



Our Outlook

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Sunday Services | November 2021

November 7 | *We Are Here (Again)*

Join First Universalist for the first worship service held hybrid on-line and in-person at First Universalist Church. This will be a service of arrival, celebration, and rededication to our community.

— Rev. Lane Campbell

November 14 | *Engaged Spirituality and "Soul-Filled Fanaticism"*

This sermon began with a postcard from Missoula, Montana, and was “written” by three transcendent souls. I have a concern to share with you. It is about survival – spiritual and global.

— Rev. Dr. Richard Gilbert

November 21 | *The Chasms Between Us*

This has been a time of feeling disconnected from our communities, from ourselves, and maybe even from the Divine for some of us. How can we seek to repair the disconnection we are feeling? Let us make space to honor this disconnection and to explore it together in worship.

— Rev. Lane Campbell

November 28 | *“Thangstaken”*

A reflection on the holiday that has just passed, holding space for the deep cost of lives and livelihood of Indigenous people that is often erased from the story of Thanksgiving told in the United States. First Universalist has committed to using a land acknowledgement when we gather for worship. How can a land acknowledgement be a jumping off point for Indigenous solidarity?

— Rev. Lane Campbell

❖ **Services begin at 10:30am** ❖

Inside

Page

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Rev Lane..... | 2 |
| Rev. Michelle | 2 |
| Leadership Assembly | 3 |
| Small Group Ministry..... | 3 |
| Garden Committee..... | 3 |
| Drop-In Discussion | 4 |
| Eastman | 5 |
| Finance News | 5 |
| Library Committee..... | 6 |
| FPGROC..... | 6 |
| EcoJustice | 7 |
| Animal Ministry..... | 7 |

Worship will be meeting online and in-person at First Universalist Church.

Please join us – Internet link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/131764422>;

Phone number: 1-646-558-8656 with Meeting ID: 131 764 422. ❖



Liminal Space

Message from Rev. Lane Campbell

This is some truly liminal space we are living in right now, dear ones. It feels like so much is up in the air. I continually hear from folks about feeling disconnected from others and from ourselves. The city and the country have been reopening. The church is looking to reopen at the beginning of this month for worship.

When I use the term “liminal space,” I am referring to the space between one thing and the next. And maybe even deeper, the space where we have left one way of being and don’t quite know what the next move will be. If you know what the future holds, I’d love to hear about it. For now, I’ll be over here sitting with uncertainty and holding onto some hope that we will move into a time of deeper care for one another and ourselves and our planet.

To live in liminal space is uncomfortable. Have you found yourself snappy lately? Tired? Feeling confused or disoriented? Extra anxious? These can be responses to living in-between. It is how we cope with being out of control—some of us cling to control, some check out, others lash out, and there are even those amongst us who try to hold it all on our shoulders or in our bodies. It is hard to know what to do with discomfort at this deep of a level.

My hope is that you will continue to journey in this spiritual community, even as we are in a liminal time. If you have not connected with someone from church in the past week, please reach out to someone. If you need space to lay it down and share with others, consider one of our small group ministries. I cannot guarantee you that folks at church or I know where we are going at all times, but we know we are getting there together.

In Love and Courage,

Rev. Lane ❖



Bridging the Divide

Message from Rev. Michelle Yates

When I think about our November theme of “*Bridging the Divide*” the first thing that comes to mind is the beginning of the holiday season and wanting to have a pleasant time with family members who have different positions than I do on the issues of the day.

I looked up so many articles about “tips for talking to someone you disagree with,” to try to pass on some wisdom for you and myself; a game plan if you will. The info I found was far too much to fit into this article or even for me to keep top of mind while in the midst of a chaotic family event. While I recommend looking up more extensive articles if you are interested, here are the essentials:

- Keep it personal. I will go to family events because I have and WANT a relationship with these people. We are not together to convince or convert each other. We have been given this connection and an opportunity to care and learn about each other. I will avoid the political tropes! I will not chase down those rabbit holes! I will go to the bathroom or “go check on someone” if I need a break from a conversation or person.
- I will ask about their work and their kids. How has this pandemic stressed them out, and threatened what they care about? What have been their joys and concerns in this season? And most importantly, where do we connect? Where are we the same?
- I will bring up beloved family stories and traditions, and talk about passing them on or sharing with others. I will share when I have thought of them with love or humor. I will share honest compliments and care, and receive whatever love and care they are capable of sharing with me.
- I cannot fix the country in one family dinner. But I can stay connected, stay in conversation, and give them a personal relationship with a “crazy theological liberal.” Keeping that door open, keeping coming to the table together, is the only way we will bridge the divide.

Yours in the Journey,

Rev. Michelle ❖

Small Group Ministry Openings: *Opportunities* for Connection

Submitted by Rev. Michelle Yates

Are you feeling disconnected? Small Group Ministry is designed to foster connection and caring, spiritual growth and development, and to strengthen the fabric of our church community by exploring various topics. Each group is led by a trained facilitator and will meet via Zoom or outside in someone's yard.

Two of our Small Group Ministry groups have openings for new members starting immediately!

- Every other Monday at 1pm
- Every other Thursday at 7pm

Interested in joining a group? Take a look at the description on our website (uuroc.org) under the "Connect" tab, and complete the survey regarding your interest and availability or email Rev. Michelle at SGM@uuroc.org. ❖

Leadership Assembly: *New Date!*

Submitted by Tess McFarland-Porter, Board President

Are you a current church leader or perhaps a future church leader? Please plan to attend First Universalist's annual Leadership Assembly from 9am to noon on Saturday morning, November 6. (***This date is different than previously announced to avoid conflicting with NYSCU's annual meeting.***) While our bylaws define leaders as committee chairs, your Board of Trustees welcomes a broader definition and seeks to nurture future leaders. We invite you to identify as a leader and come! ❖



Photo by Michael Dzedzic on Unsplash

Garden Committee: *Can You Help?*

Submitted by Sarah Singal

As you tidy up your garage or gardening corner, maybe you could help out the church gardens. Do you have any extra mulch, seasoned compost, soil, or potting soil? Any extra lumber for repairing or rebuilding our raised beds? Any large planters? And any plants that need thinning? We could use some asters, purple cone flowers, butterfly weed, or late blooming cranesbill geraniums, late blooming anemones, hardy chrysanthemums. Contact us at Garden@uuroc.org. Thanks! ❖



Drop-In Discussion

Submitted by Beth Ares

Current drop-in discussions are held each Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30pm via the church Zoom account. Contact DropInDiscussion@uuroc.org for the Zoom link, or look on uuroc.org!

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

November 2 | *How Will Our Unhoused Neighbors Make it Through the Winter?*

REACH House (*Rochester Engaging in Action for the Chronically Homeless*) usually opens for the winter season just before Thanksgiving. This year, due to COVID restrictions, it will not. REACH Co-Chair, Andy Carey, will give us an update on the current state of chronically unhoused people in the Rochester area, courtesy of Homeless Heartbeats

November 9 | *Community & NYS Legislature*

NYS Assemblywoman, Sarah Clark, has represented our area for almost a year now, and serves us on the following Legislative Committees: *Aging, Children and Family, Higher Education, Local Governments, and Small Business*. How do our anti-racism concerns fit in? Sarah will share her experiences with us courtesy of our FIRE Team!

November 16 | *What Does The Bible Say About Abortion?—Absolutely nothing!*

The word "abortion" does not appear in the Bible. Still, let's look at the scriptures most often cited on both sides of the abortion debate to try to understand the biblical perspective. Rev. Michelle Yates presents.

November 23 | *Worth & Dignity*

The First Principle of Unitarian Universalist is affirmation of the inherent worth and Dignity of every person. But what do we mean by "dignity"? "Worth"? "Inherent"? Phil Ebersole will lead a discussion!

November 30 | *The Tesla Revolution*

Elon Musk is tearing apart the empire of cars. This is happening suddenly, will bankrupt the "legacy" automakers, and may signal the end of the dominance of fossil fuels. Hank Stone presents.

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



Meeting with City Council Member Mary Lupien

Submitted by Constance Valk

Given our location, our surroundings include many of those without the basic need of shelter and access to restrooms.

Ed Deller facilitated a conversation with City Council Member Mary Lupien regarding the need for public restrooms in the vicinity of Washington Square. As the houseless in our vicinity have no access to restrooms, First Universalist members are raising the issue and collaborating with others, including GEVA representative Alana Sansome and Deacon David Palma from St. Mary's Church.

Sarah Singal, Lois Baum, and Connie Valk added to the discussion from different points of view from members who have dealt with this issue. Deacon David told of his visits in the night to minister to those without housing. GEVA rep Alana Sansome agreed that we were headed in the right direction.

If restrooms are to be added, the question is "where?" There is hope for a project.

Interested in this issue? Wanting to join in? Contact FIAC@uuroc.org. ❖



Finance News & Notes

Past, Present, and Future!

Submitted by Ann Rhody, Finance Chair

Past: The 2020-21 Treasurer's Report is now available upon request. The report is a final financial summary of the Fiscal Year—great for an overview of our financial picture. The report is sent to the Board of Trustees, the Finance Committee, and the Leadership Group, but is available upon request to any member of the congregation. Please contact finance@uuroc.org to request a copy. Thanks to our Treasurer, Dick Shroyer, for preparing this important document.

Present: The first quarter of the current (2021-22) Fiscal Year is now complete, and everything seems to be going well! It's still early, but at this point there are no glaring issues to address. Remember that pledge income and general contributions help to keep the church on even financial footing. Thanks for continuing to mail checks to the church to pay pledges or to make contributions. Online giving is also available at uuroc.org.

During our shared services with First Unitarian church, the cash plate collection went to their congregation, to help defray the substantial cost of the tent rental. We are grateful that First Unitarian was willing to host the services at no cost to our congregation, and we offered the full plate collection to them.

Future: 2022 Service Auction? As of this writing, it is unclear what future services will look like at First Universalist. What IS clear to us on the Finance Committee, though, is that the "old" model of the annual Service Auction—many people in the Clara Barton Lounge, sharing food, bids, and air—is not a realistic possibility this year. The Finance team is brainstorming some alternative ideas, hopefully for a plan that will combine fundraising with a whole lot of fun, connection, and fellowship. We welcome your thoughts!

Katherine Flynn, Paula Marchese, and Ann Rhody would love to hear from you. Send any ideas to finance@uuroc.org, and watch the weekly email for updates. ❖

Eastman at Washington Square Concerts

Concerts are held at our church at lunch time on Thursdays. Each concert begins at 12:15pm and ends at approximately 12:45pm. Admission is free!

- **Nov. 4 | Eastman Graduate Brass Quintet**

The opportunity to hear a brass quintet of graduate students from Eastman is always a treat. Don't miss a performance from Bailey Paugh, Paul Tingley, Kyle Schober, Jeff Dunn, and Juan Alonso.

- **Nov. 11 | Piano Extravaganza I**

Pianists from the Eastman studio of Joseph Rackers will dazzle over lunch!

- **Nov. 18 | Upper Classmen Wind Quintets**

Enjoy students coached by Anne Harrow performing music written by Paul Taffanel and the Imani Winds' Valerie Coleman.

- **Dec. 2 | Piano Extravaganza II**

Piano students from the studio of Elinor Freer will share performances to highlight their work!

- **Dec. 9 | Music for Bassoon and Piano**

Bassoonist Blaire Koerner and Collaborative Pianist Zachary Peterson will delight!

- **Dec. 16 | Dances from many Lands**

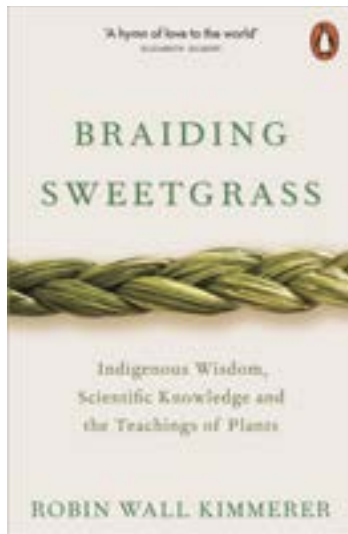
Eastman Collaborative Piano Faculty members Priscilla Yuen and Irina Lupines will finish up our fall season with a joyful performance of dances from around the globe! ❖

Opportunity to Buy or Borrow the “Rochester Reads” Pick!

Submitted by the Library Committee

Volunteers are ready to deliver “*Braiding Sweetgrass*” by Robin Wall Kimmerer to your home for buying or borrowing! If you want to purchase, we are selling them at a reduced price of \$15. (A great idea for a Christmas gift for the bookworm in your life.)

If you want to borrow, enjoy for a month (renewal available) before we pick it up to hand to next borrower. Contact library@uuroc.org, and a friendly library representative will arrange for the book to be dropped off at your door. ❖



safe to again shelter families in churches, FPGROC hopes to shelter some families in churches and some in apartments. That way we can help more families, because the need is great, and affordable housing is scarce.

FPGROC is now partnering with the national Family Promise to provide volunteer training modules online via computer, tablet, or cellphone. I tried out this training and learned a lot. I highly recommend it, even for previously trained and very experienced volunteers. The facts it gives about nationwide family poverty and homelessness are eye-opening. It makes clear the financial precariousness of so many families' lives and the impact it has on children's health, education, and futures. The training includes interviews with former guests who say how they feel about the program and how they would like to be treated.

Volunteer 101 Training takes about 15 minutes, and gives an overview of the program and facts about family poverty. Volunteer 102 Training takes about an hour, and gives practical information about volunteering in the sheltering program, as well as how to interact with those experiencing the trauma of homelessness. It also describes FP's three other programs that have been very active during the pandemic: prevention—preventing eviction, diversion—finding housing solutions other than the sheltering program, and stabilization—aftercare for program graduates. It lists volunteer opportunities for these other programs.

You can do the training at any time, stopping at any point you wish. The module will resume at the point you last stopped. When you complete the training, FPGROC automatically receives notice that you are a trained volunteer. Access the training at FPGROC's volunteer page at <https://www.fpgroc.org/volunteer>. Links to the training modules and an instruction guide for using the modules are near the bottom of the page. I hope you'll try it. ❖

FPGROC (RAIHN): Training Goes Online

Submitted by Chris DeGolyer

Family Promise of Greater Rochester (FPGROC, formerly RAIHN) continues to house guest families in apartments, and our church continues to provide groceries and gift cards for staples. On October 31, we completed our last FPGROC Week for 2021. When the pandemic wanes and it becomes



Animal Ministry: The Tofurky Guy

Submitted by Lois Baum

The last turkey I ate was Thanksgiving 1980. The last turkey I snuggled was Abraham, rescued and living at ASHA Sanctuary, and many years ago at Wild Winds in Naples, NY, a turkey named Brutus quite literally fell in love with me!

I became a vegan in 2001, when I fully recognized that nonhumans are not here for human use, but are sentient beings, each deserving of their own life, of love, and of a name.

Seth Tibbott of Oregon formed Turtle Island Foods back in 1980 after becoming vegan. With his charm, vegan ethic, and wit, he created a tofu-based product he cleverly named "Tofurky", debuted in 1995. It has a taste remarkably similar to turkey!.

- Ten Questions Interview with Seth Tibbott: marla-rose.medium.com/10-questions-vegan-rockstar-with-seth-tibbott-896a7f0e8eea
- Here is an excellent article (with no graphic photos) about turkeys and free-range birds: gentleworld.org/10-things-everyone-should-know-about-free-range-turkeys/

This fall, members of our Animal Ministry social justice circle have pitched in together to sponsor a rescued bird, a hen named Penelope, living at ASHA Sanctuary in Newfane, NY. There, chickens and turkeys share a lovely living space together.



At Thanksgiving (pre-COVID), many animal sanctuaries host a vegan potluck called "Thanksgiving" where humans share a vegan meal, and afterwards present sanctuary-prepared meals to feed the turkeys. It's fun, and moving. Join us next time!

Tofurky is delicious! Abundance Co-op, Lori's Natural Foods, Wegmans Nature's Marketplace, and many other local places sell it.

How to cook Tofurky Roast: ilovevegan.com/how-to-cook-a-tofurky-roast/

I hope you will try Tofurky this Thanksgiving. Rather than continuing to pay into the horrific industry of animal exploitation, I ask that you keep Abraham, Brutus, Penelope, and the many other living birds in mind. Peace begins on your plate. ❖



EcoJustice: the ecopark Recycling Field Trip!

Submitted by Lois Baum

EcoJustice members Greg and Lois Baum visited the ecopark (10 Avion Drive, Rochester NY) on October 6. The ecopark accepts many items to recycle and/or dispose of properly, especially those items we are not supposed to put in the recycle bin at home, nor for trash (aka "landfill").

The line of cars dropping off old prescription meds and bottles, and hazardous materials (paints, etc), only took 5 minutes including wait time and drop off. We were not to get out of our car. A policeman and four ecopark employees handled it all. Other than the general question "what are you bringing today?"... it was smooth and easy as could be. Typically, hazardous waste requires a prior appointment, easily made online.

Styrofoam is accepted at the ecopark, but ONLY very clean, plain white styrofoam. There is a very clear sign explaining what is and is not accepted. Over the past two years, we had saved styrofoam packaging from various boxes at home, so we placed those pieces in the large bin at the ecopark.

For more information on Monroe County's ecopark: monroecounty.gov/ecopark. ❖



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 Campbell

Minister of Life Span Faith Development |
Rev. Michelle Yates

Music Director | Brock Tjosvold

Office Manager | Emma Barry

Nursery Care Providers |
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.