



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

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Church of Rochester

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Sunday Services | April 2023

April 2 | *Healthcare Chaplaincy—The Soul Doctor*

What does it mean to be a UU minister outside the walls of a church? How can UU benefit from this ministry?

— *Rev. Kelly Spahr*

April 9 | *The Choices We Make, The Stories We Tell*

Easter is a season of stories. The passion narrative. Family stories of celebrations and gatherings. Let us explore the stories that were told about Jesus following his death and the decisions people made to believe or not believe, to act or refrain from acting, to share out the stories and ensure that they continue to be told.

— *Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

April 16 | *Draw the Circle Wide*

How wide can the circle of care be for First Universalist Church? How wide do we draw the circle of nurturing the spirit and serving the community? Come, explore abundance and generosity and what is possible when we give in and allow ourselves to grow.

— *Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

April 23 | *Wade in the Water*

Join us as Verdis LeVar Robinson ponders the intersectionality of climate justice drawing inspiration from the African American spiritual “Wade in the Water.” With Earth Day approaching, how can we realize the interconnections between climate, racial, and social justice, and truly begin to create a climate-just world?

— *Rev. Verdis Robinson*

April 30 | *How Desire is Born*

Desire is our birthright. It appears in our lives from the time we come into being and is with us for our lifetime. Where do your desires begin? And how do you allow desire to be born in you?

— *Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

❖ **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. ❖



On Pilgrimage

*Message from
Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

In the Summer of 2011, I packed up my things in the Bay Area in California, where I had been living the last three years, and headed out to Kansas City. At first, I would not have considered this a pilgrimage. I was headed out there for a job. I had wanted to go to Kansas City because my father's family was from there, which I knew from the outset.

The journey that unfolded was one of getting in touch with where I was from. Not only feeling grounded in this city and its landscape, but also in family names and stories and histories. I found myself visiting gravesites of family members who had passed. I found myself traveling to places they had lived and structures they had a hand in building.

What made it a pilgrimage was not all of the places I traveled nor the names I learned, but rather that it was about knowing myself better. It was about learning where I fit into the world. Learning why I did the thing I did and who else had done those things before me.

A pilgrimage is a journey that is about more than the journey—it is about what is learned along the way, the rituals we create, the connection to self and to spirit.

I wonder what your stories of pilgrimage are. I wonder where you have gone in your life that provided you context for your life. I wonder where you have been and how you have been with where you felt connected to something larger than yourself—lineage, tradition, location, landscape. What journeys have you taken that taught you more about who you are?

As we continue our exploration of Slogging with Spirit, let us mine the depths of our own journeys to examine our lives and find meaning.

In Faith and Courage,
Rev. Lane-Mairead ❖



Called to Care for Each Other

*Message from
Rev. Michelle Yates*

As I considered being a step-parent, a youth group advisor, and other roles throughout life, a thought has called to and stayed with me: this might be the most important ministry I ever do.

Just like a spouse can't be all things to the other, a parent cannot be all things to their child. I often think of the adults who had a huge influence on my life by being caring, positive and available to me. These people saved me in many ways over the years while I was slogging with spirit, discerning the next direction of my life or just trying to get through the day. The value of relationships like this or even passing moments cannot be undervalued as we look to "the long arc of the universe bending towards justice" as Universalist Theodore Parker and then MLK said.

In a month when we remember Jesus' commitment to love and justice, and his Call to us to Love our Neighbors, let us consider how this is a life-saving ministry when we are slogging through life. While I wrote this, I witnessed a mom trying to get her kid through a meltdown. I looked at her with compassion and care with my hands over my heart. She noticed and took a moment to share how hard the day had been. I affirmed that I've been there, it is so hard, and that she's doing a great job. She teared up and said thank you with a weary smile before carrying her screaming toddler out to the car.

I have been there, in a day that felt like a slog and a failure, and an "angel" met my eyes with care and compassion, letting me know "it happens; I see you are doing your best."

If you have not had a divine Call to Universalism before, let me call you now. Truly loving your neighbor; meeting each person with Love and Kindness, especially those who are really feeling the slog, this might be the most important ministry you ever do. You never know for whom this will turn their day around, or even save their life.

Yours in the Journey,
Rev. Michelle ❖

"Knowing that we can be loved exactly as we are gives us all the best opportunity for growing into the healthiest of people." —Mr. Rogers



Draw The Circle Wide

Stewardship: *Draw the Circle Wide!*

Submitted by Kitty Forbush and Brian Mumey

The time has come to Draw The Circle Wide. As we begin Stewardship month and look forward to Stewardship Sunday on April 16, the Stewardship Committee thanks you in advance for your pledge consideration and your generosity in the support of this amazing church.

We are filled with hope for a year filled within inclusivity and fellowship, growing the circle of our commitment to this congregation and to our community as a whole.

We look forward to meeting with you in Stewardship circles that will be held in church, in people's homes and on Zoom to share what this church means to us and why we pledge our financial support.

Remember your support MATTERS...no matter how big or how small.

With love, Kitty Forbush & Brian Mumey

Co-Chairs, Stewardship 2023 ❖



Finance News & Notes

Submitted by Ann Rhody, Finance Chair

Thank you!

Thanks to all who participated in the Slow-Rolling Auction! It was a new way of doing things, and now folks will be enjoying gatherings, lessons, services, and more! These events helped to raise several thousand dollars for the church—funds we need to support our operations.

Special thanks to Paula Marchese and Katherine Flynn, who headed up the Auction; and to Dave VanArsdale for producing the catalogue of offerings.

Watch for information in this edition of the *Outlook* on other Finance-related happenings:

- Stewardship Sunday is April 16! Draw the Circle Wide and join us for Stewardship Circles
- Dick Gilbert Tribute Concert April 2—come and honor Dick Gilbert—hear his words of wisdom and connection set to music—with a freewill offering to benefit our church.

Thanks for all of the ways you support First Universalist with your time, talent, and treasure!

Please contact 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 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, Apr. 2 | Student Debt **In-Person**

Some 43 million Americans owe a combined total of \$1.75 trillion in student loan debt, triple the amount 16 years ago. What is the impact of this burden? What can be done about it? Phil Ebersole will present some facts and lead a discussion.

Apr. 4 | *So, What's the Plan for Sabbatical?*

Join Rev. Lane-Mairead as we talk about plans for their upcoming sabbatical. What will be covered, where folks might need to step in, and what a good goodbye looks like will all be explored. Come with questions and ideas

Apr. 11 | *Reparations: How might they work?*

Many people of good will favor reparations to African-Americans as compensation for the lingering effects of slavery and Jim Crow. But just how would they work? Phil Ebersole will lead the discussion

Apr. 18 | *Open Topic!*

Could be anything, but it's always something! Come with an open mind, heart and spirit.

Apr. 25 | *Planned Obsolescence*

We have all grown up with yearly car models intended to feel obsolete, and be replaced. Refrigerators used to last 30 years, but now are designed to fail after 8 years. Planned obsolescence fit the idea of an ever-growing economy. Now we need goods that last, so our society can endure. Hank Stone presents.

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



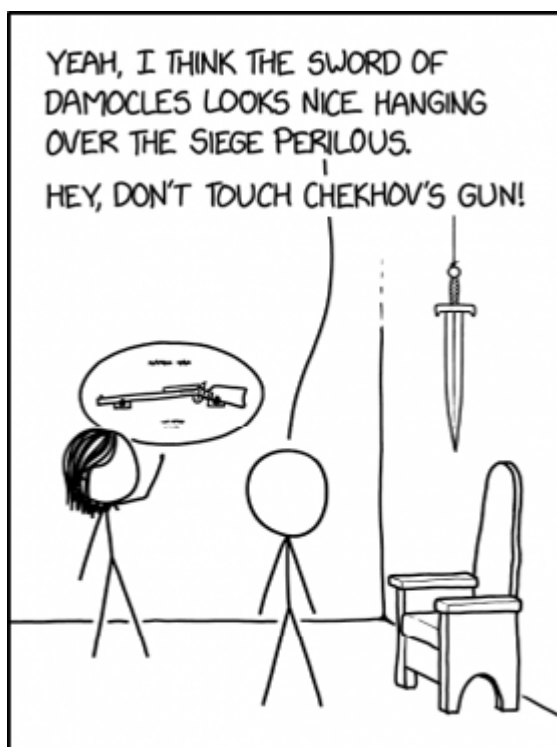
FPGROC (RAIHN): *Bowl-a-thon a Success!*

Submitted by Chris DeGolyer

Many thanks to the bowlers and other folks who donated to FPGROC's Bowl-a-thon. On March 19, we revived some long unused bowling skills and enjoyed pizza while we raised \$700, enough to house a guest family for a month. Overall, the Bowl-a-thon raised over \$30,000 for Family Promise.

Family Promise is in the process of buying the building that serves as its Day Center at 142 Webster Avenue in the city. The building has four apartments on the second floor that serve as temporary housing for families as they look for permanent housing. On the second Saturday of each month, FPGROC hosts a volunteer afternoon at the center for cleaning, making repairs, and enjoying food together. For more information, check the FPGROC website at fpgroc.org, or ask Chris DeGolyer. ❖





Credit: XKCD.com



Joint Tenebrae Service: April 7, 7pm at the UU Church of Canandaigua

Submitted by Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

Each year, First Universalist observes Good Friday with a Tenebrae Service shared with First Unitarian Church and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua.

This service is a quiet, contemplative time to honor the loss that was felt when Jesus died. Candles will be lit and extinguished. There will be singing and music. This is service to bring grief, sorrow, sadness, and even anger.

Tenebrae will take place on Friday, April 7, at 7pm both online and in-person. The link to access online worship is: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/95355711085>. To attend in-person, the address is 3024 Cooley Rd, Canandaigua, NY 14424. ❖

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!

- **Apr. 6 | From Places Near and Far**
From Indonesia to Norway and Iceland to South America, this collection of pieces draws inspiration from places near and far.
- **Apr. 13 | Piano Extravaganza I**
Students from the studio of Professor Alan Chow will dazzle you with piano masterworks.
- **Apr. 20 | Piano Extravaganza II**
A second installment of fabulous pianists from the piano studio of Alan Chow.
- **Apr. 27 | When I Have Sung My Songs To You**
Cecile Saine, soprano, James Grab, baritone, and Alla Kuznetsov, piano, will fill your heart with duets and songs of love. ❖



UUCONNECTIONS



EcoJustice

Submitted by Sarah Singal

Welcome to Earth Month!

The official Earth Day is April 22, but given the realities of climate change, every day is Earth Day. Most of us are aware of carbon footprints and are now taking steps we didn't take 10 years ago. We need commitment from everyone to join the climate action movement. Here's what the EcoJustice Group recommends.

Take the Climate Action Pledge

The Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee/Finger Lakes is promoting a campaign for individuals to pledge to take action in four categories: Education—learn more about the issues and the possibilities; Collaboration—work with others toward equitable solutions to benefit the community; Advocacy—speak out for systemic changes to make it easier for everyone to act; and Behavior Adaptation—what more can you do day-to-day for climate? If this seems like too much, start with just one category, but do start! Take the pledge for individuals: climategfl.org/individual-pledge and while you're in the website, check out the Accelerator's climate action strategy, climategfl.org/climate-action-strategy. There will be a large poster by the EcoJustice Bulletin Board in the Clara Barton Lounge for each person who has taken the pledge to sign.

Dates to remember

This spring is the ideal time to put your climate action pledge into action. There are plenty of opportunities for education, collaboration, advocacy and behavior adaptation. Sign up now. Walk-ins welcome, too.

- ◆ April 21-22: Accelerator Climate Summit climategfl.org/summit
- ◆ April 24-28: Urban Agriculture Week workshops

facebook.com/RocUAWG

- ◆ April 29: City of Rochester Clean Sweep cityofrochester.gov/cleansweep/ or 311.
- ◆ May 6: Urban Agriculture Conference facebook.com/RocUAWG
- ◆ May 7: RAICA Interfaith Climate Summit. This summit specifically caters to people of faith and their congregations. raica.net/events

We hope to see a lot of you this spring! ❖



Would you like to attend the upcoming UUA General Assembly?

Submitted by Charlie Courtsal

Did you know that the UUA General Assembly is meeting on-line and in person on June 21-25, 2023? Since the meeting is in Pittsburgh, PA, it makes it a lot easier to attend in person! You could also serve as a delegate from our congregation.

Would you like to be a delegate from our congregation? Our congregation can send up to 4 delegates, so please let us know if you are interested by emailing nomcom@uuroc.org. The Board of Trustees plans to select delegates at their May meeting. Thank you for your interest! ❖



Gender Inclusion Workshops: *with CB* *Beal on April 29-30!*

Submitted by Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

CB Beal (they/them) will be joining First Universalist, First Unitarian, and the Rochester Zen Center for two workshops Saturday, April 29 and Sunday, April 30. Both workshops will be 1-4pm and will be hosted by First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd, Rochester, NY. All are welcome to attend and details about the workshops are below:

On April 29 from 1-4pm, the topic will be *“Minding Your T’s and Q’s: An Introduction to Radical Welcome of Trans, Non-Binary, Genderqueer, and Gender Non-Conforming People.”* This workshop is for anyone who wants to learn more about gender diversity and support people whose gender is not what our society has taught us to typically expect. Participants should be willing to explore the ways our own experience of gender isn’t the only experience of gender. CB will create a space in which people can be curious and brave to ask questions and explore gender and gender identity in new ways so that we can better be the Beloved Community, an open community of love, equity, and justice, for all.

On April 30 from 1-4pm, the topic will be *“Practices of Preemptive Radical Inclusion.”* This is an introductory interactive workshop that invites participants to explore and practice some skills and tools for Preemptive Radical Inclusion that can guide individuals and organizations toward behaviors and actions that help us deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in people’s daily lived lives, in our communities, and in the world. Some of those we will focus on include the practice of bearing witness, of not believing

everything we automatically think by practicing curiosity about our own thoughts and where they came from. Others invite kindness and generosity toward ourselves and others as we learn and grow, being willing to practice imperfection in service of justice, and to seek other perspectives and center the experiences of those most impacted by a situation or system. The evidence that practicing Preemptive Radical Inclusion is having an impact is that we ourselves change.

A separate event will be held the morning of Saturday, April 29, at 10am for people who identify as trans, non-binary, genderqueer and gender non-conforming. For more details about this meeting, please email Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell at minister@uuroc.org. ❖

Sabbatical Planning Update

Submitted by Bridget Watts

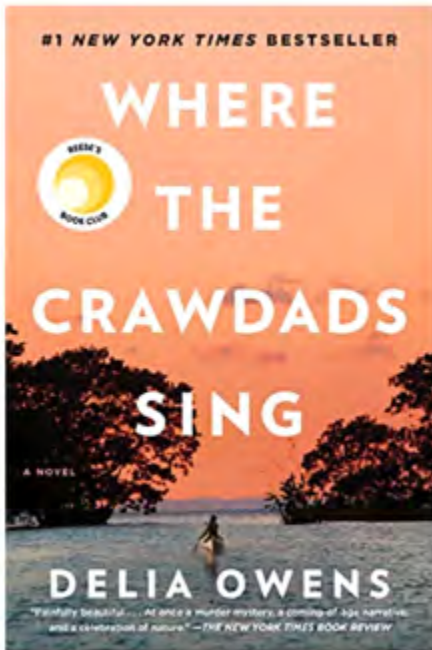
The Sabbatical Taskforce continues to make good progress on preparations for Rev. Lane-Mairead’s sabbatical leave, July-November 2023.

As of this writing, in mid-March, details have not been finalized, but we expect to have a summer minister for the first two months of Rev. Lane-Mairead’s absence. For the remaining three months, we will have a half-time sabbatical minister who will preach three times a month just as Rev. Lane-Mairead does.

Many hands are involved in preparing for the sabbatical. The Board has reviewed and approved our plans so far, and Finance is working on plans for compensation of the ministers we engage, and budgeting for the sabbatical. The Committee on Ministry is working with Rev. Lane-Mairead to figure out everything they actually do—including things we might not notice until they’re not here! Representatives of the Personnel, Caring, and Worship committees are also involved.

We’ll miss our minister while they’re away, and we hope they’ll miss us, but rest assured, church will go on.

Questions? Feel free to ask members of the Board of Trustees, Rev. Lane-Mairead, or members of the Sabbatical Taskforce (Chris DeGolyer, Paula Marchese, Janet Rothbeind, Ann Rhody, and Bridget Watts). ❖



Book Group

Submitted by Shirley Bond

The Book Group will meet April 9 at noon in the Chalice Room to discuss “*Where the Crawdads Sing*” by Delia Owens. The author brings to light a coming-of-age tale set in the marshlands of North Carolina. There is much to examine and connect to in this novel!

We meet on the second Sunday of most months. Any questions? Contact bookgroup@uuroc.org. ❖

Get Connected!

Submitted by Donna Anderson

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.
- ◆ **Session 3:** Thursday, June 1, 7-8:30pm. Who are we? What are our Social Justice programs? How does our church function?

On Sunday, June 4, there will be an invitation to sign the Membership Book during the service. After the service will be our Annual Congressional 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. ❖

FIAC: What’s the Buzz?

Submitted by Joy Leccese

Your Faith In Action Council has been all a-buzz about new ideas for the Social Justice Circles in our congregation. As you may have heard, the FIRE Team (First Universalist Initiative for Racial Equity) has recently transitioned to an individual Social Justice Circle, and work on the issue of homelessness and houselessness has been consolidated into a unified effort, named Housing For All. The team leaders—Lois Baum, Chris DeGolyer and Marti Eggers—have been involved in this arena for years, and they are stepping up to lead a more unified effort to make an



even wider impact as we go forward.

This topic will be proposed as our next Church Project at this year’s Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 4. Once this has been approved, the Housing For All leaders will share more information on how you can participate in making a difference on this essential aspect of social justice. Both leadership teams are still in think-tank mode, aware of this issue’s impact on all of us. We welcome comments, questions and ideas.

FIAC has also been discussing the opportunity for a new Social Justice Circle focused on PRIDE and transgender issues. If you have interest in exploring how you can participate, please contact your FIAC team at fiac@uuroc.org. ❖



The First Universalist Church of Rochester presents

Words, Wisdom, and Music

A concert in honor of Rev. Dick Gilbert

Sunday, April 2, 2023

2:00 PM

Free admission. A freewill offering will be held to benefit the First Universalist Church



Join us in the First Universalist sanctuary to honor this great UU Minister! The concert will feature the words of Dick Gilbert, set to music by various composers, and performed by Voices of the Spirit and the UUROC Choir, with guest conductor Cary Ratcliff.

Light refreshments will follow the concert.

Membership Committee News

Submitted by Donna Anderson

Our Membership Committee is committed to supporting our church community and getting folks connected. We'd like to hear from you. Why do YOU come to our church services online or in-person?

Every month you'll read a statement from one of our attendees sharing why they attend our church. This month West Cosgrove is sharing his story.

"I am West Cosgrove, a friend of Connie Valk's. Connie and I met when I worked for Rural & Migrant Ministry in the Western New York office. I lived in Geneva, about an hour from Rochester, and I visited the First Universalist Church many times. I had hoped to attend more often, but the two hours proved to be too much. Interestingly enough, since moving to Austin, I have become more involved in your community. I greatly value the Sunday services. Rev. Lane-Mairead is such a loving, compassionate person. I value their "style" of leading the worship services, particularly their sermons. I admire and congratulate you on your values, your commitment to social justice, particularly your commitment to immigrants and the LGBTQIA+ community. Believe me, these values come through strongly, even on an online Zoom service. Thank you for making these virtual services available."

Thank you, West, for sharing with us.

If you'd like an opportunity to share your story, please contact membership_com@uuroc.org.

Spread the news! ✦

WE ARE:

ALL CONNECTED

STRONGER TOGETHER

LOVE'S HANDS IN THE WORLD

CALLED TO CREATE JUSTICE

RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE ANOTHER AND THE EARTH

 USA.ORG/IMAGES

Living Our Values, Making a Difference

Submitted by Constance Valk



◆ Brian Mumej and Beth Ares are two of many who have signed the petition to build 24/7 restrooms in Washington Square. We have 200+ online signatures as well as paper signatures!



Make Everyday **EARTH DAY**



Everybody do your share



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.