



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

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Church of Rochester**
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Sunday Services | June 2023

❖ These services begin at 10:30am ❖

June 4 | *Letting Desire Lead*

Our desires can take us to some pretty extraordinary places if we make time to listen to them. Where have your desires led you? Let's explore how to listen to desires and how they can better lead our lives.

— Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

June 11 | *On Preparing to Leave*

As Rev. Lane-Mairead prepares to enter into a five-month sabbatical, let's reflect on what leavings mean to us and how to say a good goodbye for now.

— Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

June 18 | *Back to the Beginning*

Unitarian Universalists have been observing and celebrating the Flower Communion for 100 years in 2023. Please bring a flower for the collective vase for every member of your family and let us join in this important celebration of the gifts of our differences in community.

— Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

❖ This service begins at 10:00am ❖

June 25 | *TBA*

TBA

— Peter House

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Worship will be online and in-person at First Universalist Church. Check our website for more updated info! Please join us – Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/131764422>; Phone number: 1-646-558-8656 with Meeting ID: 131 764 422. ❖



On Saying Goodbye For Now

Message from
Rev. Lane-Maired Campbell

In early childhood education, I used to work with a group of teachers who talked about the need for parents to say a good goodbye before leaving their kids. This day care had effectively banned leaving without saying anything to your kids. And what they found was when parents were intentional about leaving, the kids felt more secure with the teachers and the classroom. It gave kids an opportunity, at a very early and formative age, to learn how to sit with tough feelings of goodbye and with anxiety caused by separation. I feel like this is a lesson all of us could learn from—how an intentional goodbye is so important, how we are able to be with our feelings when people take the time to say goodbye.

For a year, we have been building up to my taking a sabbatical for the next five months. What has felt like a far-off time has arrived. I am leaving with intentions for rest, renewal, and connecting with family. And I am leaving knowing I plan to return to you all in late November. It is not fully a goodbye—I am not planning to seek work elsewhere or leave the ministry. But it is goodbye for now. It is a goodbye for the next five months.

Sabbatical is written into our ministerial contracts because this work is spiritual, not solely administrative or task-oriented. Sabbatical is a part of ministry because it is good for congregations and ministers to rest. Sabbatical is important for getting to miss one another, noticing where I might have filled in a few gaps, noticing where I will miss being with you all every Sunday. This is only a goodbye for now, after all.

My deepest gratitude to our church leaders for making this sabbatical possible. I am so thankful for you! Thank you for contributing to our church and for making this time possible for me. Thank you in advance for moving in to fill in the gaps in my absence and for your continual investment in this vibrant, loving community. Goodbye for now!

In Faith and Courage,
Rev. Lane-Maired ✦



Wanderlust: Coming, Going, Returning

Message from
Rev. Michelle Yates

Spring fever, senioritis, wanderlust... we are feeling these keenly in our household. Like a plant bursting out of the seed and pushing through the soil, we are full of renewed energy to grow, bloom, and run.

The church world experiences this energy and season in several ways, but mostly in the “summer break folk” and the “church shoppers.” In our efforts to welcome and radically include folks, here are some things and folks to be looking for.

“Summer break folk” means that their lives change dramatically in the summer months from the rest of the year. This might mean we see people we haven’t seen in a while or that regular attendees might disappear for a time. Both of these groups need to know that they belong here. That no matter where they go and for how long, this spiritual community is here for them when they want or need to return. If you notice you are missing someone, send them a note. “I can’t wait to hear about your adventures!”

“Church shoppers” are folks who are looking for a church. Their regular schedule or the weather may have been keeping them inside, but the summer weather welcomes them to the exploration.

We hope to welcome them as well! It’s kind of like speed dating: What are you looking for? What have your past experiences been like? Are we a good fit for each other? Let’s spend some time together and figure it out.

Whether spring fever is pulling our folks outdoors or pulling explorers into our orbit, let us remember the importance of keeping the “home fires burning.” The important lifesaving work of our church doesn’t stop if our minister is on sabbatical, if our religious educator is off for the summer, if we have a summer minister or a sabbatical minister. **You are the church!** You are the welcome for weary wanderers, enthusiastic explorers, and those looking for a spiritual home. You are the church! You make First Universalist a warm and welcoming place to “nurture and serve.”

Yours in the Journey,
Rev. Michelle ✦

(Rev. Michelle will be off for the summer from June 27 to Aug. 27)



Rochester Pride Parade: *Join us on July 15!*

Submitted by Connie Valk, Co-Chair of FIAC

The struggle is not over. Laws like the “Don’t Say Gay” law in Florida cause harm.

Our Church joins with other UUs to march or watch the annual Pride Parade on July 15. Sign up at pride@uuroc.org or in the Clara Barton Lounge during coffee in June and early July to participate.

Details regarding time, line-up, lawn chair watching crew, etc., will be emailed to folks who have signed up. ❖

Annual Business Meeting: *June 4*

Submitted by Steve Munson, Board Chair

This year we will be conducting the meeting in a hybrid format, in-person and Zoom to include everyone. Our church’s bylaws require us to meet each year to approve our budget and appoint our leaders.

In addition, this year we will be deciding on two major issues: the focus of our church’s Social Justice Initiative, “Housing for All”, and the allocation of funds from a recent bequest for a new Membership Initiative. Full participation of our membership is important! Childcare will be provided. ❖

Finance News & Notes

Submitted by Ann Rhody, Finance Chair

“It’s not magic—just tough decisions.”

These words are from an email discussing the proposed budget church members will be considering at our annual meeting.

Balancing this budget was hard! The Finance Committee didn’t work any magic, but we did have to make tough decisions. And it’s true: a budget is not magic. We have money coming in from pledges, building rental, and such; and money going out to run our church and its programs: everything from paying for heat and power, to our minister and staff, to coffee hour. ALL of these things are important.

Thankfully, with the thoughtful consideration, deliberation, and experience of our wonderful Finance Committee, we were able to come up with a proposed budget that does not cut staff or make major cuts to programs. And we were able to keep our endowment draw to 5%, which is the top of what is considered a fiscally responsible range.

So, yes, NOT magic. Just some wonderful, dedicated volunteers who love this church and are willing to make tough decisions. Thanks to Dick Shroyer (treasurer), Brian Mumey (assistant treasurer), Bill Jones (collector), Beth Ares (payroll/benefits coordinator), Karl Abbott, Grant Fish, Kathy Flynn, Karen LoBracco, Paula Marchese, Richard Reed, and Dave VanArsdale. I’m so grateful for their wisdom and dedication!

Please contact finance@uuroc.org with any questions or concerns. ❖

Church Picnic: *June 18*

Submitted by Karl Abbott

This year we will have our annual church picnic from 1-4pm at the riverbend shelter in Genesee Valley Park. More details to follow.

Looking for someone to assist with picnic planning and setup. Please contact Karl Abbott. ❖

Drop-In Discussion

Submitted by Beth Ares

Drop-in discussions are held Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm via the church Zoom account, and in-person on the first Sunday of each month in the Chalice Room at 9:15am. Phil Ebersole is the contact about the in-church drop-in discussions. Contact DropInDiscussion@uuroc.org for the link, or look on uuroc.org! Sometimes discussions are based on books/articles, but you don't have to do any prep to participate. Just drop in!

Sunday, June 4 | Do We Need a Debt Jubilee?

In-Person

Has the nation and the world reached a crisis in debt? Do we need debt jubilee as proclaimed in Old Testament law? This will be the topic of our next in-church drop-in discussion, which is held at 9:15am in the Chalice Room on the first Sunday of the month. *Note: this will be the last in-person discussion until fall.*

June 6 | A Conversation with Rev. Lane-Maired

A final conversation with our minister before they start their five-month sabbatical.

June 13 | Medical Aid in Dying

MAID may be "dead" for this NYS legislative session, but it will continue to haunt us. Dick Gilbert is on the Clergy Advisory Board of Compassion and Choices New York, and will update us. How we "end" our lives matters.

June 20 | Julian Assange, Martyr to Truth?

Julian Assange has been in solitary confinement for nearly four years, and faces life imprisonment for the crime of revealing secret U.S. information about atrocities by U.S. troops in Iraq. Is this just? Phil Ebersole facilitates.

June 27 | Open Topic

A freeform discussion while still following our usual guidelines of waiting to be called on, limiting comments to two minutes at a time and not asking to speak again until all others have an opportunity (just a reminder, dear friends).

Do you have a topic for us? Contact our team members with your Drop-In Discussion proposals: DropInDiscussion@uuroc.org. ❖

EcoJustice: 2023 Dirty Dozen and Clean 15

Submitted by Sarah Singal

Every year, the Environmental Working Group (EWG) analyzes the most recent USDA data to compile its infamous Clean 15 and Dirty Dozen lists

These list the types of fruits and vegetables that tend to be grown with the most and least pesticides, based on the latest available numbers. For details on how these lists are generated and how to use this list, visit this link: mindbodygreen.com/articles/ewg-dirty-dozen-and-clean-15-lists

The Clean 15

1. Avocados
2. Sweet corn
3. Pineapple
4. Onions
5. Papaya
6. Sweet peas (frozen)
7. Asparagus
8. Honeydew melon
9. Kiwi
10. Cabbage
11. Mushrooms
12. Mangoes
13. Sweet potatoes
14. Watermelon
15. Carrots

The Dirty Dozen

1. Strawberries
2. Spinach
3. Kale, collard, and mustard greens
4. Peaches
5. Pears
6. Nectarines
7. Apples
8. Grapes
9. Bell and hot peppers
10. Cherries
11. Blueberries
12. Green beans

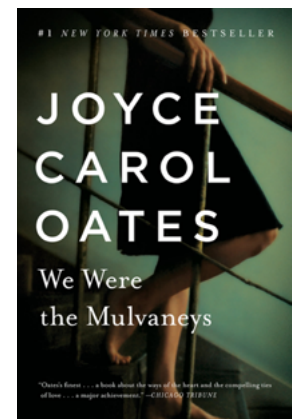
And start thinking about Plastic Free July! Pick up some waxed paper or paper lunch bags. Look around you in your grocery store and see if there's another place that uses less plastic. ❖

Book Group

Submitted by Shirley Bond

The Book Group will meet June 11 at noon in the Chalice Room to discuss "We Were the Mulvaney's" by Joyce Carol Oates.

We meet on the second Sunday of most months. Any questions? Contact bookgroup@uuroc.org. ❖





Online Ministry Team

Submitted by Karen LoBracco

You are invited to experience church in a different dimension. Make new friends or meet old friends in a new way. Zoom Church and the Online Ministry Team welcomes all!

Zoom Church might be for you if:

- You sometimes sleep in or it's hard to get out the door on Sunday mornings.
- You are not feeling well.
- You do not live in the area or are on vacation.
- Have a busy life and it's hard to fit everything in!
- Desire spiritual care without the anxiety of being with groups of people, etc.

The **Online Ministry Team** might be for you if:

- You are looking for a time-limited way to be of service to the congregation.
- You are comfortable participating in Zoom meetings.
- You want to meet different people.
- You can't worship in-person but want to be part of a team.
- Need a flexible schedule.

CURIOUS? For your next step:

- Contact Karen LoBracco or church admin Emma Barry (office@uuroc.org) for more info and to explore possibilities.
- Watch the Orientation Video.
- Shadow a member of the Online Ministry Team. Experience all the fun of each role without the pressure! Try it out until you feel ready. ❖



M.O.C.H.A.: Ministry of Coffee Hour Activities

Submitted by Nancy, Karl, & Kitty (your MOCHA team)

It has been wonderful gathering after services for the past six months. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have stepped forward to serve at coffee hour. Our gratitude goes out to M.J. Curry, Moritz Wagner, Sue Keefe, Kathi and Jim Milch, Kaitlyn & Jodi Reynolds, & Lisa Barr for supporting the MOCHA team every other week.

We also thank all of you who contribute financially to coffee hour. We do have a budget, but, without your additional contributions, refreshments would be a little sparse. We will continue this every-other-week schedule in the fall; please look for a time when you could help during the next church year. All refreshments are supplied, and detailed instructions are sent out ahead of your Sunday. You can also shadow us to get the hang of things. Enjoy your summer and see you in September! ❖

Church Library News

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

The First Universalist Church library and bookstore are open during coffee hour for browsing, buying, and borrowing. We will close for the summer after June 4 and reopen in the fall.

We offer newly-purchased books, including Rev. Lane-Mairead's *This Day in Recovery*, for half price and donated books for whatever you want to pay.

We gladly accept donations of books you think others would be interested in reading. If you have books you've borrowed from the library, please return them by June 4. ❖



Check presentation to Kim Hunt-Uzelac, FPGROC director, and plaque at bridge apartment

FPGROC (RAIHN): Rosemarie Horvath Fund Goes to Family Promise

Submitted by Chris DeGolyer

Rosemarie Horvath, longtime RAIHN volunteer and coordinator for St Mary's Church, died in August 2019. She volunteered for RAIHN until shortly before she died. She said "I treasure RAIHN as the best organization I have been involved with. I have met many wonderful people from many faiths and admire the work RAIHN is doing. Many of the guests have touched my heart." It was so important to her that she asked her family to set up a fund for RAIHN Weeks at First Universalist. Family and friends from St Mary's and First Universalist donated to the fund.

Six months after Rosemarie's death, the pandemic hit, and we could no longer host RAIHN's guest families in our building. RAIHN

began housing temporarily homeless families in apartments. Apartment shelter worked better for the families, so this change became permanent. The Rosemarie Horvath Memorial Fund was no longer needed to support RAIHN Weeks at our church.

RAIHN changed its name to Family Promise of Greater Rochester in 2021 to mark its affiliation with the national Family Promise. They expanded programs beyond shelter to include prevention and diversion from homelessness. This spring, they bought the building at 142 Webster Ave that houses the Day Center and office on the first floor, plus



apartments on the second floor. They are renovating apartments for their new exciting initiative, the Transitional Housing Program.

This spring we moved the Rosemarie Horvath fund, totaling \$6,083, to FPGROC to support this new program. A plaque honoring Rosemarie welcomes guest families to the first apartment for this program. This will help guest families move toward home ownership by renting them apartments at below-market rate for up to two years, and putting a portion of the rent into savings accounts for the families to use as down payments on houses. They will also take classes to prepare for home ownership.

On the second Saturday of each month, they welcome volunteers. For more info, contact degolyerchris@gmail.com. ❖

Member Stories

Submitted by Donna Anderson, Membership Chair

These last few months people have shared their stories. This month Grant Fish will share his story.

"I would like to thank the other members of the Membership Committee for the work they do. This month I would like to share part of my journey that brought me here. I have been a member of the First Universalist church for about a year, first online then in-person. This was after many years of being unchurched. When I came I got to reconnect with old friends and make many new friends. Each time I come into the church I'm met by smiles and people I can relate to. After talking with people, I discovered that many of the issues I have faced have been issues for others as well which has helped me connect. The different committees I am happy to be part of are: Membership, Finance, and 24/7 Toilet Access. I have found I can put my talents and experience to good use here and make a difference."

–Grant Fish

Welcome, Grant, thank you for serving our church community, and for sharing your story!

I thank my committee for their commitment to the work we have accomplished. I hope everyone has a great summer, and I look forward to the fall when we will pick up where we left off! ❖



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation

This Unitarian Universalist community
welcomes and celebrates the
presence and participation of people
who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual,
transgender, and queer.



For information about the Unitarian Universalist Association's
Welcoming Congregation Program,
visit uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming



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 10:30am on
Sundays**

Minister | Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

Minister of Life Span Faith Development |
Rev. Michelle Yates

Music Director | Dr. Brock Tjosvold

Office Manager | Emma Barry

Nursery Care Provider | Carol Williams

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022–2023

Steve Munson (*Pres.*), Bridget Watts (*Vice-Pres.*),
Jim Milch (*Clerk*), Theresa McFarland-Porter,
MJ Curry, Richard Reed, Clinton Swingle,
Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell (*ex-officio*)

Editor, monthly newsletter, *Our Outlook*, & *This
Week at First Universalist* (digital): Emma Barry

More info is available on our website: uuroc.org

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