



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY

March 2017

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Sunday Services | March 2017

March 5 | *The Space Between*

At times we find ourselves in liminal spaces – not quite where we were and not quite where we are going. We will reflect together on the power of the space between one another, the power in letting go, and the power in reaching for what is yet to be.

- Rev. Margaret L. Weis.

March 12 | *Good Neighbors*

Who is our neighbor? In the case of First Universalist, the literal answer to this question is a tricky one.

- Rev. Celie Katovitch.

March 19 | *"Soul, Soul, and Evermore, Soul"*

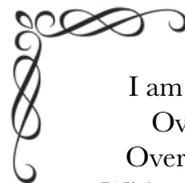
Our ancestor Ralph Waldo Emerson said the world needs nothing more than this.

- Rev. Celie Katovitch

March 26 | *Universalisms*

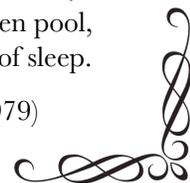
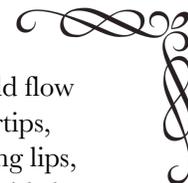
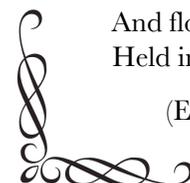
Today we take a swing through history, looking at the many and varied understandings of Universalism that have existed-- and still exist-- under the umbrella of our faith.

- Rev. Celie Katovitch



I am in need of music that would flow
 Over my fretful, feeling fingertips,
 Over my bitter-tainted, trembling lips,
 With melody, deep, clear, and liquid-slow.
 Oh, for the healing swaying, old and low,
 Of some song sung to rest the tired dead,
 A song to fall like water on my head,
 And over quivering limbs, dream flushed to glow!
 There is a magic made by melody:
 A spell of rest, and quiet breath, and cool
 Heart, that sinks through fading colors deep
 To the subaqueous stillness of the sea,
 And floats forever in a moon-green pool,
 Held in the arms of rhythm and of sleep.

(Elizabeth Bishop, 1911 - 1979)





Pastor's Perspective

Message from Rev. Celie Katovitch

Dear friends,

Like many hymnals, our Singing the Living Tradition includes "Amazing Grace" - which begins: "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me." There is an asterisk next to the word "wretch," which directs the singer to a footnote indicating that she may substitute the word "soul" if she prefers. I imagine this is because "wretch" can sound like we are putting ourselves down: saying we are somehow unworthy. Personally, I find I'm drawn to sing the original words. I don't take "wretch" as a judgment, but as an open and honest acknowledgment of something we're too often tempted to sugar-coat: there are times when we feel broken, down, and defeated; when "despair for the world grows in us" (Wendell Berry), and as the poet Will Lane has written, "[our] spirit crawls on all fours." Sometimes, only the word "wretch" will do to express this. When I feel this way, the hymn acts as a reminder to entrust myself to a larger grace: to open to God, or the universe, or the Spirit, and know that Love is at work in this world. March 1st marks the beginning of Lent, a time to set intentions with the hope of deepening our inner life. Perhaps each of us, in our own way, can take on that discipline. You might take just five minutes to pray or meditate, at the beginning and end of each day. You might pray words for your own renewal and resilience, such as the mantra "God is Love," or "May I be filled with lovingkindness." You might dedicate those minutes to prayer for a specific person or group of people (such as refugees or immigrants) for whom you have special concern, simply lifting them up in your thoughts. I look forward to hearing about your experience, should you choose to take on this practice. As I continue to think about being present to our church neighborhood, my own daily devotion will be to hold in prayer people struggling with active addiction, and those struggling with mental illness.

May you trust that grace is breaking in, even on days that feel wretched. May you continue to share light and compassion with others in need.

In faith,
Celie ❖

Spring Office Hours at Java's

Rev. Celie's community office hours will be held at Java's Cafe on Gibbs Street, Thursdays from 1-2. Come enjoy a cup of coffee or tea in the cozy atmosphere of Java's. ❖

St Lawrence Spring Gathering

All congregations are invited to attend the "St Lawrence Spring Gathering: UUA Presidential Candidates' Forum and Gould Lecture" on Saturday, April 1st from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at May Memorial UU Society, 3800 E Genesee St, Syracuse NY.

On April 1st, the candidates for UUA President will participate in a Forum in the Central East Region at Cedar Lane UU Church in Bethesda MD. The event will be livestreamed to May Memorial UU Society in Syracuse.

Following the Forum, Rev. Richard Gilbert will offer the 2017 Gould Lecture, titled "The Prophetic Imperative in a Messy World." Several workshops and focused discussion groups will follow the lecture.

REGISTRATION: (\$18 - \$22 - \$26) (Includes lunch)

The registration fees are on a sliding scale based on your assessment of your ability to pay. Those who pay at the higher level are making a donation to help others who aren't able to pay the full fee.

Register at <http://tinyurl.com/2017SLDGould> by March 26, 2017.

For more details about the day's activities, visit <https://www.uua.org/node/182641>.

Childcare is available at no additional charge. Please Register for childcare by March 19th to Stacy Sceiford at dre@mmuus.org. ❖



Walking Together

Submitted by Rev. Michelle Yates, Director of Life Span Faith Development

Our Faith Development theme for March comes from the sixth line of our Affirmation of Faith that we say during service each week, “To serve humanity in FELLOWSHIP.”

In December, we reflected on how it feels good to serve, by acting and helping in ways that show we care for others. In this month’s phrase, we are reminded to serve “humanity,” which means ALL human beings everywhere, the human race, or humankind. The word “fellowship” describes a kind of relationship that is friendly, connected, shares interests and a feeling of belonging. I love coming to church to experience fellowship with the people there.

One way to explain the phrase, “To serve humanity in FELLOWSHIP,” might be “to care for all people as if they were your friend.”

What else does FELLOWSHIP mean to you?

Perhaps a relationship like that you have with family members, or friends you call your “extended family.” Some people might think of fellowship as being united, related or connected to all people.

There are many UU congregations in our Association that are called Fellowships. Uncertain of the use of words like Church or Society, they felt that a Fellowship aptly described the kind of community they aimed to create. One that is caring, and connected.

When new members join our congregations or ministers are ordained, it is a tradition to give them a ritual handshake we call “Extending the Right Hand of Fellowship.” It is a symbol of welcome and belonging to the community.

I invite you to consider what Fellowship means to you this month, and how to be in Fellowship with all humanity. If you are new to our church community, we would love to learn more about each other at our Path to Membership class on Saturday, April 1, and grow into closer “fellowship.”



“Fellowship is a place of grace, where mistakes aren't rubbed in but rubbed out. Fellowship happens when mercy wins over justice.”

— Rick Warren

“It may not be an easy thing to live in sweet fellowship with all those with whom we come in contact; but that is what [grace] is given to us for.”

— D.L. Moody

“We ought to love, encourage and support each other.”
“The grace of service is the spirit of belonging.”

— Lailah Gifty Akita

“We know that without food we would die. Without fellowship, life is not worth living.”

— Laurie Colwin ❖



From Age-ing to Sage-ing – Elderhood and Spirituality

Submitted by Rev. Michelle Yates

Returning and expanded by popular demand!

So you're getting older. What does that mean? How does that change things? Based on *From Age-ing to Sage-ing: A Profound New Vision of Growing Older* by Zalman Schachter-Shalomi & Ronald Miller, this 4-session workshop/discussion group will reflect on our personal experiences of aging, look at models of aging from various cultures, and revision our framework for aging and creating meaning in our later lives.

Thursdays, March 2, 9, 16 and 23

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

@ Irondequoit Library, 1290 Titus Ave.

Presented by Rev. Michelle Yates. RSVP's and questions can be directed to Michelle at edu@uuroc.org. ❖

World Water Day - March 22

By Shelley Adams

"March 22nd is World Water Day, a time to reflect on the importance of clean water and ponder life's choices. Can we live with sewage-strewn beaches, dead rivers and lakes, or fish too poisonous to eat? Can we live with a few weeds, bugs and animals on our healthy lawns? We can take action by saying no to lawn care companies, by reducing all pesticide use, using environmentally friendly detergents, picking up litter that ultimately finds its way into waterways, and helping to pass laws to ensure the preservation of this precious limited resource?" ❖

Read Shelley's full article at <http://bit.ly/2kUGF6M>.

Annual Chili Cook Off - March 12

Submitted by Bill Elwell

Culinary greats of First Universalists are ready to face off in a rivalry that mirrors the cable show, *Chopped* (or more likely the show *Cons versus Cooks*). Judges of similar culinary talent (hint: members and friends of the church) select the Grand Prize Winner of a gift card to Chili's. Many are invited to participate in this event but only a few will be willing to have their chili judged in such an open competition. If you are one of the few who have ego enough to go head to head with other talented Universalist cooks, please let Bill Elwell know of your desire to participate. The cook off is scheduled for March 12 after the Sunday service. ❖



You Are Invited



Submitted by Stacey Yang

First Universalist Music Director, Stacey Yang, invites you to an organ solo recital at Christ Church (141 East Avenue, Rochester) on Tuesday, March 21st at 12:10 pm. This is part of the free Tuesday Pipes concert series presented by Eastman students, faculty and alumni. Stacey will be performing the music of Bach, Mendelssohn, and others. Come out on your lunch break and enjoy some beautiful organ music! ❖

Black Lives Matter - An Approach to Building Beloved Community

Submitted by Carole Hoffman

A forum, sponsored by the Interfaith Impact of NYS, will be held on Sunday, March 19th, 2-4 PM, at The Baptist Temple, at 1101 Clover St. The topic is "Black Lives Matter: An Approach to Building Beloved Community." Panelists will be the Rev. Julius David Jackson of the Salem UCC; James Sheppard, MoCo Legislator; Rev Dick Gilbert, UU minister; and the Teen Empowerment Youth Organizers. For more information, call 442-5111.



Interfaith Impact of NYS is comprised of progressive statewide interfaith churches. As the lobbying arm of progressive Protestant, Reform Jewish, UU and other faith traditions, we hold an annual Advocacy Day in May in Albany to discuss 3-4 current, significant issues with our state legislators. Please check out the April edition of *Our Outlook* for details as to how you can join us. ❖

April is Earth Month



Submitted by the EcoJustice Group

Earth Day is Saturday, April 22nd. A celebratory Fair Earth Fair will take place April 23rd during coffee hour. Save the date!

Please also start saving items for the April 15th EcoPark recycle caravan. Start collecting the large styrofoam packing pieces, broken plastic hot wheels toys, pharmaceuticals, used cooking oils, and many more items you cannot toss into your curbside blue box. See a complete list in the link monroecounty.gov/ecopark/, and also look for the list in the Clara Barton Lounge. Each household will load up a car (or partner with a friend) and we will meet and drive to the EcoPark together on Saturday morning, April 15th. You will see how easy it is to treat our planet! ❖

The Amazing Magic of RAIHN

Submitted by Sarah Singal



Every three months or so our church hosts temporarily homeless families for a week, offering food and shelter while they find permanent housing. Over and over again, families we have welcomed "graduate" from the program, and the good will and caring shared by hosts and guests is part of the magic of RAIHN (Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network). That magic will be celebrated with a performance by our Amazing John Adams in one of our upcoming host weeks. We will have a magic show for all the children in the program that week, and we invite our church families and children to join in. Stay tuned for details.

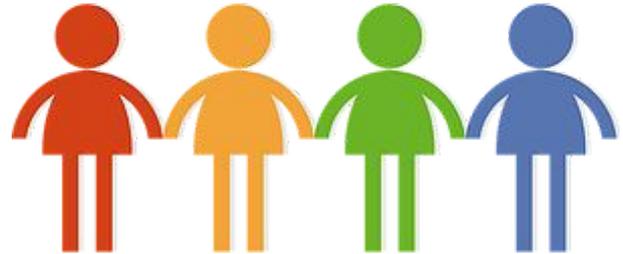
Our next two host weeks begin March 26 and June 25. The next volunteer training session is Thursday, April 6th at 6:30 pm at Mary Magdalene Church (1008 Main St.) in East Rochester.

SAVE THE DATE for Car City 2017 - Saturday, May 6th – Sunday, May 7th at Asbury First United Methodist Church. Raise money and camp out in your car! ❖

Small Group Ministry

Submitted by Connie Valk

Small groups are a way to help us think about our spiritual lives through the process of sharing thoughts and experiences with others. Those new to First Universalist as well as seasoned members are welcome to participate. A new group is forming. New sessions, co-facilitated by Bob Remley and Connie Valk begin March 9, 1:30 to 3:30 PM, and will be held every two weeks until June. Those who sign up commit themselves to attendance of most sessions. Attendance at the first session is important, as we make our covenant together. Location of the sessions is the home of Connie Valk, located in the city close to the zoo. Sign-up is on the Religious Education Faith Development bulletin board or you can email Connie at cvalk@frontiernet.net or Bob at humans@rochester.rr.com. ❖



Path to Membership Session - April 1

Submitted by Connie Valk

Do your beliefs fit the principles that guide us? We believe in:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

If so, consider becoming a member of First Universalist Church. A Path to Membership session will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 1st, led by Rev. Celie Katovitch and church leaders. You can sign up by contacting Connie Valk at cvalk@frontiernet.net or leave a message at 585-467-3191. ❖



Living Our Values, Making A Difference

Submitted by *Newcomb Losh*

The Women's March on Washington drew more than 500,000 people to Washington D.C. on January 21, 2107 to protest President Trump and to demonstrate for women's rights, immigrant rights, human rights, health care, science and more. (Photo by Newcomb Losh)



▲ **Newcomb Losh** supported Planned Parenthood with #IDefy. (Photographer unknown)

Rep. Slaughter answers a question from **Newcomb Losh**. (Photo by Karen Ruganis)



Photo by Karen Ruganis



Photo by Karen Ruganis



▲ **Karen Ruganis** supported women's rights. (Photographer unknown)

People's Solidarity Rally: Approximately 1500 to 2000 people joined the People's Solidarity Rally in Washington Square Park on January 21, 2017 to stand in solidarity with marginalized groups and support the Women's March on Washington.

Some of our members and friends who participated in the People's Solidarity Rally (l to r): **Micky Toker, Rev. Celie, Robert Remley, Shirley Bond, Tom Ruganis,** and **Marti Eggers.** (Photos by Ed Deller)



Bridge Home Meal

On Jan. 26, (l to r) **Tom Williams, John Hoffman, Joyce Gilbert, Dick Gilbert, Carole Hoffman,** and **Janet Clarke-Hazlett** cooked and served dinner to people who were homeless at Bridge Home in Rochester. (Photo by Ed Deller)



Muslim Ban Protest: On Jan. 21 **Heather Jones** joined several hundred people in Washington Square Park to protest President Trump's executive order to ban Muslims from seven countries from entering the USA. (Photo by Bill Jones)

(l to r) **Nancy Gaede, Connie Valk, Pat Gallaher, Christine DeGolyer,** and **Richard Reed** behind Pat and Christine, added their voices to protest the Muslim ban. (Photo by Newcomb Losh)

Lighting the Sanctuary

(l to r) **Michael Scott** and **Tom Ruganis** repair a chandelier in our sanctuary on Feb. 18 in preparation for replacing incandescent light bulbs with LEDs. More than 100 bulbs were replaced to save energy costs and support our eco-justice initiative. (Photo by Newcomb Losh)



Have an action photo or two of our members and friends being inclusive, living our values or making a difference? Send them to Newcomb Losh at jnewcomb.losh@yahoo.com.

Musings on the March

By Heather Jones

Washington, D.C. - January 21, 2017

"80% of life is showing up" (Woody Allen)

I wanted to be there for this one. I wasn't in Washington D.C. on February 15, 2003 for the march against the war in Iraq. My husband Bill was there and so was fellow church member Pat Gallaher, along with our friend Allen Grieco. Most of us have a few regrets in this life and not showing up fourteen years ago to march against what we all knew was going to be a disaster is one of mine.

In the week or so before the Women's March, a friend, in a rather skeptical tone, asked, "So what is it that you really want to accomplish?" To be honest, my answer was not polished or particularly convincing to her or to me. I truly didn't know what marching, holding up signs, calling out, "This is what democracy looks like," or wearing pink pussy hats would do to change the onerous trajectory of the incoming administration's brutal plans. However, I do know one thing, with so many other women and men, old and young, babies in arms and in strollers; it was good and right to be there together. There is a line I love in one of Wordsworth's poems, and it is "surprised by joy." On the day of the march, only one day after listening in horror to the new president's darkly dystopian inauguration speech, after the months of ugly political mudslinging, the racism, the fear mongering, and the crass misogyny, I found that I was "surprised by joy."

I have to believe there is a certain power that accrues to showing up, again, and again, and again. ❖



Heather Jones (rt) joined Anne and Allen in D.C.
(Photographer unknown)

Easter Plant Orders

Submitted by Katherine Flynn

Easter is coming – April 16th! It is time to order plants to beautify our Sanctuary. Look for our friendly volunteers, who will happily take your order, on March 19th and 26th in the Clara Barton Lounge. The cost is \$8.00 per plant, and you may purchase the plant in memory or in honor of someone. You may choose to take your plant home following the service, or donate it to a member of our home congregation. ❖

Bowls Project Update

Submitted by Kathy Russell

Thanks to all who participated in the January Cozy Night Supper Bowls Project. Your efforts garnered a \$406 donation to FOODLINK. A lovely letter of acknowledgement is posted on the Religious Education Bulletin Board in the Clara Barton Lounge. ❖

Auction Items Still Available

Submitted by Paula Marchese

The following items are still for sale. If you are interested, the prices are firm, so first come first served. Please contact the donor. *Questions:* pmarchese@rochester.rr.com.
Note: AA1 was not listed in the original catalogue.

AA4: Piano Premier Recital - Keith Stott will perform his latest composition, Sonata No. 3 "Impressionist." \$10 / Sunday, April 23.

AA1: Veggie Chili Dinner & Northern Exposure - A UU tradition! Enjoy Steve's chili, wine and other beverages, camaraderie and episodes of a unique TV show. \$10 / November 3, 2017.

E1: "PG" Rated Afternoon of Cards - Brendan Courtsal will host at his home an afternoon of playing "Cards Against Humanity." \$20 / Saturday, May 27, 2017.

E3: Hand decorated name tags by Kitty Forbush / \$5.

E4: Smack your lips 'n roll the dice! Share a fun afternoon playing various games and munching on vegan snacks. \$10 / Saturday, April 29, 2017. ❖

Finance News

Submitted by Ann Rhody

Going, going... and the 2017 Auction is GONE! Our annual service auction was a success - and thanks to you we raised just over \$5,000 to support our church's programs. This event is a treasured part of our church year, and participants enjoyed a great lunch, many laughs, and lots of wonderful auction items. Like all great things, it took a team effort to pull it off. Paula Marchese and Katherine Flynn headed up the team; clerk and teller crew was Dave VanArsdale, Sarah Singal, Karl Abbott, Glenda Brayman and Bill Jones; Kitty Forbush and Ann Rhody served as auctioneers; proxy clerks were Connie Valk and Richard Reed. Janine Casillo, Beth Ares, Kate and Connor Young, Carole Hoffman, Juanita Ball, Rachael Irato, Mary Pat O'Hara, and Tom Williams provided set up, clean up, and general auction help. The lunch was organized by Tim Mullins and provided by several of the auction team members plus Dolores Da Lomba, Ed Deller, Sheryl Dunbar, Eileen Fernandez, Ruth Fitzgerald, Joyce Gilbert, Patti Goodwin, Joy Lecesse, Marie Sidoti, Alyssa Swanson, and Carol Williams. And of course, if you contributed an auction item or placed a bid, YOU were part of the team as well! Many, many thanks to all who contributed to the success of the 2017 Service Auction.

Our finance team continues to move toward user-friendly web access! You can now [request reimbursement or bill payment online](#) by scrolling to the "members" area at the bottom of the page, and this year's stewardship drive will feature online pledging and information. Visit uuroc.org and see what's new!

Finally, if you have input for the 2017-18 budget, please let us know! We'll soon be developing the budget, deciding how to best fund our mission to "nurture the

spirit and serve the community." If you know of areas of need, or have ideas, please contact Finance Chair Ann Rhody (annrhody@gmail.com), or Treasurer Dick Shroyer (treasurer@uuroc.org). ❖

Stewardship 2017

Submitted by Heather Jones

It's time to start thinking about our annual Stewardship Campaign. Even though Pledge Sunday on April 9th may seem a bit distant, your support of our beloved community involves making a serious and profound decision. If you are new to First Universalist, this is our yearly appeal to all members and friends of the congregation to pledge a level of financial support for the upcoming fiscal year (from July 2017 to June 2018). This year's theme is "Build a Land" which is the title of a favorite Universalist hymn. The words of the hymn are particularly resonant this year. The first verse goes this way:

We'll build a land where we bind up the broken.
We'll build a land where the captives go free,
where the oil of gladness dissolves all mourning.
Oh we'll build a promised land that can be.

Come build a land where sisters and brothers,
anointed by God, may then create peace:
where justice shall roll down like waters,
and peace like an ever flowing stream.

Words: Barbara Zanotti (Isaiah/Amos), adapt.
© 1979 Surtsey Publishing Co.

These are stirring words of hope and promise; may it be so. ❖

Social Justice Plate News *Submitted by Shirley Bond*

Thank you for your generous giving on February 19th, as we collected \$478 for Interfaith Impact! Our March 19th Social Justice Plate Offering will be for Mary's Place Outreach Center located in the Northwest section of Rochester. Mary's Place has been in existence since 2009. They offer assistance in many different ways to refugees arriving from various countries. English as a second language classes are offered along with concrete help in finding permanent housing, among other very necessary services. The committee thought this would be an appropriate program for the congregation to support during these turbulent times. Also, as of this writing, the February collection has not yet been received. We will keep you posted. We thank you in advance!

Social Justice Plate Committee Members: Becky Elwell, Marcia Weaver, and Shirley Bond. ❖

Drop-In Discussion Schedule

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

Drop-in discussions are held at 9:15 a.m. (except during the summer) each Sunday in the Chalice Room 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.

March 5 | *Small Group Ministry*. Our small group ministry provides members, new members, and members-to-be who are seeking deeper relationships a safe space to express thoughts about their faith or lack thereof. Robert Remley and Connie Valk will share their understanding and experience of Small Group Ministry's purpose and benefits, the basic needs it meets, and how this social joining can benefit us and our church.

March 12 | *Nonviolent Feminism*. What does it mean to be a nonviolent feminist? Can people be against abortion and call themselves "feminist"? Board members of Feminists for Nonviolent Choices will share why they oppose lethal violence across the spectrum, including abortion, and why they think it's necessary to address social forces normalizing such violence.

March 19 | *Ultimate Composting: the Humanure Handbook*. "Night soil" has contributed to improving human nutrition for years and in various cultures. Kate Fleury will discuss how composting human manure can be done safely and easily, drawing on the books *The Humanure Handbook* and *Start With the Soil*.

March 26 | *The Way of the Giraffe*. Marshall Rosenberg's book, *Nonviolent Communication*, shows a clear method for getting along with others and having a happy life. Using the discoveries in this book, Rosenberg earned a worldwide reputation as a skilled peacemaker. Hank Stone will summarize the book and discuss the significance of speaking Giraffe, especially in Jackal times.

April 2 | *Landslide*. In 1975, Stevie Nicks wrote the pop hit, *Landslide*. The song is currently enjoying a resurgence by the Dixie Chicks. The lyrics contain a reflection of sort, "Oh, mirror in the sky, What is love? Can the child within my heart rise above?" Have you given thought to what she is singing about; do you have an answer? David Damico will facilitate.

If you wish to have a topic discussed or, better still, are willing to lead a discussion, speak to Phil Ebersole. ❖

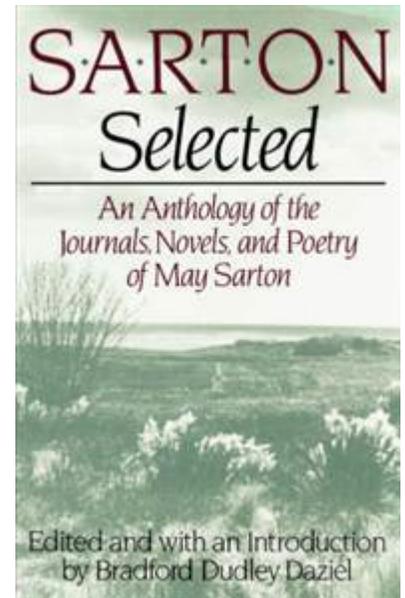


Submitted by Keith Stott

Words of Prolific Writer May Sarton

Would you rather read a journal, a novel, or poetry? You can have all three if you partake of *Sarton*

Selected: An Anthology of the Journals, Novels, and Poems of May Sarton. Why was this book selected for our church library? Here are a few hints. From the poetry section: "The state is a house designed by Jefferson." From the novel section: "Without music ... the room became suddenly empty." From the journal section: "I found I was very much alive on the edge of nowhere." (May had moved from Cambridge to a farm in New Hampshire.) For a thought-provoking experience, read the words of May Sarton. Call number is **811.52 S**.



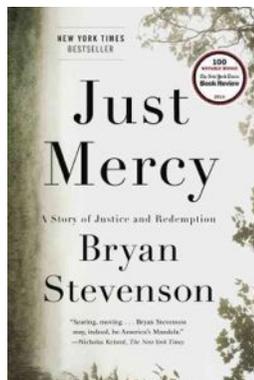
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The First Universalist Church library and bookstore are open each Sunday, except in the summer, during coffee hour for browsing, borrowing, and buying.

The books along the wall shelves are part of our lending library. Books may be borrowed for four weeks by members, and also by friends who have attended long enough to have name tags. If you have an overdue book, we'd appreciate you returning it.

The books on the freestanding shelves are part of our bookstore. We have donated books for sale for 50 cents each and purchased books for sale at half price. We also have a shelf of free children's books and a free magazine exchange. We appreciate donations of books in good condition that you think others would be interested in reading. ❖

Book Group *Submitted by Shirley Bond*

Our selection for the month of March is *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. This is a memoir by an activist lawyer who learned first hand the injustices of our criminal system. Stevenson has won the "genius" grant for his work and has attracted enough financial support to be able to hire a sizeable staff. (*New York Times Book Review*)



His book encourages us to take a long, hard, deep, look at our judicial system as it exists today. Fascinating reading. Please join us at **12 noon on March 26th** in the upstairs Chalice Room.

Join us even if you have not had a chance to read the book our conversation will encourage you to do so. Sarah Singal (ssingal@Rochester.rr.com) or Shirley Bond (Bondshirl1@gmail.com) will gladly answer any questions you might have. ❖

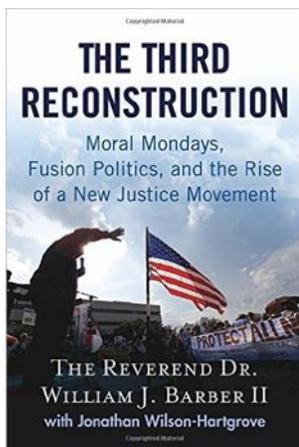
UU Common Read Book Discussion

April 20th, May 4th, & May 18th from 6-8pm in the Chalice Room.

The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement, by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II with Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove.

The book tells the story of the Moral Mondays movement, and embeds the current movement in the larger story of racial and economic justice movements since the Civil War. Books can be purchased or ordered through the church bookstore.

Facilitated by Rev. Michelle Yates, Phil Ebersole, and Suzie Gutierrez. Please contact Rev. Michelle at edu@uuroc.org with questions and interest. ❖



House Committee News

Submitted by Tom Ruganis

This has been a fairly light month but two major projects will have been completed by the time this is published:

- The first is the transition from incandescent bulbs to LED in the sanctuary. All of the chandeliers and lighting under the balconies are being replaced with energy efficient bulbs. Another major benefit is that they are designed to last more than 20 years.
- The second is the Church Office renovation. Now we move next door to the Volunteer Office.

The Clara Barton Lounge renovation committee is progressing. One of the improvements that has already come out of this planning is the replacement of the Eastman at Washington Square sign, which has been updated and will no longer need to be stored in the lounge. Please continue to stay tuned.

Two problems with our limited use elevator were identified. The emergency phone line is now functioning and an emergency light battery has been ordered and will be installed soon, probably before you read this!

As always, if you are interested in the above or have any other repair or project you would like to see completed, or would like to take on, please let anyone on the committee know. The Committee is currently: Tom Ruganis, Chair (tom.ruganis@frontier.com), Sarah Singal, Marcy Klein, Mike VanArsdale, Michael Scott and Ed Deller. We would love to hear from you! ❖

LUUnch BUUnch

Everyone is welcome at this after-church lunch gathering on Sunday, March 5th!

Mediterranean Pita & Kebab House

3047 West Henrietta Road, Rochester, NY

12:30, Sunday, March 5th

Please place your order at the counter (Dutch treat). If Dick and Joyce Gilbert know in advance that you're coming, we may be able to arrange a buffet for greater choice and lower cost. Contact Joyce at JTGilbert@frontiernet.net. ❖

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 | Rev. Celie Katovitch

Director of Life Span Faith Development | Rev. Michelle Yates

Music Director | Stacey Yang

Sexton | Brandon Fagan

Nursery Care Provider | Carol Williams

Office Administrator | Melissa Davies

Office hours, Tuesday - Friday, 9-3:15. Closed Mondays. Telephone 585.546.2826

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

