

First Universalist Church

150 South Clinton Avenue

Rochester, NY 14604

First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY

Nurture the spirit and serve the community

First Universalist Church is a member of the Unitarian-Universalist Association, a liberal religion with historical roots from the Jewish and Christian traditions.

Worship service begins at 10:30am Sundays

Minister | Rev. Celie Katovitch

Director of Life Span Faith Development | Michelle Yates

Music Director | Bryan Holten

Sexton | Brandon Fagan

Nursery Care Provider | Carol Williams

Office Administrator | Kris White

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

Board Of Trustees 2014–2015

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More information is available on our website: <http://uuroc.org>.



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

November 2014

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Our Outlook

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Rochester, NY 14604

Visit us online www.uuroc.org

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Sunday Services | November 2014

Nov. 2 | *All Saints, All Souls, All Life*

Halloween, with its deep meanings and its opportunity for shared joy, is the perfect holy day for Unitarian Universalists (especially the Universalists part).

-Rev. Peggy Meeker and Worship Associate Dolores Dalomba

Nov. 9 | *Darkness in a Light-Filled Faith*

We are an optimistic faith, and we speak a language of light-- including whenever we kindle the chalice, our symbol. Yet the dark too has its place in our religious living.

-Rev. Celie Katovitch

Nov. 16 | *A Question of Life and Death: What do we live for?*

Finding meaning in life as we get older.

Rev. Elizabeth Moore, member of First Unitarian Church in Rochester and Worship Associate Kitty Forbush.

[*A service to install Rev. Celie Katovitch* will take place in the sanctuary at 4:00. The Rev. Daniel Budd, minister of the First Unitarian Church of Cleveland, Ohio, will preach the sermon. Rev. David Blanchard, Associate Minister of First Unitarian Church of Rochester, will give the charge to the minister, and Dr. Dan McKanan, professor of UU history at Harvard Divinity School, will give the charge to the congregation.]

Nov. 23 | *From You I Receive, To You I Give*

Today we lift up in thankfulness all that we have been given, and celebrate all that we may give back. This is a service for all ages.

-Rev. Celie Katovitch

Nov. 30 | *I'm Waiting..*

The season of Advent begins today on the Christian liturgical calendar.

Its call to patient openness is one that we all might take to heart.

-Rev. Celie Katovitch

Worship service begins at 10:30am Sundays





Pastor's Ponderings

Message from Rev. Celie Katovitch

“Gratitude bestows reverence,” the epic poet John Milton said, “allowing us to encounter everyday epiphanies, those transcendent moments of awe that change forever how we experience life and the world.”

This month of November, leading up to Thanksgiving, I am thinking about what it would mean for us to think of gratitude as a spiritual practice - an integral part of our religious lives.

We might think that reverence comes first, that we look at our life, taking stock-- and perhaps what we see will create in us a response of gratefulness. Or perhaps not. We might feel that not enough is going right within us, in the world around us, for gratitude to be a possibility today.

It's a peculiar truth that we can easily start thinking about gratitude in comparative terms (as we often do with loss as well). We lapse into asking ourselves whether we're allowed to feel grateful for what we have, when person x has more than us (which we may feel a little resentful about), and person y has less than us (which we may feel guilty about - wondering, 'should I feel grateful when there is still so much need?').

Yet, what if gratitude is indeed the place we begin? What if we thought of gratitude as an orientation within us-- not contingent upon any tally of what's around us, but a way of looking at what's around us?

It seems to me that meeting life with gratitude means embracing both the major and the miniscule things, equally. It means honoring the big picture (the fact that we are here; the breath in our lungs; the awareness of our senses that lets us take in the wonder of the moment) and the small but sustaining comforts that bless us day to day (the warm cup of coffee, the sound of soothing music, the spirited conversation with a trusted friend, the sight of blue sky, the holding of a hand when our services end on Sunday). It means letting the goodness of those things take root in our hearts and minds, really take root, and teach us love of this life we share.

In gratitude for each of you-- all that you do (the big things and the little things), and all that you are,

In faith, – **Celie** ❖



Walking Together:

Director of Life Span Faith Development

Submitted by Michelle Yates, DRE

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday!!! Seeing the trees turned to crimson, pumpkin and gold. The smells of fall mixed with the smells of food. Unlike Christmas I'm not frazzled with choosing, wrapping, and hiding presents. Thanksgiving is just about food and family and thankfulness!

In lieu of tearing into or talking about presents, we catch up and tell stories. I get to hear the long version of that last disastrous, yet now funny event, and how it's just like when Great Aunt Susie had that happen when she was my age. I get to retell some of my favorite family stories to the next generation. I become rewoven into the fabric of my family, and reminded of why and how, other than a characteristic chin, I am actually related to this group of people.

Time and distance have a profound effect on intimacy. After a few months, or years, you start to wonder WHY you are spending your holiday with practical strangers. Sometimes blood relation is NOT enough to maintain a relationship. A relationship is defined by its level of intimacy; to know and be known.

This is what is so exciting to me about this time in the church year. Settled back into the church year, we look forward to our time together, to be heard and to hear how others are doing; to see and be seen; to know and be known. This is what it means to be a community; a kind of family.

This month, I would encourage you to try out a spiritual practice of Gratitude. What Rev. Galen Guengerich, of All Souls in New York City, would offer as the defining religious practice or discipline for UUs. You could keep a journal, post it on facebook, or perhaps just think of what or who you were grateful for that day as you fall asleep. Perhaps notice moments as they happen with a smile. Let's see what interesting discoveries this practice may bring. Perhaps a deeper knowing of why and how we are related to this group of people (humanity), after all.

Shalom,
~Michelle ❖

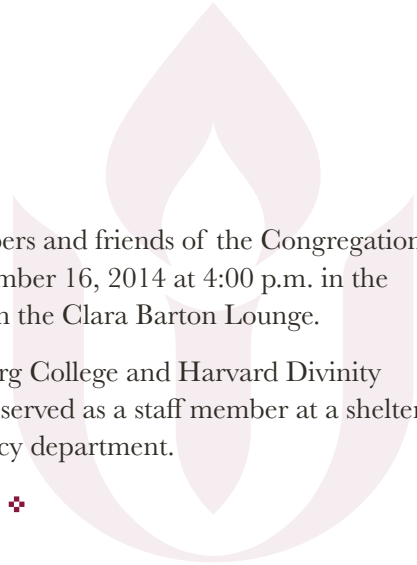
Installation Ceremony

of Reverend Celie Katovich

The Board of Trustees of First Universalist Church cordially invites members and friends of the Congregation to the installation ceremony of Reverend Celie Katovich on Sunday, November 16, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary at First Universalist Church. A reception will follow the service in the Clara Barton Lounge.

Born in Syracuse, New York, Reverend Celie Katovitch attended Gettysburg College and Harvard Divinity School and was ordained at First Unitarian Church of Cleveland. She has served as a staff member at a shelter for temporarily homeless men and on spiritual care staff in a hospital chaplaincy department.

RSVP by Friday, November 7th 585-546-2826 or email: office@uuroc.org ❖



Finance Facts

Submitted by Ann Rhody

When you look at our church's finance reports, you see that there are many "special" and "discretionary" funds which are outside of our annual budget. These special funds are an important part of our church's financial health, and they don't often get much attention. Let's share some information on what these funds are for, and how they work!

The PIANO RESERVE Fund:

Did you know that the beautiful grand piano in our sanctuary does not belong to the church? The Eastman School of Music provides this piano because we host the Eastman at Washington Square Concerts- a wonderful cooperative arrangement that benefits both our church and the Eastman School. While we hope that this relationship continues for a very long time, The Piano Reserve fund was created to provide some financial support in the event that we need to purchase our own piano. The fund currently stands at just under \$3300, and is increased only by donations. Expenditures from the fund must be approved by the Board of Trustees.



To contribute to this, or any special fund, simply note the name of the fund on your check, and your donation will go to the right place. ❖

Communications Committee

Love Reaches Out workshop

Submitted by Lisa Gwinner

Friday, November 7th at 6:00 pm in the Clara Barton Lounge, for a potluck supper & Love Reaches Out workshop. This workshop is part of a UUA initiative to help congregations find their "sweet spot", the spot where their interests & energy intersect with the needs of the community they serve. Input from the congregation is vital to this visioning process, which is a continuation of the work begun at the October 18th Leadership Assembly.

Please bring a dish to pass at 6:00 pm. The workshop will begin at 7:00 & end at 8:30 pm. Childcare will be provided, if you let us know one week in advance. All Are Welcome!!

For more information, contact Lisa Gwinner, Newcomb Losh, Connie Valk, or Nancy Gaede
Presented by the Communication Committee. ❖



What RAIHN Guests Say...

Submitted by Marti Eggers



“Thank you for helping us out with everything! We truly appreciate everything that the program has done for our family :)”

“It was truly a blessing to have been here as a resident of RAIHN. This program is very helpful and should be the example for all shelters that exist and claim to help homeless people...100% in every area.”

RAIHN, the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network

RAIHN shelters families in need of housing as they seek to return to sustainable independence. First Universalist will be hosting up to 5 homeless families in our church building from December 14th – December 21, right in the middle of the holiday season. It’s a busy time for everyone, but homelessness takes no holiday.

Please set aside a few hours during our December Host Week to volunteer for RAIHN. You’ll feel good, and the families will be very appreciative.

Questions? Please get in touch with Chris DeGolyer (chrisdeg@frontiernet.net), Marti Eggers (Mceggers@gmail.com) or Sarah Singal (ssingal@rochester.rr.com). ❖

Focus on Finance

Submitted by Ann Rhody

- It’s a wrap! *The statistics are in* on the 2013-14 fiscal year, which ended on June 30, and the news is good! We ended the year with a healthy surplus, which will go towards a carryover fund to see us through any tough years. Please pick up a copy of the annual (user-friendly) Treasurer’s report for details on where the surplus came from, our social justice funding, and how much we spent during the year. Look for the report in the Clara Barton lounge.
- *CHANGE is coming!* That’s right, the annual change drive is here. Save your quarters, dimes, and other change, and bring them to church on November 2 or 9. We’ll pool our change and help to support our church’s programs, both within our walls and out in the community. Watch for the change collection table

in the Clara Barton lounge, where we’ll have copies of the Treasurer’s report available for pickup, as well as sign-up sheets to help with our fundraisers (see below)

- Save the dates! *Our Holiday Shoppe* is slated for Sundays, November 30-December 21. Plan to donate something and to do some shopping during coffee hour. Our annual Service Auction is scheduled for Sunday, February 1 after the service. Watch for more information on how to participate in these not-to-be missed church events! ❖



Drop-In Discussion, November Schedule

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

Drop-in discussions are held each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. (except in July and August) in the adult lounge on the second floor of our church. Sometimes our discussions are based on certain books or articles, but you don't have to read anything or do any advance preparation to participate. Just drop in. People of all viewpoints are welcome to make presentations or join in the discussions.

November 2 | *Election 2014*

We'll talk about the forthcoming election, who should win and what it means. Phil Ebersole will facilitate.

November 9 | *The Selma Awakening*

Phil Ebersole will review and lead a discussion of *The Selma Awakening: How the Civil Rights Movement Tested and Changed Unitarian Universalism* by Mark Morrison-Reed, former minister of our church.

November 16 | *Reproductive Justice*

The UUA Study-Action issue for 2012-2016 is reproductive justice, which includes the right of women to choose whether or not to have children, and to raise children in healthy safe environments. Discussions of this subject within individual churches are intended to result in a resolution at the UUA General Assembly in 2016.

November 23 | *World Peace is Inevitable*

These days we have drones, military contracts and a terrorist under the bed of every elected official. Hank Stone will present a case for empowering ourselves by reframing the war / peace question to help us achieve the future we want.

November 30 | *Open forum discussion or TBA.*

If you have a topic you think should be discussed or want to lead a discussion, speak to Phil Ebersole. ❖



Library News

Submitted by Keith Stott



How Many Thanks?

For what – and how much - will you be expressing gratitude this Thanksgiving? Friends? Family? New minister? Of course, but let us also remember those who worked to maintain fair treatment of Native Americans by whites. One inspiring document is *The Thanksgiving Address*, delivered on November 11, 1994 by Clayton Logan, a Cattaraugus Seneca, on occasion of the two hundredth anniversary of the Canandaigua Treaty. When he said "...Our Mother Earth...has a lot of strength... affects us in our way of thinking. We acknowledge her and give thanks." It reminded me of our own "living traditions we share...spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature." Thank you, Clayton. Find the complete text of *The Thanksgiving Address* in Treaty of Canandaigua 1794, edited by G. Peter Jemison and Anna M. Schein, in our library. The call number is **323.1J**. ❖

Book Club

Submitted by Shirley Bond



The Book Club will be reading "*orphan train*"* by Christina Baker Kline.

This is a novel about a search for family which takes the reader on a historical journey starting in NYC and continuing to points west.

We will meet in the discussion room at 12:15PM on November 30th. *All are welcome.*

Helpful to have read the book but not necessary.

Sarah Singal (ssingal@rochester.rr.com) or Shirley Bond (bondshirl@yahoo.com) will gladly answer any questions.

* Don't know why the title "*orphan train*" is not capitalized. ❖

Auld Lang Syne

Submitted by Karen Dau, archivist



A WOMAN far ahead of her time, Jean Brooks Greenleaf had served as both a director of the Sargent and Greenleaf Company since its incorporation in 1896, and also as a prominent state leader in the long and successful struggle to attain suffrage for women. She was born on October 1, 1831 in Bernardston, MA, the youngest of six children of her parents Dr. John and Mary Bascomb Brooks. Her father was a physician and pioneer Universalist minister. After obtaining her general education she enrolled in the Melrose Seminary in West Brattleboro, VT but had to withdraw after only two terms when her mother's declining health required her to return home and take over the management of the household. In 1862 she was united in marriage with Halbert Stevens Greenleaf, a native of Vermont who had moved to Massachusetts in order to organize the Yale and Greenleaf Lock Company. That same year Greenleaf enlisted in the Union Army and served as a colonel in the Civil War. Afterward the couple lived in Louisiana from 1865 to a part of 1867, then in 1867 they settled in Rochester, where her husband returned to lock making, going into business with James Sargent. While her husband served as the Democratic member of Congress from his district in 1883-1885 and 1891-1893, they both lived in Washington. In Rochester, Jean Greenleaf labored tirelessly with Susan B. and Mary Anthony at the highest levels of suffrage activity in the state, and additionally she enjoyed the companionship of

the Anthonys as a personal friend. In December of 1890, at a state convention held in Rochester, she was elected to the presidency of the New York State Woman Suffrage Association (NYSWSA). On June 11, 1891 she addressed 300 guests at a housewarming event at the Anthony home. In February of 1892 she was one of the delegates who addressed a suffrage hearing held by the House Judiciary Committee of the U.S. Congress. Then in 1894 she was nominated by the Democratic party as a delegate to the state constitutional convention. At the conclusion of her term as president of NYSWSA in 1896 she continued with her activities in support of the cause. In the end she was the only one of the suffragists in New York State who lived long enough to see their goal attained. Also in 1896 her husband's locksmith business incorporated as Sargent and Greenleaf Company, with James Sargent as president, Halbert Greenleaf as vice president, and herself as a director, and this establishment is still in business. In 1905 she addressed the guests at Susan B. Anthony's 85th birthday celebration. Then the year 1906 brought her a double load of grief, with the passing of both her husband and Anthony. For over fifty years she was a member, pew owner and liberal contributor to the First Universalist Church, although in her last years she was rarely able to attend because of spinal disabilities. She died on March 2, 1918 in Rochester at age 86 and is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery. ❖

Orientation Series

Submitted by Nancy Gaede

Have you been coming to First Universalist for a while? Are you interested in learning more about our faith and our congregation? Reverend Celie and the Membership Committee are holding two orientation sessions, the first on November 23 and the second, December 7, for those interested in deepening their understanding of what it means to be a member of this liberal religious community. The sessions will concentrate on different topics. The sessions will begin at 12:15 and last for about an hour. Childcare will be available. Please plan to join us for one or both sessions. Look for more information about this, and about our upcoming Path to Membership series in the coming weeks. ❖

The LUUnch BUUnch Gathers!

November's LUUNCH BUUNCH gathers at **BungaBurgerBar** on **Sunday, November 9**, at 12:15. Address is **1370 Mt. Hope, in College Town**. They offer a wide range of burgers, wraps, fries, salads, and beverages. *Everyone* is welcome to share a meal and check out College Town's progress.

Joyce Gilbert ❖

House News

November 2014

Submitted by Tom Ruganis

October Fall Clean-Up was a Success!

A big THANK YOU to all who helped make the fall cleanup a success. Many small and some larger tasks were completed. Activities included cleaning, dusting, inspecting smoke detectors, lowering a sanctuary chandelier for repair and prepping the flower and vegetable gardens for winter. A wonderful mac and cheese provided satisfying nourishment afterwards. Thanks everyone!

Heating System

The known leaks in the steam heating system have been repaired. Unfortunately the work caused a new minor leak. This leak will be remedied as soon as possible. Also the thermostat in the Ministers' Office did not emerge from summer hibernation. It has been replaced.

Snow Removal

Yes, it's time to think about snow. We needed to find a new snow plow contractor and with a recommendation from our painting contractor we are nearing completion of a contract that will most likely save over last year. Thank you to Kris White for handling this.

Fire Inspection

The annual inspection of our building was completed by several members of the Rochester Fire Department. Prior to the inspection a defective EXIT sign on the third floor was replaced. No violations were found during the inspection.

New Paint

Thanks to Paula Marchese, Kitty Forbush, Nancy Gaede and Joy Leccese, we have a new look in the two main bathrooms. They were given a fresh look with new colors.

Floor Care

The carpet shampoo machine is no longer functioning. The cost to repair is close to what we originally paid for the machine. A search for a replacement has begun.
House Committee Meeting
If you are interested in helping out with the building, please feel free to email tom.ruganis@frontier.com or call 585-746-7796. Or stop by at the next meeting of the House Committee on November 2nd in room 35 of the RE wing at 12:15. ❖

Cozy Friday Night Supper, Nov. 17

Submitted by Kathy Russell

Join us for our next Cozy Friday Night Supper with Faith Development 5:30 to 7:30 PM on November 21. Supper, with a vegan option, is provided. This session will focus on the sixth principle of the UUA - the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Clara Barton Lounge, or contact Kathy Russell 585-544-2643 or krussel6@frontiernet.net. Your RSVP/Sign Up will allow us to prepare appropriately. Child-friendly activities exploring this principle will be arranged if you make a request one week in advance.

And for those who already have their 2015 calendars... Cozy Friday Night Suppers are also planned for January 9th and February 27th. ❖



Summer Camp for UU Youth and Families

Submitted by Dan Gottfried, Executive Director

Registration for UU summer camp experiences for our youth and families is under way. Sessions fill quickly at many of the UU Camp and Conference Centers and now is the time to register to avoid waiting lists.

Many youth and families from the region attend Unirondack, a UU Camp and Conference Center in the forever-wild Adirondacks in upstate New York. The camp provides an opportunity for children and families to live our UU values in a creative, accepting and nurturing community outside the doors of our congregation. For more information about Unirondack, and to register for summer camp or weekend programs, visit their website at <http://www.unirondack.org/>.

In addition to Unirondack, other Camp and Conference Centers in the region include Rowe, Ferry Beach, Star Island, and Murray Grove. And if you are looking for experiences further from home, there is Unicamp in Canada, DeBenneville Pines in California, U-Bar-U in Texas, Unistar in Minnesota, and The Mountain in North Carolina.

Many of the centers have year-round programs. All provide an opportunity for personal growth, fellowship and community. ❖