



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY

May 2018

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Sunday Services | **May 2018**

May 6 | *Heeding the Call.* Where leads our call? Following a week of intentionally listening to one another, Rev. Campbell offers reflections on the topic of calling. What is this moment in our history calling us to do? How are we called to be with one another? What are some of the deep truths that will carry us forward? In covenantal relationship, guided by our deepest-held values, we will explore these questions, reflect on the future of our faith, and ponder the possibilities of the future for First Universalist Church.

—Rev. Lane Campbell

May 13 | *The Dream of Freedom.* This service of mostly music and readings will focus on humankind's dream of freedom, honoring the many groups and people who have struggled for freedom as well as those for whom freedom remains a dream.

—Dolores Da Lomba

May 20 | *A Universal Love.* Our Universalist heritage challenges us to love and to know that we are loved—both things. This may be life's central challenge. We do a lot to try to offer love to the world. But do we believe or feel that there is a Universal Love that holds each of us?

—Rev. Peggy Meeker

May 27 | *Redemption.* The original Universalism was about being saved from error or evil. What do we believe today about redemption? Is it available to all, no exceptions? Where does it come from? Is it ever too late for redemption?

—Rev. Peggy Meeker





Pastor's Perspective

Message from
The Reverend Peggy Meeker

Happy May!

As I write this, the days have *finally* gotten warmer! We've come through winter and spring is finally about to burst out. By the time you read this, it will be May Day (or after!), the cross-quarter day of Beltane, a time for truly casting off the darkness and celebrating the light.

I just took a walk through my back yard and discovered forsythia, myrtle, and English daisies blooming, as well as the crocuses and primroses I had already seen from the dining-room window. Not everything came through the winter unscathed. The rhubarb, sadly, does not seem to have survived, and the climbing rosebush has been pretty much knocked over, and there's a LOT of cleaning up to be done. The good thing, though, is that it will feel good to be doing all the pruning and weeding and tidying, and I'll be happy just being out there, whether I'm working or just enjoying the moment.

And of course, church is kind of like that. May brings us the blossoming of the work of the Ministerial Search Committee as we spend this first week with our ministerial candidate, the Rev. Lane Campbell. May also brings our Clean-Up/Fix-Up Day. And it brings the final gathering of pledges and the envisioning of the budget for next year. I'm not sure how far I can (or should) run with this analogy. What about writing the annual reports?! That might not be fun. But it's all about tending to our church and keeping it in good shape. It's all about making it the place that is so welcoming for all of us and for our visitors. And I trust that *most* of the work will feel good, and we'll all be happy just being here, whether we're working or just enjoying the moment.

Together, let's cast off winter and celebrate May and all the light and blossoming it brings to First Universalist. Blessed be this moment.

MSC



Submitted by the Ministerial Search Committee

Candidating Week is here!

You've read about the Reverend Lane Campbell, First Universalist's candidate for settled minister, and you've seen her website (www.revlanecampbell.com). Now the time we've all been waiting for is here—Candidating Week, April 29th to May 6th! We hope that by now you have met Rev. Lane and heard her preach. If not, there are more opportunities, including the Sunday service on May 6th and informal gatherings this week. Each gathering has a particular focus, but feel free to attend the event that fits your schedule.

Tuesday, May 1: 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm at the home of Christine DeGolyer
MEMBERSHIP (including MOCHA, CARING COMMITTEE, USHERS and GREETERS)

Thursday, May 3: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Brown Bag Lunch in the Clara Barton Lounge (arrive by 12:15 pm if you also would like to attend the Eastman at Washington Square concert in our sanctuary)
COMMUNICATIONS and LIBRARY COMMITTEES and *ANYONE ELSE* who prefers a day-time event and didn't attend the Tuesday afternoon event.

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm in the Clara Barton Lounge
FINANCE, STEWARDSHIP, PERSONNEL, NOMINATING, and HOUSE COMMITTEES (the "keeping the place running" ministries)

Friday, May 4: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm in the Clara Barton Lounge
There is a Potluck dinner for ADULT and CHILD FAITH DEVELOPMENT and all interested. Families are especially encouraged to attend. PLEASE NOTE: Child care will be provided after the meal; please contact Michelle Yates (edu@uuroc.org) if you will use child care, so we have an idea how many young folks to expect.

Especially, be sure to attend the May 6th Sunday service and the congregational meeting after the service to vote on calling Rev. Lane as our settled minister.

Thanks for participating in this important process!



Walking Together

Submitted by
The Rev. Michelle Yates,
Minister of Life Span Faith Development

This year, I will be exploring our Unitarian Universalist Principles which we covenant to affirm and promote. Our Faith Development theme for May is the Seventh Principle, “**Respect for the INTERDEPENDENT WEB of All Existence of Which We Are a Part,**” or in our children’s version of the principles, “**We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things.**”

This principle was not part of the original proposal of six Principles that went before the UU General Assembly in 1984. There was a group that insisted on adding something about the ‘interdependence of all’ to the list, and the seventh principle was proposed from the floor at that GA. Many people had the justification of ecological action in mind as we see clearly in the children’s version of the principle, but it is also meant to refer to so much more than that.

The interdependent web is a fact of our existence, and an essential way of understanding the world. Our liberal faith values the individual, but sometimes fails to honor the place of community or the reciprocal nature of life. We are interdependent; what we say and do to others, we say and do to ourselves. Are we helped by a hardened heart or a softened heart? The words, items, or energy we put out into the world do not “go away,” but go on to affect others and eventually come back to us.

These truths can be seen in our hymn, *From you I receive; to you I give. Together we share, and from this we live.* Hebrew scriptures state it, “Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and a stone will come back on the one who starts it rolling.” Jesus says, “The measure by which you give is the measure by which you will receive.” You will find

this principle in any of the world religions; call it cause and effect, karma or compensation. “What goes around comes around.” “As you sow, so shall you reap.”

Barbara Merritt says, “As Unitarian Universalists, we have clearly stated our commitment to do what we can to repair, restore, and promote the web of life. This commitment necessitates the development of our humility, compassion, respect, and a heightened awareness of the consequences of our actions. Yet all of these fine principles are ultimately meaningless if they do not show up in our daily life, if they are not incarnate in our ordinary actions.”

How do we greet the stranger? Are we kind and compassionate to other living creatures? Do we attempt to promote the well-being of others? Are we aware and careful of our impact on our natural environment? Do we actively seek new ways to connect with those who are “othered?”

Walking with You,
Rev. Michelle

Staff Hours



Rev. Peggy Meeker - Minister
Tuesday - Thursday
available Monday & Friday (working from home)

Andrea Lewis - Office Administrator
Tuesday thru Friday 9:00 am - 3:45 pm

Brandon Fagan - Sexton
Tuesday & Thursday approx. 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Sunday approx. 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Project Team Update

Our Journey to Justice

Submitted by Dolores Da Lomba

I was one of the 600 plus attendees at the YWCA's "Stand Against Racism Conference." There was an impressive array of speakers and panelists who addressed issues of racism as well as the glass ceiling that women face. The special guest, Alejandra Y. Castillo, CEO of YWCA USA, moved beyond the obvious and spoke of the multifaceted effects that racism has on many segments of our society. The experience was both sobering and inspiring. Sobering to see how much remains to be done and inspiring to see a younger generation taking up the challenge.

A December 10, 2017 D&C Opinion article called us to "Get Curious About Racism" by giving three examples of rarely known historical facts. Black Wall Street, The Carlisle Boarding School, and the GI Bill remain three examples of egregious racism. The D&C provides a link for more information at

www.DemocratandChronicle.com/Opinion.

These examples tell of a massacre of a black community; the horrific treatment of children from the Arapahoe tribe; and the denial of certain important GI benefits to many soldiers of color from WWII. To move beyond racism, we must be aware of our past and understand how our past affects our present, so we urge you to "get curious."

The Project Team plans to give the congregation opportunities to learn about our past, discuss our present, and move forward on our journey. We regret that the inclement weather of April 15th kept so many people from church as our guest speaker, Gaynelle Wethers, spoke of her experiences growing up in New Orleans and the rampant racism she experienced there. We had the opportunity to explore her experiences more deeply by having a question and answer session with her after her talk.

Our explorations (of past, present and future) will continue with more book discussions and a series of focus group gatherings starting in June and continuing in the fall. And next month we will hold a music service honoring the struggles of the many groups still on the journey to freedom.

As always, we welcome your suggestions for topics and activities. Our suggestion box will be in the Clara Barton lounge each Sunday. Book suggestion for the month: "In the Country We Love; My Family Divided" by Diane Guerrero.

Finally, we remember Rev. A. Powell Davies' words, "I believe more deeply today than ever in my life in the democratic faith ... [that] human rights are by their nature universal ..., that none should hold the people in contempt, or profane the sacredness of conscience, or deny the worth of human life."

Come, let us walk together as we proceed on this sacred journey.

FIAC

Faith In Action Council

Submitted by Joy Leccese

Our Social Justice Ministry is ramping up for several events in May and June. Be on the lookout for notices in the Sunday Order of Service and on the Court Street Bulletin Board. In May and June, we will continue discussions on the book *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving, facilitated by Tim Mullins.

On June 3rd, we will have a guest speaker from the group "Moms Demand Action" on the topic of gun violence; it will be held in the sanctuary at noon. Bring your coffee and join the conversation. Lastly, a reminder to all Social Justice Circle Leaders: your Circle's semi-annual report to FIAC is due by May 15th. Look for an email from FIAC for details and a copy of the report form. The Project Team and FIAC will also sponsor activities this summer: stay tuned and bring your cold beverages: we may actually warm up enough to need them!

2018 Stewardship News

Submitted by Ann Rhody for the Finance Committee



Thus Do We Covenant—Stewardship 2018

Thank you to all who have made a financial pledge for the 2018 - 2019 fiscal year! Pledges from members and friends make up the largest source of support for the church, and with those funds we pay for heat, lights, our staff, music, worship, and so much more. If we've missed you, remember that you can make a pledge at any time during the church year. Overall, our stewardship results were positive and we can begin to develop next year's budget using your pledges.

Thanks to the Stewardship Team of Richard Reed, Ann Rhody, Karl Abbott, and Paula Marchese, as well as to all who brought pies for Stewardship Sunday!

Don't Be Afraid of Some Change....

The finance committee is always looking for ways to improve our financial operations. Here's what's new:

1. **We're retiring the "Green Sheet" method of reimbursement requests.** About 18 months ago, we began a system of online requests for payments. Almost all reimbursement requests are now done with the online system, and so we are saying "amen" and going to an "online only" system. You can find the instructions in

the treasurer's mailbox where the green sheets used to be. Even those of us who are "less than comfortable" with computers have found the system easy to use, but if you need assistance, we are happy to help! Just contact treasurer Dick Shroyer or finance chair Ann Rhody, via office@uuroc.org, and we'll coach you through it.

2. **Is it time to say goodbye to discretionary funds?** Over time, it's become clear that discretionary funds can create confusion, unnecessary "clutter" in accounting, and interfere with budgeting for what it really costs to run the church. Although, as of this writing we are unsure of the timing, we would like to move to a system where all regularly occurring expenses are put into the operating budget rather than funneled in and out of discretionary funds. We look forward to more discussion on this, so watch for opportunities to engage.

The Finance Committee is excited about the future of First Universalist, and we stand ready to find ways to best fund the mission of the church. Thanks to all who share in that mission!

House Chair Position Available

Are you interested in being more directly involved in the care and maintenance of our beloved building? Tom Ruganis is stepping down as our House Committee chair and the position is available starting in July. If you are interested please contact Ed Deller, Tom Ruganis or any board member. Tom will remain on the committee to assist the new chair. The board thanks Tom for his invaluable service.



Living Our Values, Making A Difference

Ed Deller joined 400 others to honor Frederick Douglass's self-chosen birthday by lighting his statue in Highland Bowl with flashlights.



Shine a Light on Douglass
February 14, 2018

Shine a Light on Douglass—an event assisted by RIT's Big Shot team.

Roc/ACTS Spring Annual Banquet & Silent Auction April 22, 2018

First Universalist members gather for an elegant evening at the Annual Spring Banquet and Silent Auction at the Harro East.



Left to Right - Chris DeGolyer, Kathy Russell, Robert Remley, Becky Elwell, Shirley Bond, and Katherine Flynn.

Chili Cook-off Champion Marty Vyverberg



Our own long-time church member Marty Vyverberg (left) was voted the winning Chili Cook-off Champion! Cook-off host Bill Elwell (right) presented Marty with the award and a gift card to Chili's.

Chili Cook-off Crowd



Church members and friends eagerly sampled entries and voted Marty Vyverberg's chili to be the best. Left to right: Joy Leccese, Eileen Fernandez, Patricia Wollan and John Adams.

Thank You Phil Ebersole!!

Submitted by The Rev. Michelle Yates



Drop-In Discussion Group Transitions

At the end of this church year, Phil Ebersole will be retiring from coordinating and facilitating the Sunday morning Drop-In Discussion Group!

The group was started in the fall of 1998 as a way of starting an adult program at a time when we didn't have much in the way of adult education. It was designed to take place on Sunday mornings, so people could participate without advance registration, regular attendance or study. You just drop in! They've tackled requested topics, invited church members and outside groups to present, and promoted the exchange information and ideas **for 20 years!** **Thank you Phil, for your leadership since the beginning!**

On Sunday May 13th, our Minister of Faith Development, Michelle Yates will facilitate a discussion on the future of the drop-in discussion group at the group's usual 9:15 am gathering.

On Sunday June 3rd, we will celebrate Phil's years of service to this ministry by having a cake during our Social Hour after service.

Coffee Hour



Submitted by William Elwell

Sunday Coffee Hour needs new volunteers. Too few people are doing this yeoman service. The volunteers, who are reimbursed for their expenses, usually provide a variety of cookies, bagels, veggies, crackers and cheese and perhaps a cake. The coffee is made by the sexton and keeping the coffee refilled is required as is clean-up. So, if you like Coffee Hour on Sunday, please consider serving at least one Sunday a year. Contact Bill Elwell via office@uuroc.org for complete instructions.

Garden Committee



One of life's miracles: living growing things poking out of the ground where there was only dirt last week. Celebrate this miracle with the Garden Committee. Meet us on Spring Clean-Up/Fix-up Day, Saturday morning, May 5th, as we make plans for the gardens this year—flowers and veggies, planters and beds. We welcome gardeners, old and new, young and, ahem, mature, full of wisdom, and full of new-fangled ideas. Contact Sarah Singal via office@uuroc.org.



Save the Dates for the UUA General Assembly

This year's GA—*All Are Called*—will be held June 20-24th in Kansas City, MO. Information is available at <https://www.uua.org/calendars/uua/general-assembly-2018>.

RAIHN



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

Submitted by Marti Eggers

Guests Giving Back to RAIHN

Gratitude in Deed

Did you know? Even after families “graduate” from RAIHN into their own places, their connection to RAIHN does not stop. In addition to families being followed for a year or more by RAIHN’s Aftercare social worker, many former guests give back by volunteering for RAIHN.

Two former guests are regular Saturday Day Center volunteers, staffing the Day Center on Saturday mornings once a month. One graduate family is on the meal-making schedule for one of our host congregations. This mother-daughter team has been pitching in with dinners for several rotations. Another former guest has offered to do some maintenance tasks around the Day Center. He hung some shelves in the Bridge Apartment recently and will be working on the landscaping in the Day Center back yard as soon as the weather cooperates. During the past month another RAIHN graduate spoke at one of the support congregations, sharing her experiences about RAIHN so that the congregation could get a better understanding of the issues surrounding homelessness.

Gratitude in deed – what a beautiful expression of thanks to all RAIHN volunteers.

House Committee News

Submitted by Tom Ruganis

The Spring Clean-up/Fix-up day will be on Saturday **May 5th**. This is during our Candidating Week and our prospective minister has indicated she is planning on dropping by to meet and see the volunteers in action. Please consider coming to the church to clean and polish our building. In addition to cleaning, routine maintenance and small projects will be done. Particular attention will be given to the minister’s study. We will start around **9:00 AM** with breakfast snacks and end with a light lunch.

The project to replace the lock on the parking lot door has been postponed. This will be resurrected when the lock starts acting up again!

The cold and snowy March was followed by a cold and snowy April, but at least our roofing contractor was able to evaluate the flat roof over the minister’s Study. The roofing material itself is still functional but the seams have deteriorated badly causing leaks below and damaging the plaster walls. Based on the contractor’s recommendation the decision has been made to repair rather than fully replace the roof. This work has been scheduled for May. Following the roof repair the plaster wall will be repaired.

The storm window/screen project for the minister’s Study and the Clara Barton Lounge will be finalized shortly.

For the second time in the last few months the message from the Wayside Pulpit has been stolen. Our Sexton/handyman has indicated that he can secure the enclosures. He also repaired the garbage disposal this month. We are lucky to have Brandon!

As always, if you are interested in joining the House committee or helping out with on-going support of the building please feel free to contact anyone on the committee. The House Committee is currently: Tom Ruganis, Chair (office@uuroc.org), Sarah Singal, Marcy Klein, Michael Scott, Ed Deller and Shirley Bond. We would love to hear from you!



Eco-Justice: Women and Girls, Part I: Global Picture

Submitted by Kate Fleury

Paul Hawken's *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*, will be the takeoff point for our presentation this month: "Enhancing the rights and well-being of women and girls could improve the future of life on this planet". Females represent 51% of the world population, which is projected to be up to 9.7 billion by the year 2050. Historically, women and girls have had disadvantages which interfere with their full participation in the world community. The scientific work in this book shows how providing women and girls "the inherent worth and dignity of every person" can transform our future.

FOOD: There are 475 million smallholder (less than 5 acres) farm families worldwide, but women account for only 10-20% of farm ownership. In most cases, they are classified as "farm helpers" rather than "farmers." Their financial and credit resources are limited, their access to education and technology are less than what men have. With less cash, women can obtain less tools, seeds, water, and land. Allowing women to be owners/farmers leads to their making choices about what to farm and how to work, and that increases food yields. Women typically reinvest 90% of their profits into education, health, and nutrition, as compared to men (30-40% reinvested). Women, by working together cooperatively, share labor, resources, and even risk. Their innovation can increase resiliency to climate changes.

EDUCATION: It's all about hope, expectations, and choices. According to the science in *Drawdown*, "girls' education ... has a dramatic bearing on global warming." In other words, more education means women tend to choose having less children. When problems arise, educated women can respond with more resilience to help their families and their

communities. Increasing access to education for girls and women produces increased wages and economic growth. "Education ... is the most powerful lever available for breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty, while mitigating emissions by curbing population growth." Sixty-two million girls are not able to attend school. How can this be corrected? By making school affordable for girls, supporting their health, decreasing time and distance of travel to school, by providing child care for young mothers who attend school, and by increasing the number and quality of teachers. By providing justice, equity and compassion to women and girls, we can create a more sustainable earth.

REPRODUCTION: There are 74 million unintended pregnancies a year worldwide. Even in the U.S., 45% of pregnancies are unintended. There are challenging issues with promoting family planning: cultural issues, and a history of coercive efforts to decrease the number of children couples have. Yet, family planning can lead to a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions and a slower population growth. Among the success stories is a 1990 program in Iran which halved fertility in 10 years: completely voluntary free access to family planning. Religious leaders were involved, and public education was provided. In Bangladesh, female health workers went door-to-door, and media support from radio and TV programs together reduced births per family from 6 to 2 children. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 2014 has recommended access to reproductive health services as a way of reducing greenhouse gas concentrations.

Respecting the interdependent web of existence means ensuring girls and women are provided with equitable opportunities for education. This may help us find a way forward to ensuring a healthy food supply, decreasing the speed of population growth, and by decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, to allow us to keep our home in the sky.

Next time: Women and Girls, Part II: Local, Here and Now!

Diversity Workshop

Plan ahead for “Building Capacity for Authentic Diversity,” an opportunity to learn about practices that can fundamentally change how we interact across cultural differences. The workshop, to be held Saturday, June 9th, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the UU Congregation of Binghamton, will be led by the Reverends Evin Carvill Ziemer, UUA Congregational Life Staff, and Darcey Laine, minister at the UU Church of Athens and Sheshequin. For more information, go to <https://www.uua.org/central-east/events/region/building-authentic-diversity-ny-18>.

Social Justice Plate

May 13, 2018

Submitted by Marcia Weaver

Our Social Justice Plate collection for the month of May will be designated for RMM (Rural & Migrant Ministries). They are involved with running a summer day camp for the children of farmworkers. The local branch (Litugia) provides transportation, meals, and of course programming.

Funds collected for Rural & Migrant Ministries will stay in Western NY. Congregation members and friends also have an opportunity to help with transporting children to and from camp.

So please be as generous as you can and put smiles on some 30 children’s faces this coming summer.

The amount of our collection on March 18th earmarked for “Mom’s Demand Action for Gun Sense in America” was a generous \$291 dollars.

This church community continues to amaze us and we thank you. Social Justice Plate Committee: Shirley Bond, Becky Elwell, and Marcia Weaver.



Submitted by Shirley Bond and Robert Remley

What a busy month for Roc/ACTS with much support from the First Universalist congregation. April 20th brought a well-attended Cozy Night Supper, which was shared with two Roc/ACTS friends. A meaningful discussion followed the pot-luck dinner. “Structural Racism” is not an easy topic to talk about but we are getting there.

April 22nd was the Annual Banquet attended by over 230 people from various faith communities in Rochester. We were there! The event was held at the Harro East and they did a remarkable job. Support from the community and local businesses was amazing. Honorees included: Rochester People’s Climate Coalition (RPCC), “Enough is Enough,” Alianza Agricola, and The Children’s Agenda.

Roc/ACTS also mentioned the initiatives that are being worked on: Sacred Conversations, the Green Light Campaign, the New Poor People’s Campaign, and the Police Accountability Board.

The Task Forces that are very active with participants from various faith organizations are: Poverty and Jobs, Criminal Justice, and Education. We have information on how to get involved. We are all board members of Roc/ACTS and everyone is welcome to attend the monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of the month.

In closing, I (Shirley) also want to mention the fact that on March 20th I attended the last of the “Structural Racism Initiative,” conducted by Dr. Kenneth Hardy. This was a program that was presented in three parts over a one-year period. Very intense, very honest, very painful, but at the same time enlightening.

“If I love you I have to make you conscious of the things you don’t see.”

James Baldwin.

Church Library and Bookstore



Submitted by Phil Ebersole

The First Universalist church library and bookstore are open each Sunday during coffee hour for browsing, borrowing and buying.

We have an extensive collection of books of liberal religious interest arranged along the wall shelves in order of Dewey decimal number. They may be borrowed for up to four weeks by any church member or by any friend who has attended long enough to get a name tag. If you have overdue books you're not done with yet, they can be renewed.

We also have a collection of books ordered from the UUA Bookstore, which are for sale at half price. They are on the outward shelves of the freestanding bookcase. On the bottom shelf are used UUA books for sale for 50 cents. We have books donated by members, which also are for sale for 50 cents each. They are on the inward shelves of the freestanding bookcase.

If you have books in good condition that you think others would like to read, we welcome donations. If you have a handful or bagful of books to donate, please leave them on the library desk. If you have multiple boxes of books you'd like to donate, please speak to Phil Ebersole, and he'll come to your place and make a selection.

We have shelves of donated children's books, which are free for the taking at any time. We have a magazine exchange rack, with magazines that are free for the taking at any time. We often have overflow books in boxes along the entrance ramp at the Court Street entrance, which are free for the taking at any time. But if you want to borrow or buy a book, we ask that you please wait for Sunday coffee hour.

If you like people and like books, you might want to consider joining the Library Committee. Speak to Phil Ebersole or any Library Committee member.

Drop-in Discussion Schedule

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

Drop-in discussions are held each Sunday in the Chalice Room on the second floor of our church, starting at 9:15 am during the regular church year.

Sometimes our discussions are based on certain books or articles, but you don't have to read anything or do any advance preparation to participate. Just drop in. People of all viewpoints are welcome to make presentations or join in the discussions.

May 6 | *Liberating Women:* How does educating women help the entire world? Kate Fleury will talk about how, when women, especially women in poor countries, have hope for the future, they may have fewer children, and they may start businesses, be better able to care for their families and contribute to their communities in other ways.

May 13 | Drop-In Discussion Future. Michelle Yates, minister of religious education, will facilitate a discussion of the future of the drop-in discussion group.

May 20 | *White Privilege.* Are white people privileged? How should they feel about it? Phil Ebersole will lead a discussion.

May 27 | Open forum discussion. We'll meet and talk without a scheduled topic. Phil Ebersole will facilitate.

If you wish to have a topic discussed or, better still, are willing to lead a discussion, speak to Phil Ebersole.



Thursday Lunchtime Concerts

The Eastman at Washington Square concerts are held here at First Universalist Church every Thursday through May 24th. Join us on the 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th starting at 12:15 pm and ending at approximately 12:45 pm. Brown bag lunches are welcome during the performances, and admission is free.

For more information and the schedule, visit www.esm.rochester.edu/community/events/lunchtime.

A Message about Jim Sittnick and Kidney Transplants

Submitted by Rev. Peggy Meeker

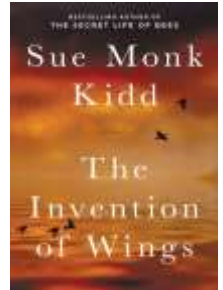
Jim Sittnick has been dealing with kidney disease for a while, and over the last couple of years it has worsened to the point where he is needing either dialysis or a transplant. Jim has now been approved to be placed on the transplant waiting list at Strong Memorial Hospital. Unfortunately, the average wait for a kidney from a deceased donor is five or six years, and for many people, the transplant doesn't come soon enough to save their lives. Jim has recently been looking for a living donor, which would mean that the transplant could happen much sooner. He has written about what's involved on his Facebook page, in the hope of both finding a donor for himself and spreading the word about the need for organ donations in general. Many lives could be saved if all our driver's licenses identified us as organ donors.

If you'd like to learn more, check out the National Kidney Foundation's website at <https://www.kidney.org/transplantation/livingdonors>, go to Jim's Facebook page, or email him via office@uuroc.org.

Book Group

Submitted by Sarah Singal and Shirley Bond

Our book selection for May is Sue Monk Kidd's *The Invention of Wings*. This novel was inspired by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke, and allows us to use our imagination while exploring facts.



Please join us on the 27th upstairs in the Chalice Room at 12 noon for a lively go-round! You do not have to have read the book, your insights will be gratefully received and shared. Hope to see you then.

Also for those of you that wish to get a head start, June's selection will be *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe.

Auction Buffet 2018

Submitted by Joyce Gilbert

Reserve your place at the table! Ten tickets are still available for the annual fund-raising buffet! Join us for the Auction Buffet 2018 in the Clara Barton Lounge at the First Universalist Church on Sunday, May 6th, starting at 5:30 pm. There will be a wide-ranging menu, from Herbed Tomato Soup through Spiced Apple and Havarti-Stuffed Turkey to Home-Made Zabaglione, with tasty stops in between, accompanied by a selection of beverages. Vegetarians will have choices. Only \$25 per person. Please make checks payable to First Universalist Church, with notation Auction #H8. There may even be live music!

Sign up in the Clara Barton Lounge after services throughout April—until all places have been filled. Questions? Contact Paula Marchese, Katherine Flynn, or Joyce Gilbert via office@uuroc.org.



A Unitarian-Universalist Book Note

Submitted by Phil Ebersole



***Learning To be White: Money, Race, and Class in America* by Thandeka (1999)**

The Rev. Dr. Thandeka is a UU minister, theologian and consultant who previously had a successful career as a journalist and TV producer. "Thandeka" is an African name, meaning "one who is loved by God," given to her by Bishop Desmond Tutu.

A white friend once asked her what it was like to be black. Thandeka told her to perform the following experiment, which she called the Race Game.

Every time the white friend referred to another white person, she was to say: "my white friend, Bill," or "my white minister, Rev. Smith," and report back on her experience within a week.

The white friend couldn't do it. Out of all the white people she asked to try the experiment, only one could do it. Why is that?

I would be uncomfortable playing the Race Game. It is partly because the white people who stress white identity the most are racist neo-Nazis and neo-Confederates. It is more that, by expressing myself that way, I would be separating myself from other white people. Why should that make me feel uncomfortable?

In *Learning to Be White*, Thandeka wrote that white racism makes most American white people feel, from a young age, that they would not be loved by their parents or anyone else if they were not white. Many learned this lesson at a young age when their parents told them not to play with black children.

White racism is a system of social control that not only holds down black people, but the majority of white

people, Thandeka stated; historically, white people were at risk of losing their white status if they married black people, were friends with black people or joined forces politically with black people.

Two particular groups of white people have been especially at risk of being considered not quite white enough.

One is the so-called "white trash," poor rural Southern white people descended from slaves and indentured laborers brought from the British Isles to the American colonies, often in chains and treated no better than livestock.

When the white planter elite decided to replace them with black slaves from Africa, they still were poor and politically powerless. The "wages of whiteness"—the self-esteem that comes from superiority to black people—were paid in counterfeit money. They were little better off economically than black people and were almost equally despised.

The other are the so-called "white ethnics," immigrants and their descendants in Northern cities, who were regarded by the white business elite as little better than black people. They tasked white ethnics with proving themselves worthy by renouncing their old customs and adopting the ways of the white Anglo-Saxon Protestant upper class.

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968 sought to unite poor people of all races in a Poor People's Campaign but was rejected by most poor white people both North and South. Both "white trash" and "white ethnics" hated the wealthy elite, but not because they were exploited. Poor white people thought the civil rights movement's goal was a plot by the elite to push them down to the level of black people.

Thandeka said that white people will only free themselves from "white shame" when we come to realize how much our self-esteem depends on differentiating ourselves from black people, and the phrase "people of color" applies to everyone.

I wonder how white people of the Millennial generation would respond to the Race Game. I wonder what Thandeka and Debby Irving, author of *Waking Up White*, might have to say to each other.

Learning to Be White may be borrowed from the First Universalist Church library during coffee hour on Sundays.



April's Recycling Demo

Submitted by Sarah Singal

This was our April's recycling demonstration during Coffee Hour. There were four choices: Trash (landfill), Ecopark, Grocery Store return, and Reuse.

Grocery stores are ramping up their flexible plastic returns policies. Check in Wegmans and Tops lobbies for lists of acceptable items.



First Universalist Church

150 South Clinton Avenue
Rochester, New York 14606

First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY

Nurture the spirit and serve the community

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

Worship service begins at 10:30 am Sundays

Minister | The Rev. Peggy Meeker

Minister of Life Span Faith Development | The Rev. Michelle Yates

Music Director | Stacey Xiaoyu Yang

Sexton | Brandon Fagan

Nursery Care Providers | Carol Williams & Sundae Hodge

Office Administrator | Andrea Lewis

Office hours, Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 am - 3:45 pm.

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