



# Our Outlook

## First Universalist Church of Rochester

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**First Universalist**  
Church of Rochester

150 South Clinton Ave  
Rochester, NY 14604  
585-546-2826  
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## Sunday Services | May 2023

### May 7 | *Howling at the Moon*

On Friday, May 5, we experience a full moon and a lunar eclipse. What do the cycles of the moon have to teach us? And how do these cycles create a collective way of being? Let us allow the wild of the moon to enter into our hearts.

— *Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

### May 14 | *The Good News*

Do we want a church to grow? And if so, why? Is it our value to be welcoming people? And if so, to what? What is the Good News of Unitarian Universalism?

— *Rev. Eileen Casey-Campbell*

### May 21 | *Appreciating Our Desires*

We may have conflicting feelings about unfurling our desires, yet it is our deepest hungers that drive our lives, hopefully to the good of all. One of my strong desires has always been to dig deeply into a topic—like this!—to see what blessings await. Another is mystery. What is—and what satisfies—your deep hunger?

— *Rev. Peggy Meeker*

### May 28 | *Dreaming Freedom*

The word abolition sounds like a big "no!" When we talk of abolition in a contemporary context, there's certainly some undoing involved, but what are we also building? How can we begin together to be in this world-yet-to-be?

— *Rev. Shari Halliday-Quan*

❖ **Services begin at 10:30am** ❖

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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. ❖



## Unfurling Desire

*Message from  
Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

Each spring, I wait for the flowers. The blooms of many colors. It begins with the bright and soft yellow of the daffodils, then on to the reds and oranges of tulips, then of course the lavender and white lilacs. The smells are so delightful. The visual appearance so beautiful, such a stark contrast to the white and the grey and the brown of winter in our Rochester community.

To unfurl is to open up from a folded state, especially as it pertains to opening to the wind. As our flowers bloom and blossom, they too are opening up to the winds, to the possibilities of seeds spreading, to the sun for nourishment.

How do we ourselves open up to what we desire? How do we throw caution to the wind and allow ourselves to risk in order to know what we desire?

One thing I learned being socialized and raised as a female person was that my desires were too much. That even to have desire was selfish or too self-focused. To want something or someone was considered too forward. Maybe this was just a New England thing? I imagine it wasn't. I imagine many of us grew up hearing that we wanted too much or that our desires were bad or even unworthy of being met.

As we explore unfurling desire in this seasonal theme, I am wondering how we unlearn some of our messages around desire. I am wondering what has been helpful to you in overcoming the voices that shout that desire is too much or unworthy or even selfish. I wonder about moments in your life when you heard these voices and decided that instead of curling inward, you would open to wherever desire would take you.

I am hoping we can find more time to listen to desire and all it has to teach us. Let's open to where the winds of desire are calling us.

In Faith and Courage,  
Rev. Lane-Mairead ❖



## Unexpected Places

*Message from  
Rev. Michelle Yates*

When I went to seminary, I very firmly believed I was headed to be an end-of-life chaplain. I came to realize that there are few paid jobs in that field, and you often must move far to get one. I did a chaplain residency at Strong Memorial (a level 1 trauma facility) and realized it was not a level of work that my restorative practices could keep up with.

I surprisingly found a job here as a Religious Educator. It was not my original area of interest, but with fate bringing children into my life it was more relevant than I expected. I always loved attending faith development programs and found I loved to hold that space for others too. I learned and grew, and I dare say, I thrived.

If you've ever aspired to do something, or considered how to manifest something you desire you likely have imagined what it would look like. How it would feel like. How it would fit into your life.

It's lovely to have a mission and vision of a particular goal, but as you may know, you cannot control all the details of anything without running into challenges.

When a desire evolves organically it often takes twists and turns you may not have expected, anticipated, or wanted at first. Your dream job may not pay like you hoped. Your children might not like the same things that you like. You may not get "all the way" to your hoped-for goal but might really enjoy where you end up.

This month I invite you to look for the quirks of nature. The places where the desire for life and growth went in a completely unexpected direction and led to something extraordinary. Two-headed dandelions, plants coming out of the ground that you did not plant, odd-shaped fruits or vegetables, trees that grow around obstacles in their path.

The unfurling of your heart's desire might take you to unexpected places. Like how it brought each of us here to First Universalist!

Yours in the Journey,  
Rev. Michelle ❖

# Stewardship: Draw the Circle Wide!

Submitted by Kitty Forbush and Brian Mumej

Dear First Universalist,

The 2023-24 Stewardship Team wishes to thank you for your continued financial support of our wonderful church. It would not be the beautiful, strong, and vital church it is without all of you.



Let us spend the year *Drawing the Circle Wide* by sending our love through our church and out into our community.

**Remember, every pledge matters, no matter how big or small!**

With love and gratitude,

Kitty Forbush & Brian Mumej  
Co-Chairs, Stewardship 2023 ❖



## Cozy Night Supper: Friday, May 12, 6-8pm

Submitted by Rev. Michelle Yates

A potluck and program favorite at First Universalist. In the first hour we eat, in the second hour we'll consider one of the primary values of Unitarian Universalism: Transformation! Families very welcome! Childcare provided if you RSVP by May 5. Please RSVP with what you intend to bring to Rev. Michelle at [edu@uuroc.org](mailto:edu@uuroc.org). ❖



## Finance News & Notes: *Behind the Money*

Submitted by Ann Rhody, Finance Chair

As the chair of the Finance Committee, I'm always thinking about money as it relates to church.

Will we have enough?

Are we looking at a surplus or a deficit at the end of a fiscal year?

How can we raise our income and lower our expenses?

I'll be honest: it can be exhausting sometimes. If I'm not careful, it can be all too easy to lose sight of what's BEHIND all of this thinking about money: the powerful connections, spiritual sustenance, and joy that this community brings into my life, and the lives of so many others.

As our Stewardship Circles were held last month, participants had the opportunity to share how we became connected with this church, and what keeps us supporting it. The stories were wonderful—and there were some common themes. One is that, for many of us, we became connected to church because someone told us about this wonderful congregation, and invited us to a service.

Personal connection. Spiritual sustenance. Social justice. Wonderful Music. Worship that grounds us and challenges us at the same time.

Thank you for your pledges to support all of these things. But don't just share your money—share the message of how this church enriches your life. Let's share *that* kind of wealth with the world!

Please contact [finance@uuroc.org](mailto:finance@uuroc.org) with any questions or concerns. ❖

# Drop-In Discussion

Submitted by Beth Ares

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](mailto:DropInDiscussion@uuroc.org) for the link, or look on [uuroc.org](http://uuroc.org)! Sometimes discussions are based on books/articles, but you don't have to do any prep to participate. Just drop in!

## Sunday, May 7 | Equality, Pros and Cons \*In-Person\*

What kinds of equality do we want? How much inequality can we put up with? Just what do we mean by equality, anyhow? Is there a conflict between equality and equity (justice)? Phil Ebersole will facilitate.

## May 2 | What is "Woke" and Why the Furor?

In our current political environment, we are beginning to hear a lot of negative, even hateful, speech about folks who are woke and how woke must be rejected and even outlawed. What is being woke and is it harmful for folks in this country and its future to be woke? John Lukes presents.

## May 9 | First Universalist Initiative for Racial Equity (F.I.R.E.) Events: Past and Present

Dr. Starsky Wilson (Executive Director of Children's Defense Fund) spoke recently at Spiritus Christi. Based on the hymn "O God Our Help in Ages Past" (#281/ UU Hymnal), he hearkened back to historic struggles and its future hopes for children. Where are we NOW in terms of helping children grow into being good citizens? Theo Munson presents.

## May 16 | A UU Theology of Evil

What is evil? What is sin? What's up with war, pestilence, tragedy, disease and disability? "Why do bad things happen to good people?" What does our UU Theology say about all this? What's a UU to do? Rev. Michelle facilitates.

## May 23 | American Poverty: A Disgrace.

Let's talk about how most of us middle class Americans benefit from poverty. From cheap clothes, groceries, and low wages, we really need poverty to live the life we have. Bill Elwell presents.

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

[DropInDiscussion@uuroc.org](mailto:DropInDiscussion@uuroc.org). ❖

# Choosing A Church Project

Submitted by Connie Valk, Co-Chair of FIAC

As you know, our congregation will be voting on its next Church Project at the annual meeting in June. In case you have forgotten the process our congregation approved for selection prior to our first church project, here is a reminder:

"...The Role of Faith in Action Council (FIAC) is to:

- Identify one to two issues every two years that the full congregation is willing to support. The issue(s) that the Council identifies will be recommended to the Board. The Board will then submit final recommendations to the full congregation for congregational approval. The issue(s) will be the basis for forming the Project Team...
- Support the Project Team with the congregation-approved issue(s), as well as support approved Social Justice Circles..."

Rev. Lane-Mairedad suggested a Church Project could be focused on the issue of homelessness since we have had more than one Social Justice Circle focused on homelessness as well as Family Promise. The unhoused have used our alcoves as bedrooms and toilets, so we have multiple experiences with this population.

If there are any other issue(s) you believe would have wide congregational support, with members willing to step up to leadership, please contact [FIAC@uuroc.org](mailto:FIAC@uuroc.org) and we'll set up a discussion! ❖



## Men of the Congregation: Time to Register!

Submitted by Tom Williams

It is time to register for the UU Gathering of Men (Mark's Men's Gathering) at Camp Unirondack. This event will be held June 9, 10, and 11. To register go to [unirondack.org](http://unirondack.org). For questions, see Tom Williams or Bill Elwell. Carpooling can be arranged. ❖

# Chalice Lighters: Neighbors Helping Neighbors!

Submitted by Karen LoBracco

You are invited to become a Chalice Lighter and join individuals from the Central East Region, a six-state area. They pool their donations to help congregations whose worthwhile projects need a little extra boost to become a reality.

- **What do I give?**

\$20 three times a year or  
\$60 annually

- **What is the result?**

Three times a year the Chalice Lighter Committee meets to give away money, an average of two \$20,000 grants per cycle. Grants support innovative outreach programs, building modifications to address accessibility issues, new staff, cooperative social justice initiatives and much more. The Fall 2022 edition of *The*



*Spark* newsletter describes two diverse projects funded in Maryland and Ohio. ([uuu.org/files/2022-09/202209CERCLSpark.pdf](http://uuu.org/files/2022-09/202209CERCLSpark.pdf))

- **Where can I get more info?**

The CER Chalice Lighter brochure ([uuu.org/files/pdf/c/cerclbrochure.pdf](http://uuu.org/files/pdf/c/cerclbrochure.pdf)) is a great place to start! Long-time Chalice Lighter and First Universalist member Karen LoBracco would also be delighted to chat about how to become involved.

- **How can I sign up?**

The good news is that becoming a Chalice Lighter is easy! Sign up using the online form at [uuu.org/central-east/programs/chalichelighter/cerclsignup](http://uuu.org/central-east/programs/chalichelighter/cerclsignup).

*Chalice Lighters – Passing on the Light of Unitarian Universalism!* ❖



## Second Sunday Food Collection

Submitted by Connie Valk

We have been a longtime partner of the *Nester Street Community Food Cupboard*, and they have alerted us to an increased need.

Their number of clients has increased. Besides the increased cost of living, the government ended “Emergency Allotments” of the *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program* (SNAP). Each household has had a reduction in benefits (at least \$95/month). For those living in poverty, this amount makes a significant difference in how they can feed their families.

The Food Cupboard has lost many volunteers, but still serves those in need. They still manage to deliver food to 120 seniors and 150 families!

Cash is welcome, as well as donations of food and hygiene items. Monetary donations help buy special foods for those with dietary needs. Please make checks out to *The Community Food Cupboard of Rochester* with *11 Nester St.* in the memo line.

Katherine Flynn is the coordinator/deliverer of our donations. She loves it when our donations pack up her car to the brim! ❖

## 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!

- **May 4 | Great Romantics and Beyond**

Beautiful chamber music with Eastman alumni violinist Yunjung Lee, Dong Yeol Hong, cello, and Irina Lupines, piano.

- **May 11 | Ensemble Mágica**

Eastman students Eric Bergeman, flute, Django Klumpp, guitar, and Sunshine Quan, harp, will perform music by Toru Takemitsu, Maximo Pujol, and Nino Rota.

- **May 18 | Honors Finale**

Come hear terrific seniors from the Eastman Community Music School's High School Honors Diploma Program. ❖

# Member Stories

Submitted by Donna Anderson, Membership Chair

I would like to thank Shirley Malone for recruiting our greeters and ushers every Sunday. Thank you for serving our church community. You are the first people visitors meet. Your welcoming presence is gratefully received!

This month Susan Keefe, one of our newest members, shares her story of how she found us and why she became a member.

“When I first came to Brighton I wanted to find a church. I wasn’t sure what I was looking for; my husband did some research. He thought I might be interested in the First Unitarian Church. I began to attend off and on for a few years. I attended an Interfaith Thanksgiving service and I heard Rev. Lane-Mairead speak. I knew I wanted to come to the First Universalist Church. Our first visit was the Christmas Eve service. Everyone was so welcoming. I was coming for about five weeks, before COVID hit. I attended services and *UU and You* via Zoom, and decided to become a member. I have found what I was looking for. Now that we are back in-person I have been able to connect with other members. I am serving as a greeter, serving on MOCHA and becoming involved with the Caring Committee.”

–Susan Keefe

Welcome, Susan, thank you for Getting Connected by serving our church community in these ways, and for sharing your story! ❖



## Get Connected!

Submitted by Donna Anderson, Membership Chair

Looking to get connected at First Universalist Church and learn more about this community? People new to First Universalist are invited to our Get Connected! series on Thursdays, May 18, 25 and June 1. Together, we find ways to connect with one another and to connect to the caring, justice-seeking, nourishing activities this church has to offer. All sessions will be held in-person and via Zoom.

- ◆ **Session 1:** Thursday, May 18, 7-8:30pm.  
Share your stories about how you found our church. What are you looking for from our church community?
- ◆ **Session 2:** Thursday, May 25, 7-8:30pm.  
History of Unitarian Universalism. This is an opportunity to find out if this church will help you on your search for community. First Universalist Church of Rochester is a progressive church that began in 1846 working towards a more just and compassionate community for all.
- ◆ **Session 3:** Thursday, June 1, 7-8:30pm.  
Who are we? What are our Social Justice programs? How does our church function? First Universalist Church of Rochester allows people to renew their hope and develop their beliefs to widen the circle of love.

On Sunday, June 4, there will be an invitation to sign the Membership Book during the service. After the service will be our Annual Congregational Meeting. Stay and hear what’s coming during our next church year.

Come! Meet new folks! Get Connected! Questions? Please email [membership\\_com@uuroc.org](mailto:membership_com@uuroc.org). ❖

## Book Group

Submitted by Shirley Bond

The Book Group will meet May 14 at noon in the Chalice Room to discuss “*We Were the Mulvaney*” by Joyce Carol Oates.

We meet on the second Sunday of most months. Any questions? Contact [bookgroup@uuroc.org](mailto:bookgroup@uuroc.org). ❖





invites you to  
an evening with  
“Strike the Hammer”  
author  
Laura Warren Hill

**“I Saw a New Heaven and A New Earth:  
Reconciliation and Reparation”**

Rochester's Black Freedom Struggle and a vision  
for the future will be explored.

**LOCATION:**

First Universalist Church  
150 South Clinton Ave. 14604  
(parking at local lots & on-street)

**WHEN:**

Wednesday  
May 31st, 2023  
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**REGISTRATION:**

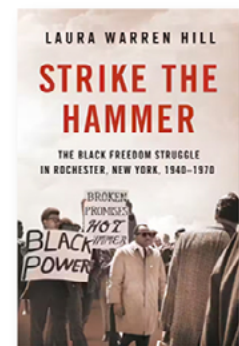
\$25 (includes dinner) payable at [uuroc.org](http://uuroc.org)  
click donate/indicate FIRE event.

**DEADLINE:**

Thursday May 6th  
Seating limited - reserve early  
Questions: Elizabeth Osta - 585-451-5822



**LAURA WARREN HILL**  
Associate Vice President  
for Academic Affairs and an  
Associate Professor of History  
and Africana Studies  
at Bloomfield College.



Dinner will be catered by Abyssinia Restaurant  
(Vegetarian/GF option will be provided)



# 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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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.