



First Universalist Church of Rochester

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**First Universalist
Church of Rochester**

150 South Clinton Avenue
Rochester, NY 14604
585-546-2826
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Sunday Services | June 2020

❖ These services begin at 10:30 am ❖

June 7 | *Taking the Seventh Principle Seriously*

Respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part—this is the Seventh Principle of Unitarian Universalism. We will explore ways to honor that web as well as to see ourselves as just a part of it.

— Rev. Lane Campbell

June 14 | *From You I Receive, To You I Give*

An annual celebration of the flower communion, a practice that celebrates the diversity of human community while also honoring generosity. Leading up to the service, please take a photo of your favorite flower and send it to Rev. Lane so that we can still observe flower communion in a new way.

— Rev. Lane Campbell

June 21 | *Moving at the Speed of Trust*

Author and activist adrienne maree brown writes about moving at the speed of trust in her work around group process. What does this mean to us at First Universalist Church?

— Rev. Lane Campbell

❖ This service begins at 10:00 am ❖

June 28 | *Cleaning up After Marie*

In spite of our best efforts, the business of living is messy on many levels. We will explore the inevitability of making messes, and accepting the consequences with grace.

— Peter House, Summer Minister

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*Worship will be meeting online into the foreseeable future. Please join us—
Internet link: <https://zoom.us/j/131764422>; Phone number: 646 558 8656
with Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 131 764 422. ❖*



A Different Summer

Message from Rev. Lane Campbell

As our hearts and minds begin to shift towards the summer, I am recognizing and hearing from folks that this will be an entirely different summer. People will be traveling less, if at all. Kids won't have their usual summer camps. Festivals have been cancelled or postponed. It may feel less like a break. Or it just may feel different from other summers we have experienced.

Prior to living in Rochester, I had not realized how precious this time of year is. How important it is to enjoy the sun when the sun feels so rare. How sacred travel can feel when you have spent an entire winter in the same place. The essential nature of getting outside to connect with something larger than ourselves when in winter, it might feel less safe or comfortable to get out there.

For this summer, for these months, it is my hope that you can find ways to get out of the house safely and enjoy the sun's warmth. I hope you also make some space to honor the grief of experiencing a different kind of rhythm of the year. I wonder what might come after this summer—how this summer we are experiencing now might shape summers into the future.

And let's keep connecting. Summer has often been a time to connect with folks we haven't seen in a while or to go visit someone we love. We may not be able to connect in the ways we are used to, but the tenacity of human connection is pretty strong, especially for our community. Get creative! Write letters or make phone calls or see one another over video conference screens or go for walks in a socially distant way.

Let's make space to grieve what has been lost and to put our energy and effort into what is essential to our well-being and our lives.

Love to you all,
Rev. Lane ❖



Walking Together: Interconnectedness

*Message from Rev. Michelle Yates,
Director of Life Span Faith Dev.*

While we Unitarian Universalists always believe in “the interdependent web of life of which we are all a part,” considering the theme of “Interconnectedness” in the time of social distancing seems strange.

On one hand, I am hypervigilant of how interconnected we are. While feeling ill recently, I ran through the list of questions: Where have I been? Who have I been with? Were they sick? Were we both properly socially distancing?

On the other hand, I am desperately missing the parade of handshakes and hugs of a typical Sunday morning and wondering if and when we will share that experience again.

But my biggest surprise lately is that, despite being physically disconnected from people in general, I have been feeling very close to people, some of them deceased, who taught me things in my daily life. Assembling our trampoline enclosure, I feel my mom with me enjoying the task of assembling things and pulling out the tools. Backing up my van I hear my driver's ed teacher's voice telling me to check, check and triple check my surroundings. Writing this article, I think of various teachers and supervisors who disagreed on whether there should be one space or two between sentences.

I can hear them, see them, feel them right next to me. The same is true as I call each one of you to mind. I recall the faces and conversations from the Clara Barton Lounge up to my office on a Sunday. The greetings I receive from the choir as they leave their practice room for the sanctuary. The feeling of your love and laughter when I tell a story.

This month I will be more aware, more grateful, and more present to each interconnection I have had and will have. Distance makes the heart grow fonder, and I make a promise to myself not to take for granted these sacred and mysterious interconnections that make life so precious, so memorable, and so much fun!

Yours in the journey,
Rev. Michelle Yates ❖

Finance Update

Submitted by Ann Rhody, Finance Committee Chair

Should we give online or by check?

We are happy to have the availability of online giving for convenience! Especially for smaller amounts, members often find that the website link (uuroc.org, scroll to the bottom left) is the easy way to give when the thought hits them. Be sure to use the “leave a note” option to let our collector know what your donation is for.

Of course, the church pays fees to receive donations electronically. Therefore, if you are sending a larger amount, mailing a check to the church is a better option. We are still picking up mail and making bank deposits, and a check will save the church money.

So Many Challenges— So Much Gratitude!

Just as we notice challenges during tough times, it’s also an opportunity to notice blessings which become more magnified. Here are a few I’ve noticed as your Finance Chair:

A local bank: The people at Canandaigua National Bank were accessible and helpful as we applied for federal financial aid. I’m not sure that would be the case with a larger national bank.

The UUA and Central East Region: Our affiliate organizations have been leading the way with resources, webinars, summaries, Zoom chats and more to assist congregations during this time.

Our local payroll company: CPP (Complete Payroll Processing) has quickly provided formatted reports that we can use in applying for federal aid, saving hours of work on our end.

And just a reminder in tough times...

Remember that your pledge is a plan of what you think you can give to church during a fiscal year. If your circumstances change, that plan can change. If you are not able to fulfill your pledge, please let us know. We’ll appreciate the information and hope for better times ahead! ❖



We’re still there... just in a different way!

Submitted by Connie Valk

A donor who is not a member of our church but who is impressed with our social justice efforts is once again offering a matching donation. This summer he has upped the matching gift to \$3,000! **That would mean the total of the donation would be \$6,000!**

The funds will support RAIHN’s new mode of operation for the summer, placing the rotational shelter program in houses of worship on temporary hold. Families will be placed in cost-efficient motel rooms, with church volunteers bringing meals to the motel, leaving them there for the families, practicing physical distancing. This new way of operating is, of course, more expensive than using churches and synagogues to shelter families. This initiative will help make it work!

This fundraiser will be operational throughout June and July, with a note being sent to the donor as soon as we have met the match. Our supporting RAIHN congregations will be asked to help with this.

How to donate? If you choose to donate online, go to the uuroc.org website, then click on the donate button in the button left of the home page. Under the amount of your donation is a message “write a note.” In that section write “RAIHN First Universalist.” Checks can be made out to First Universalist with “RAIHN First UU” on the memo line.

**RAIHN—Keeping families together. Getting families home for good. ❖*



Help Us Zoom

Submitted by Marcy Klein and Emma Barry

On May 19 our church board announced their decision to limit worship throughout the summer to virtual gatherings only. As fall approaches, they will consider the options for reopening the church based on the recommendations of local and state health officials.

In addition, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray and the UUA recommend that congregations begin planning for virtual operations for the next year, through May 2021.

To help the church through this difficult time, please consider helping with the online church services by joining our Zoom Team. We have a terrific group already in place, but we can always use more help; we need volunteers with every skill level, from novice to expert. Some knowledge of Zoom is required, but training is available. Can you help? Contact minister@uuroc.org for more information or to volunteer. ❖

Thanks, Zoom Team!

Submitted by Marcy Klein and Emma Barry

Let's give a round of applause to the church members who have already stepped up to help keep our digital worship space running smoothly. Our current Zoom Team consists of:

- Rev. Lane Campbell
- Rev. Michelle Yates
- Emma Barry
- Brock Tjosvold
- MJ Curry
- Sheryl Dunbar
- Jim Milch
- Jean Ott
- Alex Pita
- Bridget Watts

In addition, we have these Zoom Team trainees:

- Chris DeGolyer
- Brian Mumey
- Sarah Singal
- Dave VanArsdale
- Moritz Wagner

When volunteering as **greeters** they keep an eye on the waiting room and help protect us from Zoombombers. Our **ushers** keep us connected, providing offertory links and answering simple questions in the chat box. When acting as **worship aesthetics assistants** they screen-share slides with the words to our hymns, affirmation of faith, doxology, etc. The **MOCHA hosts** split us into breakaway rooms, provide topic questions and lead discussions. The roles rotate every week so most of the team has helped in multiple ways. Thank you all so much, your support keeps our virtual services running smoothly! ❖

Juneteenth 5K Fundraiser for Civil Rights Heritage Site

Submitted by Rev. Lane Campbell

Join First Universalist members and friends in a Virtual 5K Run/Walk on June 19 to support our church-wide justice project, the Civil Rights Heritage Site, a project spearheaded by the Spiritus Christi Anti-Racism Coalition (SPARC). All are invited to join in this 5K event—to walk, roll, or run in honor of Ahmaud Arbery, a black man who was killed while out jogging in his own neighborhood. Members and friends from First Unitarian will also be joining in the race. To sign up, please go to this link: juneteenth5k.itsyourrace.com/event.aspx?id=9320. Please be sure to indicate that you are part of the First Universalist Fundraising Team!

If you are not familiar with Juneteenth, it is a celebration of June 19, 1865, the day that 250 years of slavery finally ended in America. It is a key date not just in African American history, but in American history—the date when Union soldiers, under Major General Gordon Granger, marched into the country's final stronghold of slavery, Galveston, Texas, to announce that all slaves were freed immediately. This was news to the 250,000 slaves who should have been freed earlier. Slaveholders from Mississippi and Louisiana and other points east had been migrating in large numbers to Texas in order to stay beyond the reach of the Union Army and, in doing so, guard their own slaveholding way of life.

So, please join us to walk, run, or roll this virtual 5K this year! Sign up and stay safe. ❖

...And What About the Animals?

Submitted by Kate Fleury for the EcoJustice Committee

I can't help brooding on what will happen to the animals in global warming. It is pretty clear by now that human-made changes have increased the world's temperature. Increase in human population has reduced habitat for animals to live in. Storms, flooding, drought and forest fires are increasing in severity. Polar ice is melting.

Looking at a picture of a polar bear sitting forlornly on a piece of ice, perhaps while being solicited financially, my tendency is to tell myself, "Well, the bear is on the ice, so what's the problem?" Polar bears use the ice as floating islands to perch on while hunting. The ice is sort of a home, or even a boat, in the water. If the ice is not there, the bears must swim miles to find either land or some more ice to get up on. The ice allows them to rest and recover. They aren't whales or dolphins that live in the water. If they get too tired swimming long distances, they drown. So then I think, "Well, can't the bear just go to the land?" Yes, often the polar bears can move to the land, but they still have to hunt for food. Goose eggs and garbage dumps may not be the best diet for them. As they move to land to survive, they may encroach on human settlements and will also be crowding other animals who were already in that habitat.

This dilemma of the polar bear illustrates what happens to many species as the world and oceans warm and habitat decreases. Creatures will try to adapt to new environments. Koala bears, for example, are very specialized and eat only eucalyptus leaves. If eucalyptus trees decline from global warming and loss of habitat, koalas might die off. The extinct golden frog, in mountaintop rainforests, has already lost this battle. Adelie penguins are struggling from reduction in their food source, krill populations. Species that cannot adapt will not last.

Ocean warming has already destroyed much coral. Many aquatic creatures depend on coral reefs for their livelihoods. Krill live under ice sheets and form a vital component of the oceanic food chain. If the ice sheets diminish, krill and their natural predators, like penguins, will suffer.

Insects are a group of animals who are affected by global warming. Some insects will not be able to tolerate the temperature changes. "Good" insects, which are an integral part of healthy soil and our food chain, may be lost. "Pest" insects, such as those who feed on grain crops,

like higher temperatures and may increase. Crop yields are expected to decrease from "pest" hordes.

Hopeless? Not really. In 1987 the world came together in the Montreal Protocol to reduce the ozone hole. Ozone in the atmosphere protects us from harmful ultraviolet rays. Gaps in ozone from the use of chemicals in aerosols and refrigeration had caused skin cancer, cataracts, and crop failures. By working together globally, humans reduced the size of the ozone hole. Several amendments to the Montreal Protocol, the latest in 2016, have lowered the use of more destructive chemicals. And as for loss of wildlife habitat, efforts throughout the world have reinforced them. Throughways for wildlife to travel between habitats have been protected. It is not hopeless. We've done it before. We can do it again. ❖

Composting and More!

Submitted by Sarah Singal for the EcoJustice Committee

Our church composting needs some leadership. This is an excellent time to begin composting or bring back a lapsed compost habit or show newcomers how to do it. We have a rotating composter next to the church as well as a stationary pile next to it and have welcomed regular users in the past. We are now looking for someone who can gently direct this effort. Composting is such a basic demonstration of carbon capture, not wasting food and caring for the earth, and it is a valuable lesson for our children. Please give this invitation some serious thought! Email Sarah Singal at garden@uuroc.org.

And while you're thinking about it, do take a look at this link for teaching your kids about composting: www.tomsofmaine.com/good-matters/thinking-sustainably/activities-to-teach-composting-for-kids. Here you will find instructions for reusing a glass jar as a compost "bin." Each child in the family can have his or her own jar and collect soil, kitchen scraps, newspaper or shredded paper, and dead leaves and twigs, and watch it turn into usable compost.

Additional sites for teaching kids about the environment in which we live are:

- Sciencebob.com
- Scienceforkidsclub.com
- Sciencing.com

Or just search the web. *Warning: "Experiments" that seem too good to be true can be exactly that. It's best to try them a few times first if you only have 40 minutes of Zoom time. If you're all part of the same pod, so much the better.* ❖



First Universalist Church of Rochester

150 South Clinton Avenue
Rochester, NY 14604



First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY

Nurture the spirit and serve the community.

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

Worship service begins at 10:30 am Sundays

Minister | Rev. Lane Campbell

Director of Life Span Faith Development |
Rev. Michelle Yates

Music Director | Brock Tjosvold

Office Administrator | Emma Barry

Office hours: Tue.–Fri. 9 am–4 pm; closed Monday.

Nursery Care Provider |

Carol Williams & Sundae Hodge

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More info is available on our website: uuroc.org.

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