Rev. Lane-Mairead at minister@uuroc.org or membership@uuroc.org. ❖



EVERY YEAR, I TRICK A LOCAL BOARD
GAME CLUB INTO DOING MY TAXES.

Credit: XKCD.com

Finance News & Notes: Huddling & Stretching

Submitted by *Ann Rhody, Finance Chair*

Since the pandemic hit, we at church have taken a posture of protection: making sure that the church and its finances were going to be OK; that we could offer relevant services in this extraordinary time, keep the bills and staff paid without interruption, and keep our congregation members connected!

I am so proud of this church—how we modified operations, supported one another as congregation members, volunteers, and staff, and were able to welcome new folks through the reach of technology.

Now...things are different. We are emerging from the pandemic in a solid financial position, but with new attention and clarity to our needs. It's time for us to stretch!

Next year's budget is going to be a really ambitious one. We know what it takes to operate the church, and we need to make some adjustments in staffing to accommodate that, especially in the areas of technology and finance operations. In addition to a larger increase in regular operational costs, we are hoping to take some major steps up in the budget.

What does this mean for you? You, our members and friends, have gotten us through the "huddle"—you continued to support the church to ensure its stability. Are you now in the position to help us stretch?

I, like many members, typically increase my pledge by a modest amount each year. This year, though, I'm planning to make a larger leap. I realize, with humility, that I'm fortunate to be able to do that.

If your personal finances are still in "huddle" mode, we understand. Your pledge is important, whatever the size.

But if you're someone who might be able to make a larger stretch, THIS is the year to do it! We're strong, ambitious, and determined! Let's find out what we can do when we stretch together! ❖

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.

April's schedule will be released around the end of March; keep an eye on uuroc.org/drop-in-discussions webpage for updates!

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



House News

Submitted by Ed Deller

Hold the date! We are planning a Spring Work Day on Saturday morning April 23. The full list of tasks is yet to be developed but we will likely need willing folks to help prepare the church for spring and summer. This year we may be more focused on installing screens and supporting the garden than on cleaning and polishing thanks to the good work of our custodian. More details will be forthcoming.

Over the past few months the House Committee has supported our church building in a variety of ways: the kid's play table in the nursery was painted thanks to Shirley Bond and Tom Ruganis, a contract was signed to have the Court Street door and overhang painted this spring, leaking pipes in the boiler room have been tended to, and numerous other small repairs and services have been made.

If you are interested in learning more about the House Committee and helping in the care and maintenance of our sacred space contact Ed Deller. ❖

"Harvesting Justice" Social Justice Circle

Submitted by Connie Valk

Generally, "Harvesting Justice" works to be allies with farmworkers, most of whom are immigrants. We have an opportunity to branch out to help refugees. John Palocy's son, Matthew, works at Mary's Place Outreach located at 414 Lexington Avenue. Here is an overview of how we can volunteer.

Mary's Place Refugee Outreach: A welcoming community for refugee empowerment

Mary's Place is a refugee outreach center that has been serving refugee families living in the City of Rochester since 2009. Mary's Place Refugee Outreach, Inc. was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation on March 27, 2019.

We are joined by refugees from 14 nations, and we assist these individuals as they work to adjust to American culture, learn English, find employment, gain permanent residency, and ultimately, citizenship. Every day we work to provide a safe community atmosphere for our families to come together and thrive. Our programs/services run M-F 11am-4pm.

Contact-less Delivery Drivers Needed

Mary's Place Refugee Outreach is looking for drivers to participate in our weekly food distribution to the refugee population here in Rochester, and Greece. Volunteers will arrive at Mary's Place at 11:45am on Wednesdays and pull into the front loop of our building. They will be provided with an ordered list of addresses, and a map with the corresponding sequence of deliveries to be made. The routes have 8-12 stops, and are completed in 40 minutes to an hour! Staff will then load their car with the items to be delivered that day, and the driver will be sent on their way. Volunteers need only drop the food on the doorstep, ring the doorbell/knock, and make their way to the next delivery.

Packer Volunteers Needed.

We are looking for help unloading food, and packing bags of food to be distributed throughout the refugee community. Wednesdays at 8am-11am!

Please reach out at Matthew.Palocy@marysplaceoutreach.org or (585) 270-8626 with questions or to volunteer. ❖



Roc/ACTS Task Force

Submitted by Sarah Singal

Roc/ACTS is forming a climate task force and is looking for members. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please contact me at ssingal@rochester.rr.com. ❖

Eastman at Washington Square Concerts

Concerts are held at our church at midday on Thursdays. Each concert begins at 12:15 pm and ends at approximately 12:45pm. Admission is free!

- **Apr. 7 | Scott Joplin & Co.**
Pianist Howard Spindler plays some of his favorite African American Piano Music.
- **Apr. 14 | Great Romantics & Beyond, Part I**
Come hear the students of Professor Marina Lomazov perform a fabulous program of works for solo piano.
- **Apr. 21 | The Classical Mandolin**
Mandolinist Ken Luk and pianist Evelyn Lam will present works composed and arranged for the mandolin by Beethoven, Calace, Kreisler, Scarlatti, and more.
- **Apr. 28 | Great Romantics & Beyond, Part II**
A second installment of wonderful piano works performed by students of Professor Joseph Rackers.
- **May 5 | Music for Bassoon and Piano**
Bassoonist Blair Koerner and Collaborative Pianist Zachary Peterson will share music to bring delight in May. ❖

Leadership Opportunities at UURoc

Submitted by the Nominating Committee

Are you looking for ways to be more involved in church leadership? Several committee and trustee positions are available and can help you connect with the church and its members. While most committee involvement requires little more than time and interest, some leadership positions require approval by the congregation at its annual meeting in June.

The Nominating Committee is starting to identify candidates for open leadership positions for the 2022-2023 church year. Those positions are listed below. If you are a church member and interested in being considered as a candidate for these positions, or in learning more, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee at nomcom@uuroc.org. Current committee members are Rachel Irato, Bill Elwell, Dwight Montague, Janet Rothbein and Charles Courtsal. Don't forget to let us know if you have an interest in serving as a congregation delegate to the UUA General Assembly this summer as well!

Board Of Trustees: The BOT represents the congregation for setting church policies and for fiduciary responsibility with a view to sustaining the church for the long term. Two board seats will be open for three-year terms.

- *Candidates must be members of the church and have been active in the congregation for at least a year.*

Nominating Committee: This committee is responsible for recruiting qualified members for certain church leadership roles as described in the bylaws. Two positions will be open for two-year terms.

- *Candidates must be members of the church and have been active in the congregation for at least two years.*

Committee On Ministry: The COM is the committee that monitors how the minister, lay leaders, and congregation work together for the best possible fulfillment of the congregation's mission and covenant. One position will be open for a three-year term.

- *Candidates must be members of the church for at least three years.* ❖

FPGROC (RAIHN): *What's Next?*

Submitted by Chris DeGolyer and Ed Deller

As we reported in February's *Outlook*, some changes made to FPGROC's shelter program because of the pandemic will now become permanent. FPGROC will continue to shelter temporarily-homeless families in apartments rather than churches. Although it is more expensive, apartments provide more comfortable temporary shelter and more stability for guest families. Also many volunteers in host congregations are aging and unable to volunteer at the same level as in the past. During the pandemic, host churches have been providing groceries and gift cards to the families, although without direct contact. As of the last week of June, congregations will no longer provide groceries to the families because Foodlink will meet their needs. However, FPGROC staff and host congregations have been discussing how volunteers can stay involved in ways that promote racial equity and increase interactions between volunteers and families. Of course, the guest families will choose how much they want to interact.

Some ideas for volunteering are similar to what we did in the past. Instead of serving meals at the churches, we are talking about volunteers providing a community meal at the FPGROC Day Center where volunteers and guests can enjoy eating it together. Instead of playing with kids at church, we could offer tutoring or babysitting for the kids. Instead of helping families move their belongings into and out of our church, a moving team could help families move into their permanent apartments. Volunteers may start a garden at the Day Center and work on it with guest families. A volunteer position that involves contact with families is answering the phone and helping with office work at the FPGROC office. Training is provided.

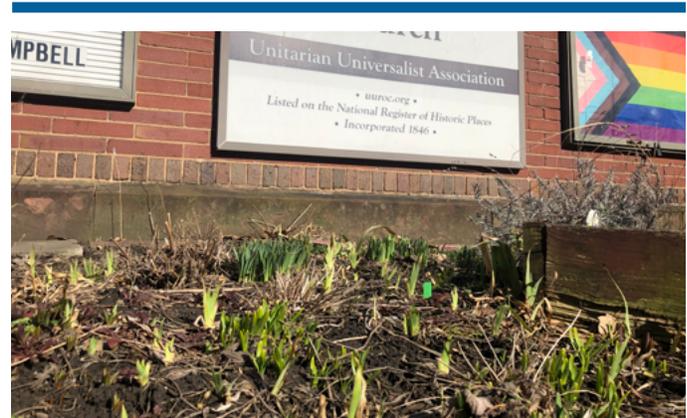
Some things that need to be done don't involve direct interaction with guest families. The Clean Team cleans apartments after a family leaves and prepares it for the next family to move in. Temple B'rith Kodesh is preparing hospitality kits for families moving into

their permanent apartments. The Temple will report on how well these kits are received. A donation drive for needed items such as cleaning supplies would also be helpful. FPGROC will continue to welcome Walmart gift cards as another way to help furnish apartments and provide for other needs.

FPGROC staff are developing training for new ways of volunteering and also for "supporting and advocating for the systemic changes necessary to impact family homelessness in the long run."

At every FPGROC church coordinator meeting, we explore a different aspect of racial equity and how it might relate to FPGROC and the families we serve. FPGROC's webpage on racial equity at fpgroc.org/racial-equity includes topics we have been exploring.

Of course, we as a church will decide together how we will continue to serve FPGROC. For now, feel free to give us your ideas and suggestions. Stay tuned for further developments. ❖



Garden Committee: *Gardens are coming back!*

Submitted by Sarah Singal

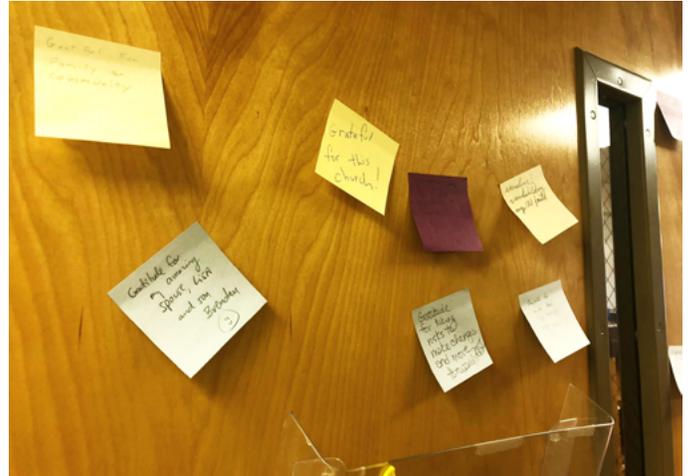
Anyone who enjoys watching things grow and loves First Universalist can be on the Garden Committee. No experience needed. We'll pick a morning or two to meet at the flower and vegetable gardens, fair weather permitting.

This year we will be installing new cedar frames for the vegetable beds. We'll try to incorporate more native plants—can anyone help us? And can anyone help start plants indoors to prolong our harvest season?

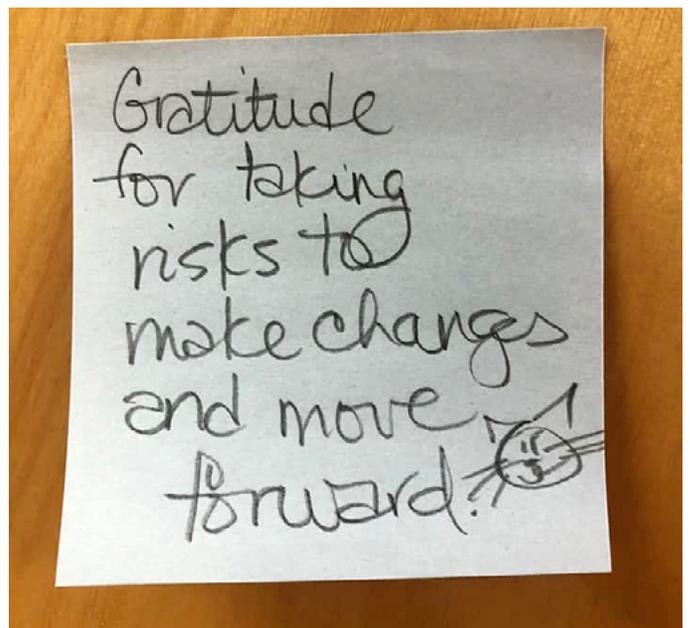
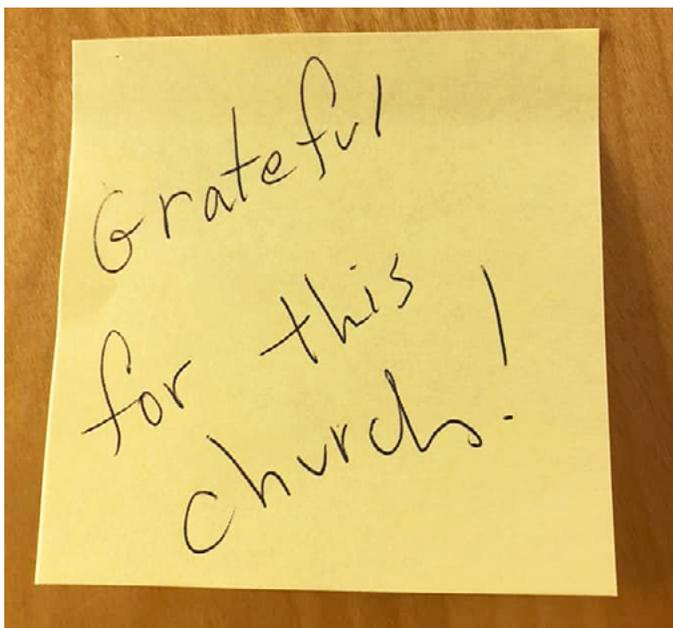
Come for the companionship and for soul-nurturing proximity to the natural world. Contact Sarah Singal at church or garden@uuroc.org. ❖

Living Our Values, Making a Difference

Submitted by Emma Barry



▲
Grand Opening: The Gratitude Room!
Rev. Michelle is a welcoming face during the grand opening on March 6!



NYSCU Grant Awarded For Archives Project: Congratulations To Us!!!

Submitted by Tess McFarland-Porter

The New York State Convention of Universalists (NYSCU) has awarded First Universalist a \$6,700 grant to organize our archives and to create a sharable Archives Manual. MJ Curry spearheaded the project and wrote the grant application. The project team she has assembled includes Shelley Adams, Kevin Adams, Tess McFarland-Porter, and our recently retired archivist Karen Dau.

This grant comes at an opportune time in the life of our church archives. For decades, our archives shared space in our building with a portion of NYSCU's archives. With NYSCU archives now being consolidated at Harvard University (thanks Jim and Kathi Milch for offering transportation!), now is the perfect time to give our church archives fresh focus.

Our church has a history of celebrating its history. Over our 176 years of existence, we—both those in our community now and those who lived before us—have valued telling our stories, writing them down, saving them, and telling them again. Although it can currently be difficult to find specific things in our archives, the treasures that surface are inspiring!

Just one example of the richness of our archival history is the 1960 congregational decision to embrace our downtown location at a time when other churches were moving to the suburbs. Then, as now, we recognized our vital role in our neighborhood. Our archives connect us to our community's good work across time; they also offer reassurance of our resilience when times are hard.

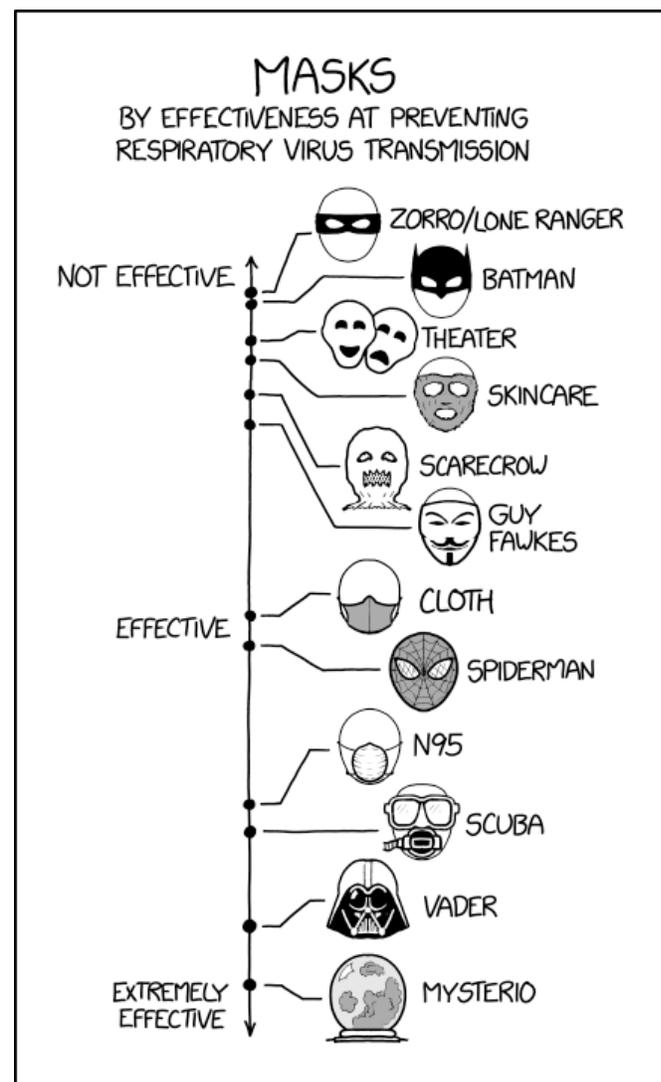
The grant will enable us to consult with a professional archivist about organizational tools that will make it easy for us to find specific or relevant archive holdings. It will also fund the purchase of archival-quality storage material to replace the standard office supplies currently in use.

The grant will also support the creation of an Archives Manual, filling a void in our denomination. As the scope of this project was taking shape, MJ discovered that the Unitarian Universalist Association had little guidance to offer about archive management. The Presbyterians have an archive manual, but not the UUs. At the completion of this

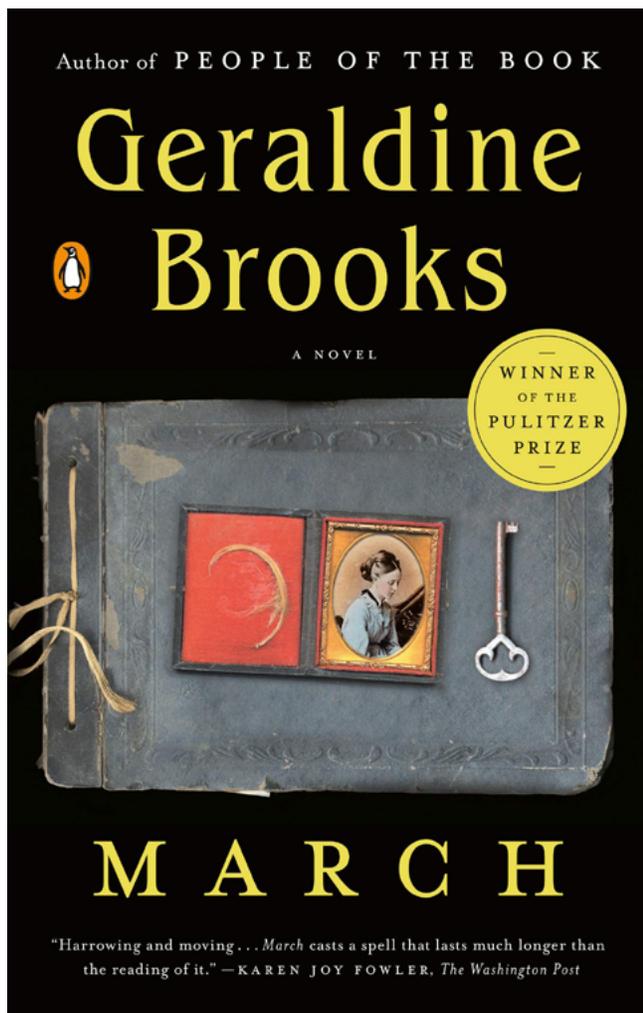
project, the archive project team looks forward to sharing a newly created Archives Manual with our larger UU faith community.

The Board is excited about this project! Contributing to the archive project team's future success is the availability of collaborative support from our Communications Committee and our stellar office administrator. This project dovetails with a larger effort of comprehensive record management that will make our guiding documents easily accessible to everyone in our church community.

If you're interested in joining any part of our archive project, or want more information, please contact Tess McFarland-Porter. ♦



Credit: XKCD.com



Book Group

Submitted by Sarah Singal & Shirl Bond

April's book is "March" by Geraldine Brooks. On April 10 we will be discussing this historic novel about family dynamics during the Civil War; it is based on Louisa May Alcott's book, *Little Women*. The author is a Pulitzer Prize winner. Interesting fact is that the family was good friends with Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson. Please join us for what is sure to be a lively discussion.

Want a heads-up? May's book selection is "Salt to the Sea" by Ruta Sepetys.

If you have any questions please talk to Sarah Singal or Shirley Bond. If you have read a good book lately share it with us at Book@uuroc.org! ❖

EcoJustice:

April 22 is Earth Day!

Submitted by Sarah Singal

Join others locally, nationally and globally in acknowledging that we are stewards of the Earth. The local consortium of organizations who make up the membership of Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee/Finger Lakes, will host a Climate Solutions Summit. On April 23, there will be virtual presentations on climate solutions in various sectors of climate action with panel discussion; one of them includes climate action for faith-based organizations. On April 24 Rev Lane will preach, weaving an Earth Day theme into the service. And there will be a variety of service-based activities and educational field trips arranged by Climate Solutions Accelerator. For more information go to climategfl.org. The program is designed for climate activists as well as those who are concerned about the climate and are wondering what can be done.

On the national and international level there are two faith-based climate groups you may want to check out. One is Interfaith Power and Light. They are hosting a virtual showing of the recent film *Youth v Gov* and RAICA (Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action) hopes to host a free screening; it will be sometime between April 11 and May 1. Stay tuned. Find out more at Faith Climate Action Week (interfaithpowerandlight.org/event/faith-climate-action-week-2022/).

The second national and international faith-based group is Greenfaith, which originated in Australia. They are emphasizing The Sacred Season for climate justice. During the interval between March and May there are numerous religious holy days and also the Equinox, Earth Day and World Water Day. They urge everyone to make their voices heard in this sacred season to call for an end to fossil fuel extraction, to phase out current fossil fuels and/or support a just climate transition. Read more at greenfaith.org/sacred-season/.

If you want to join fellow First Universalists or get involved in some other way, come to our EcoJustice meetings, generally the first Sunday of each month, or email ecojustice@uuroc.org. Or come by the EcoJustice table at the Social Justice Circle fair in May. We would be delighted to see you! ❖

Medical Apartheid** Systemic Racism in Health Care



UU Church Program
Sunday, April 24 from 1:30 to 3pm

RSVP by Friday, April 22nd to FIRE@uuroc.org to receive the Zoom link!

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhumane.”

—Words spoken by Martin Luther King, in 1965, after the Selma to Montgomery march.

Welcome — Rev. Lane Campbell

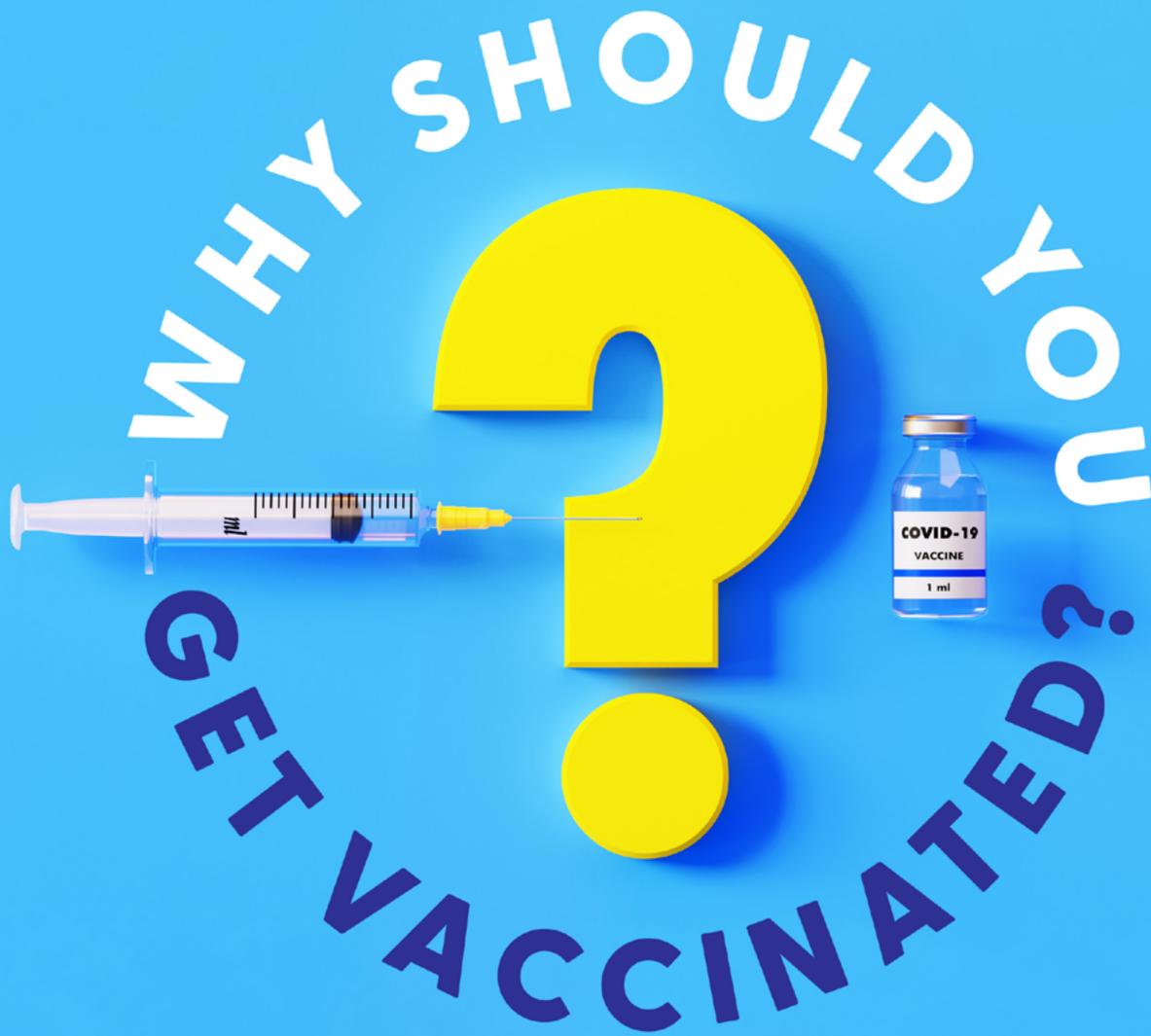
Panel:

- Ronieka Burns, Program Specialist, *Hospital Workers Union 1199SEIU*
- Kesha Carter, Certified Diversity Professional with *Coordinated Care Services (CCSI)*
- Phyllis Jackson, RN, Community Wellness Project Manager at *Common Ground Health*
- Shani Wilson, PA, *Addiction Medicine*
- Theo Munson, MPH, FIRE Committee Co-chair, *First Universalist Church of Rochester*

Program Highlights:

- Referencing Harriet A. Washington’s book — *Medical Apartheid* — which summarizes the troubled history of experimentation with African Americans
- Commenting on today’s inequities in health care (as illustrated by COVID pandemic and more!)
- Sharing of a unique perspective from the union representing hospital healthcare workers
- Learning about practical equity and anti-racism practices in health care
- Responding to needs in our communities of color
- Possible action steps

** *Apartheid* — a system of segregation and/or discrimination based on grounds of race



- It's safe, simple, and free of charge.
- It could keep you from getting COVID-19. If you still get COVID-19, it could keep you from becoming seriously ill.
- It will help you do your part to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of your family, your friends and your community.
- It's an mRNA vaccine. These types of vaccines have been studied for more than two decades to evaluate their safety and effectiveness.
- It's the first step toward life returning to normal.



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-Mairead 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

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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.