



# Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

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Church of Rochester

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## Sunday Services | July & August 2021

### July 4 | *Preemptively Mad at the Garbage Man*

Researchers have found that the majority of our thoughts are negative. We spend a lot of time fretting over the past, or worrying about the future. But is there another mental place we can get stuck? Can our minds merge the past with the future to create fresh misery for us?

— Peter House, Summer Minister

### July 11 | *Greedy and Needy*

Are these attributes you seek in a friend? Could you possibly possess these qualities yourself? We will explore the ways we may unintentionally and unnecessarily strain our friendships.

— Peter House, Summer Minister

### July 18 | *A Celebration of the Queer, Outcast, and Community\**

Join First Universalist for our annual Pride Sunday service. This year we explore how Pride is a celebration of those usually on the margins and a community formed out of rejection, chosen family, and the deep need for connection. Bring your rainbow t-shirts and PRIDE gear. This will be a hybrid worship service, with the in-person component at the Riverbend Shelter in Genesee Valley Park and the on-line over Zoom. Happy PRIDE!

— Rev. Lane Campbell

### July 25 | *Pandemic Freedom*

2020 was a year like no other. It gave us an opportunity to re-evaluate how we spend our time. Do we want everything to go back to the way it was? Was less busyness a gift in disguise?

— Peter House, Summer Minister

### August 1 | *The Upside to Being a Sucker*

Nice guys often get taken advantage of, and business coaches recommend always looking out for “Number 1”. But is there an upside to being a sucker? A sucker will give you his answer to this question.

— Peter House, Summer Minister

### August 8 | *Where Has All the Nuance Gone?\**

We are bombarded with messages about how divided our nation is. Indeed, we all know people with whom it seems we can barely speak without arguing. Why is this? Have we all lost our ability to see nuance?

— Peter House, Summer Minister

❖ Service begins at 10am ❖

\*hybrid services

Continued on page 2

## Sunday Services

*Continued from page 1*

### August 15 | TBA

TBA

— *Rev. Michelle Yates*

### August 22 | TBA

TBA

— *Rev. Lane Campbell & Rev. Shari Halliday-Quan*

### August 29 | *Mind your Own SNAP Card*

All around us, there seems to be a shortage of workers. People are blaming enhanced unemployment benefits for making our neighbors “lazy”. Can we look at things from the other side?

— *Peter House, Summer Minister*

❖ **Service begins at 10am** ❖

*Worship will be meeting mostly online, with some hybrid services (marked with \*). Please join us—Internet link: <https://zoom.us/j/131764422>; Phone number: 646-558-8656 with Meeting ID: 131 764 422. ❖*

## Calling All Crafters: Want to create a new church banner?

*Submitted by Connie Valk*

One of the exciting moments at General Assembly is the opening with the banner parade. Churches from all over the continent display banners—each one capturing the church’s uniqueness. For the past two years, the banners have been virtual, with a colorful display opening the annual conference. In non-pandemic times the banners are displayed in the hallway entering the main auditorium at the conclusion of the opening parade.

Ours has not been among them for several years. It is faded, and dated.

The Communications Committee is offering an opportunity for craftspersons in the congregation to create a new banner that reflects our church in the here and now. If you would like to work with the Committee to design and create our official banner, please contact Emma at [office@uuroc.org](mailto:office@uuroc.org).

All materials for the banner project will be reimbursed. Fabric material is not specified but should be at least three yards (108”) long by about 32” wide, and the final design must be two-sided. You can find more banner specifications on the [UUA.org](http://UUA.org) website. We already have the hardware to carry it, so the ban-

ner itself is all we need.

We are looking forward to the First Universalist’s new banner being “unveiled” at the 2022 Annual Meeting and joining in the display for the 2022 General Assembly. ❖



## Save the Date: Open House at RMM!

*Submitted by Connie Valk*

On August 13 from 4:30pm to 7:30pm, Rural & Migrant Ministry is hosting an Open House on its Liturgia campus, 7 Phelps Street, Lyons, NY 14489. This coincides with the last day of summer camp for the children of farm workers.

You’ll be able to enjoy music, art produced by the campers, theater by the Teen JOY group, displays of the good work accomplished by RMM, and good food. The event is family-friendly—bring the kids and grandkids!

You can register for this event at <http://bit.ly/LiturgiaOpenHouse2021>. ❖



## The Communities We Choose and the Community That Chooses Us

Message from Peter House

Summer has its own rhythms. For most, summer is a time when the pace of life slows. My summers have always been the opposite, and the rhythms of my summer are different. In late June I am gearing up to be busier than I am all year long. In addition to serving as summer minister, I also teach summer school. While everyone else is easing into a slower routine, I focus on summoning energy to work more. It's a pattern I've had for so long that I've internalized it. It feels right to be most productive when nature is also at peak output; crops growing, birds raising families, and pollinators working.

This summer is different from most, as this year the human world is more in sync with the bees (and me). After sixteen months of hibernation, the world is opening up again. Masks are off and we are hugging again. We seem to have finally turned the corner.

There is much to do. Time didn't stop while we were shut in. The environment continued to deteriorate, forces of oppression grew, and suffering and misery visited new places. Nothing improved in our absence, and almost no one has come out the other side of this better off than before.

This summer I encourage you to disrupt your typical rhythm, and be more in sync with mine. Rejoin the world with energy and enthusiasm! Reach out to those around you, and make sure they are thriving. Volunteer for something that calls to you. Do something out of your comfort zone. Choose new actions that advance justice and planetary health; perhaps eat less meat or use less water, join a group in which you will be in the minority, or you could simply be more intentionally present than ever with your friends and family.

We've had a long rest, it's time to get back out there. The world needs us in a way it never has before. It needs your full presence, love, energy, creativity, passion, and compassion.

My most important job will be making sure you have meaningful, soul-feeding worship to sustain you. Please join me and the bees in making this summer a productive one. ❖



## It's not a Bug. It's a Feature!

Message from Rev. Michelle Yates

The saying, "*It's not a bug, it's a feature*" is an acknowledgment (half comic, half tragic) of ambiguity that has always haunted computer programming, but I think has applications to many other things in life. For clarity's sake, a bug occurs when the product does not meet the product specifications or end users' expectations. A feature is an end user expectation from the product, or sometimes a delightful surprise.

No one set out to invent sticky notes. In 1968, Dr. Spencer Silver, a chemist at 3M Company, was trying to invent a super-strong adhesive, but he came up with a super-weak one instead. He invented a low-tack adhesive that would stick but also could be repositioned multiple times. So, what was a bug ended up being a new product!

Evolution is a process by which glitches in genetic code come to be revealed as prized biological functions. Each of us is an accumulation of bugs that turned out to be features.

Lately, I have been finding unexpected joy through the frame of "*it's not a bug, it's a feature,*" or perhaps "*in dealing with the bug, I found a feature.*"

When I had COVID, all physical activity was a challenge: vacuuming, standing to cook, and what I previously thought of as simple "tidying" around the house. I often just needed to sit. But this meant I had more time to watch the birds outside and sit with and watch my 3-year-old while he played.

Not being able to breathe well makes focusing on work a real challenge. I am so lucky and grateful to have experienced the love and support of this congregation to rest and care for my family!

Unable to share stories with you in-person due to the pandemic, I have learned new techniques to share amazing and beautiful picture books via Zoom.

As we start to reconnect in new ways, being in community may feel overwhelming or intense. It will be new for all of us. We will likely run into some bugs but keep an eye out for times when "*it's not a bug, it's a feature.*" ❖

# Drop-In Discussion

Submitted by Beth Ares

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

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

## July 6 | *Addressing Homelessness*

*Person Centered Housing Option's* outreach—rapid rehousing, arranging permanent supportive housing, and housing stability coordination and care management—uses evidence-based person-centered practices and housing-first methods to assist Monroe County residents. Nick Coulter of [PCHO.org](http://PCHO.org) will give us an update on recent work. Are there ways we can help? Sponsored by Homeless Heartbeats SJC.

## July 13 | *A Look Back at the Past - July 24, 1964*

Join facilitator Elizabeth Osta in a peek into Laura Warren Hill's new book, "*Strike the Hammer, The Black Freedom Struggle in Rochester, New York, 1940-1970*". This important history is the focal point of the new Civil Rights Heritage Site in Baden Park that our church is a part of creating. Where were you then? Where are we now?

## July 20 | *Past, Present and Future*

Come join us for changes in culture, tech, and discover a new word or two. Shelley Adams presents.

## June 27 | *Keep No Enemies*

People may threaten us, steal from us, insult us, attack us, betray us. And we need to protect ourselves and our families. But we don't need to keep anyone as our enemy! Hank Stone will lead our discussion.

## August | *TBA!*

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

# Finance News & Notes

Submitted by Ann Rhody, Finance Chair

Summer is here! The Service Auction is done, the Stewardship campaign is behind us, and we have developed and gotten congregational approval for the coming year's budget. We could not be blamed for wanting to take a few months to rest before undertaking more work.

But while the work of the Finance Committee ebbs and flows, it never stops! As we close out one fiscal year on June 30 and begin a new one on July 1, we definitely have a to-do list:

- Apply the appropriate salary increases and benefits changes and communicate those to the payroll company and the UUA
- Make any necessary year-end transfers (from the endowment or to reserve funds, for example)
- Set up Quickbooks for any new budget categories
- Check on the pledge receipts for the old fiscal year to see what might still be owed, so that reminders can be sent to folks who have outstanding pledges
- Meet as a committee to make decisions and recommendations regarding any surplus
- Begin to plan a schedule for the new fiscal year.

Thankfully, we often describe ourselves as a "well-oiled machine," and we've done this many times before. We are grateful to have this work in a time of fiscal health, when none of these decisions are gut-wrenching. Thanks to all of the folks who support this congregation, our amazing staff, and the folks who show up at services, our summer work is a breeze! ❖

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# Gardens of First Universalist

Submitted by Emma Barry & UURoc Members

Life continues to thrive and grow at First Universalist, both inside and outside! Share your garden with the UURoc community; send pictures of growth happening in your garden and/or backyard to [office@uuroc.org](mailto:office@uuroc.org) to possibly be included in future publications! ❖



## Animal Ministry: Sentient Friends

*Submitted by Lois Baum, leader*

When is the last time you kissed a cow, rubbed a pig's belly, nuzzled a sheep, or chatted with chickens?

This summer, our Animal Ministry Social Justice Circle will visit nearby animal sanctuaries. All the animals at these sanctuaries come from situations of neglect and abuse. Here, each of these sentient beings live out their lives in peace, safety, and love.

As you can see in the photo, Kitty Forbush visited in 2017 when we toured **Asha's Farm Sanctuary** in Newfane NY. There, she met Albert, the super cow, who had been rescued from an auction house. At only one-day-old, Albert was dragged away from his mother, thus depriving him of mom's milk, which contained the essential colostrum. ASHA founder, Tracy Murphy, rescued and nursed him back to health. Albert is now a celebrity ambassador, helping to educate us about today's abusive dairy industry. More recently Isabella, a blind goat, was tied to a telephone pole and left for the taking. She too was rescued by Tracy and now resides in her forever home.

[Ashasfarmsanctuary.org](http://Ashasfarmsanctuary.org).

**Mockingbird Farm Sanctuary** is quite new, located in Byron NY. They have educational programs about numerous farmed animals, rescued and now living in their peaceful surroundings, among 6,000 sq. ft. Victorian-era barns. [Mockingbirdfarmny.com](http://Mockingbirdfarmny.com).

**Savannah Pig Rescue**, in Savannah NY, is a lifetime sanctuary for pot-belly and farmed pigs, who've been neglected, abandoned, or grew so big that their

owners gave them up. The folks at this sanctuary also embrace veganism. [Savannahpigrescue.org](http://Savannahpigrescue.org).

Our Animal Ministry group supports animal sanctuaries that embrace the vegan ethic: "Veganism is a moral and ethical way of living. It is the practice of non-cooperation and non-participation in anything that exploits nonhuman animals, humans, or the environment. It is a moral baseline for our conduct and how we are revealed to the world."

In summers past, several of you have joined us on these fun, educational tours. We would love to have every one of you join us this summer, dates TBA. If interested, be sure to let Lois know! ❖

## EcoJustice News

*Submitted by Sarah Singal*

**RAICA Family Picnic!** Environmentally-conscious families and individuals are invited to a picnic on Sunday, July 11, 12-3pm, at Spruce Shelter, Ellison Park.

- **Carry In** your own food, drink, dishes and utensils. Carry out whatever you didn't eat and take it home. No alcohol, please.

- **Challenge:** How close can you come to zero food waste, trash, plastic, and food produced with low carbon footprint? No shaming allowed! See what you can come up with.

- **Family Games & Nature Hikes!**

- **Hear** what RAICA is planning for the future.

- **Network** about sustainable heating and cooling, composting, community solar, electric vehicles, etc.

- **Stay Tuned** for more details. Better yet, plan with us. Contact [raica.net@gmail.com](mailto:raica.net@gmail.com).

**Also, eating out vegan in Rochester!** Lois & Greg Baum have suggestions on great local restaurants:

- Red Fern (Park/Oxford)
- Natural Oasis (Monroe/Alexander)
- Misfit Doughnuts (Gregory St)
- New Ethic Pizza (Titus)

In Syracuse NY:

- Strong Hearts Café (900 E. Fayette St)

In Batavia NY:

- Eden Café (Main St)! ❖

# House News

Submitted by Ed Deller



Moritz Wagner and Ed Deller put finishing touches on the freshly painted volunteer office. Photo credit - Tom Ruganis



Michael Scott works on the wiring in the remodeling of the RE/ music office. Photo credit- Ed Deller

# Homeless Heartbeats: *Serve the Unhoused*

Submitted by Lois Baum

As the song goes, some describe a "home" as wherever they happen to sleep for the night, yet they remain "unhoused". The definition of chronic homelessness is people of any age, who have lived at least one year without a roof of their own, in a homeless shelter, or on the streets.

Chronic homelessness has increased across America, especially during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout 2020, approx. 900 people in Monroe County went without housing every night. During the pandemic, most shelters were forced to close their doors because the homeless population is susceptible to health challenges. Social Workers from PCHO and REACH (*Person Centered Housing Options* and *Rochester Engaging in Action for the Chronically Homeless*) continued their work out on the streets, seeking to assist and to provide shelter for unhoused individuals. However, with monies from the CARES Act, vacant hotels were occupied to house this population. In Rochester, House of Mercy and REACH join a current push to see this continue, after COVID.

Homeless shelters/services in Rochester NY:

- House of Mercy: [houseofmercyrochester.org](http://houseofmercyrochester.org)
- Bethany House: [bethanyhouserocny.org](http://bethanyhouserocny.org)
- St. Joe's: [saintjoeshouse.org](http://saintjoeshouse.org)
- Person Centered Housing Options: [pcho.org](http://pcho.org)
- REACH: [reachadvocacy.org](http://reachadvocacy.org)
- Homes 4 the Homeless: [facebook.com/groups/1780622502209332/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1780622502209332/)

Until things fully reopen in Rochester, here are some ways to help:

- Donate money directly through each homeless shelter's website
- Buy exactly what the shelter needs, based on the Amazon Wishlist on their website
- Box up your items to donate, label the box, and set it aside until local shelters reopen
- Drop off a dish to serve 15 people, any Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday at 5:30pm

Contact Lois for details. ❖

# Outdoor Worship!

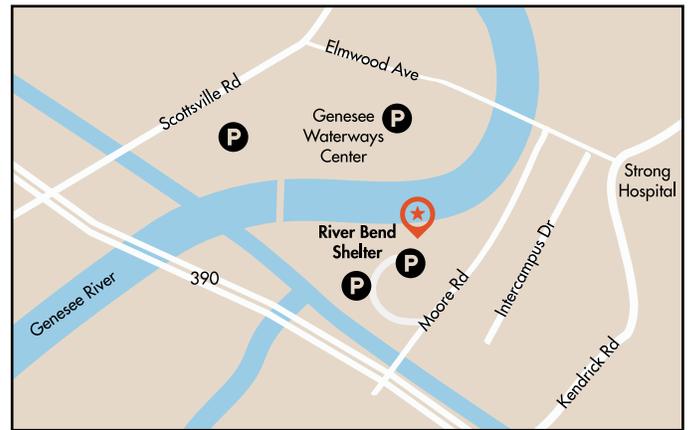
*Submitted by Rev. Lane Campbell*

First Universalist is going to worship outdoors once a month in the summer. Services will take place at the **Riverbend Park Shelter at Genesee Valley Park**. The shelter has a parking lot next to it with grass to traverse to get to the park shelter. There is a playground within sight of the park shelter. The shelter has limited capacity, but there's lawn space all around, so folks can bring lawn chairs to sit comfortably. Please consider wearing a nametag to help newcomers, guests, and your memory-challenged friends.

After worship, Children's Activity Hour will provide activities and supervision by vetted staff/volunteers near the shelter and playground. We want families to feel supported in visiting with each other and other church folk.

There will be opportunities for people of all abilities to help support outdoor worship.

Future outdoor summer services are planned on July 18 and August 8. We have the shelter reserved for Sept. 12, should we want it for our water ingathering worship service. In bad weather, worship will be held over Zoom. ❖



# Pop-Up Pride!

Presents

## Pride Day at the Beach



**Saturday, July 3, 2021**

**12:00pm • Ontario Beach Park • Free**

*Find us at the Beachfront Shelter - Sponsored by*



*Community Organization Fair, 12:00-4:00pm. Bring your own food and beverages.  
All COVID-19 safety guidelines and park rules must be followed at all times.*

**Pop-Up Pride-related questions? Contact us at [PopUpPrideROC@gmail.com](mailto:PopUpPrideROC@gmail.com).**

Lawn Games with:



Pop-Up Pride is presented by:



Rochester LGBTQ+ Together





# PRIDE PICNIC

for Mature Adults

Let's celebrate the senior LGBTQ+ community of Rochester!



**Sunday, July 11, 11am - 7pm**  
**Genesee Valley Park, Roundhouse Shelter Area**

**11am Worship Service / 12pm Entertainment / Big Gift Raffle**  
**(DJs, Drag Bingo, Piano Bar & More!)**

**Attendance:**

*Limited to 500. Reservations available online. Minimum \$5 suggested donation.*

**Food & Beverages:**

*Bring your own! Vendors on site to sell grilled items and ice cream. No alcohol sales.*

**Questions? Email us at [RainbowSeniorsROC@gmail.com](mailto:RainbowSeniorsROC@gmail.com).**

Sponsored By:



# Pop-Up Pride!

Presents

## Pride Day at the Farm



Pop-Up Pride  
is presented by:



Rochester LGBTQ+ Together



### Saturday, July 17, 2021

12:00pm • Wickham Farms • \$16.95

*Purchase your own tickets and enjoy a fun day at the farm with community!*

*Ticket price includes access to lavender fields, flower garden, big barn, family fun areas & more!*

*All COVID-19 safety guidelines and park rules must be followed at all times.*

**Pop-Up Pride-related questions? Contact us at [PopUpPrideROC@gmail.com](mailto:PopUpPrideROC@gmail.com).**

# Pop-Up Pride!

Presents

## Pride Day at the Park

Pop-Up Pride  
is presented by:

Rochester LGBTQ+ Together

THE NORSELLI TEAM  
at Keller Williams Realty

**Saturday, July 31, 2021**

**12:00pm • Veterans Memorial Park • Free  
Henrietta, New York**

*Join us at the Stevens Pavilion - Sponsored by*



***Bring your own food and beverages. This is a dry event. Alcohol is prohibited.  
All COVID-19 safety guidelines and park rules must be followed at all times.***

**Pop-Up Pride-related questions? Contact us at [PopUpPrideROC@gmail.com](mailto:PopUpPrideROC@gmail.com).**



**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.

### Summer worship service begins at 10am on Sundays

**Minister** | Rev. Lane Campbell

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

**Music Director** | Brock Tjosvold

**Office Manager** | Emma Barry

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

### Board of Trustees 2021–2022

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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.