

# Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

December 2013

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## Sunday Services | December 2013

**Dec. 1 | *While You Were Sleeping***

Tom Williams relates his experiences working alternate work schedules and what he has taken away from his experiences. Kitty Forbush will be the worship associate.

**Dec. 8 | *Just Be***

In this sometimes frenetic season, it can be good to take some time to breathe and be, to remind ourselves of deeper things. This is a quiet, meditative service of song and story. Be refreshed in spirit.

– Rev. Martha Munson

**Dec. 15 | *Music Sunday***

Carols Around the World. Join us for a celebration of the holiday season, with carols from Spain, Russia, France, and England. This is sure to be a festive occasion!

– Bryan Holten

**Dec. 22 | *Winter is Here***

A service for all ages celebrating the solstice season.

– Rev. Lori Staubitz, MLM, and Friends

**Dec. 24 | *Christmas Eve at 7 pm***

Stories, candlelight, and carols to usher in Christmas.

A service for you, your family from oldest to youngest, your friends, and your neighbors. Come, let us worship together.

– Rev. Martha Munson and Friends



**Dec. 29 | *Facing The Storm: The Spiritual Gifts Of Winter***

On this quiet Sunday between Christmas and the New Year, join us for warm companionship as we celebrate the beauty and challenges of the cold months in poetry and prose, and consider spiritual practices that might help us make the long journey back to spring without giving in to cabin fever (or fleeing to the tropics!).

– Lead by worship associate Bridget Watts.

Our regular morning service as well as Religious Education classes begin at 10:30am.





## Walking With You

*Message from the Interim Minister, Martha Munson*

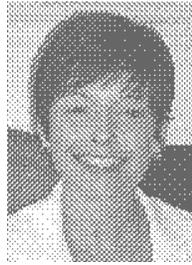
Once upon a time, I was a SINK (single income no kids). Over 30 years ago, I was serving my first congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda, in rural southern Ontario, Canada. I was deliriously happy, and poor as a church mouse. Indeed, I lived in a parsonage attached to the church, and had mice (which my cats and I did our best to dispatch).

Christmas there was a great joy. I remember so many “little touches”. One of the local farmers would deliver 2 Christmas trees harvested on his land, one very large for the sanctuary, and a smaller one for the parsonage. My mother and Aunt Winnie (both of blessed memory) would come for about 10 days, and often other friends as well. Winnie shopped; my mother cooked. It was a time of festivity and merriment. Imagine my surprise at the end of the coffee hour after the Children’s Pageant, when Santa appeared, with gifts for all the young ones. And I was called up also, to sit on his lap, and receive a “purse” with a Christmas bonus for me. There were small gifts from individuals too, often homemade. Ah, those farm women could cook and bake! I remember melt-in-your-mouth cookies, and a sweet stollen that appeared year after year and was part of our Christmas Day brunch. I received cards and heartfelt notes. While those people could not pay me much in money, I knew that they loved and appreciated me. “And there,” as it says in the Book of Ephesians in the Greek Testament, “I was made a minister.” I loved them too.

And why do these old and simple memories evoke such happiness? In truth, I do not fully understand. What I know is that when I pause to remember the poignancy of “old and simple”, I’m reminded of what is important today: the familiar carols, the touching stories old and new, the gift of memory, and friends and family. I’m reminded that it is not true that “the one who dies with the most toys wins”, no matter how you or I define our “toys”. Small gifts of love matter more than anything. It’s enough is keep me out of the big box stores. ❖



Faithfully, *Martha*



## Gleanings from the Graden

*Rev. Lori Staubitz, Acting Director of Faith Development*

Signs of the season are all around us. Who can miss the clang of the Salvation Army Santa’s bell? Maybe you hear “Silver Bells” bellowing from the loudspeakers in the shopping malls. Perhaps you relish the sight of Christmas decorations that line the streets, doors and shops all over this county. No matter where we go,...it is not hard to be caught up in the glitz and glitter. With all the sensory “over-load” you may find yourself wishing away December before it even arrives.

What may be difficult, but far more meaningful, is to look and listen for the more subtle sides of this season. They are all around us. Clear winter night star filled skies; quiet woodlands trails; opportunities for reaching out to someone in need, the warmth and shelter of family and friends; quiet moments to reflect and remember. These too are signs of the season.

May we find time to gather in meaningful ways during the holidays.

Wishing you all the true gifts of this winter season. May they ring loud and clear in your life.

Many Blessings, Rev. Lori Staubitz ❖

## The Mitten Tree

*Submitted by Patti Goodwin*

It is December, and we will soon be decorating our tree in our sanctuary. But unlike other decorations that are put up and taken down that we hide in the basement or attic, we decorate our tree with mittens, hats, scarves and stuffed animals that are given to children at School 7 to brighten and warm their lives all through the days of winter. Please bring new, gently used, store bought or handmade items to decorate our tree and warm the hearts of little ones throughout the winter.





# NYSCU Trip Report

*Submitted by Michael Scott*

The **New York State Convention of Universalists** held its annual meeting in Little Falls, NY, on Oct. 25–26. Our congregation was represented by Karen Dau, Joyce and Dick Gilbert, Elizabeth Osta, David Damico, Michael Scott, and Dave Van Arsdale. Rev. Peggy Meeker, whom many of you will remember, and who now serves our church in Brockport, was also there. The program began with a Friday night concert featuring an outstanding high school choral group, led by Mark Bunce, who is also Music Director for the Little Falls congregation. The Saturday program included opening and closing worship, a fascinating keynote address, two pairs of workshops, and a brief business meeting.

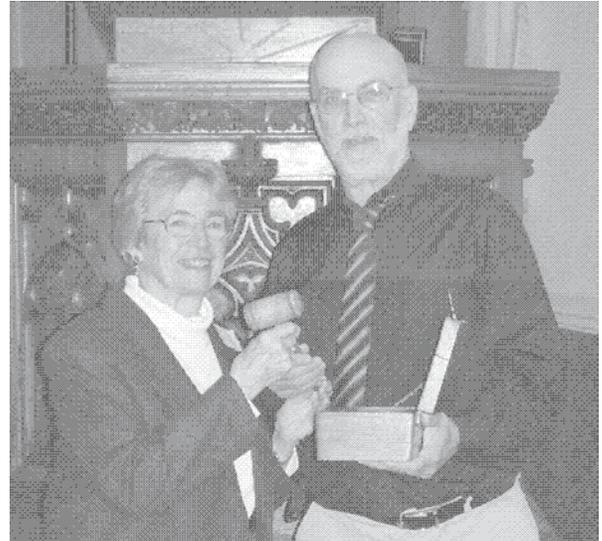
The keynote speaker was Christine Hart, Policy Associate for Policy & Government Affairs of Women Thrive Worldwide. She spoke mainly of her work as a Peace Corp volunteer in Burkina Faso, a tiny land-locked country in the heart of West Africa, and more recently as a representative of Women Thrive in Haiti, where people still struggle to recover from the devastating earthquake of 2010. The recurring theme in all this work was solidarity—the need to overcome false conceptions of “us” and “them,” and to build a real sense of mutuality. This need, she asserts, is a spiritual quest, and it lies at the heart of Unitarian Universalism. What “keeps young people coming back” to our churches, she says “is the desire for a community of justice-seeking, like-minded individuals, a place for spiritual inquiry and exploration, and a place that facilitates a connection to the wider community and provides opportunities to translate values into action and activism.” You can find the **full text of her remarks** at [www.nyscu.org/AM\\_brochures/2013/2013\\_Hart\\_keynote.pdf](http://www.nyscu.org/AM_brochures/2013/2013_Hart_keynote.pdf)

**A video of Christine’s presentation** (courtesy of David) is at [youtu.be/dyEngAZpsJU](http://youtu.be/dyEngAZpsJU) (part 1) and [youtu.be/kq5TQhQpYLI](http://youtu.be/kq5TQhQpYLI) (part 2). (Yes, there is a dot in “youtu.be”.)

Your columnist attended two of the four workshops—one on “Promoting Growth in Small or Medium Congregations,” and one on “Careers, Wholeness and Meaning.” The first was led by Rev. Guy LaMoth, contract minister in Watertown, NY, and was largely devoted to sharing of success stories from the two dozen

represented congregations. The second was led by Margaret Maguire, NYSCU Treasurer, life coach, and former career counselor at SUNY Oneonta. Drawing on Jungian psychology, she provided a wealth of insight on how work—and life, more broadly—can be imbued with a sense of calling. Both were among the best workshops I have attended at any UU conference.

At the business meeting, Tim Hart (R) of Central Square succeeded our own Joyce Gilbert as NYSCU President. Many thanks to Joyce for an amazing 13 years of service on the Board!



A final note to leaders of our local congregation: NYSCU’s annual program of grants and loans will be making decisions soon. The deadline for proposals is Dec. 31.

## **SLD Chalice Lighter Program**

And speaking of grants: the Saint Lawrence UU District has its own grant program, funded by annual donations. The Chalice Lighter program provides funding for projects that

- Enable the initiation of major programs for growth and renewal, including single congregation projects or multiple congregation projects.
- Assist in building, including securing a building site for new congregations and major renovations necessary for growth in established congregations.
- Assist in securing professional religious leadership, or
- Initiate a new congregation. Often new congregations need help in meeting start-up expenses.

Our own congregation has received grants from both NYSCU and Chalice Lighters in recent years. If you might be willing to help, visit [www.sld.uua.org/conggrowth/chalicalighters.html](http://www.sld.uua.org/conggrowth/chalicalighters.html) ❖

# Winter 2013 Offerings for Adults Lifespan Faith Development

## *The Source of Human Good*

by Henry Nelson Wieman;

*Facilitated by Rev. Lori Staubitz, Director of Faith Development*

**Wednesdays, January 8th, 15th and 22nd.**

Life, Death and all that comes between... If you would like to explore some of the deeper questions of the human spirit with others in a safe and supportive group, come join us for three evenings as we delve into *The Source of Human Good* by Henry Nelson Wieman. As a liberal Unitarian theologian, Wieman searched for a natural way to think about the source of creation, goodness and evil in the world. We hope you will come prepared to expand on your own theology in relationship to some of Wieman's findings. Reading the book is optional but we ask that you plan to attend all three sessions.

Please R.S.V.P. to reserve your place.

No fees required.

Contact Rev. Lori Staubitz at [DRE@uuroc.org](mailto:DRE@uuroc.org);

Call the church office (585) 546-2826

or sign up in the Clara Barton Lounge on or before December 27th.

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## **Journey from Religion to Spirituality**

*Rev. Lori Staubitz; Director of Faith Development*

**Wednesdays February 5th, 12th and 19th;  
6:30-8:30pm.**

Have you ever considered yourself "spiritual" but not really "religious"? If so, you are in good company. But what does it really mean to be spiritual? What are some of the thoughts, feelings and actions related to leading a spiritual life?

We will explore the topic through readings, personal reflections and some tried and true spiritual practices including journaling, meditation and active listening.

Please R.S.V.P. to reserve your place.

No fees required.

Contact Rev. Lori Staubitz at [DRE@uuroc.org](mailto:DRE@uuroc.org);

Call the church office (585) 546-2826

or sign up in the Clara Barton Lounge on or before January 27th, 2014. ❖



# How Do We Welcome?

*Submitted by Nancy Gaede*

Recently, I was asked to summarize how First Universalist welcomes folks to our church. Below is what I wrote.

"The Membership team is working to expand the congregation's understanding about radical hospitality. Every church member and friend is considered a member of the team, and monthly blurbs are included in both our paper and E-Outlook stressing this. We schedule greeters each Sunday morning, and are trying to include a cross-section of our congregation. Newcomers receive a welcome packet containing UUA brochures and a letter of welcome from the Membership chair telling a bit about our congregation. We try to make sure that folks are personally shown where the sanctuary and restrooms are, and they are invited to join us for our coffee hour.

"Ushers welcome all to our sanctuary and stay alert to be sure any latecomers receive an order of service. Members frequently can be seen engaged in conversation with visitors before service begins. Too many spoken announcements can be a turn-off so we try to reserve these for information of greatest importance. Newcomers are asked to fill out an information card, and we make follow up contact when information is provided. We take time to explain any insider language. We greet one another as we begin worship so that all feel included.

Following the service, the Membership committee and greeters staff a welcome table. We meet with anyone who wants to chat. We share our love of our faith community and Unitarian Universalism, opportunities for involvement, such as helping to establish our urban garden or participating in Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network, and orientation and adult education classes currently being held.

"We are always looking for ways to engage newcomers. We organize a once-a-month lunch outing after service. We are currently developing a list of low-hassle social activities that we hope to implement this church year. The Membership chair and the Usher Coordinator are planning to meet to see how we can ensure a comprehensive approach to welcoming."

How can you support our welcome effort? Keep doing what you're already doing so well, and consider helping us with any of the above efforts. A big thank-you to recent greeters/welcome table staffers: Karl Abbott, Patti Goodwin, and Gary Levine. Eileen Fernandez, Tom Williams, Ann Rhody and Chris DeGolyer will be serving in this same way in upcoming weeks. ❖

# 'Tis the Season for... Finance Festivities!

*Submitted by Ann Rhody*

Get your FUN on while helping with our FUNDS

- Visit our Holiday Shoppe starting Sunday, November 24 after the service. You can take care of some of your gift shopping with hand-made jewelry, crafts, gift items, and baked goods. We'll even gift wrap it for you! *The Holiday Shoppe* will run each Sunday until December 22, and there will be new items each week. All proceeds benefit the church, so shop away!! If you have items to donate, please contact Paula Marchese.
- Start planning for this year's Service Auction, to be held on Sunday, February 2 after the service. It's our biggest fund-raiser of the year, so don't miss out! Plan now by saving the date and thinking about what to donate- gatherings, dinners, lessons, crafts, treats.....the more the merrier. Donation forms will be available on the website, hard copy, & electronically by January 1.

And last but not least.....

- THANK YOU for your donations of coins for the change drive!! Together, those unused cups and jars of change added up to almost \$600 to support our church's programs. Let's start saving for next year!

Ann Rhody for the Finance Committee ❖



## Sofa Needed

The Search Committee would like to replace the sofa in the minister's study to make the room more appealing to ministerial candidates. We are looking for a used sofa that still looks good, will fit in the relatively small room, and is comfortable, too. If you have one that you could donate in the next month or two, contact Connie Valk [cvalk@frontiernet.net](mailto:cvalk@frontiernet.net). ❖

# Transition Work- How's it Going?



*Submitted by Ann Rhody*

Last year, through small group meetings and dialogue with church members, Rev. Martha Munson and the Transition team helped the congregation identify several areas of our church functioning which could use a "tune-up" prior to calling a new minister. Day by day, week by week, we have made good progress in

- Defining, promoting, and living our Mission statement:  
Nurture the Spirit and Serve the Community
- Processing our history so we can look to the future
- Welcoming and integrating newer folks into church life, and
- Shoring up church operations & communications

One part of this last goal was dealing with the issue of trust in, and appreciation for, our leaders. The Transition Team recently discussed our progress in this area, and the news is good! We agreed that we can observe, and sometimes just sense, that there is more trust and appreciation for what church volunteers and staff do. There is an increasing realization that, while we may not agree with every decision, we trust each other's intent to do our best for the congregation.

Of course, conflict comes up- it's inevitable and can be a good thing - and we'll be learning more about how to handle it most productively as the church year goes on.

So, kudos and pats on the back for opening yourselves to being more trusting of and caring for one another, as we all care for our church. And finally, as Rev. Martha recently reminded us from the pulpit, a little chocolate cake (or a big one!!) can go a long way towards making our treasured church leaders feel appreciated!

Ann Rhody for the Transition Team

Karl Abbott, chair; Bill Elwell, Mary Louise Gerek ❖

## Staff Bonuses

*Submitted by Michael Van Arsdale*

In what has become a holiday tradition at First Universalist, a plate offering will be taken up for staff holiday bonuses. This year's collection will be held on December 8th, please consider giving generously. ❖

# Drop-In Discussion, December Schedule

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

Drop-in discussions are held each Sunday in the adult lounge on the second floor of our church at 9:15 a.m. except during the summer. 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. Here is the schedule.

## December 1 | *Interfaith Experiences*

David Damico says that part of his identification as a UU brings to mind many instances of interfaith or inter-denominational sharing. As UUs, we find our truths in many places. With the recent celebration of the 139th "Interfaith Thanksgiving Service" in Rochester, and as we approach a season of "good will to all," you are welcome to discuss what your experiences with other faiths have brought to your UU identity. David Damico will facilitate.

## December 8 | *12 Years a Slave*

Phil Ebersole will review the book, *12 Years a Slave*, by Solomon Northrup and the movie based on it, then lead a discussion of the history of slavery and its legacy.

## December 15 | *Choosing Charity*

What is your favorite charity? How do you choose which charity to support? Janet Rothbeind will help us share our thoughts.

## December 22 | *Reza Aslan's Zealot*

A new biography of Jesus by Reza Aslan is controversial on two grounds. One is its picture of Jesus as a revolutionary firebrand instead of a preacher of universal love; the other is Aslan's Muslim background. Bill Elwell will review the book and lead a discussion.

## December 29 | Open forum discussion or TBA. ❖

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The **Universalist Herald** has a new web site

[www.universalist-herald.org](http://www.universalist-herald.org)

as well as a **Facebook** page

[www.facebook.com/pages/Universalist-Herald/135898219780099](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Universalist-Herald/135898219780099)

Your visit and "like" are appreciated.

# No Thanks to Some Presidents



Submitted by Keith Stott

Would we have celebrated Thanksgiving last month if someone like Thomas Jefferson or Andrew Jackson were our president now? Probably not, since both men refused to proclaim a day of prayer and thanksgiving. Jackson agreed with Jefferson who insisted that the First Amendment prohibited the federal government from "intermeddling with religious institutions, doctrines, discipline, or exercises". For more on this debate and the resolutions in Congress see July 9 (page 7) in *An Almanac of Liberty* by William O. Douglas. And be thankful we aren't living in Maryland in 1649 where denying the divinity of Jesus was a capital offense. Merry Christmas! (See December 25 on page 184). Call number is **323.4 D**.

## LUUnch BUUnch



Submitted by Joyce Gilbert

December's LUUnch BUUnch gathering will be Sunday, December 8, at the newly-opened Harvest Cafe. It's near the church, in Cornhill Landing, 298 Exchange Blvd. Check their website for the tempting menu: [www.harvest-cafe.com](http://www.harvest-cafe.com). Our reservation is for noon in the upper level. ALL ARE WELCOME! ❖

## Friday night Cozy Suppers

Submitted by Janet Rothbeind

Exactly what do we mean when we talk about "spiritual growth"? Come join the discussion as we examine our Third Principle. "*We affirm and promote: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations*"

On December 26th, at 5:30 to 7:30 PM, we will examine our third principle at our third Cozy Supper. Both meat and vegan dishes will be available. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Clara Barton Lounge or contact Connie Valk [cvalk@frontiernet.net](mailto:cvalk@frontiernet.net) or 585-467-3191. ❖

# Auld Lang Syne

Submitted by Karen Dau, archivist



**E**VEN A CASUAL LOOK around the First Universalist Church of Rochester will reveal a wealth of religious symbolism. To its architect Claude Bragdon, this building was so much more than just a contract to fulfill. It was also a medium for him to express in design both the Eastern and Western religious traditions he cherished.

To honor his client's heritage of Universalism, Bragdon sought to draw upon the wealth of these many traditions and incorporate them into the design of the new church. He was hired with the stipulation that he would include the windows of the former church in his designs, and consequently his use of Christian symbolism is obvious and frequent. In the lobby are stained glass depictions of the four Gospels brought from the old church: an angel symbolizing Matthew, a lion for Mark, an ox for Luke and an eagle for John. The sanctuary features a number of windows from the former church: the three over each balcony with their many Christian designs, those above the organ loft representing three of the Apostles, the Rose Window in the dome, and particularly the so-named Sargent window on the west wall, which was crafted in stained glass after the painting of *The Good Shepherd* by the French artist Gustave Doré.

Given a wide latitude by his client, Bragdon also turned to Eastern religious architecture for meeting his many design requirements. This influence may not be easy for the average Western churchgoer to identify—but it is there. A major instance is in the layout of the

sanctuary in four equal directions under the dome, in the manner of a Greek cross. Traditionally this Greek church design placed Christ at the center of the dome, and the space below was a place where only clergy could encounter divinity. But for the Universalist, this space was designed to allow the lay congregant to experience a connection with the universe as well as with the divine, without need of an intermediary. Another example of Eastern religious influence is the skylight in the dome, which represents a Hindu concept of central lighting and ventilation. A third feature of the East is the “magic square” design. In this ancient tradition, a common numeric square became magic based on a mathematical formula of divine origin, and it could then become a talisman and bring good fortune. There is a tiny representation in each corner of the six windows on the main sanctuary level—the only church windows Bragdon created himself—and there are also numerous magic squares embedded in the bricks outside. To the untrained eye they are quite ordinary-looking, but they had a wide and devout following among innumerable Muslims, Hebrews, Hindus and Chinese.

This church edifice reveals the work of a visionary whose religious views deeply infused his design process. First Universalist is a building utilizing many features of religious architecture coming together to create a “church home” where individuals of many beliefs can live out their mission to nurture the spirit and serve the community. ❖

## Adopt a RAIHN Family for the Holidays

Submitted by Marti Eggers

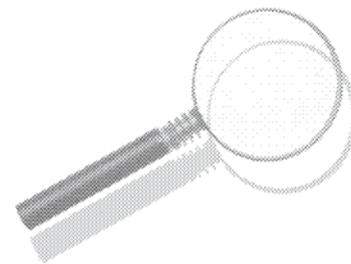
The holiday season is meant to be a time of peace and goodwill. However, for many of our RAIHN families, this time of year can be difficult as they struggle to stretch their budgets to provide gifts for their children. To help our current and former families, RAIHN is beginning an Adopt-a-Family program. Sponsors – individuals, families and groups – are provided with a profile of the family that lists the age, gender and clothing sizes of each family member along with a short wish list of items specifically for the family. We hope to serve approximately 15 families during the 2013 holiday



season. If you are unable to adopt an entire family, RAIHN would also graciously accept gift cards that can be given to teenagers or adults such as for Target, Walmart, Wegmans, Tops, Price Rite, movie theaters or gas cards. The deadline to adopt a family is December 16th, 2013. The deadline to deliver the gifts to the RAIHN Day Center at 34 Meigs Street, Rochester is December 19th. If you are interested in adopting a family or providing a gift card for the holiday season, or if you have questions, please contact Marti Eggers or Sarah Singal. ❖



# The Ministerial Search —What's Next?



You have given us your ideas and opinions through the survey, cottage meetings, and interviews. Some of you have supplied facts and figures so that we could prepare the necessary documents and website for the search. We have submitted all of the documents to the UUA. The private website is now available for ministers in transition. Prospective ministers are very busy right now, looking over our information along with other churches in transition. So, what's next?

After a short holiday respite, we'll move into high gear on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. That is when the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) will be able to access the websites of ministers who are interested in our church. We will be able to view each minister's personal and professional information, such as sermons. We'll read their letters of recommendation. Each MSC member will look at each website individually, taking notes. Then we'll come together, probably twice or three times a week to discuss each one. When we agree on the top pre-candidates, we'll check references.

During February and March we will meet the top pre-candidates and interview them in person.

We will travel to "neutral pulpits" --churches outside the greater Rochester area where we have arranged for the pre-candidates to preach. At the end of each service we will meet with each pre-candidate again.

This means that you will see us less frequently in the early part of the new year. Do not be alarmed. We will be carrying out our role, representing you as we search for a candidate to present to you for final approval.

And, in case you are curious about the results of the survey you completed in the fall, check out our website [www.rocuu.org](http://www.rocuu.org) and select the MSC tab. You will be surprised, you'll see affirmations, and you will capture a glimpse of how the MSC has presented our congregation to prospective ministers.

*The Ministerial Search Committee* ❖



A certificate and letter presented to First Universalist from Peter Morales and the UUA recognizing us as a fair share contributing congregation.

# House Report Highlights - Dec. 2013

*Submitted by Alain Perregaux*

## Roof Quotes

The next big project will be the replacement of the roof. On the one hand, we are requesting quotes to understand with some certainty what financial commitment will be needed, on the other hand we are debating if and when we should hire an architect, and how to go about applying for grants, as most grant givers stay away from support to faith communities.

## Sacred Places Symposium

On Saturday November 16, Karen Dau and Alain Perregaux attended a Symposium on the Preservation of Sacred Places. Much of what we heard are details that we had learned the hard way over the years, namely that religious organizations are run by volunteers and that buildings become priorities only when they begin falling apart. The more useful part of the event was the opportunity for networking and a slightly better grasp of where the openings are for potential grants.

## Parking Lot

On Saturday November 16, repairs to the surface of our parking lot were completed.

## Lounge Faucet

In the last few months, the cold water faucet of the sink in the Clara Barton Lounge had begun to leak. Two well intentioned volunteers attempted to fix it but realized that this particular type of faucet needed special knowledge to be taken apart correctly, i.e. where exactly should brute force be applied. A plumber came on November 7. It took him two hours to take things apart, to find the correct replacement parts and to put everything back together.

## Speaker on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Landing

Some time between noon and 3 PM on Sunday November 10, the white speaker that made it possible for people to listen to the service while sitting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor landing disappeared. Nobody has been able to find any trace of it anywhere in the building. If somebody has an explanation, we would love to hear it.

## Heating System

1. On Sunday October 27, after the service, it was discovered that a safety valve in the hot water zone of the system was leaking water at a rate of about 0.5 gallon per minute. It means that, if nothing

was done, the boiler room would fill with water. A technician from W.P. Taillie Services came right away to stop the leak but was unable to identify the true cause of the problem. The next day the cause was found to be a faulty secondary pressure reducer (30 psi to 5 psi) that allowed medium pressure steam to reach the low pressure circuit. Which, incidentally, explains why the air vents of the sanctuary radiators were so noisy.

The faulty device was repaired on Monday Oct. 28.

2. On Sunday November 10, just as the RAIHN families were settling down, all the pumps that push water through the radiators of the RE wing were running properly but the water was cold. It looked as though there was a blockage in the steam circuit. It was not until Monday afternoon that the true cause of the problem was identified: it was the primary pressure reducer that had failed and caused the system to shut off completely. The pressure reducer was replaced and the steam was turned back on at 5 PM on Monday November 11 just as the RAIHN families were returning from their day at the Day Center.
3. **Effect on the RAIHN program**  
The direct consequence of the steam blockage is that our RAIHN guests spent their first night with us in a cold building. Electric space heaters were of some help but they tripped the circuit breakers if they were not set at medium or low heat. It took an extra set of blankets to keep everybody relatively comfortable. Our thanks go to the overnight volunteers who handled the situation with calm and good spirit. Namely John Morgan and Beverly Lynn.
4. **Steam Consumption**  
It will be interesting to find out whether these technical problems had been brewing for a while, thus allowing the system to loose efficiency and causing the steam consumption to be significantly higher than expected. It will take roughly one month worth of readings to get an answer. ❖



## First Universalist Church

150 South Clinton Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14604

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# 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 services and Religious Education classes begin at 10:30am Sundays**

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**Minister** | Rev. Martha Munson

**Director of Religious Education** | Rev. Lori Staubit

**Music Director** | Bryan Holten

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*Office hours, Tuesday through Friday, 8:30am–2:45pm. Telephone 585.546.2826*

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