

# Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

September 2012

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## Sunday Services | September 2012

**Sept. 2 | Respecting Labor**

As the income gap between CEO's and laborers widens, we will take time to celebrate the contributions of working people. Please join us unless you are out-of-town. Peter promises an inspirational service that will make you feel good about the work you do.  
-- Summer Minister, Peter House

**Sept. 9 | Ingathering Service for all Ages**

As we ease out of the summer routine and head into fall, we come together again, like rivers flowing into the sea. Please bring a bit of water from your summer journey (ocean, lake, pond, creek, or tap). Come prepared to say in 5 words or less, "What my summer vacation did to me". You'll install the Transition Team, and together we'll share what changes summer wrought for us.  
-- Rev. Martha Munson and friends

**Sept. 16 | I'm Sorry; So Now What?**

A service on the eve of Rosh Hashanah, about repentance and forgiveness.  
-- Rev. Martha Munson and WA Michael Scott.

**Sept. 23 | Just Like Me?**

Each of us sees the world through own "lens", through a prism of our own experience. "Just like me" is only one way to consider the difference.  
-- Rev. Martha Munson and WA Bridget Watts

**Sept. 30 | Mysticism: Salt for Religion and Life.**

Guest speaker, Th. Emil Homerin, Professor of Religion at the University of Rochester. Dr. Homerin is an internationally recognized expert on Arabic literature and Islam, and a member of Rochester's First Unitarian Church.

Our last summer service on September 2 begins at 10am. From September 9 forward, our regular morning service as well as Religious Education classes begin at 10:30am.





## Walking With You

Message from the Interim Minister

Interim: *n.* an intervening time; interval.

An interim minister serves in the time between one called (settled) minister and the next. In recent years, the value of intentional interim ministries has been embraced across the spectrum of Jewish and Christian congregations.

More than a “place holder,” an interim minister has specific skills and abilities, in addition to the customary duties of ministry (like preaching and pastoral care). These are the developmental tasks of the interim time, the focus of my work and the focus of the work of the Transition Team (with thanks to them for their willingness to serve):

### **Coming to Terms with History.**

The good and the not-so-happily remembered.

### **Discovering a New Identity.**

Who are we now?

### **Empowering and Equipping New Leadership.**

Embracing past leaders and recruiting/training new.

### **Renewing Denominational Linkages.**

Developing a healthy partnership and making good use of outside resources.

### **Preparing for New Professional Leadership.**

What are you looking for? What do you have to offer?

The tasks of the interim time belong to you, the congregation. The Transition Team and I will be coaches (or perhaps midwives) in this process.

Again, I am eager to have conversation with you about what you think would be useful/helpful in this interim time. To that end, I commend to you your participation in the “PEP Rallies” being organized by the Transition Team.

First Universalist has many strengths. As much as anything, I will work to reinforce and enlarge upon what you already have. Since this work, the work of building the beloved community, cannot happen at a distance,

I hope to see you in church – *Martha* ❖

# Religious Education News

## Religious Education for Children

Last year Rev. Lori Staubitz, our Minister of Religious Education, introduced an exciting learning approach to our children’s program. Departing from the school-like classroom environment with a set curriculum, this model is based on an interactive, multi-aged-grouped worship experience. The theme each week is based on the sermon. The “Tapestry of Faith” curriculum from the UU Association is the resource from which teachers draw activities to enhance the worship experience.

### **What are the advantages of this model?**

First of all, the children can leave the school-based model behind. There are no set grades, and no curriculum that must be covered. Secondly, families can discuss the sermon theme together – from the child’s point of view, as well as the adult’s.

### **What are the disadvantages?**

Adults who work with children (we call them Children’s Worship Leaders, not “teachers”) need to be prepared ahead of time. Hmm, isn’t this an advantage? Don’t parents want adults who come to their children prepared?

Our model for children, using the worship as the guiding framework, is what sets us apart from other religious education programming for children. We look forward to a blossoming religious education experience for our children.

### **Important Dates:**

- September 9 -- Multigenerational Water Service
- September 14 -- Children’s Worship Leaders/ Assistants Orientation Friday 6:00 PM (supper is included)
- September 16 – First Children’s Worship ❖





## Standing On The Side Of Love

*Submitted by Michael Scott*

Anyone who attended the Pride Parade in mid July is sure to have noticed the sea of yellow T-shirts emblazoned with the slogan “Standing on the Side of Love.” Many will also remember the similar banner that hung on our church facade for several years. The slogan gained prominence during the fight for marriage equality in Massachusetts shortly after the turn of the century, and remained a rallying cry during the subsequent fight against California’s reactionary Proposition 8 (which prohibits same-sex marriage). It gained new poignancy for Unitarian Universalists in the wake of a tragic shooting in Knoxville, TN.

On Sunday, July 27, 2008, an angry gunman opened fire in the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, during the performance of a children’s play. Congregation member Greg McKendry died at the scene, after attempting to stop the shooter. Linda Kraeger, another congregation member, died later in a local hospital. Several others were injured, three of them gravely. Statements made by the shooter made it clear that he had targeted the church because of its liberal positions on social issues, including GLBT rights.

As they struggled to cope with their shock and grief, members of the congregation received an enormous outpouring of support from around the country and across the political and religious spectrum. Their experience—and their commitment to keep their doors open and to redouble their support for social justice—inspired then UUA President Rev. William Sinkford, UUA Advocacy and Witness chair Rev. Meg Riley, and others to launch a national movement for love and inclusion.

The Standing on the Side of Love (SSL) campaign, launched in July 2009, is administered by the Unitarian Universalist Association, but open to all who believe that people should never be marginalized or dehumanized simply because of who they are. From its initial focus on marriage equality and GLBT rights, the campaign has grown to embrace additional causes as well—immigrant rights in particular.

The commitment to love as a basis of social policy grows out of the UU First Principle: the inherent worth and dignity of every person. In the interest of building alliances with other constituencies, however, SSL has deliberately chosen to focus more on the implications of the principle than on any explicitly UU identity. (The signature T-shirts, for example, do not say “Unitarian Universalist” on them anywhere.)

To learn more about the campaign, to volunteer your time or money (or to order your own T-shirt or other swag), visit [standingonthesideoflove.org](http://standingonthesideoflove.org). ❖

## Observation of the Children’s Sabbath

*Submitted by Elizabeth Osta*

Save the date: Sunday, October 21st for the Observation of the Children’s Sabbath as Rochester joins thousands of churches, synagogues, mosques and temples across the country by holding special worship services, education programs, and advocacy activities to engage people of faith in the lives of children and their families.

Sponsored by the Children’s Defense Fund, the National Observance of Children’s Sabbaths Celebration is a way for faith communities to celebrate children as sacred gifts of the Divine, and provides the opportunity for houses of worship to renew and live out their moral responsibility to care, protect and advocate for all children.

Stay tuned for how First Universalist will share in this effort. Our Rochester efforts are being facilitated by the Children’s Agenda, a unique voice for children in Monroe County. As a non-profit, independent, and non-partisan organization. They take action on what’s needed the most and works the best for kids by initiating solutions, analyzing programs and policies, and collaborating with local leaders.

Visit <http://www.thechildrensagenda.org/> ❖



# Dwindling Down

*Submitted by Summer Minister, Peter House*

As I note the date on the calendar, I am fighting a sense of regret that the summer is nearly over and I didn't accomplish so much of what I had "intended" to do with my time off from school. As my weeks with you as summer minister "dwindle down to precious few" as the song says, I want to share with you some of my observations about the congregation and about where we are "at" as I see it.

As summer approached, I was warned by a few people that this particular summer might be a bit chaotic with renovations. I knew there would never be chaos at First Universalist because I know our congregation too well.

As we now know that chaos didn't happen. But the reason it didn't happen is NOT that the renovations weren't started. The reason we did not have chaos is because we have such a competent team of leaders looking out for us. Even if the renovations had started, there would not have been chaos. These dedicated and proactive leaders had the whole process carefully planned and many loyal and dedicated members were willing to help. It would have been just fine and it will be fine when the renovations finally do get under way. We are THAT kind of congregation!

A few of my ministerial colleagues from seminary assumed that there would be some unease because we have had lots of ministerial transitions in the past

year or so. I told them that they didn't know our congregation and they didn't know our Martha Munson. We are blessed with a stable, mature, flexible, generous congregation. We are equally blessed by an interim minister who is especially gifted and uniquely qualified for interim work. They should all be so lucky I boasted.

I said all of that in June before the summer began. Over the summer I have seen that my faith was not misplaced or over estimated. All summer things ran smoothly, and people "rolled with the punches" when things didn't go according to plan. A large group of dedicated lay leaders kept everything running smoothly. I had no worries. I was also blessed by unprecedented summer access to the full-time minister as Martha checked in regularly and was always a phone call away.

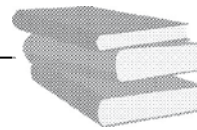
We are indeed a lucky congregation. We are in good hands leadership-wise and we are in good shape membership wise. We have much to be grateful for and little to fear as we enter a year which will be marked by a major renovation and a ministerial search. I honestly can't think of better lay leaders or a better interim minister than the ones we are blessed with. They will lead us through this year with ease.

And finally, my deepest thanks for the privilege of serving you for yet another summer. ❖

Much Blessings,

*Peter House*

## Book Group – *Farm Hands*



*Submitted by Sarah Singal*

Book Group Meets Sunday, September 24, 12-1, in the Adult Lounge. The book group selection will be *Farm Hands* by Tom Rivers, a reporter for Batavia's *The Daily News*. The subtitle is *Hard work and Hard Lessons from Western New York Fields*. We are also privileged to have the author, joining us.

Mr. Rivers gives first-person accounts of farm work in western NY, and a window into the lives of farm workers, many of whom are undocumented immigrants. Tom may present a slide show in the sanctuary.

At the social justice focused UUA General Assembly, we were called to learn more about the immigration issues in our own backyards. This is a step in that direction. GUUSTO has been invited. Hope you all can come. ❖

# Interim Minister's Transition Team

*Submitted by Ann Rhody for the Transition Team*

## Get ready to shift gears and move ahead!

This fall, we'll see a "shift" in Rev. Munson's role here at church. Contracted last fall to keep things running during what was expected to be a temporary absence of Rev. Sally Hamlin, Martha will hit the ground running this September as a full interim minister.

What's the difference? An interim minister is far more than just a "place holder." Rather, an interim minister facilitates a specific process by which a congregation can become most strongly positioned to call its next settled minister. The Board has appointed a transition team composed of Karl Abbott (chair), Santosha Kuykendall, Mary Louise Gerek, Bill Elwell, and Ann Rhody to help in this effort.

One of the first actions of the transition team will be to ask YOU to attend a "PEP" rally!! These gatherings of 8-12 congregation members will be critical in helping

Martha and her team to more clearly define and plan the work of the congregation through this interim period.

These **PEP (People Engaging People)** rallies differ from purely social gatherings, and from our stewardship gatherings, in that they allow the interim minister to hear from each member of the congregation directly, and are followed by an action plan based on information gathered during the meeting. The strength of our action plan, and our commitment to the action plan, will play a crucial role in our efforts to attract a settled minister who can create an atmosphere of hope, enthusiasm and possibility at First Universalist. It will also play a large role in the quality of the relationship our congregation has with that minister.

Please know that the transition team needs YOUR participation in this process! You will receive a letter in mid-September with more information about our PEP rallies, and will be hearing more about the interim process as the year progresses. We look forward to working with all of you to shape the future of the First Universalist Church! ❖

## RAIHN News

*Submitted by Marti Eggers*



### ~Six Big Questions~

**Who?** You

**What?** Nurture the spirit; serve the community

**Where?** First Universalist Church

**When?** October 28<sup>th</sup> – November 4<sup>th</sup>

**How?** Volunteer for RAIHN

**Why?** Because you are needed!

On any given night in Rochester, as many as 100 families with children are homeless. The *Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network* (RAIHN), a consortium of faith communities of which First Universalist is a part, provides a safe place for families to stay while they work toward returning to sustainable independence. During the week of October 28<sup>th</sup>, First Universalist will be hosting RAIHN families, and many volunteers will be needed. You can learn more about volunteering for RAIHN by attending a 2-hour training session on Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at Greece Baptist Church, or



you can shadow a trained volunteer during our Host Week to see firsthand the power of RAIHN. For more information, or to ask about shadowing, please see Marti Eggers or Sarah Singal. You are needed! ❖

## RAIHN Dance

*Submitted by Sarah Singal*

Save The Date: There will be a RAIHN Dance on Saturday, October 27, 7-9 pm, at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 4115 Dewey Avenue. This *Not Strictly Square Dance* is RAIHN's major fund-raiser this year. It will feature Mike Callahan, #1 Square Dance Caller in Western New York. There will be a cake and pie silent auction; you can offer one of your signature creations, or just buy one. This is a family friendly event and all ages are welcome. No date or dancing partner is required. Tickets are \$10 adult, \$5 child, \$25 family. See Marti Eggers or Sarah Singal for tickets or call 506-9050. ❖

# Drop-In Discussion, September Schedule

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

Drop-in discussions are held each Sunday in the adult lounge on the second floor of our church. Sometimes our discussions are based on certain books or articles, but you don't have to read anything or do any advance preparation to participate. Just drop in. People of all viewpoints are welcome to make presentations or join in the discussions. In the summer, our discussions are held each Sunday at 11:15 a.m., following the Sunday service.

Here is the schedule.

## September 2 | *Distributive Justice*

Inequality in wealth and income are widening in the United States at a rapid rate. Just how unequal or equal should we be. Phil Ebersole will lead a discussion, drawing on ideas in Richard Gilbert's *How Much Do We Deserve?*

**Our normal 9:15 a.m. schedule resumes on Sept 9.**

## September 9 | *Human Nature*

Is there such a thing as universal human nature? Are we products of our genes, our environment or our choices? Phil Ebersole will lead a discussion, drawing on ideas in Simon Blackburn's *The Big Questions*.

## September 16 | *Immigration as a Moral Issue*

Money flows freely across international borders, but human beings lose their rights when they cross a border. Should immigration be a right? Phil Ebersole will lead a discussion, drawing on ideas in David Bacon's *Illegal People*.

Immigration as a Moral Issue is the 2010-2014 Congregational Study-Action Issue of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Go to <<http://www.uua.org/immigration/re/moral/index.shtml>> for more about this.

## September 23 | *Privacy and Public Space*

In contemporary society, says David Damico, I struggle with the idea of public/private space. What I thought was private space is not necessarily so for others. Use of cell phones in bathrooms and movie theaters is quite common. It appears others don't share this struggle. Perhaps it's me, perhaps not—do I just let it go? Do you have a firm idea of separation of public and private space or privacy in general? Have you violated your own standards? David will facilitate a discussion of these questions.

## September 30 | *The Stimulus*

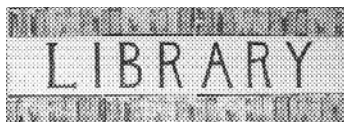
Michael Grunwald of NY Times argues in his book, *The New New Deal*, that the Obama stimulus program has been an astonishing and unrecognized success. As one example among many, the \$7 billion initiative to bring broadband to underserved areas is a modern manifestation of the rural electrification program of FDR's era. Bill Elwell will discuss this and other stimulus successes.

Topics are subject to change. For updates, check the bulletin board in First Universalist Church's Clara Barton lounge or the Schedule of Drop-In Discussions on <<http://philebersole.wordpress.com>>.

We want to have a discussion in October on *Reproductive Rights*, the 2012-2016 Congregational Study-Action issue. Go to <<http://www.uua.org/reproductive/study-actionissue/index.shtml>> for more about this. Any volunteers to lead the discussion? ❖

# Library News

Submitted by Keith Stott



In a hectic world find calm here, in Richard Gilbert's new book of meditations, *In the Holy Quiet*. He offers us much for which to be thankful – for “the sound of bow on string...the faces of friends...cornstalks at stiff attention...” and a church “where people can find and be a neighbor.” So be thankful – and inspired – after reading Dick's book. Call number is 242G. ❖

**A reminder that the church library reopens on Sunday September 9.**

# Board Happenings

*Submitted by Shirley Bond*

Happy August! I just wanted to let you know that our Board meeting is not until August 27th. Hence it will be too late to get news to you by the September issue of the paper outlook. Have no fear however that there will be no news. I have decided to ask our new members Janet, Ed and Michael to write a short biography of how they became members of First Universalist. What fun it would be for all to know a little bit more about them. Janet Rothbeind graciously agreed to be the first to submit an article. Ed and Michael will have extra time to work on theirs! My contribution was to find out how long Janet has been coming to First Universalist, what are her passionate interests, and what does she like to do in her spare time. It turns out she and Harvey have been coming for about 4 years, Janet is interested in new ideas for education, and she told me she is addicted to reading and has lately become interested in tennis.

This is her story:

## **Janet Rothbeind**

My spiritual journey was a long one. It would seem that I came to be a UU late in life. But, I was always a questioner. When I was very young, I attended a Methodist Church. This was a small town church that my family had attended for about two generations.

When I attended Bible School there, I questioned the Women's Christian Temperance Union. But I signed the pledge card because the woman who made the presentation had a limp and she seemed to care so much. As a teenager, the family decided to attend the Lutheran Church. My father, of Swedish descent had always been a member but didn't attend. After I was married, we moved around a lot. I went to the church that was closest. Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodist churches were all welcoming and accepting of my children. After a later marriage, I attended the Episcopal Church and began to look for more than fellowship and acceptance. The church we attended in Elmira, was a very liberal church, and I felt I had found a home. But when it came right down to it, there were beliefs that I was not allowed to question. Was Jesus really God? The virgin birth? Really? Harvey attended a synagogue, but while they didn't have Jesus, they did have some beliefs that I couldn't accept. While we were in Florida we attended a UU Fellowship and we loved the open questions and ideas we had never heard of. When we returned, we decided to try the UU church in Rochester. The First Universalist was our first try and we went no further. We have found a home. ❖

# House Report Highlights - September 2012

*Submitted by Alain Perregaux*

## **Sanctuary Renovation**

Due to unexpected complications in the bidding process, we were running out of time to find ways to reconcile the schedule and the cost of the project with our expectations. In order to avoid rushed and unwise decisions, we chose to postpone the work until the April – July period in 2013. It is indeed an immense disappointment ... BUT ... it is not a disaster.

The work already done is not and will not be wasted: the maintenance work on the radiators is done, some windows are being repaired, the carpet has been selected and will be presented to the congregation as soon as the cushion covers have been chosen. The enormous effort spent doing all the behind the scene planning will be used in due time; it will serve us well when we re-scope and re-plan the project for next spring.

The current vision is to redefine the project by simplifying it wherever possible, to cut cost and time. This work will be done this year, i.e. in the next four months. After we get the buy-in from the minister, from the board and from the congregation, we will go through a new bidding process early in 2013. Pending all the proper approvals, we think that the best time to do the work will be April, May and June 2013, after the coldest months of the year have passed and when it should be bearable to hold services in the lounge for a few weeks. We anticipate that Sunday services will return to the sanctuary before the work is completed, as soon as enough pews have been re-installed to accommodate our regular attendance, possibly with the addition of a few chairs.

It is an interesting twist of fate that, on August 12, the very Sunday when this announcement was read from the pulpit, the subject of Peter House's sermon was "Intentions Rarely Equal Results". ❖

# Auld Lang Syne

Submitted by Karen Dau, archivist



Second Universalist: Part 1 of 3

**F**OLLOWING the practice of numerous nineteenth-century urban Universalist congregations in this country, the First Universalist Society of Rochester established a mission church in October of 1873 called the Second Universalist Sunday School. When it was officially organized on January 13, 1874 there were some 100 children enrolled in the “Sunday School.”

In the spring of 1881 the foundation was laid for a chapel in the city’s ninth ward on Spencer Street, between Lyell and Lake Avenues, and it was dedicated on October 2 that year. The Rev. A. N. Fischer, the congregation’s first settled minister, served only about three months between October and December of 1883, and he was succeeded by Rev. Lewis B. Fisher, who served a little over four years. In July 1888 Rev. Frank J. Chase was called from Sherman, NY to be his successor, beginning his pastorate the following September. Then on December 20, 1891 Chase resigned from the church and soon afterward withdrew from the denomination, publishing his reasons in the Democrat & Chronicle on May 13, 1894: “First, I don’t believe that the Bible teaches the salvation of all men; I have only held to it as a passing hope, not a dogma to be preached; second, philosophical salvation as taught by Universalists makes the sacrifice of Calvary unnecessary, if not a mistake; third, the Bible is not studied as an authority in the Universalist Church; fourth, I have lost faith in the mission of the Universalist Church organization,

its main business being to point out errors of orthodoxy.” This defection was the first of a series of calamities that would eventually bring down the little mission church and cause widespread sorrow within the local Universalist community.

By April of 1892 the congregation’s board had called Rev. David M. Kirkpatrick, a native of Glasgow, Scotland, to come from Michigan and assume the pastorate of the church. During the first three and a half years or so of his local ministry he became known for his spellbinding sermons and was seen as a preacher totally dedicated to his parish. Then on the night of December 19, 1896 he stopped Annie, a well-known prostitute, and ordered her to take him to her apartment. When she refused, Kirkpatrick grabbed her arm, claimed he was a police officer and threatened to arrest her for soliciting. Annie broke away and ran toward Officer Shane, walking his beat nearby, and indignantly related her story. The officer stopped Kirkpatrick, who gave as his excuse for approaching Annie that he was working on a case study of prostitution. Annie soon decided to press charges, and Kirkpatrick was arrested for impersonating a police officer. After he posted a \$200 bail bond—a great deal of money at that time—he was freed to wait for a hearing.

**Part 2:** Cleared at first, Kirpatrick gets himself in even worse trouble. ❖

## Back Packs for School 7

Submitted by Sarah Singal

Thanks so much to all who contributed to June’s social justice plate. We raised \$373 for back packs for children who arrive at School 7 without one. That combined with \$30 left in the 2011 budget for School 7 will buy a good number. Here is a way to get involved without a long-term commitment; help purchase all those back packs! It should be fun. Please contact Sarah Singal (ssingal@rochester.rr.com).





# 2012–2013 UUPCC Trips

*Submitted by Joyce Gilbert*

This year, as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the **Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council**, we are excited to share with you the spiritually meaningful and life-changing experiences that hundreds of UUs have had through their participation in the UUPCC Travel Program.

As we do every year, UUPCC will lead pilgrimages to our partner communities in Transylvania, India and the Philippines. These trips offer spiritual sustenance and personal growth, as well as opportunities to explore social action through partnership.

Visit [www.uupcc.org/trips.html](http://www.uupcc.org/trips.html) or call us (781) 275-1710 to sign up today to join a UUPCC Pilgrimage!

**India:** Travel to the far north-east state of Meghalaya to visit some of the 10,000 Unitarians who live in the Khasi Hills. Witness the richness of the 125-year-old Khasi Unitarian faith and learn how Khasi tribal traditions are being preserved through Unitarianism. Learn how UUPCC programs are helping the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children in their community stay in school; plan a service visit to the Annie Margaret Barr Children's Village, a home for orphaned children built by the Khasi Unitarians. Trip dates: March 5-13, 2013.

**Philippines:** See firsthand how the power of faith in a better future is motivating and enriching the lives of thousands of Unitarian Universalists in the Philippines.

With a broad diversity of congregations, the Unitarian Universalist movement has been embraced in urban and rural settings alike, bringing hope and meaning to communities struggling to meet the basic needs for water, food and employment. Travel to touch and be touched by the lives of our UU brothers and sisters, feel their joy, experience their hospitality, and learn how UUPCC programs have helped them make positive changes in their own lives through community development, social action, and religious education. Trip dates: March 15-23, 2013.

**Transylvania:** Twenty years after the fall of Communism, the Partner Church movement continues the tradition of working together to strengthen the over 100 Unitarian communities in Transylvania. UUPCC Pilgrimages offer the opportunity to learn the 400 year history of Unitarianism, visit the sacred places of our early faith, and meet the Transylvanians who are grappling with 21st century issues of demographic change, modernization, environmental protection, access to water and sanitation, health and education. Learn how the UUPCC Community Capacity Program empowers Unitarian congregations and their communities to take charge of their own destinies. Trip dates: September 25 - October 4, 2012 and May 11-23, 2013. ❖

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## Our People

Cathie Grisley is recuperating from surgery for a fractured femur.



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## Water for Ingathering

Please remember to collect a bit of water from your summer time/travels (ocean, lake, pond, creek, or tap) for the service on September 9th. The question is not "What I did on my summer vacation". The question is, "What my summer vacation did to me". -- Rev. Martha Munson

## **First Universalist Church**

150 South Clinton Avenue

Rochester, NY 14604

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# **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 services and Religious Education classes begin at 10:30am Sundays**

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**Minister** | Rev. Martha Munson

**Director of Religious Education** | Rev. Lori Staubitz

**Music Director** | Josiah Armes

**Sexton** | Brandon Fagan

**Nursery Care Provider** | Carol Williams

**Office Administrator** | Kris McCarty White

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

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