



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

Sunday Services | **October 2018**

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October 7, 10:30 am | *Cultivating Abundance*. An attitude of abundance often comes from appreciating what we have, the steady cultivation of hope, and the belief that this too shall pass. How are we living in abundant yes versus scarce no? How can we embrace the opportunity to believe that more is possible?
—Rev. Lane Campbell

October 14, 10:30 am | *Telling the Stories, Embracing Our Shared Future*. A special dialogue sermon between Rev. Lane and Rev. Renee Rucholtzke, regional staff with the Unitarian Universalist Association. The topic: What are some of the shared, collective stories of First Universalist Church? Who are we called to be in the future while respecting those who have come before?
—Rev. Lane Campbell

October 21, 10:30 am | *Who Are Our Neighbors?* There is a certain responsibility and hospitality about being a neighbor to someone. It is more than just living next to one another. In this time of deep aloneness and anxiety, we explore how to connect with the folks living alongside us in a neighborly way.
—Rev. Lane Campbell

October 28, 10:30 am | *Remembrance Sunday*. On the closest Sunday to All Saints Day and Dia De Los Muertos, we pause to remember the many loved ones who are gone from our days. People are invited to bring photos and mementos of loved ones who have died to create a community altar. Waters will be poured in the church garden from the water communion ingathering service to honor the loved ones we have lost this year.
—Rev. Lane Campbell



Rev. Lane Campbell



Rev. Lane is now scheduling one-on-one appointments. These will be set up in two-week intervals. Check the Court St. bulletin board and sign-up for your desired day and time. You may also call Rev. Lane to schedule your appointment at (585) 325-5092 or email her at minister@uuroc.org.

On my way walking to a spiritual direction appointment, I glanced down and found myself surprised. Buckeyes! These beautiful brown seeds/nuts that are a prominent sign that fall has arrived in the city where I come from. What was surprising to me was to find these buckeyes on the ground. They are the mascot of a well-prized college football team in Columbus and finding them wildly grown, lying around on the ground, is rare. Usually we make necklaces with the buckeyes as the beads, which are worn with the standard scarlet and grey colors of the team every Saturday from Labor Day on forward.

In seeing these beautiful buckeyes, I am reminded of the season's changing. Fall is finally starting to arrive after a very hot, somewhat longer summer. The air is changing. The temperatures are changing. Festivals are less frequent. It is a good reminder that change is constant in our lives. It is always a part of our surroundings and our internal processes.

I wanted to embrace this change so badly, I stooped down and began picking up every buckeye I could see. Living in Columbus for 5 years has taught me to look for the good ones - the ones still in their prickly shell. For buckeyes out of their shell, they need to have no cracks in their smooth outsides. You also have to check for water damage or for any holes from worms or bugs.

Something about collecting these brought me back to a different time, when I was younger and gleefully picking things up to bring home from the beach or the field or anywhere I had been exploring that day. It was delightful.

Buckeyes have a special lesson to teach us. The best buckeyes you find are in their prickly shell, safe and protected. They harden in there and one must be patient, waiting for their shells to open naturally as they dry on a smooth surface before plucking the buckeye out. This is how they fully form, with surfaces that are not brittle enough to break through. As we wait for them to be ready, we learn about patience and acceptance of what is.

It also seems to me to be a metaphor for trust- to wait until you are ready to emerge, to truly be vulnerable with others. Building trust is not something we can rush into. It takes time to come out of our own prickly shells to tell our stories or to really bring our authenticity to a friendship. We must know that we are safe. We must build the relationship that will hold our tender parts as well as the times we are fun to be with. Trusting ourselves is a paramount foundation to trusting others. We also need to take the time to build up who we are and to trust that we will show up for ourselves before we can show up for others.

Where are you seeking patience in your life? What are you waiting for at this season's turning? And where do you seek to trust? How are you showing up for you?

As we move into the beginning of fall, my hope for you is to be in touch with the changes that surround us, to have moments along the way to enjoy the beauty of change. And I wish for you to learn from our natural surroundings how to be with the seasons and how to be with yourself.

Minister's Study Hours

Rev. Lane Campbell – Minister

Tuesday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Wednesday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Thursday: Study Day.

Open hours will be held at a coffee shop (TBD)

Friday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

(585) 325-5092

minister@uuroc.org

Walking Together



*Minister of Life Span Faith Development
Rev. Michelle Yates*

“How is it going with your spiritual practices?” is a question we got a lot throughout seminary. There is a reasonable assumption that someone learning to be a spiritual leader should have a regular spiritual practice for their personal grounding, enrichment, and growth. Thus, they could then share those practices and the fruits of their spiritual growth with those they served.

Like being asked if I’ve been flossing regularly by my dentist, I always cringed at this question. I love spiritual practices, and I’ll go periods of time engaging in one or another periodically. But I’ve always been more of a dabbler and never found one practice that fits for me every day for years at a time.

Imagine my glee when I finally confessed this to one of my professors and was told, “Almost anything can be a spiritual practice. It’s okay to do a little bit of everything. There are so many ways to do it; it’s all about the mindfulness of how YOU are when you are “practicing.” You could do it when you brush your teeth!”

Even still, if the point of spiritual practice is to deepen your spirituality and to connect to the sacred in everyday life, gosh, I can always use some more of that, and I’ve heard a similar interest from many of you.

So, this year, our Faith Development themes and monthly program, *Spirit in Practice*, will be based on the Eight Spheres of Spiritual Growth or the “Eight Gates” Model from the Zen Mountain Monastery. This model encompasses the eight different forms

of spiritual practice: Personal Spiritual Practices, Communal Worship Practices, Spiritual Partnerships, Mind Practices, Body Practices, Soul Practices, Life Practices, and Justice Practices.

In *Spirit in Practice*, we’ll meet to explore in more depth every third Wednesday of the month from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm in the Clara Barton Lounge from October to June. If spiritual practice is an interest of yours I hope you will be able to join us for some or all of the sessions.

Remember, it’s a ‘spiritual practice’, not a ‘spiritual perfect’. Let’s explore together!

Walking with You,

-Rev. Michelle



MINISTERIAL START-UP WORKSHOP WEEKEND EVENT

As part of beginning a new ministry with us, First Universalist is hosting a Ministerial Start-Up Workshop Weekend event led by UUA Congregational Life Staff, Rev. Renee Ruchotzke. All are invited to a potluck dinner on Friday, October 12 from 6:30 pm until 9:00 pm, to tell stories about the congregation and to explore the history of First Universalist. Board members and committee chairs will join for a workshop on Saturday, October 13 from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. All will finish on Sunday, October 14 with a dialogue sermon between Rev. Renee Ruchotzke and Rev. Lane Campbell in worship at 10:30 am.

Come and be a part of the start
of Rev. Lane's ministry!



From the Board

Submitted by Nancy Gaede

In the interest of improving our operations at First Universalist, during the last church year, the Board of Trustees determined that it was time to conduct an audit. To that end, we hired Heveron and Company to do a study of our policies and procedures.

Heveron and Company was provided with, among other things, information about finances, recordkeeping procedures, documentation, and the security of electronic information. In general, the report found that we are doing many things in competent and safe ways. There were some suggestions for improvement, and we will be using the findings we received from John Heveron to improve our policies and procedures.

One highlighted area was IT. It was suggested that we take steps to make this area more secure. Because the Board is moving to become policy-centered, we tasked the Communications Committee with developing policy concerning the use of church computers and other electronic devices. This occurred, in part, because of past hacking incidents and because of the potential for future problems.

The Communications Committee put a great deal of effort into the policy that the Board voted to adopt at our August meeting. We would like to thank Lisa Gwinner, Dolores Da Lomba, Marcy Klein, Connie Valk, and Andrea Lewis for their hard work in developing this thoughtful and well-written document. We realize that the implementation of these new procedures may cause some inconvenience, and we ask for your patience and understanding as we work to make the operations at First Universalist even better than they already are. A copy of the new policy has been posted in the Volunteer office near the computer.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact Lisa Gwinner, chair of the Communications Committee, or Board of Trustees president, Nancy Gaede. We'd be glad to talk with you.

A Note to Visitors

Submitted by Peter Perine

Anyone who visits a church does so for very personal reasons. Eventual members typically begin the journey as visitors. Perhaps the reason for the first visit was the recommendation of a friend, or attending a wedding, memorial service or other event held at First Universalist, or perhaps the result of a newspaper article or web search.

Many newcomers to First Universalist are struck by the beauty of the church building, both inside and out. It is an architectural gem, calming and revitalizing. The music, both instrumental and choral, is inspiring; the sermons thought-provoking; the congregation friendly and welcoming. The church's Unitarian Universalist teachings are appealing, drawing as they do from many of the world's major religions.

If you are a visitor to our church who would like to get more closely connected to our congregation, we invite you to join us in our next *UU and You* orientation session, an informal 45-minute overview of Unitarian Universalist history, UU principles, and the current story of this congregation. The next orientation session is scheduled for October 7 immediately after the Sunday service. These sessions are offered every two months throughout the church year.

If you've already attended a *UU and You* orientation, and feel that the time has come for you to discuss joining our congregation, please contact Reverend Lane (minister@uuroc.org) or a member of the church's Membership Committee (membership@uuroc.org). We would love to have you as a fellow member.



Project Team Update

Submitted by Dolores Da Lomba

This month we wind up our look at how racism has impacted the Native American population but encourage you to do further investigation. These days we cringe at the infamous Boarding schools which all Native American children were forced to attend and wonder how our government could have been so cruel. At these schools, children were subjected to cruelty and disrespect of their culture and their ways. They were supposed to become “civilized” by having their hair cut short and wearing European style clothes. They were punished if caught speaking their native language and taught to be ashamed of their heritage. For a vivid description of what used to be, take a look at the PBS documentary, *Little Dream Catchers, How the Legacy of Forced Assimilation Lingers Today*, (9/30/16), available for streaming until December. One would hardly expect this kind of thing to happen today. Yet, there are certainly echoes of this in the forced separation of children from their parents at our border.

The Native American population has been decimated. What had been a multitude of tribes all over America has become a fraction of the population so that now, the percentage of the Native American population in America is less than 1 percent. And yet they endure. Perhaps as a reminder to us new Americans of what once was and of how to respect what is different.

In *Neither Wolf Nor Dog*, Dan (the Lakota) admonishes Kent Nerborn, the author of the book, thusly: “Your people must learn to give up their arrogance. They are not the only ones placed on this earth. Theirs is not the only way. People have worshipped the Creator and loved their families in many ways in all places. Your people must learn to honor this.”

For additional reading, please check the suggested Reading List on the Social Justice bulletin board in the Clara Barton Lounge (the rolling one near the piano). We did not have a book about Native Americans selected to discuss together but there are many choices for you to read on your own. And we are always receptive if a group would like to get together to discuss a favorite.

As October approaches, we will be looking at racism as it impacts people of African American heritage and we begin with our fall book selection, *When They Call You A Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir* by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele. We hope you’ll be able to attend the discussions on October 14 and 21 in the Chalice Room at 12:15 pm.

Adult Education

Submitted by Kathy Russell



Learning to Be a Human Being: *The sixteen people I've never met who have taught me the most.* A theme-centered small group led by Lew Ward -Baker.

Given my evolutionary biological makeup, what characterizes the noblest aspects of what distinguishes me from other primates? Can I name sixteen people I've never met who have given me the greatest understanding of what I define to be humanity and thus helped me know who I am and what I can do? Am I willing to share what I've learned and from whom with a small group of similarly open seekers?

If you're interested and can make a commitment, come to an organizational gathering after church on Sunday, October 7 from 12:15 pm until 1:00 pm in the Youth Room (2nd floor by the stairs).

Rural & Migrant Ministry Event October 25

From the Social Justice Circle "Harvesting Justice"



Karen Washington is the keynote speaker for this year's Rural & Migrant Ministry dinner on October 25 at Temple B'rith Kodesh.

Ms. Washington has spent decades promoting urban farming as a way for all New Yorkers to gain access to fresh, locally grown food. As a community gardener and board member of the New York Botanical Gardens, Karen has worked with Bronx neighborhoods to turn empty lots into community gardens.

Seats available at UU tables. If you want to reserve a seat (\$75) at one of the UU tables, contact Connie Valk at office@uuroc.org.



RAIHN Works!



*Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network
Keeping families together.
Getting families home for good.*

Submitted by Marti Eggers

2 Graduate Family Success Stories

Recently RAIHN Director Kim Hunt-Uzelac shared the following success story with RAIHN Coordinators, and we want to share it with the congregation.

"We are so very proud of two moms who graduated in the past year and a half. We heard from both moms today regarding future plans. One of them just got accepted into an LPN program and the other will be going to Nazareth in the fall to get a degree in social work! What wonderful news! And both moms reached out to RAIHN immediately to share the good news, so we wanted to share it with you!"

RAIHN works in part because of teams of dedicated volunteers who prepare and serve meals, who offer evening and overnight presence, who launder bedding, and who set up and take down rooms that the families call home during their stay with us.

If you would like to join the First Universalist team, ask Chris DeGolyer to put your name on the RAIHN mailing list. Then learn more about RAIHN and how you can serve by attending the next training session on October 11, at 6:30 pm at Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs Street at the corner of East Avenue. Our next Host Week begins on October 21, so you will be ready to volunteer right away. We hope to see you then!



Social Justice Plate

Submitted by Shirley Bond

Flower City Pickers

Strolling through the market one day, Marcia Weaver found a group of volunteers in the back busily sorting through tons of veggies. She told me about them and I went to visit their space and was really impressed with their work. The volunteers come to the market on a regular basis and sort through food that generous farmers donate at the end of market days. They collect over a ton of produce each week and then distribute. The sorted food that is not up to par gets taken to farmers for livestock food or for compost. This is a hugely volunteer organization. They even have an old school bus that is used for vegetable transport. The group is going to be very surprised and grateful that they were selected for our plate offering.

The collection in September for school #7 was \$371. The teachers and students will be very grateful we are sure.

Speaking of grateful, if anyone is interested in joining a committee that is fun, not time consuming, and stress free, we would be grateful, we are sure. Please contact: Becky Elwell or Shirley Bond. We are in the directory.



Faith In Action Council

FIAC@uuroc.org

The Architecture of Justice

Submitted by Joy Leccese

Faith is the foundation: Action is the house we build on it. The Faith In Action Council (FIAC) is the team that oversees the blueprint of our Social Justice Ministry here at First Universalist Church. On Saturday, October 20, from 9:00 am until 11:00 am, The Faith In Action Council, along with the Project Team, led by Dolores Da Lomba and Rev. Michelle Yates, Minister of Lifespan Faith Development - will host a Breakfast Circles event. We invite all of our Social Justice Circle leaders and participants to enjoy a continental breakfast as we excavate, explore and exchange ideas for creating a stronger, more just and unified home and community for people of all backgrounds and beliefs. We want to get to know and share more about all the wonderful things our members and friends are doing to nurture the spirit and serve the community. So, please come!

If you're just wondering what all of our Social Justice Circles are up to, and haven't yet dipped your toes in the water, join us too! This is a great opportunity to come and see: have some coffee and conversation, tell us about your interests and experiences, and enjoy the camaraderie of our beloved community. There's a sign-up sheet on the Court Street Bulletin Board: stop by and add your name to it! We look forward to being together in Action! For more information, email us at FIAC@uuroc.org.

Your FIAC team: Joy Leccese, Becky Elwell and Heather Jones.

Greeters at First Universalist

Submitted by Connie Valk



It is so wonderful to enter the church on a Sunday and be greeted with a smile, a handshake or a hug. Greeters serve an especially important role in the life of our church. They make visitors feel immediately welcome, introducing families to our childcare staff and volunteers, showing those with walkers how to use the elevator, as well as handing out visitor packets and nametags.

The major qualification for becoming a greeter is friendliness. If you qualify, please contact Peter Perine at welcoming@uuroc.org for additional information. Families can sign up to be greeters, too! This is a fun thing for children to do.

You can be paired up with a seasoned greeter until you feel ready to greet on your own, signing up as a Greeter Volunteer regularly or whenever your schedule permits.

Spirit In Practice!

A New Faith Development Program

Submitted by Rev. Michelle Yates

The *Spirit in Practice* workshops were created by UU minister Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom to help Unitarian Universalists develop regular disciplines, or practices, of the spirit—practices that help them connect with the sacred ground of their being, however they understand it.

Spirit in Practice affirms religious diversity while seeking unity in our communal quest for meaning and wholeness. The workshops offer a forum for learning, sharing, and growth that can enrich our faith journeys.

Workshops will take place on the third Wednesday of each month from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the Clara Barton Lounge. Come to each session or when you can.

In our session on Wednesday, October 17, we will consider spiritual practices and the Eight Spheres of the Spiritual Growth model. Please email our facilitator Rev. Michelle at edu@uuroc.org if you plan to attend or have questions.



The Dream of a Green Sahara

Who hasn't dreamed of transforming the desert into a beautiful green retreat? In Israel, a tremendous system of pipelines, tunnels, reservoirs, and canals called the "National Water Carrier of Israel" brings fresh water to the Western Negev Desert. Lands deforested during World War I have been returned to agriculture. Humans have lived in and used the natural resources of the Mediterranean for centuries. Then in Roman times the area was further stripped of vegetation and topsoil by mining, timber harvesting, overgrazing, agriculture, and erosion. The Sahara, somewhat larger than the continental United States, is continually expanding. Many people have envisioned ways to reduce this trend, even to return some of the continent to a healthy green.

A "Green Wall of China" has been developed over 50 years and has reduced the spread of the Gobi Desert. Precipitation has increased, and sandstorms have decreased. In Tunisia, Sarah Toumi spearheaded a project to plant desert-hardy acacia trees, which has reversed desertification. Also, in Tunisia, Nur Energie is reviving, on a smaller scale, the solar dream of Desertec, which uses solar panels to capture the sun's energy for conversion into heat and electricity. The electricity can be used locally and might be exported to other countries. In addition to the increase in jobs and economic reimbursement, the solar panels appear to affect the local environment. There is more precipitation, which brings about vegetation and reversal of desert spread. Along the western coast of the Sahara, wind turbines bring electricity and may also affect the weather.

In Ouarzazate in Morocco, a large multi-phase solar panel project is bringing jobs and electricity, and computer modeling seems to indicate it may reduce desertification.

Drawbacks, concerns? Yes, of course, there is no free lunch. It is expensive to build solar farms, or even to plant trees. Many projects involve investors from various countries and corporations, bringing with them the inevitable concerns over who will benefit.

In one diagram illustrating the cable system for distributing Saharan electricity to Europe, the lines from Africa to Europe appeared robust and numerous, while those supplying the African continent looked scant and thin. We must not repeat the exploitation of Africa seen in colonial times. Animals? Yes, birds have difficulties with wind turbines. Birds and bats experience mid-air combustion above solar arrays. These issues have solutions, such as turning off wind turbines during bird migration, nets, and introducing ways for birds to know that solar panels are not bodies of water. And let's not forget the challenge of human beings learning to work together. Wars, political instability, self-aggrandizement of countries and corporations are obstacles to the necessary search for win-win-win solutions.

Human beings, we hold so much power, for good or ill. In *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*, edited by Paul Hawken, a man named Yacouba Sawadogo in Burkina Faso saw drought destroying the land around him. He enlarged pits near his plants to catch more of the scant rainfall and added manure. His crops increased and then trees began to sprout, thanks to the manure. The trees grew among his crops of millet and sorghum and enriched the soil. Water tables under the crops began to recharge. "The more trees you have, the more you get", says Mr. Sawadogo. One person can make a difference. One idea can help to green a desert. And it will take all of us, using many of the amazing ideas that have already been conceived, to regenerate our emerald jewel floating in the sky, our Home.

Living Our Values,
Making A Difference



Black Lives Matter
Second Sunday Rally
September 9, 2018

We Rallied for Life and Respect and for Love



Our Black Lives Matter Rally on the corner of
Clinton Avenue South and Court Street.

(left to right) Rev. Lane Campbell, Rev. Michelle Yates, Walter Yates (in the carriage), Janet Clarke-Hazlett, Brock Tjosvold, Alex Pita, Nancy Gaede, Rev. Richard Gilbert Kitty Forbush, Dave VanArsdale, and Theresa McFarland-Porter



(left to right) Rev. Lane Campbell, Rev. Michelle Yates, Walter Yates (in the carriage), Janet Clarke-Hazlett, Nancy Gaede, Kitty Forbush, and Rev. Richard Gilbert



(left to right) Walter Yates (in the carriage) Nancy Gaede, Kitty Forbush, Lois & Greg Baum, Dave VanArsdale, Chris DeGolyer, Bridget Watts, and Theresa McFarland-Porter (kneeling)



From the Worship Committee Thanks to Our Summer Team!

*Submitted by Bridget Watts
Chair, Worship Committee*

Before the memory of summer fades away completely, I'd like to thank the volunteers from the worship team who helped First Universalist to welcome members and visitors and provide inspiration and community throughout the summer months.

Thanks to our crack summer services team who came in early and stayed late to provide refreshments and to support our summer minister, Peter House: Richard Reed, Carole Hoffman, Karen Ruganis, Katherine Flynn, Joy Leccese, and Bridget Watts.

Thanks also to Worship Associate (WA) Coordinator Patti Goodwin for helping me organize programming for the three weeks Peter was out of the pulpit; to our excellent guest speakers, Catherine Coates and Janet Clarke-Hazlett; and to the team of WA's who covered Labor Day weekend: Kitty Forbush, Tom Williams, and Dolores Da Lomba. Patti and I did WA duty for our guest speakers.

Thanks to these volunteers and all of you (musicians, ushers, discussion leaders, keepers-of-the-flame, staff, and others) who make summer worship possible.

Mindfulness & Meditation

Do You Mind?

Submitted by Joy Leccese

Mindfulness, that is... Do you practice mindfulness? Mindfulness and meditation are now well-known, mainstream practices for relieving stress, improving calmness and peace of mind, and generally coping with the vagaries of daily life. They've been part of many religious practices for thousands of years, but in the past several decades, western medicine has tapped into these resources without any attachment to organized religion or formal eastern philosophies. Advances in neuroscience have documented and reinforced the many physical and psychological benefits of both these practices.

We have held mindfulness and meditation sessions here at First Universalist over the past several years, and numerous people have asked me when we're going to have more of them. Good news! Beginning in November, we'll resume our Saturday practice - once a month to start. In November, we'll meet on the November 10 from 9:00 am until 11:45 am. In the following months we'll meet on December 15, January 19, February 16, March 16, April 13, May 18, and June 15. I'll send reminders to those who sign up for the group email list.

We'll have a topic to discuss each month, with time for a sitting and/or walking meditation, sharing, and wrapping up.

If you're new to these practices, great! You'll learn some new tools and techniques; if you're a seasoned practitioner, all the better! We have had great response to these sessions, and I look forward to resuming this little corner of contemplative practice in our otherwise very busy congregational life!

For more information, email me via office@uuroc.org or call 585-484-1891. I look forward to seeing many of you, mindfully. Namaste.



Your First Universalist Finance Team - Cheer us on (or even join us!)

Submitted by Ann Rhody, Finance Chair

The finances of the First Universalist Church of Rochester are well-managed by a great team of church members. We often describe ourselves as a “well-oiled machine,” and every part of that machine has a special role in keeping things on track. We’d like you to know the players on this team, and like any “machine,” we always need to update and get new parts. Here’s who handles what, and how you might fit in!

The Treasurer: Dick Shroyer, treasurer@uuroc.org, takes care of the bookkeeping and day-to-day bill paying. He keeps up with the bank records and can answer questions about whether a check has been sent or cashed, what’s been spent in a certain category of the budget, and how much money the church has at any given time.

The Collector: Bill Jones, jones@chem.rochester.edu, handles all of the funds coming IN to the church. He keeps track of the deposits, and confidentially records all pledges and pledge payments. He can answer questions about how much you owe on your pledge, or how much you paid in the past year. Bill sends out statements periodically, and those can be saved for official tax purposes.

The Payroll and Benefits Coordinator: Beth Ares, bethares@aol.com, takes care of all payroll-related matters. She communicates with the Payroll company to ensure that everyone gets paid on time. Along with the Personnel Committee and the rest of the Finance Committee, she coordinates application and administration of appropriate benefits, labor and tax law. *We could use a few more payroll clerks to send information to the payroll company when Beth is absent.*

The Fund-Raising Team: informally led by Paula Marchese and Katherine Flynn, pmarchese@rochester.rr.com, works to organize the Service Auction and any other general fund-raisers that may be held. *We ALWAYS need volunteers for*

the Service Auction, which occurs in February- look for information late this fall on how you can be a part of this fun and fantastic event!

The Stewardship Team: New co-chairs each year, supported by the Finance Committee plans and organizes the annual drive to secure member and friend pledges to support the church’s operating costs. Planning for the Stewardship Campaign typically starts in late Fall and wraps up by the end of April. *We welcome members to join the stewardship team- and it does not involve begging anyone for money!*

The Finance Committee: Ann Rhody, chair, annrhody@gmail.com, meets about 4-5 times a year to plan budgets activities and advise the Board of Trustees on financial decisions. *If you would like to help but need to “learn the ropes” first, becoming a Finance Committee member is an excellent place to start.*

We’d love to welcome you to be a part of this wonderful team. Please contact Finance Chair Ann Rhody annrhody@gmail.com, if you’d like to know more!

RAIHN Match Goal Over the Top!

*Submitted by the RAIHN Coordinators
Marti Eggers, Sarah Singal, and Chris DeGolyer*

RAIHN MATCH: The revised total of \$4,373 will be sent to the RAIHN Day Center to make improvements for comfort and security. Thanks to everyone who helped make this possible.



Drop-in Discussion

Submitted by Beth Ares



Drop-in discussions are held each Sunday morning in the Chalice Room on the second floor of our church, starting at 9:15 am during the regular church year. 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.

October 7: *Race. Is it a Real Divider?* We will discuss current genetic and scientific theories regarding race, and the social implications. Shelley Adams will lead the discussion.

October 14: *Healthy Buildings.* A Healthy Building, Kitsap County Administration Building in Port Orchard, Washington, incorporates in its design earth sheltering, rainwater gathering, natural ventilation, a green roof, and everyone is 30 feet or less from a window. Kate Fleury will tour the site and bring information about this award-winning example of building healthy with community support.

October 21: *Defibrillator Training.* Our new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is so easy to use, you don't even have to have training to use it and save a life. Once you turn it on, you just do what it tells you! But maybe you would appreciate being more informed? Kate Fleury, RN, BSN, a Certified American Heart Association Instructor, will show and demonstrate lifesaving techniques that we can use here at First Universalist if it were needed.

October 28: *What Gives Us the Will to Live?* Based on a recent topic in the Universalist Herald. Because we are alive, we know that we will eventually die. Are you afraid of dying and is it the pain of death that causes fear or the uncertainty (or certainty) of what's on the other side? Does difficulty in life make you love life more or does it weaken your resolve to have a quality life? David Damico facilitates.

YOU may be potential presenter! Have you read or written a book or article, attended or presented a workshop or talk or have a topic that you would like to share with us? Please contact any of our Drop-In Discussion Committee members: Shelley Adams, John Belli, David Damico, Kate Fleury, Bob Remley, or Beth Ares, coordinator.

Church Library and Bookstore

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

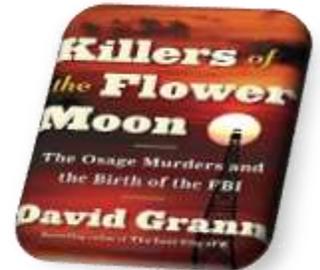


Librarian Wanted

Do you like people and like books? Consider joining the Library Committee. Your obligation would be to staff the church library and bookstore during MOCHA on an average of once a month and attend a committee meeting on an average of once every two months. If this sounds interesting, speak to a member of the Library Committee; Phil Ebersole, Jan Hickman, Marcy Klein, Shirley Bond, or Keith Stott.

Book Group

*Submitted by
Shirley Bond*



Our book group selection for October is *Killer of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, by David Grann. This brilliantly-told true story is about a murder conspiracy to steal Osage Nation land in the 1920s. Told in the style of a detective novel the plot twists and turns and will leave your head spinning!

Please join us on October 28 in the Chalice Room at 12:10 pm as we discuss this book about the forgotten chapters in American history. Didn't get a chance to read the book? No worries, I hope our lively discussion will pique your interest. Any questions see Shirley Bond or Sarah Singal.

Brock Tjosvold Music Director



In my first two weeks as music director here at First Universalist Church of Rochester, I have been overwhelmed by the welcoming, supportive, and appreciative responses from the staff, choir, and congregation. It makes me so excited to be a part of your family and community!

I can sense that music is deeply appreciated in this congregation, which is inspiring me daily. One thing that I have enjoyed learning about at UUROC is the gifts that members of the congregation have to share with each other. I encourage any musicians in the congregation who would like to share their music to speak with me, so that you have an opportunity and a community in which to be heard. I look forward to meeting and getting to know everyone more and more as we move ahead!

House Committee News

Submitted by Ed Deller

Thanks to all who continue to help in the maintenance and operation of our beautiful space. Here are some noteworthy items since our last report:

- The storm windows have arrived for the parking lot side of the volunteer office. They will be painted and installed ahead of the coming winter.
- Copper roofing was stolen from the low, flat roof on the south side of the church. Temporary protection was quickly installed, and a non-copper long-term alternative will be installed before winter.
- The annual fire inspection was completed.
- One of the kitchen ovens was in need of repair and has been fixed.

Ants: ant activity has increased in the kitchen. Please clean up food and dishes to minimize the activity.

Fall Clean Up Day: Please mark Saturday, November 3, from 9:00 am to noon on your calendar to help with the cleaning and winter preparation of the church. There are tasks for any level of ability.

If you are interested in joining our committee, or just want to help with certain projects let us know.

In service,

Tom Ruganis and Ed Deller (co-chairs)



From the Garden Committee

Submitted by Sara Singal



We could use a few bags of those October falling leaves to be the brown component in our compost. We prefer not to receive too many oak leaves because they take a loooong time to decompose. Another source for brown compost is the tiny bits from a paper shredder. This will help us to balance all the green compostable from the garden. Thank you! Please contact Sarah Singal at garden@uuroc.org.

Social Justice Circle Second Sundays!

Submitted by Rev. Michelle Yates

This church year Faith Development, FIAC, the Project Team, and others will be supporting *Social Justice Action and Education* every second Sunday of the month. We started off the year with our own *Black Lives Matter* rally on our corner, and plan to have engaging opportunities for all ages throughout the year.

In October, we will be showing the short (17 minutes) documentary *Little Dream Catchers* which explores "how the legacy of Native Americans' forced assimilation lingers today." The film will be shown in the sanctuary at 11:45 am with facilitated discussion to follow.



Cozy Night Supper

Submitted by Kathy Russell

Mark those calendars for Friday, October 19, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm for a potluck supper in the Clara Barton Lounge. A Sign-Up Sheet is on the hall bulletin board or contact the church office at office@uuroc.org to let us know you will be able to join us. This allows us to set up the appropriate number of tables and chairs. At this Cozy Night Supper there will be a great conversation facilitated by Rachael Baldanza about how, why, and where we volunteer in our city with a very high rate of hands-on and charitable giving. Helping others is a natural instinct, connected to our faith, and one of the reasons Rochester is a nice place to live. Come to learn and share and eat!

And for those who like to look ahead, this church year's Cozy Night Suppers are planned for the Clara Barton Lounge from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm on the following Friday evenings.

November 2018	December 2018	February 2019	March 2019	April 2019
23	28	1	8	12

Cozy Night Supper Programs: Would your Social Justice Circle or other group like to be an educational/interactive 50-minute program for one of our Cozy Night Suppers? Good dates still available! (November 23, December 28, February 1, and March 8). Contact Kathy Russell via office@uuroc.org for information and reservations.



‘MOCHA’

Submitted by Carole Hoffman

Like most of us, I bet you enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship of your church family; the great ‘munchies’ provided by our generous MOCHA volunteers, all taking place in the newly refurbished CBL. Following our spiritual nourishment, this is the hour of the week that we all connect for good conversation, enjoying the coffee purchased from ‘Coffee Connection’, a non-profit business that supports and empowers women on their journey toward sustainable recovery from addiction. Further, the coffee is organically grown and fair traded. The festive mood is enhanced by an array of delicious goodies provided by numerous gracious hosts, for which we are so appreciative. Check the bulletin board in the lounge to see who the ‘Host of the Week’ is! And consider becoming a host to provide food, only twice in one church year, by contacting Carole Hoffman at office@uuroc.org. So that MOCHA can continue to be self-sustaining, and the hosts reimbursed for their expenses, we ask that a modest donation be contributed.

The good news first:

The City Council has kept its word and sent the Police Accountability Board Alliance a draft ordinance! We requested that the PAB honor the 5 pillars of accountability that we are asking for. This includes discipline, independence and investigating power. What was presented in the draft was:

- * Gives Rochester Police Department chief final say over discipline rather than the Police Accountability Board.
- * Allows Rochester Police Department to interview all witnesses before the Police Accountability Board can decide to investigate.
- * Allows Council and the Mayor, rather than the community, to nominate a majority of representatives to the Police Accountability Board.
- * Underfunds the Police Accountability Board which limits its ability to investigate fully.
- * Gives Police too much representation on the Police Accountability Board.

This watered down approach is completely unacceptable and although progress is being made we have a great deal of work to be done.

In other news the Criminal Justice Task Force has been hard at work. The team is working on: *Raise the Age*, *Ending Solitary Confinement*, and the *Green Light N.Y.* campaign.

The Poverty Task Force is working on getting out the vote!

Home Health Care workers are known to be extremely under-appreciated and Roc/ACTS is standing with them in their quest to have a system that works for everyone.

Roc/ACTS is an organization dedicated to the belief that by working together we can empower communities to transform society.

We as a congregation are all members of Roc/ACTS so if anyone wants to join a Task Force or needs more information, please see Robert Remley or Shirley Bond. We are in the church directory.

UU Book Note

THE LARGER FAITH: A Short History of Universalism by Charles A. Howe (1993)

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

Lewis Beals Fisher, a well-known Universalist, wrote in 1921: “*Universalists are often asked to tell where they stand. The only true answer to give to this question is that we do not stand at all, we move. Or we are asked to state our position. Again, we can only answer that we are not staying to defend any position, we are on the march.*”

Charles A. Howe's *The Larger Faith: A Short History of Universalism* tells the story of our march. By the time of the merger with the Unitarians in 1961, Universalists had moved a good distance from our starting point in the 1790s, and we have moved further still. But it's good to see where we've come from and how we got to where we are, if only to get an idea of our trajectory.

Universalism is the belief that all human beings will be saved, and no human being will be eternally damned. How could you think otherwise, if you believe God is Love? But to many Christians, universalism was threatening. They feared what people might become if they did not fear sin would be punished by eternal torment in the afterlife.

The universalist idea popped up since early Christian times (Origen), and keeps popping up in unexpected places today (Carlton Pearson). But the Universalist Church in America is the only religious denomination I know of that made universalism the center of its faith.

John Murray, Hosea Ballou and other early Universalist leaders thought of themselves as Protestant Christians. Murray believed that Jesus died on the cross and rose again to save humanity from sin, but that sinners and unbelievers would be punished in the afterlife until they repented and believed. Ballou went further. He thought all persons would be saved unconditionally.

Universalists, like Unitarians, were a non-creedal movement. Much of our history is a history of elimination of limits as to things you can believe and still be a good Universalist or Unitarian. Belief in the literal truth of the Bible? The literal resurrection of Jesus? Even belief in a personal God?

One by one those limits fell. Universalism became a vision of a new Christianity and then of a new world religion of tomorrow that went beyond Christianity.

Universalists from the beginning were in the forefront of social reform, although they sometimes backslid. They opposed slavery. They believed in equal rights for women.

Judith Sargent Murray, the wife of John Murray, was an ardent feminist. The Rev. Olympia Brown in 1863 became the first woman minister in America to be ordained with full denominational authority.

Universalists never were numerous. Membership was 36,864 in 1961, when we merged with the Unitarians. Howe said peak membership was in 1917, with 55,613. I think one of the Universalists' problems was that mainstream Christianity adopted our basic idea—to embrace God's love rather than to fear God's anger. Universalism faltered because our message no longer seemed distinctive.

Howe wrote that the legacy of Universalism lives on in the UUA. As he saw it, that legacy is:

- A theology founded on the affirmation of love.
- A thoroughly democratic church government
- A social conscience motivated by our belief in the supreme worth of every person
- A conviction that liberal religion can and should speak to all sorts and conditions of people
- An insistence on the equality of women and men in both church and society.
- A recognition that liberal religion requires emotional warmth as well as intellectual rigor
- The great vision of inclusiveness implied by the Universalist name

The Larger Faith may be borrowed or purchased from the church library and bookstore, which is open in the Clara Barton Lounge during MOCHA after the Sunday service.





First Universalist Church

150 Clinton Avenue South
Rochester, New York 14604

First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY

Nurture the spirit and serve the community

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

Worship Service Begins at 10:30 am Sundays

Minister | Rev. Lane Campbell (585) 325-5092

Minister of Life Span Faith Development | The Rev. Michelle Yates

Music Director | Brock Tjosvold

Sexton | Brandon Fagan

Nursery Care Providers | Carol Williams & Sundae Hodge

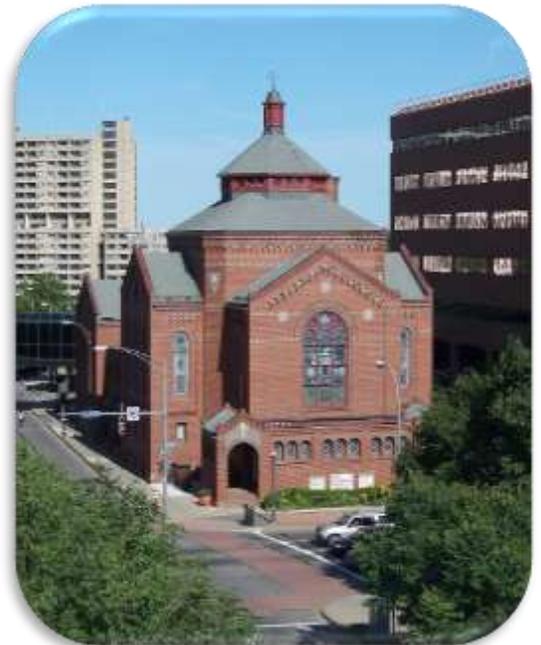
Office Administrator | Andrea Lewis

Office Hours, Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 am - 3:45 pm

Closed Monday. **Telephone** 585-546-2826

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Editor, *This Week at First Universalist* (digital) and monthly newsletter *Our Outlook*: Andrea Lewis
More information is available on our website: <http://uuoc.org>. The usual deadline for all submissions to *Our Outlook* is the 20th of each month.