



# Our Outlook

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Church of Rochester

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## Sunday Services | April 2024

### April 7 | *Hope is a Discipline*

Prison abolitionist organizer Mariame Kaba is well-known for the mantra "hope is a discipline." What are our Unitarian Universalist disciplines of hope? Gather to reflect and practice them in a time when hope is sorely needed.

— *Rev. Sadie Lansdale*

### April 14 | *Love Calls Us On*

Love calls us towards justice, equity, interdependence, transformation, and yes—towards generosity. Come celebrate the generosity and abundance of this community as First Universalist wraps up its Stewardship Campaign.

— *Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

### April 21 | *Loving Those Who Hate*

With hatred made visible in policy and practice spreading across our country, we wrestle with how to respond. A time to sit with the question: How do we love those who hate? And what does love call us to do in the face of hatred?

— *Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

### April 28 | *The Welcome Table*

In a season of Passover for Jewish congregants and friends, this is a time to come around the table to share ritual and story. Where do we make space for a new story to be told each time the table grows? Both an invitation and a challenge towards welcoming all.

— *Rev. Lane-Mairead*

❖ **Services begin at 10:30am** ❖

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



## Love Calls Us On

*A Message from  
Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

I have seen some incredible dreams coming to life at First Universalist recently. Our dreams for bringing in new people from different backgrounds. Our dreams for deeper partnerships with the houseless community and the organizations that serve our houseless neighbors. Our dreams for a new Financial Administrator, with a Congregational Life Coordinator to come. Our continued dreaming about becoming an integral part of our downtown Rochester community. The inspiration for all of these dreams is, of course, Love.

Love has been calling on us, as Universalists and Unitarian Universalists, since the since the founding of our community (officially in 1846, though Universalists have been gathering in Rochester since 1823). The founders of this community believed in a loving God who would never condemn people to hell and punishment, but rather loved us throughout our lives and into the great beyond. That central Love has been a part of our DNA since our founding and it is still palpable at First Universalist.

Love is calling us on to dream again—to dream BIG and to make our dreams a reality through the financial support of you and other members of this community. Many of you have expressed a desire to better serve our community, to grow the vibrant and loving community already present at First Universalist and to do that, we need your support.

In this season of Stewardship, I am wondering what Love is calling you to give to this church. How generous is Love calling you to be? We know that whatever you can give, whatever feels like a meaningful contribution for you and for your family, your generosity has a big impact at First Universalist.

Your yearly pledge helps us to realize BIG dreams.

Love calls us on.

In Faith and Courage,

Rev. Lane-Mairead ❖



## The Eclipse

*A Message from  
Rev. Michelle Yates*

I didn't get to see the partial solar eclipse in 2017, I went into labor. I was due seven days before, and as I prepared to take my older stepkids to see the eclipse my blood pressure went into "it's time to induce labor" range. When the hospital staff went outside to see the partial eclipse, I was firmly attached to an IV and a fetal monitoring belt. I knew that there would be a total eclipse in a few years and thought to myself, "Next time; I'll see it next time."

Well, "next time" is here! On April 8, 2024, Rochester will experience a total solar eclipse. Along with my now 6-year-old son, I plan to watch the eclipse with other UUs at First Unitarian. More info about this can be found on the next page.

Historically, eclipses have caused fear, awe, or a sense that the cosmic order has fallen out of balance. The word "eclipse" comes from a Greek word meaning "abandonment." Quite literally, the Greeks saw a solar eclipse as the sun abandoning the Earth.

In many spiritual traditions, eclipses are seen as opportunities for reflection and transformation. They are associated with themes of endings, beginnings, and rebirth. Some people believe that solar eclipses can bring about spiritual awakening and a heightened sense of awareness.

We could interpret eclipses in many different ways given our experiences of the past six years. But I prefer to have a great story, and like the song from *Hamilton*, to think "how lucky we are to be alive right now" where "history is happening!"

The average time when one city will find itself in the path of totality again is 375 years. In 1649, where were your ancestors living? Might you have family in this area in 2399? Celestial bodies continue this dance, but no eclipse is ever exactly the same.

If the eclipse doesn't speak to you in other ways, consider the call and serendipity of life in this historic moment. As Harry Palmer said, "Our existence in this time and space is unique. There are things that only we can do; lives that only we can touch."

Yours in the Journey,

Rev. Michelle ❖



## Total Solar Eclipse Event: April 8!

Submitted by Rev. Michelle Yates

Rochester is in the path of totality! Plan now to join your UU friends and community for a collective experience of awe, amazement and fellowship!

First Unitarian is planning a full afternoon of kids' and adults' activities before the eclipse starts (so you can beat the traffic by getting here as early as 1pm), viewing, and then worship/music & food to follow.

Be part of this once-in-a-lifetime event in an enjoyable atmosphere at First Unitarian along with friends from UU Canandaigua. They plan to stream the live event from the NASA feed, in case of cloudy conditions. Questions? Contact [edu@uuroc.org](mailto:edu@uuroc.org). ❖

**Total Solar Eclipse at First Unitarian**  
1pm-6pm Monday, April 8

- 1pm-1:30 Yoga and meditation sessions + Potluck drop-off
- 1:00-2:30 Eclipse Glasses sale --last chance!!
- 1:30-2:15 CUUPS service outside
- 1:30-3:00 Kids activities
- 1:30 -2:30 Photo and telescope help, making pinhole cameras
- 1:45-2:15 Yoga and meditation sessions
- 2:15-3:00 Labyrinth walk, weather permitting
- 3:00-3:45 Peak viewing experience on lower parking lot--bring your own chair
- 4:00-4:45 Worship and Music in the Sanctuary
- 4:45-6:00 Potluck and fellowship

Feel free to bring a chair and a dish to share!



## Getting Connected

Submitted by Clinton Swingle

**If you feel like First Universalist is your spiritual home, and you would like to become a member, we welcome you to join us!**

As you explore your relationship with the church and seek connections, we encourage you to join us for our *Getting Connected* class on Saturday, April 13, 9:30am-noon in the Clara Barton Lounge and online.

When you become a member, you make a decision to participate in being part of beloved community at a deeper level. Membership entitles you to vote, to have a voice in the direction of the church, and to be a leader. It's the members who create our church. ❖

## Stewardship: Dates to Remember!

Submitted by Theo & Steve Munson, Stewardship Co-chairs

The Stewardship Team thanks everyone for their enthusiastic participation in the Dream Project and the congregation's meeting on March 24. This was a wonderful start to our 2024 pledge drive.

If you haven't completed your pledge card yet, now is the time to do it! You can do this online by going to [uuroc.org](http://uuroc.org) and clicking on the Stewardship button at the top of the page.

We will join together in celebration of our generous investment in our church's future on **Stewardship Sunday, April 14**. After the service we will enjoy our traditional Stewardship Pies during coffee hour. See you then! ❖



# Drop-In Discussion

Submitted by John Lukes

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

## Sunday, April 7 | The Forever Wars \*In-Person\*

We have come to accept perpetual war as normal. What purpose does the U.S. war policy serve? Is it sustainable? Can it be stopped? Led by Phil Ebersole.

## April 2 | Open Topic Nite

In response to continued support, let's have another open topic discussion, led by John Lukes.

## April 9 | Spiritual Tools for Living in the In-Between

Our bi-monthly theme of "Living in the In-Between" invites us to explore what spiritual tools, practices, and gifts help us to stay in-between, rather than rushing towards endings and beginnings. Rev. Lane-Mairead will share some ideas for practices and tools and invites you to bring some to share.

## April 16 | Moving On

During a recent trip to Vietnam, I was surprised by the warm welcome extended to me as an American. What might we learn when former enemies welcome us into their homes? Led by Karen LaBrocco.

## April 23 | How Christian Were The Middle Ages?

The stereotype of the Middle Ages is of a deeply Christian period, dominated by the Holy Roman Empire. But the Holy Roman Empire was neither Holy, nor Roman, nor an Empire. Historians tend to view the characterization of the Middle Ages as Christian as a type of historical oxymoron. Our presenter, Dr. Joseph Scalzo, will lead a discussion addressing this.

## April 30 | Paying it Forward: Striving for Equal Access Through Music

The Music Committee and our Music Director, Dr. Brock Tjosvold, will lead a session about their new "Paying it Forward" partnership with ROCmusic. This session will re-introduce Rachel Mills, Director of ROCmusic. Rachel will talk about their mission, to provide "equal access to exceptional music education and performance experiences to youth residing in the city of Rochester."

Have a topic for us? Contact our team with your proposal at [DropInDiscussion@uuroc.org](mailto:DropInDiscussion@uuroc.org). ❖



## Postcard Sundays: UUs Having an Impact on the Election

Submitted by Connie Valk

Concerned about the upcoming presidential election? Feeling helpless? Well, here's a small, but mighty, something you can do to get out the vote.

Welcome to Postcard Sundays! On April 7 and 14, we'll have postcards in the Clara Barton Lounge with stamps for folks to write postcards. We'll also have packets of postcards/stamps to take home to get out the vote for the Georgia and Virginia Congressional primaries. You'll receive instructions including address labels, what to write, and the dates to mail the postcards.



Sending postcards work have an impact. For example, postcards were mailed to 143,000 purged voters during the 2020 election season in Georgia. Of these 3.3% registered to vote. Even a small percentage can make an enormous difference in election outcome.

The postcards are provided by Center for Common Ground, a Black- and women-led voting rights organization. They work in states where 20% of the population are people of color. We'll continue this, writing postcards for primaries and the election in November.

*"The pen is mightier than the sword."*

—Edward Bulwer-Lytton, 1839 ❖



## Save the Date: *Passover Seder*

*Submitted by Richard Reed*

Come and join us on Friday, April 26 as we gather to celebrate a traditional Passover Seder and meal. The event starts at 6:30pm with song and story in English and Hebrew with participation by all present. We will eat about 7:45pm. You are asked to bring a salad, entree, or dessert to share with 6-8 people. Tableware, soup, grape juice, wine, and matzo will be provided. Sign-ups are Sundays in the Clara Barton Lounge. Questions? Contact Lew Ward-Baker or Richard Reed. ❖

## Eastman at Washington Square Concerts

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

- **Apr. 4 | Violin Showcase**  
Featuring students from the studio of Professor Renee Jolles.
- **Apr. 11 | Flute and Guitar**  
Dana Crutser, flute, and Fredrik Jernberg, guitar, perform *Canyon Echoes* by Katherine Hoover.
- **Apr. 18 | Piano Extravaganza I**  
Featuring students from the piano studio of Professor Ran Dank.
- **Apr. 25 | Piano Extravaganza II**  
Featuring students from the piano studio of Professor Ran Dank. ❖



## Big Library Changes Coming!

*Submitted by Marcy Klein, for the Library Committee*

You will find some changes to the church library and bookstore arrangements in the coming months, as the Library Committee refocuses on its core mission to support faith development and educate newcomers about Unitarian Universalism.

- The bookstore will discontinue selling used books after its next Super Sale on June 2, but will continue to offer **new** UU-related books for sale at half the list price.
- We will no longer encourage donations of used books, but you can put some in the church's Little Free Library on Clinton Avenue any time.
- The library will discontinue the free magazine exchange, except for copies of *UU World* and *Universalist Herald*.
- We will offer a larger selection of UU-related pamphlets that explain our faith, values and history.
- Borrowing from the library collection will be "self-serve" when the library is not staffed. A sign will explain the very easy process.
- Signs that list the book topics will be placed on the shelves to help you navigate the collection and find any books you want to borrow.

A committee member will continue to staff the library during Coffee Hour the first Sunday of each month, and will always be happy to help you.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact a committee member: Shirley Bond, Johanna Connelly, Phil Ebersole, or Marcy Klein. ❖



## CERSI: Registration Open!

Submitted by Beth Casebolt, CER Operations Manager

Have you thought about attending CERSI (Central East Region Summer Institute) this year? It will be held July 7-13 at PennWest California, a university in California, PA, near Pittsburgh. Registration is open!

The 2024 theme speaker is Rev. Julian Soto, a UU minister and activist, presenting *"Unlikely Superheroes: Skills for Practicing Faith and Ethics in Tough Times."* Rev. Soto brings a remarkably loving presence and a depth of spiritual leadership. Prior to being a minister, they were also a teacher and a lawyer. Each of these has been a way for them to engage with people, with transformation, and with the goal of making the world a better place. UUMAC, the UU Mid-Atlantic Community, will once again be joining CERSI at PennWest for the annual gathering.

Join us for a time of community, fellowship, networking, fun, music and so much more. There is programming for children, youth, young adults and adults—you will need to choose what you want to do (or not) each day! Learn more about this year's adult morning seminars and afternoon workshops at the CERSI website.

You can still apply for a job at CERSI to underwrite part of the cost of attending and be part of the team that makes the magic happen. **Scholarship applications are open with a deadline of May 31. Do note that registration rates go up June 1, so you want to register soon!**

A once-a-year gathering of like-minded individuals can be life changing. CERSI has been described as an all-inclusive vacation for the family where children can grow, and everyone can be nurtured. Please join us. Learn more at [cersi.uu.org](http://cersi.uu.org). ❖

## EcoJustice: Earth Day!

Submitted by Sarah Singal

Our Earth Day Sunday will be April 21. Come for the service with Rev Lane-Maired and stay for the coffee hour to check out varied climate actions with members of the EcoJustice Group.

Also, Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee/Finger Lakes is presenting a Climate Summit April 19 and 20, the Friday and Saturday before Earth Day, entitled *Health and Equity in Action*. This is a good time to examine what we are doing and what we could be doing to be stewards of the Earth.



The April EcoJustice Group meeting is Sunday, April 7, at noon in the Chalice Room; all welcome. ❖

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## Walking Tour: Washington Square Neighborhood on Saturday, May 4

Submitted by Theo Munson

This tour, sponsored by the FIRE team of First Universalist Church, discusses the history of the Washington Square Neighborhood.

Showcasing some of the area's iconic buildings and spaces (including our church), the tour highlights the neighborhood as a hub of industry, transportation, culture, and reinvention.

It will be led by Emily Morry, Library Assistant, who has deep knowledge of city history and justice issues. Tour will begin at Rundel Library at 1:30pm, finishing up at Dinosaur Barbecue around 3pm. Refreshments will be served in the Clara Barton Lounge following the walk. For planning purposes, please RSVP to Theo Munson or [fire@uuroc.org](mailto:fire@uuroc.org). ❖



## Social Justice Plate: *April Offering*

*Submitted by Joy Leccese*

DRUUMM is our designated Social Justice Plate recipient for April 2024. According to their website:

“DRUUMM is a Unitarian Universalist People of Color Ministry and anti-racist collective bringing lay and religious professionals together to overcome racism through resistance and transform Unitarian Universalism through our multicultural experiences. [They] developed from several older ministries, namely the African American UU Ministries and Jubilee World anti-racism change trainings.



“DRUUMM has a growing membership of UU People of Color from every region. As an all-volunteer ministry, DRUUMM continues to lead efforts to fulfill the Journey Towards Wholeness Resolution towards becoming an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural UUA, creating space for youth, young adult and our families of color to heal and work collectively, and steward an effective organization that develops new leadership and manages consistent communication with members.

“[DRUUMM is] grounded in the Unitarian Universalist tradition and maintains a close relationship with the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.”

We encourage you to contribute what you can to support this valuable organization. ❖



## House News: *Spring Work Day–May 4*

*Submitted by Ed Deller, House Committee Chair*

Mark your calendars for a Spring Work Day on Saturday morning May 4 from 9am-noon! These work days are a chance to prepare the church for seasonal changes and to do deep cleaning and decluttering. Tasks are matched to the talents of those who attend.

As an example of activities, a dedicated crew of 16 members and friends gathered last October for our annual Fall Work Day. We prepared the church for winter by installing the storm windows, removing the nursery air conditioner, bringing in garden hoses and putting the garden to bed. We spruced up the church with deep cleaning and polishing of the kitchen and sanctuary. Storage areas were decluttered to the benefit of Goodwill and ecopark. Smoke alarms and emergency lighting were checked, items repaired and various other projects accomplished for the church safety and aesthetics.

Over the past few months, the House Committee has been busy with repairs, eco-friendly projects and other building requirements for the church. New light switches were installed for the sanctuary. The tech desk for services has been updated. Estimates for new storm windows have been obtained for the Clara Barton Lounge. The city installed a new bike rack across Court St at our request. A bumper has been installed in our parking lot. Two energy audits were conducted. Numerous repairs were done to lighting, plumbing, the Little Free Library, the parking lot door and more.

Current House Committee members are Moritz Wagner, Sarah Singal, Tom Ruganis, Marcy Klein, Karen Dau, Howard Spindler, Michael Scott, and Shirley Bond. If you are interested in joining our group please contact any one of us. ❖



# 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 begins at 10:30am on Sundays

**Minister** | Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

**Minister of Lifespan Faith Development** |  
Rev. Michelle Yates

**Music Director** | Dr. Brock Tjosvold

**Office Manager** | Mx. Emma Barry

**Finance Admin** | Maresa Carmody

**Nursery Care Provider** | Carol Williams

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More info is available on our website: [uuroc.org](http://uuroc.org)

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