



# Our Outlook

## First Universalist Church of Rochester

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Church of Rochester

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## Sunday Services | March 2022

### March 6 | *Spiritual Maturity?!?!*

The theme for the month of March is Spiritual Maturity. What exactly does this mean? And why would we want to mature spiritually?

— Rev. Lane Campbell

### March 13 | *Loving the "Other" as Our Neighbor*

"You have heard it said 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy'. But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..." (Matthew 5:43-44). This is a very challenging concept to put into practice! Our guest speaker will give a UU perspective on this teaching of Jesus. Given the rising tension and division in the world, our country, and our own neighborhoods, let's explore how we might take "love your neighbor" to the next level and put "love your enemies" into practice through our Unitarian Universalist faith.

— Erin Scott

### March 20 | *Complicating Universalism*

The Universalists have always been seen as the love people. Our theology has often been misinterpreted to mean we are called to love everyone. How does this misinterpretation cause harm?

— Rev. Lane Campbell

### March 27 | *Being Visible, Being Invisible, Being In-Between*

Transgender Day of Visibility is March 31, when we celebrate and affirm the lives of transgender and gender non-conforming people. Being visible can be both liberating and also unsafe. Being invisible can be soul-crushing while also maintaining a sense of safety in the unseen. Let us explore the tensions between being visible and invisible.

— Rev. Lane Campbell

❖ **Services begin at 10:30am** ❖

*Worship will be online and possibly in-person at First Universalist Church. Check our Facebook page and website for more updated info! Please join us – Internet link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/131764422>; Phone number: 1-646-558-8656 with Meeting ID: 131 764 422. ❖*

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## On Becoming Rather Than Arriving

Message from Rev. Lane Campbell

I used to be in art classes when I was young—the ones they taught in my school. When I first learned to draw, I found it frustrating to not be able to re-create what I was seeing and inspired by. I wanted to make the drawing look like my dad or my dog or a flower or whatever it was that I was trying to draw. Sometimes, I did well. Other times, I did not do well. Eventually, drawing was something I gave up doing all together and I'd like to say that the reason was something else—but likely it's that I wasn't very good at it.

I once heard a podcast where a theologian was talking about a beautiful metaphor for describing God. He shared that each time we attempt to describe the divine, the sacred, it is like a children's drawing of what God actually is; drawn poorly likely from our own lived experience and imaginations. He was saying that God was so much more than we could visualize or describe, that God is too big to be defined or even fully known.

Living a life moving toward spiritual maturity can look many ways. One fact for all us is true—there will be no arrival. We will never be done drawing our drawings or learning more about the world and how it works. There is no mastery when it comes to spirituality—to arrive at the state we are all aiming for. Instead, we get to build up our skill levels by throwing out the old drawings and coming up with new ways to describe our relationship to the sacred. Or we get to learn what it means to do something even if we are not immediately skilled at it—the hard work of learning new things when talent can only take all us so far. Let's let go of arrival and live more in to becoming.

In Faith and Courage,  
Rev. Lane ❖



## Upcoming Programs!

Message from Rev. Michelle Yates

In the month of March we are reflecting on the theme of Spiritual Maturity. As UUs we embrace how themes like this apply to us as a whole and as beings with bodies. How does spiritual maturity apply to our bodies? I imagine this question was part of the development of the OWL materials.

OWL (*Our Whole Lives*) is a comprehensive sexuality education program designed between the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ. Our Whole Lives covers topics and skills that both parents and children want covered but which schools often exclude or address briefly. There is curriculum for K-1, grades 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, young adults (18-35), adults, and elder adults.

I am so excited that we are collaborating with First Unitarian this year for our children to be able to go through the OWL programs. All children's classes will take place in person at First Unitarian on Winton Road on Sunday mornings, so some of our families will be going over there for the next few weeks.

I am thrilled to be offering a new curriculum, "*Parents and Caregivers as Sexuality Educators*" as a Small Group Ministry on Zoom for parents from both churches on Monday nights. Caregivers will explore their role as the primary sex educators of their elementary through teenage children, and engage with topics including gender identity, relationships, social media, unintended pregnancy, and consent.

I look forward to seeing how this collaboration and programming goes as we consider new ideas for adult programming as well. Please check out information on the new Adult Faith Development Zoom program exploring justice, healing, spiritual maturity and growth through non-violence based on *Healing Resistance* by Kazu Haga. It starts March 10 on Thursdays from 10:30am-noon for 10 weeks.

If you have questions, interest, or ideas on any of our faith development programs please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [edu@uuroc.org](mailto:edu@uuroc.org).

Yours in the Journey,  
Rev. Michelle ❖



## 2022 Stewardship News

*Submitted by Kitty Forbush & Brian Mumey*

Dear First Universalist,

“For All That Is Our Life,” our theme for the 2022-23 Stewardship campaign, reminds us what an important part our beautiful church plays in all of our lives.

By pledging your treasure to our church, you are ensuring that we are able to continue to fulfill our mission to *Nurture the Spirit and Serve the Community*.

Your gift allows us to support our amazing ministers and staff, keep our church building solid and strong, and enable us to have the technology needed to continue our online and hybrid services!

Despite all the ups and downs of the last two years, First Universalist has continued to bless us with a spiritual home and this is because of all of you and your generous spirits!

With love,

Kitty Forbush & Brian Mumey

*Co-Chairs, 2022-23 Stewardship Campaign* ❖



## Finance News & Notes: *Budget Strains & Growing Pains*

*Submitted by Ann Rhody, Finance Chair*

As we take a first look at next year’s budget, there are a couple big hills to climb:

- The cost of living has risen more dramatically than we’ve seen in years.
- We want to continue to develop and refine our hybrid services; and we may need to add staff support for some finance and tech functions in the church.

All of this can be kind of scary, and to lead us to ask, “HOW are we going to pay for all of this?” First, we would do well to remember that most of this budget growth is due to the fact that we are doing wonderful things here at First Universalist! We care for our staff and want to provide increases as the cost of living goes up and show our appreciation for all their hard work. Our administrative and tech needs are increasing, and we are finding ways to support those functions. We are also reaching a wider congregation through our ability to provide quality hybrid worship. What’s not to love?

As always, we will be asking our members and friends to make a pledge for the 2022-23 church year (see the stewardship article on this page). We also have a healthy endowment, some special funds to tap where appropriate, and a thoughtful and dedicated Finance Committee to provide wisdom on the best ways to fund all of these initiatives.

But our most important asset is YOU. Your energy, presence, time, and most of all, your spirit! None of the dollars would matter if a vibrant beloved community were not at the center of all of it!

So here come our budget challenges: we are ready! Bring it on! ❖

# Drop-In Discussion

Submitted by Beth Ares

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

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

## March 1 | *Understanding the White Working Class*

This discussion will delve into the ideas presented in the book, *White Working Class: Overcoming Class Cluelessness in America*, by Joan C. Williams. These ideas include: Just who is the white working class? Why do they resent the poor and admire the rich? Why don't they buck up and go to college, or move to where the jobs are? Are they racist? Janus Mary Jones will lead the discussion.

## March 8 | *Practical Politics: Anti-Vaxxers & Democrats*

Should they demonize them and turn them into the focus of a culture war? Should they try to persuade them? Should they try to accommodate them so they aren't pushed out of the coalition? Don't just react, try to go deep. Bill Elwell presents.

## March 15 | *Overdose Prevention & the Opioid Epidemic*

Just how big a problem is this locally, and can Narcan save lives? Cindy Welch, Monroe County Department of Public Health presents.

## March 22 | *Open Topic*

An opportunity to bring up the good, the bad and the ugly...or not. What is on your mind as spring, hopefully, arrives soon.

## March 29 | "We should neither lionize nor excoriate our predecessors," – Lonnie Bunch

What do you think about these name-changing, statue-toppling times? We'll discuss examples of "heroes" whose reputation has been sullied by historical facts—including Thomas Jefferson and other UU luminaries. Theo Munson presents.

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



# Interfaith Impact: Solving Poverty in Rochester

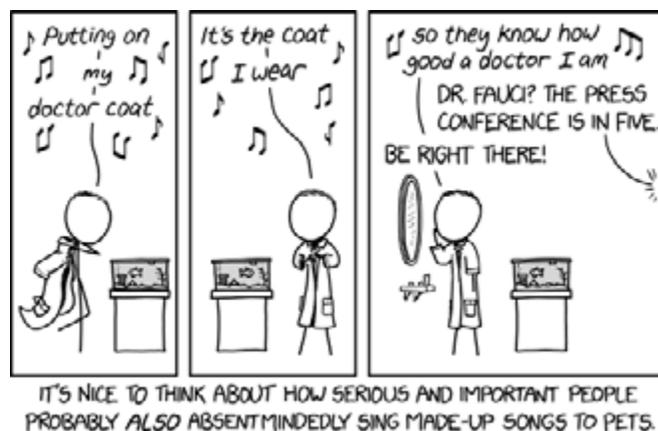
Submitted by Richard Gilbert

Interfaith Impact Rochester invites you to a virtual program on "Solving Poverty in Rochester: Universal Basic Income?" on Sunday, March 13 at 2pm.

There is a proposal for a pilot UBI program here in Rochester. Speakers include:

- Rochester Mayor Malik Evans
- Rev. Dr. Richard S. Gilbert
- Joel Elliot, *St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center Inc.*
- Amit Batabyal, *Professor of Economics at RIT*
- Rev. Matthew Nickoloff, *South Wedge Mission*

A Q and A period will follow the panel discussion. In order to attend and be part of the program, please send an email to [IINYSroc@gmail.com](mailto:IINYSroc@gmail.com). A Zoom link will be provided before the meeting. ❖



Credit: XKCD.com



## 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!

- **Mar. 3 | Eastman Celebrates Its Centennial**

Eastman Chamber Music program will present this concert as part of Eastman Centennial Celebration.

- **Mar. 10 | Soulful Violin**

Violinist Michael Kopelman and pianist Anna Gourfinkel join in performing music by Weinberg and Brahms.

- **Mar. 17 | Solo Piano Music from 1922**

*The Dawn of Eastman Part I* - Piano students from the studio of Professor Tony Caramia present two concerts, as part of Eastman Centennial Celebration.

- **Mar. 24 | Songs by Women Composers, a Historical Journey**

ECMS singers Meredith Hart, Brittany Cerra, Meghan Demirer, Shaya Greathouse, Erin Peradotta and pianist, Alla Kuznetsov, perform music by women composers.

- **Mar. 31 | Solo Piano Music from 1922**

*The Dawn of Eastman Part II* Piano students from the studio of Professor Tony Caramia present two concerts, as part of Eastman Centennial Celebration. ❖

## To Our Beloved Frequent Visitors: *Path to Membership* April 30

*Submitted by Connie Valk*

So, you've been Zooming our Sunday Services and/or attending in-person during the "safer" times during the pandemic. In any case, you've felt a connection to our Unitarian Universalist faith and are interested in learning more and maybe even becoming a member.

This session is for you! Join us on Saturday, April 30 at 9:30am for a morning of information and connection. According to our present guidance from the COVID Task Force and Board, it seems that we are fortunate that the session will be in-person. You'll discover how First Universalist Church carries out its mission to "nurture the spirit and serve the community" and enjoy each others' company over brunch.

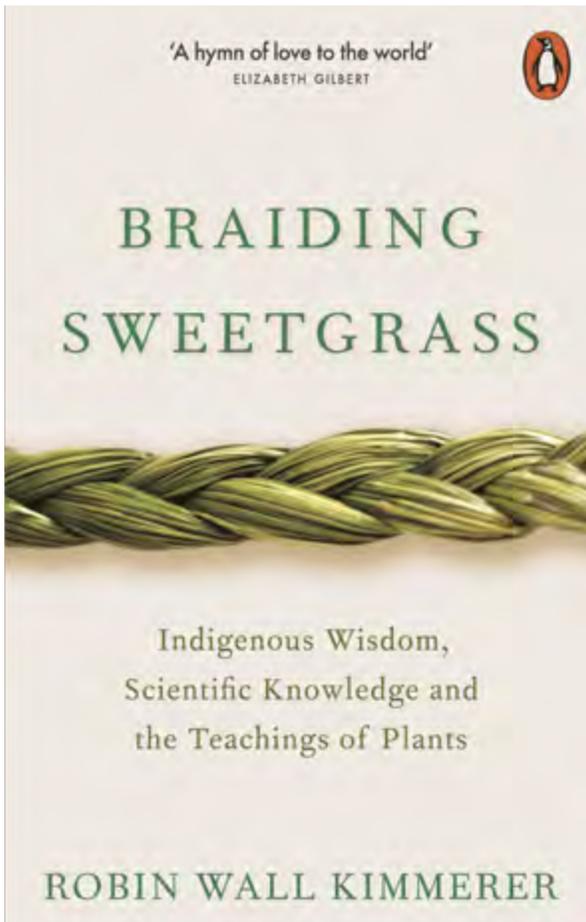
Let us know your dietary needs. If you have children, let us know two weeks ahead of time if they'll be with us, as we have a program to orient kids to the church while the grownups learn about our church.

Please register for this session by sending an email to our minister Rev. Lane at [minister@uuroc.org](mailto:minister@uuroc.org) or [membership@uuroc.org](mailto:membership@uuroc.org). ❖

## Adult Faith Development Series

*Submitted by Rev. Michelle Yates*

This series will be based on "*Healing Resistance*" by Kazu Haga. Have you been craving a deep dive into the intersection of justice, faith and our world today? A chance to explore issues through discussion, allow ourselves to be changed and move toward next steps together? Mark your calendars for this 10-session program on Thursdays, 10:30am to noon, from March 10 through May 19 (off March 31). Sessions will meet on Zoom and be co-facilitated by Rev. Michelle and Pam Jacobstein. Contact Rev. Michelle at [edu@uuroc.org](mailto:edu@uuroc.org) with questions or to sign up. ❖



## Book Group

Submitted by Sarah Singal & Shirl Bond

Isn't it great news that the book group is meeting again? To celebrate we are discussing the book "*Braiding Sweetgrass*" by Robin Wall Kimmerer. It was brought to my attention that this book is adored by a great many readers. I do not use the word adored often or lightly but this book deserves the praise!

It is a delightful and important book and should be required reading for all humans on our planet! It should inspire all who read it to learn how to preserve the Earth.

The author is a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and through this book she teaches us that it is very important to only take from the land what is needed for survival and replace whenever possible. So please join us March 13 in the Clara Barton Lounge 15 minutes after the service is over for what is sure to be lively discussion.

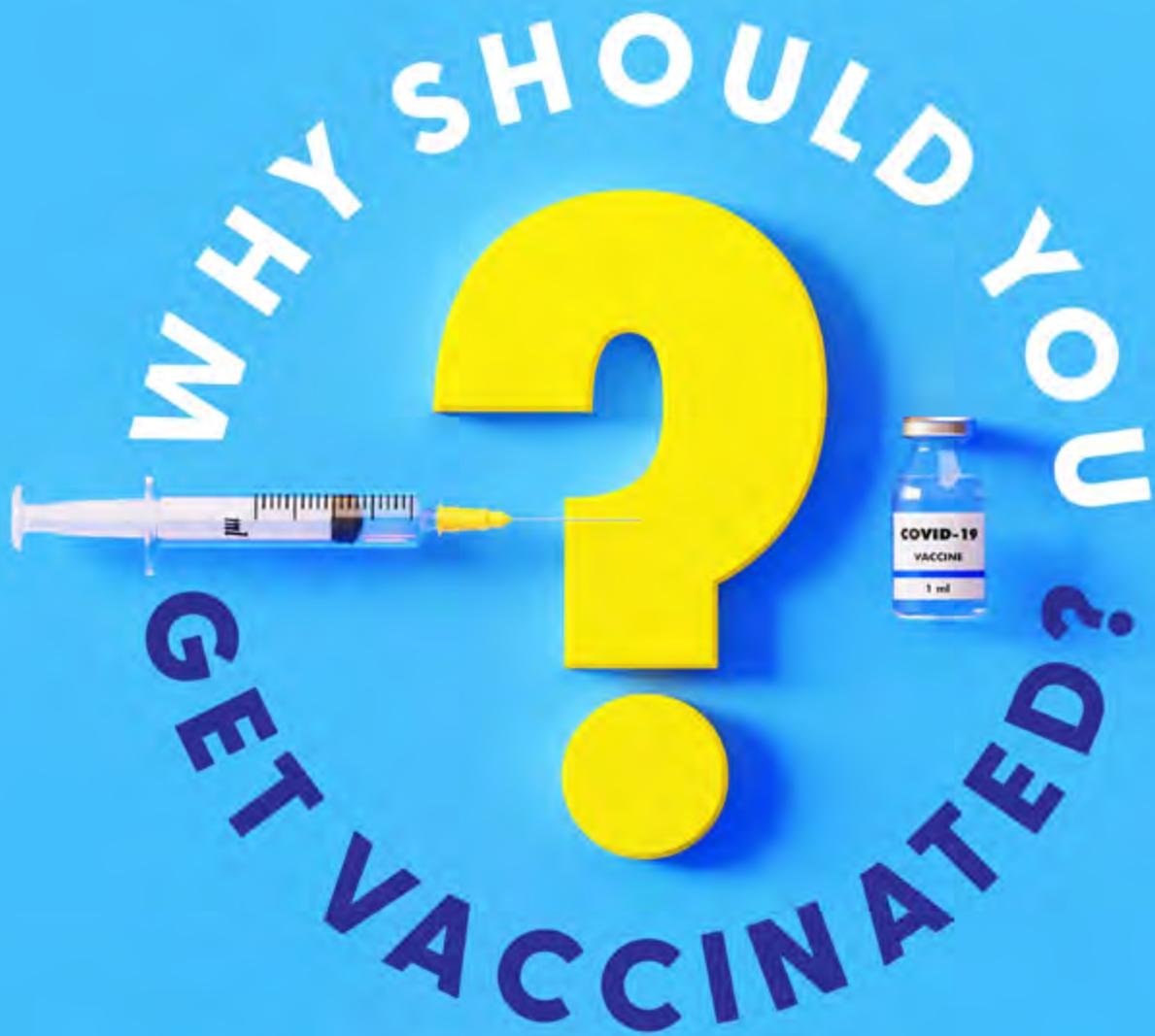
While I have your attention the book group discussion for the month of April is "*March*" by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks. The

plot centers on the mostly absent father of the March family in "*Little Women*", and his experiences in the Civil War.

If you have any questions please talk to Sarah Singal or Shirley Bond. If you have read a good book lately share it with us at [Book@uuroc.org](mailto:Book@uuroc.org)! ❖



Credit: XKCD.com



- It's safe, simple, and free of charge.
- It could keep you from getting COVID-19. If you still get COVID-19, it could keep you from becoming seriously ill.
- It will help you do your part to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of your family, your friends and your community.
- It's an mRNA vaccine. These types of vaccines have been studied for more than two decades to evaluate their safety and effectiveness.
- It's the first step toward life returning to normal.



# 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 Campbell

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

**Music Director** | Brock Tjosvold

**Office Manager** | Emma Barry

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

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More info is available on our website: [uuroc.org](http://uuroc.org)

The usual deadline for all submissions to *Our Outlook* is the 15th of each month.