



# Our Outlook

## First Universalist Church of Rochester

### Minister

The Rev. Lane Campbell  
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**First Universalist  
Church of Rochester**

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## Sunday Services | July & August 2019

### July 7 | *The Declaration of Independence: Our Sacred Legacy*

Frederick Douglass said that the principles contained in the *Declaration of Independence* are saving principles. We will explore how this hot-blooded and sexy historical document connects to the saving principles of Unitarian Universalism as we celebrate patriotism of justice warriors past and present.

— Tess McFarland-Porter

### July 14 | *Everything Gets Undone in the End*

We are a culture of do-ers. We get satisfaction from a job well done, and enjoy looking back on our accomplishments. But no matter how much we accomplish, it doesn't last. We will explore the reality of impermanence.

— Peter House

### July 21 | *Being Childless*

The notion of the nuclear family is embedded in our cultural consciousness. After we reach a certain age, it is almost assumed that we have children. But not all of us do. Childlessness is a topic rarely discussed. We will look at the way the childless are marginalized.

— Peter House

### July 28 | *A Mean Nation*

The current President's rhetoric is unprecedented in its meanness, and a large number of us are appalled. But is he the cause, or merely a symptom? What does it say about our society that meanness wins elections? What can we as UUs can do to create a more compassionate society?

— Peter House

### August 4 | *Don't Tax the Church*

Churches have always been tax exempt in this country. In the Facebook era, many people who are dismayed by the outsized political influence of Evangelical churches are posting "It's time to tax churches". We will discuss the historical reasons for exempting churches from taxes.

— Peter House

❖ Services begin at 10am ❖

# Sunday Services | July & August 2019 cont.

## August 11 | *Sometimes Things are Just Too Tangled*

Few of us make it through life without ending up estranged from someone we once loved. We may harbor hope that reconciliation will one day happen. But are some situations simply too tangled to unravel?

If so, can we accept and find inner peace?

— Peter House

## August 18 | *The Palestinian Crisis*

The tension between the Israelis and the Palestinians has long been a “third rail” topic that no one dares to touch. But it’s time that we dared to speak of it, and to seek compassionate solutions.

— Peter House

## August 25 | *The Mortgage is Never Paid*

We spend our lives trying to reach completion. But do we ever attain it? Is this necessarily a bad thing?

Is there a spiritual lesson to be learned from bill paying?

— Peter House

❖ Services begin at 10am ❖



## Tis an Ill Wind that Blows no Good

*Message from Peter House*

One of my mother’s favorite sayings was “Tis an ill wind that blows no good”. It was a reminder that something good nearly always arises as the result of some unwanted, or undesirable event or circumstance. The loss of a job creates new opportunity, loss of a loved one can open space for new relationships, and loss of an election can inspire activism.

As I tend to travel in liberal circles, everyone I know is appalled by the words/deeds of our current president. And while I share their consternation and agree with their assessments, I don’t share their belief that we are witnessing the end of civilization. I see much to be excited and hopeful about as the ill wind of the 2016 election blows good seeds of progressiveness all over the country.

The cloud that has settled over Washington DC has caused the sun to rise in Albany. The current occupant of the White House has brought out the progressive side of our governor, and given him the impetus to champion

progressive causes in a way I never would have believed possible.

Since the 2016 presidential election, some amazing progress has been made at the state level on election reform, criminal justice reform, rights for our transgendered citizens, and tenant rights. I believe these reforms would not have happened without the new found outrage the nasty rhetoric coming from the White House inspires in justice seeking people.

The 2018 mid-term election saw an unprecedented wave of diversity in congressional candidates as well. The current congress is the most racially and ethnically diverse congress in history. Diversity in candidates was also seen in state and local elections nationwide.

To be sure there is much to worry about, much to be angry about, and much to keep our eyes on. But ours is an optimistic faith, informed by the words and deeds of prophetic people who had the ability to see opportunity in adversity, to speak truth to power, and to demand justice from tyrants.

We can carry on their work, and further the cause of justice by remaining resilient, resolute, and rejoicing in what is being accomplished.

As we begin our thirteenth summer together, let us covenant with each other to keep the faith, and focus on the good that the ill wind is blowing our way. ❖

# NYSCU Annual Meeting 2019!

*It's a BIG DEAL and it's HERE at our church, so Save the Date!*

*Submitted by Ann Rhody*



Our church will have a chance to shine as we welcome Universalists from around the state and region for the Annual Meeting of the *New York State Convention of Universalists* (NYSCU) on October 25 and 26!

## Why is this such a big deal?

- *The keynote speaker will be UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray; we don't often get to host a UUA President at our church!*
- *There will be worship and workshops offered by Rev. Lane and other members of our congregation!*
- *This is a chance to collaborate, learn, and grow with other Universalists about how best to carry out our mission!*

We will need LOTS of volunteers as we show our UUROC hospitality to our friends. We'll need help with food, registration, home hospitality, and more!

So please save the date, to volunteer and/or attend the conference as a delegate or guest. Ann Rhody (a NYSCU Board member) and Nancy Gaede are heading up the local planning committee, and more information will be coming as Fall approaches.

Let's be there... Yes, let's! ❖



## March with us in the Rochester Pride Parade!

*Submitted by Connie Valk*

Join us on Saturday, July 20 for the parade marking the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, which led to the organization of our modern Pride events. UUs from other churches will march beside us.

Parking is at Monroe Square, behind the old Sears Building. Gathering time begins at Noon on Alexander Street, with the Parade starting at 1pm. We are registered under the name Unitarian Universalists. Ask anyone with a clipboard to point the way to our line-up spot!

More details will be shared on the Court Street Bulletin Board or email [pride@uuroc.org](mailto:pride@uuroc.org). ❖



# Garden News!

*Submitted by Sarah Singal*

If it's a Tuesday or Friday morning this summer and the weather is good, feel free to join gardeners in dead-heading flowers, weeding, harvesting veggies, stirring and turning over compost and general picking up and enjoying the weather!

**Wish list:**

- *Mulch to surround the raised beds.*
- *Loan of a non-power edger.*
- *Fallen leaves for our compost*
- *Shredded paper for our compost*

We are getting a list of waterers; if you would like to take a week this summer to watch for rain and water when needed please contact [garden@uuroc.org](mailto:garden@uuroc.org).

We will be gardening Tuesday and Friday mornings in good weather. No sign up is required. Just show up at 10am to join us! ❖



# Drop-In Discussions Summer 2019

*Submitted by Beth Ares*

**“Doubt is the incentive to truth and inquiry leads the way.” -Hosea Ballou**

Drop-in discussions are held each Sunday morning from 11:30am to 12:30pm in the Chalice Room on the second floor of our church, after the morning service during the church summer. Check each Sunday's Order of Service for the upcoming Sunday's topic(s).

Sometimes our discussions are based on certain books/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!

Do you have a topic for us—intellectual, profound, simple or silly? Please contact our team members with your Drop-In Discussion proposals at [dropindiscussion@uuroc.org](mailto:dropindiscussion@uuroc.org) ❖

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# EcoJustice Group

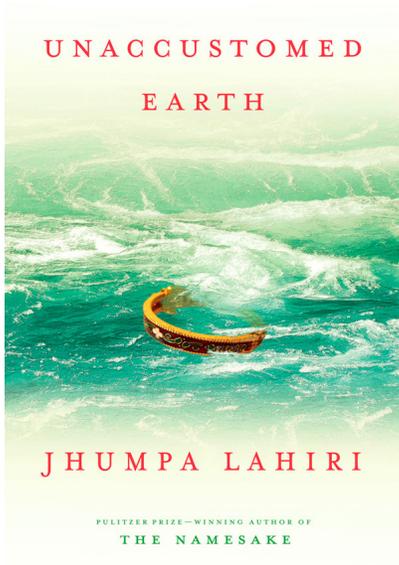
*Submitted by Sarah Singal for the EcoJustice Committee*

The group will meet once during the summer, on August 11, after church. We will decide on a theme and possible actions for the coming church year. Newcomers are welcome.

Once the church year begins we will meet on the first Sunday of the month. Newcomers are welcome then, too!

In the meantime, recycling rules are changed. Contact the county for free refrigerator magnets to be up to date: <https://www2.monroecounty.gov/des-magnet>.

Pick up plastic trash. Visit the ecopark. Use reuseable shopping bags and water bottles. And enjoy the summertime! ❖



## Book Group

*Submitted by Sarah Singal*

We will meet once during the summer, on July 28, after church. We will discuss *Unaccustomed Earth*, short stories by Jhumpa Lahiri. She is a masterful story teller, focusing on immigrants from India to the US and subsequent generations.

By the way, book selections are always gratefully received and taken under consideration. If you have read a good book lately share it with us at [Book@uuroc.org](mailto:Book@uuroc.org)! ❖

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## House Committee News

*Submitted by Ed Deller, House Comm. Co-chair*

Many thanks to Tom Ruganis for his years of dedication and service as co-chair of the House Committee.

Tom gave generously of his time and talents in leading our committee to maintain and beautify our sacred space. Fortunately, he will continue as a member of the House Committee.

Thanks, too, to Moritz Wagner for donating and installing an air conditioner for the children's 2nd floor nursery.

Over the summer we plan to paint areas of the church and resurface the parking lot.

If you are interested in joining our committee, or for one-off projects, contact [house@uuroc.org](mailto:house@uuroc.org)! ❖

## Project Team Update

### *It's Not Mission Impossible!*

*Submitted by Dolores Da Lomba*

Here's your mission if you choose to accept it! The infamous words from Mission Impossible! On Sunday, June 2, First Universalist members found our mission and we chose to accept it. It's not Mission Impossible anymore!

Together we can make some movement toward a united community that sees and embraces people of color and their history. We have already started by joining together with SPARC (*Spiritus Christi Anti-Racism Coalition*).

The Project Team invites you to come aboard as we craft a new adventure from the fabric of our hearts; to reach out and reach in to learn about the colors and textures of racism.

Ways to address this reality are endless as we help the **Heritage Civil Rights Park** take shape, and learn about our own understandings of racism, civil rights, and how we can grow and go forward.

Ideas are as simple as lunch time movies/discussions and drop-in discussions, and as robust as going on a civil rights tour in Rochester and learning our local history.

Over the summer send us your ideas and comments, and stay tuned for the mission we've accepted, a journey inward and outward together!

Sincerely,

Theo Munson & Elizabeth Osta

*Project Team Co-chairs* ❖

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## Did You Know?

*Submitted by the Communications Committee*

That our church has devices for the hearing impaired that connect with our hearing loop? Ask an usher before the Sunday Service if one is needed. ❖



# Living Our Values, Making a Difference

Submitted by Emma Barry



▲  
**Throwback: Rochester Pride Edition**  
Unitarian Universalists from First Universalist, and other local UU congregations marched in the Rochester Pride Parade in 2017! We plan to march again this year as well! Join us on July 20 for the Rochester Pride Parade! The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. We hope to see you there!



# EcoJustice Group

Submitted by Sarah Singal for the EcoJustice Committee



This year, with our focus on water, we have talked about aquifers, drought, water conservation, grey water, and water in your body. It wouldn't be a complete year, however, without mentioning the "dark side" of water, "black water". What is black water? It is another name for sewage, toilet water. Every household and building where there are humans adds black water to our ecological system. Sometimes at work I just imagine, the sewage generated by my work place, your workplace, all the other workplaces, and all of our homes, it is an inescapable part of life to poop!

In a municipal system, a sanitary sewer consists of black water draining from homes or businesses into a pipe system that connects to water treatment plants. Here the black water is processed to a level where it can be safely discharged into the Genesee River and Lake Ontario. There are multiple stages of disinfection and purification of sewage, including removal of grit, grease, and heavy materials. Next, sedimentation allows the sewage to settle out into sludge, which falls to the bottom of the tanks, and lighter effluent which is filtered, treated with chemicals, and released into a third stage. Nitrogen and phosphorus are removed, and lagoons or ponds add a final step in the decontamination process.

In a country home, where municipal sewers are not available, septic systems are the usual solution. Discharging of black water directly onto the soil would quickly damage the surrounding terrain and have unpleasant odors. A septic system collects black water from the home and it is processed in a large tank containing bacteria. The effluent is discharged into systems of pipes that drain into specially designed "leach fields".

These systems are expensive. My brother just had to replace one, its cost was about \$12,000, and the one at my parents' home a few years earlier was about \$10,000.

What do people do in other areas of the world, with

perhaps less energy or less surface water? They need to conserve and find a way to make black water into clean drinking water. In Namibia, sewage treatment plans have been developed during the past 50 years to change raw sewage into potable water. Singapore and Australia have also developed systems to reclaim sewage into purified drinking water. Our black water treatment in Monroe and surrounding counties is adequate for now, and if we needed to add the step of reclaiming water, how comforting to know that the way to do it already exists. ❖

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## Finance News

### *From the Finance Committee to our Congregation:*

Submitted by Ann Rhody for the Finance Committee

#### *Thank you for....*

- Approving an ambitious budget to fund the mission of First Universalist Church.
- Supporting that budget with your pledges; we now stand at 105 pledges for 2019-20!
- Helping us "trim down" and streamline our operations by consolidating unnecessary funds.
- Your words of appreciation for the hard work of the Finance Committee.

#### *And a personal note...*

Finance Chair Ann Rhody heartily thanks the church Treasurer, Dick Shroyer, as well as the other members of the Finance Committee (*Karl Abbott, Beth Ares, Katherine Flynn, Bill Jones, Paula Marchese, Richard Reed, and Dave VanArsdale*) for their teamwork and dedication. It is an honor and a pleasure to work with you!

#### *Want to be part of a great team?*

The Finance Committee is recruiting new members. The committee meets 4 to 5 times a year, and we provide on-the-job training! You don't have to be a finance wizard to be helpful! Please contact Ann Rhody at [finance@uuroc.org](mailto:finance@uuroc.org) if you'd like to know more!

If you have any finance-related concerns or questions, let's talk! Please contact Finance Chair Ann Rhody at [finance@uuroc.org](mailto:finance@uuroc.org). ❖



# 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 10am Sundays

**Minister** | Rev. Lane Campbell

**Director of Life Span Faith Development** |  
Rev. Michelle Yates

**Music Director** | Brock Tjosvold

**Office Administrator** | Emma Barry  
Office hours: Tuesday - Friday, 9am to 3:15pm;  
closed Mondays

**Sexton** | Brandon Fagan

**Nursery Care Providers** |  
Carol Williams & Sundae Hodge

### Board of Trustees 2018–2019

Nancy Gaede (*President*), Karen Ruganis (*Clerk*),  
Kitty Forbush, Richard Reed, Theresa McFarland-  
Porter, Tim Mullins, Eric VanDusen, The Rev. Lane  
Campbell (*ex-officio*)

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

More info is available on our website: [uuroc.org](http://uuroc.org)  
The usual deadline for all submissions to  
*Our Outlook* is the 15th of each month.