



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

April 2015

Minister

Rev. Celie Katovitch
minister@uuroc.org

Director of Music

Bryan Holten
music@uuroc.org

**Director of Life Span
Faith Development**

Michelle Yates
edu@uuroc.org

Office Administrator

Kris White
585.546.2826
office@uuroc.org

Our Outlook

Newsletter Editors
David Damico/Marcy Klein
uurocnews@gmail.com

First Universalist Church

150 South Clinton Avenue
(corner of Court St.)
Rochester, NY 14604

Visit us online www.uuroc.org

Inside

Pastor's Ponderings	Pg. 2
Walking Together, DRE	Pg. 2
Adult Religious Education	Pg. 3
Communications Com.	Pg. 3
Extemporaneous Music	Pg. 4
Stewardship	Pg. 5
RAIHN	Pg. 6
Drop-In Discussions	Pg. 7
Membership	Pg. 7
Auld Lang Syne	Pg. 8
Garden/House News	Pg. 9

Sunday Services | April 2015

April 5 | *Show Me: A Sermon for Easter Sunday*

Like Jesus of Nazareth's disciples, we look for-- we long for-- life to arise out of death. Spring's blossoms rise reliably from winter's frozen ground (if in tardy fashion some years). If only the cycle of renewal in our own lives was just as predictable.

-Rev. Celie Katovitch



April 12 | *The House of Belonging: Membership Sunday*

Join us as we welcome new members home, and consider the question, "Why belong?"

-Rev. Celie Katovitch



April 19 | *Of Specks, Yōpps, & Whos*

A multigenerational Earth Day / Stewardship Sunday service of story, drama, song, and celebration.

-Rev. Celie Katovitch



April 26 | *The Night Pond: Contemplating the cycle of stillness and movement.*

As much as we desire to be productive and useful as we labor in the fields of life, there is a voice within, calling us to cease all mental and physical striving.

Take some time to contemplate this idea, and use it to find your own night pond waiting for you at the center of your life work.

-Paul Swiatek and worship associate Tom Williams



Worship service begins at 10:30am Sundays

If we need to cancel Sunday church services due to weather or other emergency we will notify 13WHAM-TV and 13WHAM.com. If you are in doubt about whether the service is being held you can check there.





Pastor's Ponderings

Message from Rev. Celie Katovitch

Perhaps you've heard reference to the "gospel of Unitarian Universalism." The word gospel refers to "good news"-- the saving message at the heart of a religion. What, then, is the good news of Unitarian Universalism? I invite you to ponder what your own answer to that question might be.

When I think about our saving message, I think about **salvation** itself, as our Universalist ancestors understood it. Salvation, for them, quickly morphed from an idea about the afterlife into a state of being that could be realized in this life. The favorite synonym for salvation used by the great preacher Hosea Ballou was **reconciliation**: the state of being in unity, and at peace, with ourselves, with others, and with the sacred as we understand it. Another way to speak about salvation might be as a state of **wholeness**.

Wholeness does not mean we're perfect, or that we should never change, or that we are unwounded. It does mean that we are embraced as we are; we are enough; we are accepted. This is our good news. This is the healing truth that we try to embody here at First Universalist, Sunday by Sunday, and in the many small but powerful encounters that make up our lives between Sundays. We are a congregation with a caring heart; we are (I believe) a community that saves.

And, like all good news, that seems worth sharing. Over the last month or two, many of you have been inviting friends and family to come along with you to church. Some of you have been doing this for years. Thank you! I hope that you will continue to reach out. This too is a part of the radical hospitality that we nurture: to meet people where they are and share a bit about what we experience here, a bit of the good news that sustains us. This month of April might be a particularly good time to invite a friend or neighbor to check us out. This month we celebrate Easter and Earth Day, Stewardship and Membership, Passover and Tenebrae. That mix is testament to another saving aspect of our church: the beauty of our theological diversity, underscored by the depth of our shared faith.

See you in church! In faith, – Celie ❖



Walking Together:

Director of Life Span Faith Development

Submitted by Michelle Yates, DRE

I feel like Christmas and Easter are some of the most challenging times to be a UU. It is in these seasons more than any other that we find ourselves asked some of the most dreaded of questions: "What do UUs believe?" "Do you celebrate Easter?" *"Are you saved?"*

Later this month, our Adult Faith Development offering will consider how we might talk about or "Articulate Our UU Faith." (April 22, 29, and May 6) It's challenging to answer these questions if we've never really thought about it before, or are unsure of the answers ourselves.

Since Christian Easter tends to focus on *Salvation* let's embrace this theme in our faith development this month. Consider the wisdom of Reinhold Niebuhr found in our hymnal (#461)

"Nothing worth doing is completed in our lifetime;
Therefore, we are saved by hope.

Nothing true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history;
Therefore, we are saved by faith.

Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone;

Therefore, we are saved by love.

No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as from our own;
Therefore, we are saved by the final form of love which is forgiveness."

I would contend that Unitarian Universalism does indeed save souls and lives, but not the way you might think. Too often in our world, tragedy and disappointment suck the life out of us; suck the heart and soul out of us. Those who find a home in our church communities often comment on how being welcomed as they are, and belonging to a fellowship that nurtures *hope, faith, love, forgiveness*, and I would add *gratitude*, has saved their weary *soul*, and in some cases very literally saved their life.

"Are we saved?" We must be saved. We must be resurrected and brought back to the land of the living every day, every season, every year, every second. To be offered precious, sacred moments in our often fragile lives.

What is it that saves you daily, has saved you in the past, or is saving you right now? Is it the return of spring, buds and crocuses? Is it the smiles of your children or the laughter of a loved one? Is it the daily crossword or Sudoku? A hot shower? Lunch with a friend? A special memory or object? Hope in the future?

Consider how you save others; how we all save each other. *What is it that saves you?*

Michelle ❖

Adult Religious Education Offering

“Articulating Our UU Faith”

This three session workshop considers how we talk about, share or answer questions about our faith as Unitarian Universalists. Whether you are new to Unitarian Universalism or born and raised, we have all been in those awkward conversations, trying to articulate UUism, in 30 seconds or less of course. How can we describe our faith by what we are and do, rather than what we are not? Become familiar with some basic history and theology to address your most frequently asked questions. Elevator speeches, sharing stories, laughs and fellowship, oh my!!

When: Wednesday Evenings – April 22, 29 and May 6 - 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Who: Facilitator Michelle Yates, Director of Lifespan Faith Formation
Sponsored by First Universalist Church of Rochester

Where: First Universalist Church; Clara Barton Lounge
150 S. Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY 14604

Cost: No charge; free to all members of the community

Contact: RSVP by calling (585) 310-2484, or email edu@uuroc.org ❖



Communications Committee Update

Submitted by Lisa Gwinner, Communications Committee Chair

One of the main goals of the Communications Committee is to evaluate and facilitate communications within our church community. So we recently looked in-depth at our weekly eOutlook email bulletin. We decided that both the monthly newsletter and the weekly e-bulletin having nearly the same name was really confusing (we got pretty confused even as we were discussing it) and so we decided that “This Week at First Universalist” was a much more descriptive and distinctive title for the weekly e-bulletin.

We also looked at the content, which we decided would benefit from streamlining so that readers wouldn’t have to scroll down and down (and down!) to see all the info. We replaced most of the repeated weekly reminders with links to our web site, easily accessed in a side bar and right up near the top of the page, which has allowed us to make the main articles and weekly calendar easier to read. Then we decided that it made a lot of sense to change the publishing date to Monday, to make it easier to keep track of the up-coming events at First Universalist. As you may have noticed, the new e-bulletin went live in early March. Many thanks to Kris White, our Office Manager, and Newcomb Losh, for making the transition go so smoothly! We hope you all like the changes and appreciate your feedback!

As a follow-up to the e-bulletin revamp we are beginning to look at our church web site for ease of use, outreach, and enhancing our communications. Stay tuned!

We are also in the middle of an audit of all the signs presently in and on the church. Committee members Marcy Klein and Connie Valk have taken on the big job of documenting all of the signs and recommending upgrades and additions. The goal is to make our church “user friendly” to members and visitors alike. As audit results come in, I’m amazed by the outreach possibilities that something as simple as new signs can bring about. We are working with the House Committee to make these communications enhancements happen soon.

As always, we do appreciate your feedback and suggestions for enhancement of communication both within the church community and in the form of outreach to the wider community. Please let us know if you have ideas for us! ❖



Extemporaneous Music: *The Challenges of Improvisation*

Submitted by Bryan Holten

Many of you have borne witness to my improvisations for the piano or organ in our worship services. My hope is that these pieces bring to light some of our favorite melodies, and that they make good use of the instrument is at hand. This might mean showing off the many colors of our Robert Hope-Jones pipe organ, or taking advantage of the resonance and dynamic range of our concert grand piano. I write today with a few remarks in response to a common question: Why is improvisation difficult?

For me, the answer lies in the need to balance structure and spontaneity. The reality is that few of us start without some kind of plan in place. Even if I haven't practiced what I intend to do, I at least spend some time thinking about form—that quality of music that lends comprehensibility and cohesiveness to the piece. Especially important is how to begin and end. One of the simplest forms to improvise—one that I make use of all the time—is the “structural frame.” The improviser begins with one idea, shifts to another, and then re-hashes the first idea. This is sometimes called “A-B-A” form.

Another challenge is the ability to come up with fresh ideas. Most of us rely on a “toolbox” of favorite techniques, be it a series of chords, a pattern of strong and weak beats, or a particular harmonic vocabulary. It is difficult, and probably not desirable, to be original in all of these respects. No musician lives in a vacuum; rarely is his/her vocabulary limited to one style. For example, I sometimes listen to jazz and popular music, but my favorite composer of all is Maurice Duruflé, and besides all of this, we spend countless hours at school examining the works of Johann Sebastian Bach. It is impossible to escape the influences of what we listen to. In a sense, then, the freshness of an improviser's ideas is a function of how freshly he/she can listen to music. One of the world's authorities on the subject of musical improvisation, William Porter, has cautioned his students not to try too hard “to sound like x composer,” and not to try too hard “not to sound like x composer.” Fear of imitating one's models too closely is as counterproductive as the pursuit of endless originality.

Ultimately, improvisation is a challenge that I welcome. It forces me to listen to music with an ear toward what makes music “tick.” It invites me to find my own voice as a musician. And it liberates me from the restrictions of printed sheet music, which cannot be changed, either as ethically or as easily, as extemporaneous music. Start with a plan, figure out how to get there, and keep going, no matter what. That's improvisation! ❖

If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.

Henry David Thoreau



Photo by Elizabeth Osta

Selma March, 2015

Submitted by Elizabeth Osta

Hearts wide open greeted us wherever we went. Open to the hope of the future. Open to the promise of equality, open to the moment of meeting.

Wary of our whiteness, of what that meant to these gracious folk a time ago, we entered gently. We asked little, finding our way to memorials and listening to fifty year old memories. "Did you know Reverend Ouellet? What a fine man." One woman spoke with shining eyes as she recalled this Edmundite priest who Dr. King sought out for he had heard this was a "black" white man, this was a man who understood the struggle, the journey, and who led others in it. He opened hearts and minds.

We looked up stories of him, of Good Samaritan Hospital where in 1965 injured marchers were brought, their skin color limiting their options for care, where then young John Lewis, now Congressman, was treated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester. We took pictures of the now vacant building. Hopes are high to save it from the wrecking ball.

The Edmund Pettus bridge became the backdrop as busloads of young people from Texas full of politeness and polish and promise learn of a history far before their birth.

And finally we found the place that marked the memory of Reverend James Reeb, white like us, Unitarian-Universalist like us, who answered Dr. King's call with his life, his wife and four children never able to see him in old age, but always able to be proud that his integrity took him to a justice place where he laid down forever.

On the television in historic St. James Hotel we heard University of Oklahoma University college president call down and expel the fraternity students as our waiter Joseph's black face turned to the screen, his service interrupted to note once again the complexity of race relations.

Annie Pearl summed up our visit, her living legend t-shirts sold from the back of her car reminding us that the power of place is sacred, reminding us that as an activist who is still marching and still willing to be jailed for justice, she never once gives up. Nor should we. ❖



Stewardship 2015

Submitted by the Finance Team

**Let Your Voice Be Heard-
return your pledge card by April 19!**

EVERY voice is important- and so is every pledge, large or small. Please return your pledge card to the church (by mail or in the church office) by Stewardship Sunday, April 19. Then join us for pie during coffee hour as we celebrate what an important piece of the "pie" comes from OUR pledges! If you don't have a pledge card, or have misplaced yours, we'll have extras on hand at church. Need more information about stewardship? Check out our "Stewardship Basics" brochure, available on the finance board in the Clara Barton Lounge. ❖

Offertory vs. Pledge:

What's the Difference?

Submitted by Ann Rhody for the Finance Team

We are sometimes asked why it's necessary to make a pledge, when we put money into the collection basket each week. One look at the numbers helps tell the story!

Our 2014-15 budget totals \$234,000 in planned expenditures. After help from the endowment, building rentals, the auction and other fundraisers, we are left with about \$182,000 which needs to come from the congregation.

If our average attendance is about 90 on a Sunday, that means that each person would need to put in about \$38 each and every week for 52 weeks to cover the costs of the congregation (and a couple would need to put in \$76 per week).

The reality? We take in a little over \$5,000 in the plate collection each year (this amount does not include what we give to the community in our monthly social justice plate offerings). While the plate collection is an important source of income, it doesn't come close to what we need to operate the church! That's why we ask members and friends to make a pledge for each fiscal year... a plan for how much each of us is prepared to give to support the church. In this way, we can better plan our budget. So whether your pledge is \$50 per year, or \$5,000- we need each and every one of you to return a pledge card with your plan (and yes, we still welcome you to drop a few dollars into the plate each Sunday!). ❖

A Car Should Not Be A Replacement For A Home...



Submitted by Marti Eggers

Saturday, May 2 - Sunday, May 3, 2015

5:00 Pm to 7:30 Am

Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050 East Ave., Rochester

Join us for an evening to raise awareness of family homelessness and a fundraiser to benefit the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN). Sleep overnight in your car to experience what many families must resort to in Rochester. If you don't want to sleep in your car, you may also use a "parking pass" to leave after the evening activities, or you can simply donate to Team VirtUUal. See accompanying article.

EVENING PROGRAM:

- Local author Sonja Livingston will share excerpts from her book Ghostbread and reflect on growing up in poverty in Rochester
- Hula hooping games and activities with Creekside Hooping
- Music and dancing with Blue Sky
- Sundae bar
- Car decorating contest
- Dinner and a light breakfast
- T-Shirts for all participants



...and an experience you won't forget!

* RAIHN, the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network, is a consortium of 14 faith communities that host families in temporary need of housing, and 31 faith communities that provide volunteers and other support to the host congregations. First Universalist is a host congregation, supported by St. Mary's, Aldersgate United Methodist Church of Greece and the Church of Love Faith Center. Four times a year, for a week each time, volunteers from these congregations work together to provide a welcoming, safe place for the families to come home to after a day at the RAIHN Center where they get help looking for housing and, for some, new employment. We prepare and serve a hot evening meal, help with homework, offer a lap, a story and a hug, a listening ear, a word of encouragement, overnight presence, breakfast and whatever else might be needed before the families return to their jobs or to the Center for another day of hard work. ❖

Join Team VirtUUal!

Keeping families together
Getting families home for good.

You don't have to sleep in your car overnight on May 2nd in order to support RAIHN Car City 2015! I can't be there myself, so I have created Team VirtUUal as a way for me and others to "participate" in raising funds and awareness of family homelessness.

You can "participate" by donating to my Team VirtUUal on line. Here's how –

Go to www.raihn.org.

Click on the SIGN UP/DONATE NOW box below the Car City logo.

Click on the Donate To This Event box.

Enter Team VirtUUal or Marti Eggers in the Search Box.

Click on **Donate Now!**

OR

This link will take you directly to the team donation page.

<http://tinyurl.com/qc25zmy>

The rest is up to you. A donation in any amount, large or small, will be gratefully received and will help get families home for good.

Thank you!

Marti Eggers ❖



Book Club Selection for April

Submitted by shirley Bond

Our very own author, **Steve Farrington** will be attending this month's book club meeting to discuss *Rodrigo's Land*. Join us to find out who Rodrigo is and find out about his many interesting adventures.

Rodrigo's Land was picked for the month of February but unfortunately, the author was stranded in Florida.

Hopefully there will be no snow storm April 26th at 12 noon! All are welcome and it is not necessary to have read the book. We will pique your interest.

The author will be happy to sign your book. ❖

Drop-In Discussion, March Schedule

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

Drop-in discussions are held each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. (except in July and August) in the adult lounge on the second floor of our church. 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.

April 5 | *The Meaning of Easter*

On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Few if any Unitarian Universalists believe in the divinity of Jesus. Phil Ebersole will lead a discussion on what Easter—and Jesus—mean to Unitarian Universalists.

April 12 | *Jobs, Co-ops, and the Future of Rochester*

The city needs living wage jobs, and worker-owned co-operatives have advantages over profit-motivated capitalism. Hank Stone will recount his adventures learning about local jobs, and offer conclusions for discussion.

April 19 | *To be announced.*

April 26 | *Free to Choose*

Almost all Americans believe they should be free to decide things for themselves, but with certain exceptions such as abortion, gun ownership, use of marijuana, vaccination and so on. Phil Ebersole will lead a discussion of freedom and its exceptions.

If you have a topic you'd like discussed or, better still, would like to do a presentation or lead a discussion, speak to Phil Ebersole. ❖

Library News

Submitted by Keith Stott

How are we Christians and Jews different from Muslims?

And/or superior to, considering the events of 9/11? Not very much according to Khaled Abou El Fadl in the collection of a dozen essays in his book *The Place of Tolerance in Islam* (Beacon Press 2002). We all believe in one god and accept as family those of other faiths. Khaled Abou El Fadl urges us to consider the “universalistic and humanistic message of Islam” and learn to dwell together with our Muslim brothers and sisters. Let us try! Call number is 297.2 K. ❖



Membership

Submitted by Nancy Gaede

Have you been coming to First Universalist for a while and feel that you have found a spiritual home here? If you are considering formally becoming a member of our congregation, we invite you to attend a Path to Membership class on Saturday, April 11, from 10:00-12:30. We will spend time together exploring the dimensions of membership, and share a tasty brunch. Those deciding to become members will be formally welcomed into the congregation on Membership Sunday, April 12. Childcare will be available if requested. Please contact Nancy Gaede (256-2611) to sign up for the Path class and to make child care arrangements. *The deadline for both is Sunday, April 5.*

If you cannot join us on April 11 but are interested in membership, please contact Reverend Celie as soon as possible. ❖

UNIRONDACK

Summer Camp for UU Children

The Importance of Belonging

How many parents in our congregations are searching for opportunities for their children to live our UU values in a safe and nurturing community? I'd like to share what I have seen happen to my children at Unirondack.

My 24 year old son now runs his own company in the tech world. He readily shares that the confidence he has, the public speaking and organizational skills, and the feeling of being safe and affirmed as a human being, all began at camp.

My 20 year old son is finishing school at Oberlin. He has written about Unirondack when he visited Oberlin, commenting that it was like “Unirondack on steroids”.

I do not think my children's experience is unique. Over the years I have seen thousands of young people attend Unirondack, or Rowe, or any number of UU camps and have a similar experience.

Would you consider Unirondack summer camp for your children? <www.unirondack.org>

All my best, Dan Gottfried
Executive Director. Unirondack ❖

Auld Lang Syne

First Universalist Society of Rochester: 19th Century

Submitted by Karen Dau, archivist



SADLY, most of the congregation's 19th century history is lost. Here are some highlights of what remains.

Apr 1846: With the signatures of fifty-six members, The First Universalist Society of Rochester becomes incorporated on the 13th, with Rev. George Washington Montgomery as their founding minister. While the congregation holds worship services in Minerva Hall, a committee is immediately established to purchase land and begin planning for a new church.

Dec 1847: A service of dedication is held for the new church on the 15th. Many of the "big guns" of Universalism in New York attend, including Revs. Stephen Rensselaer Smith, Dolphus Skinner, and John Mather Austin. The new building, including the lot, costs just under \$9600, and the society has raised over \$8000 toward this expense.

Oct 1853: The beloved Rev. Montgomery is forced to resign his pastorate because of a severe case of aphonia, a too-common occupational illness known in the ministry the deceptive label "clergyman's sore throat." Aphonia has so severely damaged his vocal chords that he can no longer continue preaching. It is a tragic development for him, the church and the denomination.

Jan 1854: Rev. James Harvey Tuttle successor to Rev. Montgomery, comes to Rochester from Fulton, Oswego County and begins on the 1st.

Nov 1859: Rev. Tuttle preaches his farewell sermon in Rochester on the 25th. He has accepted a call to found a congregation in Chicago.

Mar 1860: On the 11th, Rev. Asa Saxe, D.D. begins what will become a pastorate of thirty-five years, having been lured to Rochester from the church at Clifton Springs.

Nov 1874: Our Rev. Asa Saxe, Rev. Newton Mann of the First Unitarian Church, and Rabbi Max Landsberg of Temple B'rith Kodesh establish the first Union Thanksgiving Service, which eventually becomes the longest-running interfaith service in the United States.

1887: A Universalist chapter of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor is organized, having the distinction of being the only Christian Endeavor group in the state from a liberal congregation.

1890: A campaign to expel the Universalists from the local Christian Endeavor fails.

Dec 1889: Susan B. Anthony speaks at the church on the 5th on "Woman Suffrage and South Dakota."

Dec. 1890: The annual convention of the New York State Woman Suffrage Association is held in the First Universalist Church on the 16th and 17th.

Sep 1895: On the 1st, Rev. Saxe concludes his 35-year pastorate. He takes temporary charge of a small society in Albany. Rev. Lyman H. Squires comes from Jamestown to succeed him.

Dec 1895: On the first three days of the month, the congregation celebrates the 50th year of its most recent reincarnation in Dec 1845, which culminated in incorporation the following April.

Feb 1898: On the 5th Helen Douglass, wife of Frederick Douglass, speaking in the Universalist Church, "told for the second time in this city her thrilling tale of the horrors of the chain gangs and the crimes of the convict lease system of the South."

Jun 1898: Lyman Squires is forced to resign because of consumption. He takes a small parish in Hornell but the illness ends his life not long afterward.

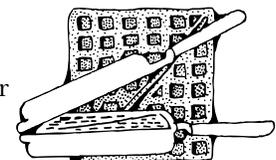
Dec 1898: Rev. Isaac Philip Coddington succeeds Rev. Squires. ❖



The LUUnch BUUnch April 2015-Redo!

Arnett Cafe

332 Arnett Boulevard, Rochester
12:30 on Sunday, April 26.

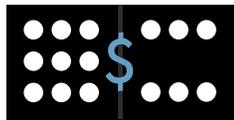


"I've eaten there and enjoyed the delicious, southern style food!"-David Damico

Help Strike a Blow Against Poverty.

Submitted by Marie Sidoti

Do you know that among mid-sized American cities:



- Rochester ranks #1 in child poverty and #2 in adult poverty.
- Rochester is the only one where child poverty is above 50%.
- Rochester has the highest rate of extreme poverty (workers are paid under half the federal poverty level.)
- Rochester has the highest poverty rate of families headed by women.

Do you know that:

- Over the last couple of years a national movement has grown to raise the minimum wage to \$15.
- That the movement is called the Fight for 15.
- That its current target is the fast food industry.
- That on April 15, Fight for Fifteen is holding a massive rally at fast food restaurants around the country.
- That the purpose of this rally is the adoption of a \$15 minimum wage and the right to form a union.
- That the Rochester goal of this action is 1000 participants

Do you know that you can join the effort :

- April 15 at 5:pm
- Eastman Quad U of R Campus

Please pick up a commitment card at church or email msidoti3@rochester.rr.com

Questions? Call or email Marie Sidoti 585-467-9135, msidoti3@rochester.rr.com

Hope to see you there! ❖

House News

April 2015

Submitted by Tom Ruganis

Winter has turned into spring and with it the House Committee has started planning for upcoming activities. The following are the highlights of the accomplishments and plans.

- A **frozen cold water pipe** supplying the RE wing has now thawed out no damage to the church.
- Our **Spring-cleanup** has been set for Saturday May 30th. Please let the house committee know of any cleaning or small repairs that you think should be addressed. If you would like to lend a hand with cleaning, minor repairs or smoke alarm/emergency lighting checks, please let us know or just show up! Morning snacks and a light lunch will be provided.
- A **steam leak** occurred in the train room where the service enters the building. RDH was called and determined after excavation that the problem was ground water collecting around the steam pipe. The situation was corrected for now, BUT the pipe does need to be replaced. This will wait until the steam is turned off. Very minor damage was incurred and there will be no cost to First Universalist.
- The plumber who took care of our annual **downspout trap** cleanouts is no longer in the business. We are in the process of selecting a new company to perform this service.
- The **Garden Committee** has requested the House Committee to receive, store and install two new benches for the church's garden. This will be completed in May. ❖

Garden Update, Spring 2015

Submitted by Sarah Singal

A planting party is set for Tuesday, May 19, from 1-4pm. If it's pouring rain we will arrange an alternate date. We plan to add to our raised beds:

- One 3 in 1 (self-pollinating) dwarf pear tree for center
- 2 dwarf plum bushes and 2 low blueberry bushes, one in each corner bed
- Arugula, Swiss chard

The existing plants are clover, lambs quarters, comfrey, chives, strawberries, and we expect reseeded cherry

tomatoes. We will add organic compost at the time of planting. We expect to water at least once a week after planting.



Want to join the planting party? Want to help with watering? Watering assignments are for a week at a time, and the amount of watering depends on Mother Nature, but is usually once or twice a week. We also will be ordering two park benches for the garden, arriving in late April. Want to help receive the package and/or help with assembly and securing of the benches? For any of these activities see Sarah Singal (ssingal@rochester.rr.com). ❖

First Universalist Church

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 from the Jewish and Christian traditions.

Worship service begins at 10:30am Sundays

Minister | Celie Katovitch

Minister of Religious Education | Michelle Yates

Music Director | Bryan Holten

Sexton | Brandon Fagan

Nursery Care Provider | Carol Williams

Office Administrator | Kris White

Office hours, Tuesday through Friday, 8:30am–2:45pm. Telephone 585.546.2826

Board Of Trustees

Ed Deller (President), Joy Leccese, Shirley Bond, Michael Scott, Michael VanArsdale, Howard Spindler, Janet Rothbeind.

Editor, Weekly *eOutlook*: Kris White; Monthly paper *Our Outlook*, David Damico/Marcy Klein

More information is available on our website: <http://uuroc.org>.