



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

MINISTER

Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell
minister@uuroc.org

MINISTER OF LIFE SPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Rev. Michelle Yates
edu@uuroc.org
(585) 310-2484

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Dr. Brock Tjosvold
music@uuroc.org

OFFICE MANAGER

Emma Barry
office@uuroc.org



First Universalist
Church of Rochester

150 South Clinton Ave
Rochester, NY 14604
585-546-2826
uuroc.org

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Sunday Services | December 2022

December 4 | *Stories of the Black Madonna*

"God is a woman and she is Black." —*Alessandra Belloni*

In Southern Italy, there are many Black Madonnas—depictions of Mary and Jesus as dark Black people. These figures are connected to Earth Goddesses of creation and the old traditions. This service connects Mary's journey during Advent with the fertile dark.

— *Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

December 11 | *Traveling Under Ground*

Mary and Joseph had to make their journey to Bethlehem fleeing from empire and in secret. How have we had to go underground for our safety and for the safety of our families? Many are traveling under threat of empire in our country today.

— *Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

December 18 | *TBA*

TBA

— *Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell & Rev. Michelle Yates*

December 24 | *Candlelight Christmas Eve Service*

Join us for our annual candlelight Christmas Eve worship service!

— *Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell* — *This service begins at 7pm*

December 25 | *Singing Worship Service at First Unitarian*

We invite all to join First Unitarian for their Sunday service at 220 S. Winton Rd, Rochester, NY 14610.

— *Pablo Willey-Bustos Music Director* — *This service begins at 10am*

❖ **Services begin at 10:30am** ❖

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



Embracing the Underground

*Message from
Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

What comes to mind when you think of underground? I imagine the secret life that happens in the soil, where worms crawl around and things are decaying. I imagine the roots of trees and plants and food held firm in the dark. And my mind also goes to the underground networks of people that form resistance movements across our world and across our history. I think of people meeting in hushed voices, of the signals folks had to give, of the chalices burning bright in the windows of safe homes during the Nazi occupation of eastern Europe.

In each of these examples, we see the way the underground leads us to the unknown. In the unknown, we find creativity and risk, we find fertile imaginations and that which we did not think was possible. I feel both an excitement and a thrill alongside a bit of fear and worry when confronted with the unknown. I wonder how you feel.

As we move into our theme of underground, it is my hope that we find nourishment and richness in our explorations. It is my hope that we find actual hope in the dark that holds our food source, our bodies after death, and the seeds of what could be possible. Let us embrace and remember the gifts of the underground. Let us reflect in gratitude on what this theme can bring into our lives, when we surrender to that which we do not fully know and cannot see. I look forward to exploring underground with you all!

In Faith and Courage,
Rev. Lane-Mairead ❖



Underground

*Message from
Rev. Michelle Yates*

Each of my kids has been delighted to dig a hole in the yard, to play in a dirt pile, to bury themselves in sand, leaves, snow, or whatever they can find. In this season of the year they tended toward making blanket forts, while waiting for there to be enough snow to dig and tunnel in.

Watching them in this “digging in” play I see fun, adventure, mystery, and magic. They “uncover” wonder and ask about history, about what was here before, about what other living things exist out of sight just beneath the surface. To them it has embodied the magic of opening a present or being the present themselves. It is a game of hide and seek, where through imagination one might just find a doorway to a different world.

Some of the best memories my kids and I have are of finding treasures or magic in small hidden places. Things we would never have seen or found if we hadn’t been digging or hiding “underground.” A lost toy, a note written on the wall in the back of a closet, a patio of bricks under our yard, finding another person’s warm foot under the blanket, coming to know how quiet you can be for how long, looking at things and yourself from a different perspective.

In the cold season, we mirror the wildlife around us by snuggling in, wrapping up, creating or digging ourselves into a warm cozy space. Perhaps it is that wisdom of the animals or the wisdom of the earth that calls to us. Speaks to us of a wilder, more primitive time. Calls us to be tougher, more grounded. Invites us to rest, renew, hide, survive, and grow “underground.”

I invite you to dig in your roots. Go “underground” for an adventure or for renewal. Look for treasures and magic in small hidden places. In coat pockets, old boxes, in the back of bookshelves, and closets. In photo albums and family history. Under the couch or a blanket, under the stars, or your hat.

I can’t wait to hear what you find!

Yours in the Journey,
Rev. Michelle ❖



Staff Bonus time!

Submitted by Ann Rhody

The staff at First Universalist is as hardworking and dedicated as they come! Once a year, church members and friends have the opportunity to show our appreciation in a special way: **a Holiday Bonus.**

This year's staff bonus collection will take place during the service on Sunday, December 4. You are welcome to donate in the offering basket, online, or by sending a check to church. Please be sure your donation reaches us before December 12, to ensure that we can include your contribution in the bonuses before the December holidays. ❖

Finance News & Notes: *Rooted in Love and Service: Our Bequests*

Submitted by Ann Rhody, Finance Chair

We have recently received two very generous bequests, from the estates of Phyllis Bentley and Richard Brush.

Both Richard and Phyllis were very special to our congregation during their lifetimes, and they will continue to grace our church for years to come!

Phyllis Bentley was a warm and wonderful presence at church, and was always active and supportive during her time with us. Phyllis was quick

to lend a hand, and she so enjoyed conversation with church members!

Dick Brush's family had generations of connection with First Universalist Church, and their gifts to the church over the years have left their mark on the organ, the building, and the endowment. In sending us the bequest funds, Dick's nephew wrote "Dick had a lifelong commitment to the Universalist Church...and knowing how much it meant to Uncle Dick, it makes me especially happy to confer this gift to you...to be used as you see fit to continue the important work of your church. I know Dick will be looking down on this day with a big smile."

We're smiling back at you, Dick and Phyllis. Thank you for leaving us with blessings during your lifetimes and beyond. ❖



Pre-Holiday Book Sale!

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

The church library and bookstore will be open once again for browsing, borrowing, and buying after services on Dec. 11. If you want bargains or are interested in UU books, this is your chance.

Used books will be for sale for whatever you wish to pay. New books will be for sale for half the list price. Exact change is requested, but we accept checks made out to the church.

Books may be borrowed from the church library by members and those who've attended long enough to have a permanent name tag. If you currently have a book you've borrowed, this would be a good time to return it. You can also return books by leaving them in the marked box on the library desk

Donations for the sale are welcome! If you have a book you're finished with, but think others would like, leave it on the library desk.

We also have a free magazine rack. Feel free to take magazines at any time. ❖

Drop-In Discussion

Submitted by Beth Ares

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

Sunday, Dec. 4 | Racial Justice and Economic Justice *In-Person*

What is the relation between racial justice and economic justice? Are they ever in tension? Phil Ebersole will facilitate.

Dec. 6 | Haudenosaunee Land Acknowledgement... Another Look

Is it a consciousness raiser and a first step, or does our well-meaning acknowledgement erase indigenous people and sanitize history? Trish Corcoran, of the Bear Clan in Tonawanda Onondowaga, presents.

Dec. 13 | The Zen Farmer Story: Differing Perspectives

The story of the 'Zen farmer' whose fortunes fluctuate between good and bad seems meant to imply that things work out well in the end for those who practice the Zen teaching of detachment. But are we getting the whole story and are the apparent benefits of detachment a valid or useful reading of the story? We'll discuss differing perspectives concerning this story and the teaching it seems meant to convey. John Lukes presents.

Dec. 20 | Let's Talk Sabbatical

Rev. Lane-Mairead will be joined by members of the Sabbatical Task Force to talk about their upcoming ministerial sabbatical beginning June 19, 2023. Come learn what they anticipate doing for their sabbatical and how the church is getting prepared for this time.

Dec. 27 | Open Topic - Happy Holidays!

Do you have hopes and plans for the new year, would you like to reflect on the holiday season, or is there something else on your mind?

Do you have a topic for us? Contact our team members with your Drop-In Discussion proposals:

DropInDiscussion@uuroc.org. ❖



EcoJustice

Submitted by Sarah Singal

The EcoJustice Group usually meets the first Sunday of the month, 15 minutes after the church service on Sunday in the Chalice Room. The December meeting is December 4. All are welcome.

To celebrate the new year, the January meeting will take place on Friday, January 6 at 1:30pm at Squatcho's, a relatively new pizza place that is vegan. It is at 17 East Main St., across the river from church. Squatcho's website: <https://squatchos585.com>. If you park at church, it is an 11-minute walk. We will be discussing Earth Month (April) activities and socializing! Maybe we'll come up with a review of the Squatcho's experience for the February *Outlook*. All are welcome.

A bonus link from Lois: Repair Cafe. Don't get a new gadget; repair it and reuse! southwedgemission.org/repaircafe. ❖

EVER WONDERED WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO DRINK THE NEW COVID BOOSTER? THIS RECIPE APPROXIMATELY RECREATES THE TASTE AND NUTRITIONAL PROFILE! (NOTE: DOES NOT PROTECT AGAINST COVID)

"...WHAT? EWJ." -CDC SPOKESPERSON

"PLEASE STOP." -DR. ANTHONY FAUCI

INGREDIENTS
2 CUPS WATER
3 TBSP MAYONNAISE
1/4 TSP MSG OR NUTRITIONAL YEAST
1 TBSP SUGAR

DIRECTIONS
POUR 1 CUP OF WATER INTO A BLENDER. ADD THE MAYONNAISE AND MSG. BLEND UNTIL SMOOTH.
POUR THE OTHER CUP OF WATER INTO A GLASS. ADD THE SUGAR AND 1 TSP OF THE MIXTURE FROM THE BLENDER. STIR WELL.
SERVE IN SHOT GLASSES.

Credit: XKCD.com



Minister's Sabbatical Q&A

Submitted by Bridget Watts

By now, you've probably heard that our minister is planning a sabbatical. This is good news! It means we have a settled minister who's been with us long enough to qualify for sabbatical leave, something we hoped for when we called a new minister in 2017.

If you have questions not answered below, please feel free to contact members of the Board of Trustees, the Sabbatical Task Force, or Rev. Lane-Mairead, and join us at the Drop-in Discussion at 6:30pm on Dec. 20, when we will be discussing the sabbatical.

When will our minister be away?

Rev. Lane-Mairead will be on sabbatical leave for five months, June 26, 2023, to November, 2023.

Eastman at Washington Square Concerts

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

• Dec. 1 | Piano Extravaganza I

Featured pianist Miao Gao, from the studio of Professor Alexander Kobrin, will perform pieces by Scriabin and Beethoven.

• Dec. 8 | Piano Extravaganza II

A second installment featuring students from the piano studio of Professor Alexander Kobrin. Sol Park and Xu Guo will be performing music by Bach, Mozart and Schubert.

• Dec. 15 | Hope-Jones Organ Showcase

Rejoice with the sound of the First Universalist Church's organ as organist Keith Reas showcases this important and beautiful instrument. ❖

What's a sabbatical for?

It is a standard practice for UU congregations to grant their full-time ministers sabbatical leave. This is a time to step away from the demanding day-to-day responsibilities of congregational ministry, and gain new focus and perspective. For Rev. Lane-Mairead, this will be a time for spiritual rest and renewal from the intense demands of ministering during the COVID pandemic.

According to the contract we offered Rev. Lane-Mairead when we called them to be our settled minister, they are entitled to take sabbatical leave after 5 years of service, at the rate of 1 month of leave per year of service. Full compensation continues during the sabbatical, and the minister commits to serving the congregation for at least one year after returning from sabbatical.

What are Rev. Lane-Mairead's plans for their sabbatical?

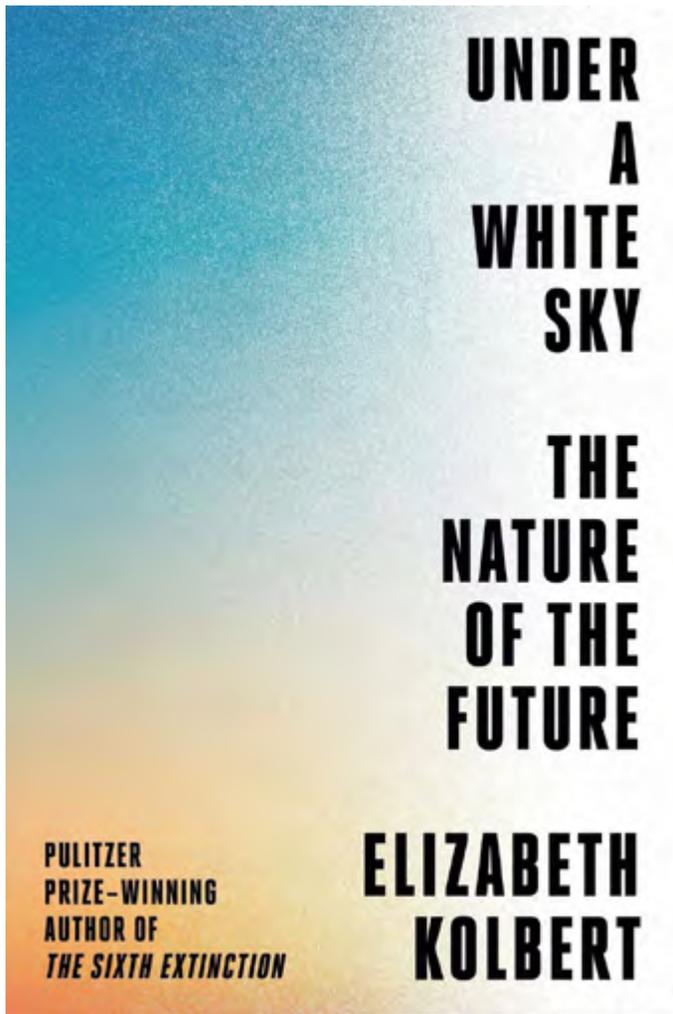
Rev. Lane-Mairead will be spending their sabbatical focusing on rest, and diving into a study of earth-based practices, including Italian Folk Magic. These are practices in herbalism, relationship, prayer, and deity worship that come out of Italian culture and live on in the Italian-American community. They hope to learn from teachers in this tradition and will also be traveling to Italy with their brother to visit the places their family comes from. This will be a time for Rev. Lane-Mairead to strengthen their relationship with their lineage and with the practices of their ancestors.

How will First Universalist manage during the sabbatical?

We're making plans. The Board of Trustees has convened a Sabbatical Task Force, which has been meeting regularly to develop proposals for covering worship and other work of the church. This month, the Task Force will present a proposal to the Board, which will then go to Finance to be incorporated into our budget for the 2023-2024 church year.

Who is on the Sabbatical Task Force?

Paula Marchese (Caring Committee), Chris DeGolyer (Committee on Ministry), Brian Mumeay (Finance Committee), Janet Rothbeind (Personnel Committee), and Bridget Watts (Worship Committee and Liaison to the Board of Trustees). ❖



Book Group

Submitted by Shirley Bond

Our review selection for December 11 is Elizabeth Kolbert's novel "*Under a White Sky*". This book is written in a style that is easily understandable and urges us to get very serious about climate change and its effects on our planet. Much has been written. The time to act is beyond serious here.

Please join us at noon in the Chalice Room for a lively discussion and bring book suggestions for future meetings.

By the way, reading the book beforehand is not required. The goal is to pique your interest!

We meet on the second Sunday of most months. Questions answered by: Shirley B., 325-6084 or Pam J., 738-2558. ❖

FUN with Fundraising!

Submitted by Ann Rhody, Katherine Flynn, & Paula Marchese

Thanks to all who contributed to the Charlie Gibson Memorial Change Drive! As of last count, this simple change collection provided over \$285 to support our church's programs.

Next up: Holiday Treat Sale! December 11 and 18

Do you have a particular holiday cookie that's always a crowd pleaser? Does your strawberry jam always win praise? Does your homemade bread have people begging for more?

Let's share our treats AND help the church!

Bring your treats to church on Sunday Dec. 11 and/or 18. Please include a label with your name, the name of your treat, and any ingredient notes (nuts, vegan, gluten free, etc.). For folks online, we will be happy to pick up your treats before Dec. 11.

All are welcome to "shop" after the service on Dec. 11 and 18. Minimum donation for each item is \$5, and generous tipping is encouraged—give what you can! Online worshippers, please stay on Zoom after the service, where the camera will show you what's available, and you can indicate your preference in real time by emailing finance@uuroc.org.

Bring home a delicious new treat to share at holiday gatherings OR to enjoy for yourself!

Please plan to pay for your treat on the day of the sales—with cash, by check to First Universalist Church, or online using the QR code. Please indicate "treat sale" in your payment.

Coming in Jan. 2023: Slow-rolling Service Auction!

We'll be offering services (housecleaning, gardening, lessons, etc.) and gatherings (dinners, hikes, online games or happy hours). Please consider what you might be able to offer—with our focus on fellowship, broad participation, and fun! Watch for details in the weekly announcements and in the January 2023 *Outlook*.

Thank you for your support and good wishes as we consider new ways to build fellowship and help our church's mission! Please email finance@uuroc.org with any fundraising questions. ❖

Social Justice Circle: Homeless Heartbeats

Submitted by Lois Baum

Homelessness is on the rise everywhere. 'Housing Is a Human Right' is the philosophy of many local organizations: REACH, PCHO, Homes For the Homeless, RAW, and MC Collaborative. Policing does not solve the problem, but what does is Housing First.

There are some promising developments this year in Rochester. Read more in-depth on each website provided herein:

- REACH (*Rochester Engaging in Action for the Chronically Homeless*) has a new approach since the pandemic, called Project HAVEN. This will provide 80 beds, year round, in six sites, allowing them to accommodate mental health issues, substance use, and physical health issues. Project HAVEN will consist of traditional low-barrier sites for chronically homeless guests, one for sober living with Recovery Houses of Rochester, one to help women dealing with issues of sex trafficking through Bright Star, and an LGBTQIA+ site.

- PCHO (*Person Centered Housing Options*) anticipates \$250,000 from the City, if County approved, to back their support services to residents of Peace Village, a homeless encampment located behind Nick Tahou's on Industrial Street.

- RAW (*Recovery All Ways*) now operates out of a truck. Not all homeless folks are addicts, and not all addicts are homeless. With their truck, RAW can more readily access those they serve. Narcan is available, and other services as needed.

How can YOU help? There are a number of ways you can help right here in Rochester:

- Provide a dish (to serve 10+) and/or provide peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and deliver them to the local Motel 6 currently housing 60 children and 20 adults. Please contact Lois Baum for details, or go directly to their FB page "Meals for the Homeless" [facebook.com/groups/351197560176136/permalink/488475329781691/?sfnsn=mo&ref=share&mibextid=e6rmjj](https://www.facebook.com/groups/351197560176136/permalink/488475329781691/?sfnsn=mo&ref=share&mibextid=e6rmjj).

- Donate any winter outerwear, new or used, and drop off, daytime any day, for RAW at 149 Crosman Terrace: [RecoveryAllWays.org](https://www.RecoveryAllWays.org).

- Donate new underwear and/or white socks to

REACH: reachadvocacy.org.

- Donate money to PCHO who, along with their other daily work on the streets, now oversees Peace Village: pcho.org.

- Donate money to Bethany House for homeless women and their children: bethanyhouserocny.org/.

- Join this Social Justice Circle, collaborating to directly help our locally homeless community.

Thank you for reaching outside our church walls to serve our community. ❖



Social Justice Circle: Animal Ministry

Submitted by Lois Baum

How lucky are we to have so many vegan choices these days! The number of 100% vegan restaurants locally continues to grow. Look them up and go! Here are a few favorites: Red Fern, Natural Oasis, Anyone's Café, New Ethic Pizza, Squatcho's, Grassfed Vegan Butcher, Hollycake House, Isotope Desserts, to name a few! Plus Strong Hearts Café in Buffalo, and Eden Café in Batavia.

Animals are sentient beings. Just because we CAN control their lives, and deaths, does not mean we SHOULD. It has been and still is part of our human culture to exploit nonhumans; it's easy and cheap. But those who are paying attention know that animal agriculture (99% of animal products today, including eggs and dairy) is destroying the earth too, to say nothing of our own health.

Instead of eating a dead being for the holidays (or any time) please choose compassion...for the animals, for your health, for the planet.

- gardein.com/chickn-and-turky/classics/turky-roast
- Tofurky.com
- fieldroast.com/tag/vegan-thanksgiving/
- Healthy ThanksLiving: youtu.be/Y3xXw7CE-MQ
- Just Egg: <https://www.ju.st/>. ❖



First Universalist Church of Rochester

150 South Clinton Avenue
Rochester, NY 14604



First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY

Nurture the spirit and serve the community.

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

**Worship service begins at 10:30am on
Sundays**

Minister | Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

Minister of Life Span Faith Development |
Rev. Michelle Yates

Music Director | Dr. Brock Tjosvold

Office Manager | Emma Barry

Nursery Care Provider | Carol Williams

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

More info is available on our website: uuroc.org

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