

Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY

November 2016

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Sunday Services | November 2016

November 6 - *Live Like You Were Dying*

A sermon in honor of All Souls Day.

- Celie Katovitch



November 13 | *Onward*

With the election behind us, it's time to ask: Where do we go from here?

A meditation on American spirituality -- its aspirations and its promise.

- Celie Katovitch



November 20 | *Harvest of Justice*

Our annual Thanksgiving Sunday. This year we'll give thanks for our connections to others in the work of seeking justice and beloved community.

- Celie Katovitch



November 27 | *O We Give Thanks."*

Our annual Thanksgiving service of story and song. We'll give thanks for the gifts we have received and the gifts we are able to share. Children are welcome to join us for the full service; childcare will also be provided.

- Worship associates Patti Goodwin, Tom Williams, and Catherine Coates

Services begin at 10:30am.





Pastor's Perspective

Message from Rev. Celie Katovitch

One of the richest aspects of my recent week of study leave at the Haden Institute for Spiritual Direction, was having the chance to experience a diversity of contemplative practices. These were built into each day's schedule, interspersed with the lectures and group work that constituted the main part of our training. One that was new to me was a meditative chant from the Celtic spiritual tradition, as practiced at Iona Abbey in Scotland. (Iona is a hub for modern pilgrims, and a contemporary monastic community with a justice-seeking, earth-centered spirituality. If you haven't heard of them, you might want to check them out.) The chant involved joining our voices together to sing, repeatedly, a line from Isaiah:

"I will show you hidden things,

Hidden things you have not known" (Isaiah 48:6).

The repetition allowed those words--at once haunting and hopeful-- to sink into our minds and take root there. I found their depth and meaning blossomed as they settled more deeply into my being. They echo back to me as we enter November, with the leaves thinning and falling from the trees in earnest now. At Cobbs' Hill Reservoir, where I often walk, there is a part of the horizon line that is normally blocked by stands of trees. Now, as their branches stand empty of their leaves, a new and farther-reaching view quite literally opens, and I see what I hadn't seen before, in the fullness of other seasons.

I find that my prayer, every November, is that I may be open to receive the gifts of such a thinning time, whether it comes externally in the cycle of the year or internally in the life of the soul. I pray that in the inevitable seasons when things fall away, I may look not with the gaze of sorrow, but with the hope for clearness; with trust that, through this time, I shall indeed see things that were formerly hidden from my perception: "hidden things [I] had not known."

This is my hope for each of you. In these November days, I hope there will be windows that invite you to peer farther and deeper into the mystery of things. May you have clear sight, and a hopeful heart.

In faith, --Celie ❖

Christmas Day Breakfast Church!

This year, Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. In addition to our Christmas Eve service, we will gather at 10:30 on Sunday, December 25th, in the Clara Barton Lounge, for an informal "service" featuring a potluck, songs, some joyful seasonal readings, and spiritual conversation.

If you are planning to come to church on Christmas Day, and would like to be part of planning "Breakfast Church," whether as a musician, chef, bringer of food, barista, or just part of the team, please contact Rev. Celie at minister@uuroc.org. ❖

Your Board Working For You

Submitted by Kitty Forbush, Board Member

The Board has been continuing to study the book *Governance and Ministry-Rethinking Board Leadership* by Daniel Hotchkiss (2nd Edition). We are finding his suggestions extremely helpful.

Chapter 5 entitled "The Job of the Board" clarifies that the "owner" of the Board is the congregations' mission. So the board is the "fiduciary" of the mission of the church, remembering that a fiduciary is anyone whose duty it is to act in faithfulness to the church. The fiduciary duty of a congregations' board is to know what the congregation wants and to provide it.

The duties of the Board are outlined in Chapter 5. First is *Duty of Care* which is giving the time and energy to the mission and to understand the congregations' affairs and act responsibly. The next is *Duty of Loyalty* which is basically loyalty to the mission. The next is *Duty of Obedience* which is complying to the congregations' fundamental documents; ie. charter, bylaws, and denominational rules.

We are finding that much of what Mr. Hotchkiss states in this chapter is already in place at First Universalist. We already have a sustained partnership with the minister which is one of the most crucial contributions of the Board. He also says that the perfect size for a board is 7 members and that is Our Board! Chapter 6 is entitled "Productive Board Meetings," and will be outlined for you in the next Outlook. ❖



Walking Together:

Director of Life Span Faith Development

Submitted by Michelle Yates, DRE

Our Faith Development theme for November comes from the second line of our Affirmation of Faith, “the quest for *Truth* is its *sacrament*.”

What does that mean? In the story, “Free to Believe” Judy Campbell describes it this way. “A sacrament is an object or an act that is considered very, very special in a religion. Sometimes these things are called ‘sacred’ or ‘holy.’ A quest is a journey to find something. So the second line means that we consider searching for truth to be a very special and important part of our religion.”

“Searching for truth means more than never telling a lie. It means that what might be true for us today might not be true for us tomorrow if we learn something new. Like when people used to think the world was flat until someone noticed it was really round, or that only birds could fly until someone invented an airplane.”

“Some people believe that God told the truth many years ago to men who then wrote it down in a book like the Hebrew or Christian Bible or the Islamic holy book, the Koran. They believe that this one truth is the only

truth they need to know to live a good life. So they don’t question it. Other people, like Unitarian Universalists, keep asking questions because we believe there is always more to know, always new ways of thinking and acting that can make the world a better place.”

(You can check out the full story at <http://www.questformeaning.org/family-quest/big-questions-family-free-to-believe/>)

“If I ask a question from one point of view, I will have one answer; but sometimes if I ask the same question from another and quite different point of view, I may very well have a second answer. The second answer may be inconsistent with the first, but it can be viewed as complementing the first, even though it is contradictory. And the two answers together will provide a richer, truer picture than either separately.” - Dr. Warren Weaver

“There are only two mistakes one can make along the road to truth; not going all the way, and not starting.” -Buddha

“Perhaps the truth depends on a walk around the lake.” -Wallace Stevens

“The great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie, deliberate, contrived and dishonest, but the myth, persistent, persuasive and unrealistic.”

John F. Kennedy. ❖



Youth Group and Bridging Group to Start

Submitted by Michelle Yates

We are so excited to start our Youth Group and Bridging Group!!! Our **Youth Group** will be for 9th–12th graders (or home school equivalent) and aim to meet about two times per month.

The **Bridging Group** will support High School Seniors (or equivalent) ages 17/18 – Young Adults 20yrs old or younger. It will use a Small Group Ministries format looking at life transition topics relevant to the group, and will also aim to meet two times per month.

Both will meet Sundays from 12–1:30pm.

Youth Group:

- Oct 23rd
- Nov 6th
- Nov 20th
- Dec 4th
- Dec 18th
- Jan 1st- *No group*
- Jan 15th ❖

Bridging Group:

- Oct 30th
- Nov 13th
- Nov 27th
- Dec 11th
- Dec 25th- *No group*
- Jan 8th



Adult Faith Development Offerings

Race to Justice

Building the World We Dream About

Submitted by Michelle Yates

This transformative education course invites groups of approximately 10 people who will meet throughout the church year to explore the deep issues related to racial justice and living into multicultural Beloved Community.

Our groups have already begun, but there is still room in the Thursday group. Please contact our facilitators, Rev. Michelle Yates and Suzie Gutierrez at office@uuroc.org if you are interested.

The first three sessions are bi-weekly, after which the frequency of meeting through the year will be determined by the group. Next scheduled meetings:

Thursday Group- 6:30–8:30pm on Oct 27th, and Nov 10th.

Tuesday Group- 6:30–8:30pm on Nov 1st, and Nov 15th. ❖

Message for All Ages Workshop

11/20 after service

Do you enjoy the MFAA part of our service? Have you ever thought, “That looks like fun! I could do that!” If so please contact Rev. Michelle Yates at office@uuroc.org or come to this workshop. We’ll talk about the technical and creative elements of sharing a story for MFAA. ❖

Small Group Ministry

Submitted by Michelle Yates

Want to explore your spiritual life in a small group setting (of about eight people), led by a trained facilitator? There are several opportunities to join a Small Group. Please visit <http://www.uuroc.org/small-groups> for details and to sign-up. Questions? Contact Connie Valk at cwalk@frontiernet.net. ❖



Beginning Meditation Continues



Submitted by Kathy Russell

Beginning Meditation will continue through November 16th. This is held on Wednesdays from 5:30–6:30pm in the rear of the sanctuary. No experience is necessary and you need not be a member to attend. For more information contact Kathy Russell krussel6@frontiernet.net. Doors will be open and waiting for you from 5:15 to 5:30. ❖

Social Justice Plate Offering

Submitted by Shirley Bond

Our offering in the month of October was for the **UUSC**. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has worked diligently for many, many years. Because of the congregation’s generosity we will be able to send them a check for \$386!

The Social Justice Plate Committee has chosen the **Coffee Connection** to be our November 20th recipient. The committee did some field work on this organization on multiple visits and found this a worthy local endeavor. They “empower women in recovery from addiction through employment, training and job creation”. The committee thanks you in advance for your monetary support. Becky Elwell, Marcia Weaver, Shirley Bond. ❖

The RAIHNy Corner

Submitted by Marti Eggers



...do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this, some have entertained angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews Chapter 13, verse 2). I’m pretty sure I have.

And you can, too.



Join the RAIHN volunteer team where you can work with wonderful, caring people, offering hospitality and safe haven to families who are temporarily without a home. Here’s how –

- **Attend a training session** – The next training for RAIHN volunteers is Tuesday, October 25th, 2016, 6:30 pm - Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 4115 Dewey Ave., Rochester.
- **Join the RAIHN Volunteer E-mail List** – Ask Chris DeGolyer to add you to the list. chrisdeg@frontiernet.net
- **Sign up for the next Host Week** when you receive an e-mail request from Chris for volunteers. The next RAIHN Host Week at First Universalist begins on Sunday, January 1st, 2017.

2nd LEVEL TRAINING - Wednesday, November 16th, 2016, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Church of the Assumption, 20 East Ave., Fairport. The 2nd Level Training is for volunteers who have attended our Volunteer Orientation. This training discusses issues our families are facing that shape their experiences, such as culture, trauma and poverty, in an interactive presentation with input from RAIHN volunteers. ❖

NYSCU in Utica

Submitted by David Damico

The 1__th New York State Convention of Universalists was held in Utica and Barneveld, NY on October 21–22. Keynote speaker Philip P. Arnold spoke on “The Doctrine of Discovery: The Real Story” to an audience of about 40. Prof. Arnold is Associate Professor of Religion and Native American Studies at Syracuse University and chair of the Religion Department at Syracuse. He is also Director of the Skä noñh—Great Law of Peace Center.

In attendance from First Universalist were delegates Joyce and Dick Gilbert, Karen Dau, and David Damico. A video of Prof. Arnold’s presentation will be announced at a future date.

Cozy Night Supper

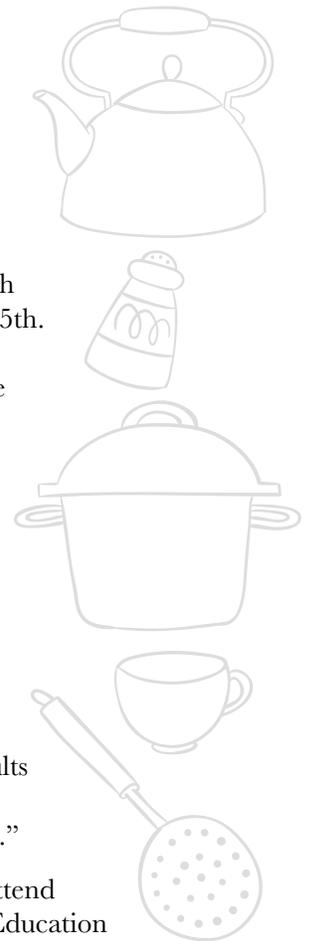
Friday, November 25

Submitted by Kathy Russell

Our first COZY NIGHT SUPPER for the 2016-17 church year will be Friday, November 25th. This dinner, from 5:30 to 7:30, continues our exploration of the Unitarian Universalist religious sources. Held in the Clara Barton Lounge, a simple supper, including a vegan option, will be provided along with wonderful camaraderie - hopefully including you! At 6:30 we will focus on the fifth source, “Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.”

Let us know of your ability to attend by signing up on the Religious Education Bulletin Board in the Clara Barton Lounge or by contacting Kathy Russell at krussel6@frontiernet.net. Your RSVP/sign up allows us to prepare appropriately. Child-friendly activities exploring this source will be arranged if you make a request one week in advance.

Cooks, bakers and kitchen support are always needed. If you are able to help providing part of the meal (expenses reimbursed) or at the dinner itself please contact Kathy. And for those who like to plan ahead, dates for other Cozy Night Suppers are December 30, January 27th (Empty Bowl project - stay tuned) and March 3rd. ❖



Eco JUUstice Group

Submitted by Karl Abbott

The EcoJUUstice Group met for the first time on October 2 with Sarah Singal chairing. The things the group will focus on, in the first year, are:

- Waste management; reuse / repurpose, recycle, reduce (the 3 R's).
- *Walking the talk* at First Universalist Church (the 3 R's)

To help our church family reduce the amount going to landfills, and recycle we are adding a third recycling bin. The locations of the three bins are:

- The volunteer office.
- The kitchen next to the dishwasher.
- New one - In the Clara Barton lounge next to the trash container by the back kitchen door (look for the bin with the sign on it).

Now that we have three locations here are the things that can, and should be, recycled, or reused if possible:

- Metal food and beverage cans.
- Aluminum foil and foil-ware.
- Plastic containers, and other plastic ware that have the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 in the small recycling triangle . Styrofoam food containers are not included.
- Glass food and beverage containers with their lids reattached.
- Gable top (milk and juice) cartons and drink / soup boxes.
- Paper items
 - Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, phone directories.
 - Corrugated cardboard.
 - Paper cereal, cracker boxes.
 - Paper towel and toilet paper tubes.
 - Junk mail, all paper envelopes (with or without windows), office paper.
 - Shredded paper in brown paper bags.
 - Gift-wrap.
 - Pizza boxes and paper egg cartons.

Please note that containers that have held food or drinks should be rinsed out to remove residual food. Also note, that this list is based on both the city of Rochester, and Monroe county's recycling guidelines. (<http://www.cityofrochester.gov/article.aspx?id=8589936103> <http://www2.monroecounty.gov/des-residentialrecycling.php>)

In addition to recycling at church, and at home, Monroe county and Waste Management, run Eco Park. Eco Park is located at 10 Avion Park. Avion Park is located off Paul Rd , south of the Rochester Airport. The EcoJUUstice group is in process of setting up a group tour of this facility (details will be published).

Some of the many items that can be recycled free at Eco Park:

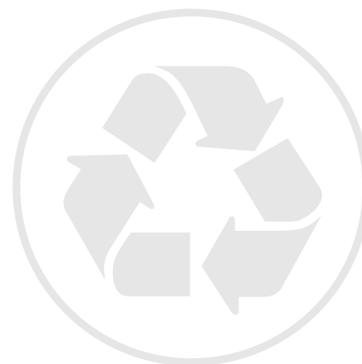
- Appliances without refrigerant.
- Bulky plastic items; e.g., large plastic kids toys.
- Clean Styrofoam packaging.
- Cooking oil / grease.
- Documents for shredding.
- Electronic waste.
- Florescent lights
- Paper and cardboard.
- Printer cartridges.
- Rechargeable and button batteries (no alkaline).
- Recyclable glass, plastic, and metal containers.
- Sharps and syringes.

Hazardous waste is also accepted. This website lists these items (<http://www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark/>).

Before you put an item in the trash, check what can be recycled. Let's work to reduce the stuff that winds up in a landfill. There are three major landfills within 50 miles of our church!

In conclusion let's do our part to reduce the amount that goes to landfills, and increase the amount of material we recycle or reuse. With our commitment to EcoJUUstice remember our 7th principle:

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. ❖



Finance News / Notes

Submitted by Ann Rhody

- Save the Date! The annual service auction is scheduled for Sunday, February 5, 2017 after the service. Our annual auction is a real celebration- it's user friendly with plenty of fun and something for everyone. Plan to attend and watch for details later this Fall!
- The annual Treasurer's Report is now available. This report summarizes the church's finances for the fiscal year which ended on June 30, 2016. Treasurer Dick Shroyer has prepared a report which is understandable and thorough - no accounting degree necessary! Copies are available by emailing the church office, or checking the Finance area of the bulletin board in the Clara Barton Lounge.
- Our church endowment is managed by Geovest Advisors. The finance committee recently received reports on the particular investments we have, as well as their performance over the past year. If you'd like to see a copy of the reports, please email the church office, or contact finance chair Ann Rhody (annrhody@gmail.com). ❖



News

Illegal Immigration

Book review by Keith Stott.

How many of the books in our church library are reflective of our Affirmation of Faith? In his book *Illegal People: How Globalization Creates Migration and Criminalizes Immigrants*, author David Bacon supports social justice. He explains how our national policy produces even more displacement, migration, immigration raids, and an increasingly divided and polarized society. Arguing for a sea change in how we think, debate, and legislate about and around immigration, Bacon promotes a human rights perspective in a globalized world.

Call number is is 331.6 B.

The First Universalist library and bookstore are open during coffee hour for browsing, borrowing and buying during the regular church year.

Our RAIHN "A Team"

from the Volunteers, to Marti, Sarah,
Chris, Rosemarie, Ed & Carol

We take our cue
From all of you
Who lead the way
Day by day.
Our Downtown gem
Gives all our guests
A cozy place to lay their heads
Even when deflated beds
Sometimes make it hard to sleep.

No worries! No need to weep.
Volunteers show up to sweep
Away the problems that come up.
Overflowing is our Cup,
With gratitude for our chance to give,
Our opportunity to help others live
More gently, amid their challenging night.
In doing so, we share the Light
Of hope, and safety, comfort too; "It
Takes a village", led by you. We all are
Grateful for all you do. ❖

The books on the wall shelves are our lending library. They are arranged in order of Dewey decimal number, and may be borrowed for one month (with renewals) by any member or any friend who has attended long enough to get a name tag.

In our bookstore, we sell new books, most of them ordered from the UUA Bookstore, usually at a discount from list price, and used books, donated by members and friends, which sell for 25 or 50 cents. We also sell children's and young adult books for 25 cents each, and offer a free book basket and a free magazine exchange.

Donations of interesting books in good condition are welcome. We also have a free magazine exchange and a free book basket. ❖

Thanks - Phil Ebersole

Living Our Values, Making A Difference

Submitted by Newcomb Losh, Communications Committee

Rosemarie Horvath (center) of St. Mary's Church, calmly led the Friday night RAIHN dinner team in our kitchen. All told, the team served 22 people.



Members of the Friday night RAIHN dinner team, our own **Norma** and **Jim Sittnick** brought a salad made with home-grown tomatoes.



Members of the Tuesday night Race to Justice group, **Shelley Adams** (r) and **Kitty Forbush**, listen to a comment.



(l to r) **Richard Reed**, **Bob Remley** and **Jim Eckberg** get to know the other members of their group.



Rev. Celie (at left) blessed the installation of our Little Free Library on Sept 29 as **Dave VanArsdale** and **Connie Valk** looked on. Part of an international free book exchange movement, our library faces South Clinton Ave. and offers passersby books and magazines to read and occasional snacks to enjoy.



Melissa Davies, our Office Administrator, cut the ceremonial ribbon to announce our Little Free Library is operational. Everyone is encouraged to bring in books and snacks to pass along, and to take books as they wish. Thank you to our own **Brad Hinson** for building our Library!

Have an action photo or two of our members and friends being inclusive, living our values or making a difference? Send them to Newcomb Losh at jnewcomb.losh@yahoo.com.

All photographs by Newcomb Losh unless otherwise noted.

Drop-In Discussion Schedule, Nov. 2016

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

Drop-in discussions are held at 9:15 a.m. (except during the summer) each Sunday in the Chalice Room 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 6 | Election 2016

We'll discuss the national election, who will win and who should win. Phil Ebersole will lead the discussion.

November 13 | ROC/Acts

The Rochester Alliance of Communities Transforming Society is an interfaith organization that identifies social justice issues and works for change in our community. Jon Greenbarm, organizer for ROC/Acts, will do a presentation and lead a discussion on the organization's work.

November 20 | Dying Well

"Conversation Sabbath" is a national movement to explore how we can talk to our families and doctors about our wishes for a good death at life's end. Their motto is, "When it comes to End of Life Care, one conversation can make all the difference". Theo Munson, who has worked in hospice care for more than 23 years and teaches an OASIS course on end-of-life planning, will lead a discussion on dying well and a brainstorming session on how to talk with families and doctors.

November 27 | Open Forum Discussion. No set topic.

December 4 | Escalating Inequality

Most of us think that it is wrong that some people have too little. But is this because some other people have too much? Is having too much wrong, in and of itself? Phil Ebersole will lead a discussion. Escalating Inequality is a UU Congregational Study-Action Issue for 2014-2018.

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

House News - November 2016

Submitted by Tom Ruganis

October has been mostly a quiet month, primarily preparation for the **Fall Cleanup Day** on October 22nd, that took place three days after the Outlook deadline! So more on this next month.

October did see the start of the winter heating season. **The steam** was turned on October third. The fixed portion of the heating bill will be going down about fifty dollars a month. Here's hoping for a mild winter! Thank you Dave VanArsdale for keeping us informed about the steam cooperative.

The **snow plowing contract** for this season has been signed. Now all we have to do is obtain a replacement snow blower and we will be ready for the first snow. The exterior lights at the Court street doors have been put on photocells and will enhance the appearance and security of our church. Thank you Michael Scott for taking the initiative on the church lighting.

As always, if you are interested in the above or have any other repair or project you would like to see completed, or would like to take on, please let anyone on the committee know. The Committee is currently: Tom Ruganis, Chair (tom@ruganis.net), Sarah Singal, Karen Dau, Marcy Klein, Mike VanArsdale, Michael Scott and Ed Deller. We would love to hear from you!

Book Club News



Submitted by Shirley Bond

November's book club selection is called *Queen of the Fall* by Sonja Livingston.

Sonja is a local author and writes about her experiences growing up in Rochester.

She writes in a poetic and meaningful way. If you read *Ghostbreads* by Sonja and enjoyed it, you will also like this book.

Please join us **November 27th** at 12 noon in the Chalice Room. It is not necessary to have read the book, but of course it helps.

Shirley Bond at Bondshirl1@gmail.com or
Sarah Singal at ssingal@Rochester.rr.com ❖

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 | Stacey Yang

Sexton | Brandon Fagan

Nursery Care Provider | Carol Williams

Office Administrator | Melissa Davies

Office hours, Monday – Friday, 9:30–2:30. Telephone 585.546.2826

Board Of Trustees 2016–2017

Nancy Gaede (President), Ed Deller (Vice President), Karen Ruganis (Clerk), Kitty Forbush, Janet Rothbeind, Tim Mullins, Eric Van Dusen, Rev. Celie Katovitch (ex-officio)

Editor, *This Week at First Universalist* (digital): Melissa Davies; Monthly newsletter *Our Outlook*, David Damico. Church photo on cover by Tom Ruganis.

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