



# Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY

January 2018

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## Sunday Services / January 2018

**January 7 | Fire Communion.** We gather together on this first Sunday of the new year to look both backward and forward, to let go and commit, and to align ourselves with the forces that create, uphold, and renew life.

- The Reverend Peggy Meeker

**January 14 | Freedom of Religion.** Today we will explore and celebrate Unitarianism, first officially recognized four hundred and fifty years ago (on January 13<sup>th</sup>), when the Edict of Torda gave birth to our heritage of religious freedom in Christian Europe.

- The Reverend Peggy Meeker

**January 21 | Nevertheless, We Persist.** "Nevertheless, she persisted." Damning words spoken recently by a conservative senator to a liberal colleague. I take them, not as an insult, but as a mandate. Theodore Parker tried to bend the "moral arc of the universe," as did Susan B. Anthony and Martin Luther King, Jr. They all persisted. What can we learn from this prophetic trinity?

- The Rev. Richard S. Gilbert

**January 28 | Practicing Joy.** Could joy be a spiritual practice? Could your life use more joy? Let's reflect on the meaning of joy and on finding, claiming, celebrating, and practicing joy.

- The Reverend Peggy Meeker

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## Pastor's Perspective

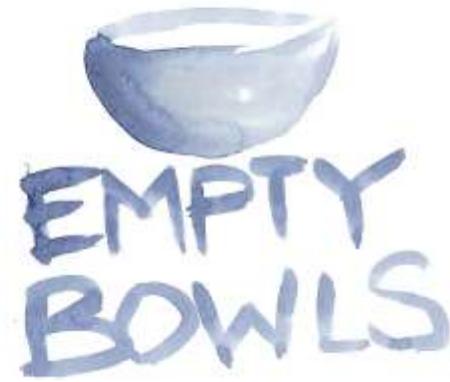
Message from  
The Reverend Peggy Meeker

### A New Year

Happy new year! BUT Christmas is not yet over, at least not here at the beginning of the month. We're right at the middle of the twelve days of Christmas, which begin on Christmas Eve (as many holidays begin the evening before) and run through the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, or Epiphany.

Christmas Day is Day 0, according to John Matthews, who wrote *The Winter Solstice: The Sacred Traditions of Christmas*. (And by the way, that book was also the source for the words spoken by all our saints, animals, lords, ladies, and deities at our Solstice Celebration—an important fact that I forgot to mention that day.) Anyway, Christmas Day is not only the birthday of Jesus, but also of Mithras, Attis, Aion, Horus, Dionysus, and the Unconquered Sun!

Day 1 is St. Stephen's Day, the Day of the Wren, and Boxing Day, which means this is the day you would give a Christmas Box to your servants. Day 2 is St. John's Day or Mother Night, when Mother Christmas / Mother Carey rides through the land dispensing gifts, though she later evolved into a witch who stole unbaptized children (as Christianity brought in the Virgin Mary). I won't list all the days here, but Day 5 is for Bringing in the Boar, Day 6 is New Year's Eve, and Day 7 is New Year's Day—the time to go door-to-door with a wassail bowl! Day 11, or January 5<sup>th</sup>, is the Eve of the Epiphany or Festival of the Three Kings—a time to honor those Magi who set out on a journey in search for truth and understanding and to consider the nature of gift giving and receiving, and what you hope for in the year to come. Day 12, January 6<sup>th</sup>, is Epiphany, the day all the decorations come down, the holly and ivy are consigned to the fire, and the festivities are ended, often with Twelfth Night Cake and many other good foods and drink. I wish you a good end to all your festivities and much good health and happiness and light and growth and love in the year to come!



## Cozy Night Supper

Submitted by Kathy Russell

Our next *Cozy Night Supper* will be Friday, February 2nd. This dinner, from 5:30 to 7:30, will feature the **Empty Bowls Project**, a focus on hunger in our community. A simple supper, including a vegan option, will be provided along with wonderful camaraderie - hopefully including you! You will choose the handmade pottery bowl to use for dinner and for a donation of at least \$10 to Foodlink, you will take home your bowl with a full stomach and the knowledge you contributed toward making a difference in our community! A local agency representative will provide a brief program of the local hunger situation.

Let us know of your ability to attend by signing up on the Bulletin Board in the hall or by contacting Kathy Russell at [krussel6@frontiernet.net](mailto:krussel6@frontiernet.net). Your RSVP/sign up allows us to prepare appropriately. Child-friendly activities will be arranged if you make a request one week in advance.

*Cooks, bakers and kitchen support are needed for this dinner.* If you are able to help in providing part of the meal (expenses reimbursed) or at the dinner itself, please contact Kathy. And for those who like to plan ahead, other Cozy Night Suppers are planned for Friday, March 23rd and Friday, April 20th.



## Walking Together

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

This year, in Children’s Worship and beyond, we will be exploring our Unitarian Universalist Principles which we covenant to affirm and promote. Our Faith Development theme for January is the Third Principle, **“ACCEPTANCE of One Another and ENCOURAGEMENT to Spiritual Growth in Our Congregations,”** or in our children’s version of the principles, **“We Are Free to Learn Together.”**

By **“acceptance”** this principle does not mean accepting the beliefs or ideas of others as your own, as we recognize the value in having a diversity in our communities. It also does not mean **“tolerance,”** since tolerating someone does not necessarily mean you are recognizing your common or shared humanity with that person.

Acceptance flows out of the belief in the inherent worth and dignity of all. It focuses on people in their basic humanity, their dignity and worth, their needs for companionship, growth, love, compassion, and justice. We are capable of accepting someone for their inherent worth without necessarily accepting what they believe or how they act.

Martin Luther King Jr. interpreted the commandment to Love Your Neighbor in this way. You don’t have to like a person, but you do have to show them Love and Acceptance as a fellow unique being or **“child of God.”**

We realize we cannot make it alone in life, and in the words of Kenneth Collier, **“If I reject the preciousness of others, I end up rejecting my own preciousness. If I seek to compromise the integrity of any person, then I will in so doing compromise my own.”**

If acceptance affirms us as we are, **encouragement** pushes us toward whom we might become. As we strive for Beloved Community among a diversity of people we must recognize that each of us has different spiritual gifts and needs. To encourage the spiritual growth of all, that means honoring the gifts and needs of all, as well as pushing ourselves to live into the call to make a more just and peaceful world.

The word **“encourage”** literally means to put courage or heart into another. How can you encourage others? Consider this idea from Carolyn Owen-Towle. **“Think of yourself as a mirror reflecting someone’s image back to them. What do you see in them that you can affirm? When you notice a strength, an accomplishment, an insight—tell them, as accurately as you can. We cannot run around encouraging everyone all the time. But neither should we miss an opportunity when we see it.”**



## Luunch Buunch

The Luunch Buunch will meet at 12:20 pm on January 7, 2018 at Pita in College Town. Everyone is welcome. Contact Joyce Gilbert @ 244-7403 with any questions.

# EcoJustice Group

Submitted by Sarah Singal

## 1. DRAWING IT DOWN: IDEAS FOR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

At October's Cozy Night Supper, a group of Ecojustice-minded folk met to share a meal and share ideas of how to become more responsible for the preservation of our planet Earth. We discussed the concept of a new book, ***Drawdown, The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming***, edited by Paul Hawken. Using technologies already available, and with a global vision, a myriad group of experts attempt to attack the problem of ever increasing CO<sub>2</sub> levels which are wreaking havoc on our climate. A copy of the book is available in the church library.

New Year's **Resolution #1: check it out!**

People ask Paul Hawken which action should come first and his answer is: all of them! This is a prime example of the conviction that a single individual can make a difference. At the supper, we made lists of what we are currently doing and what we might further do to draw down greenhouse gases.

New Year's **Resolution #2: adopt actions from the following list at this link.** <http://www.uuroc.org/social-justice-circles>.

New Year's **Resolution #3: Stay positive and do what you can!**

2. COMPOSTING: Composting at church will be suspended January through March. If you would like to participate in April please contact Sarah or Marcia.

3. GARDENING: As your soul hungers for green plants during the coldest months, think of the pleasures of working the soil-and watching plants grow this spring. Contact us and join us—Sarah, Marcia, Shelley, Shirley, and others.

With hope for a blessed 2018 and a sustainable future, The EcoJustice Group (Shelley Adams, Juanita Ball, Lois Baum, Howard Spindler, Sarah Singal and Marcia Weaver).



## Chocolate, Coffee, and Coloring!

Submitted by The Rev. Michelle Yates

Need a midweek space to relax after the holidays? You are invited to join Rev. Michelle or Rev. Peggy from noon to 1:30pm on Wednesdays, January 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Come listen to some meditative music, enjoy a cup of coffee and a snack, and relax with the popular practice of mandala coloring. In addition to helping us de-stress, coloring can help tap into the “flow” of creativity, act as a centering spiritual practice, and connect us to beauty and insight. A variety of designs will be provided; no art experience necessary. Church and community members welcome.

## Coffee Hour

Submitted by William Elwell



Sunday Coffee Hour needs new volunteers. Too few people are being asked to do this yeoman service.

The volunteers, who are reimbursed for their expenses, usually provide a variety of cookies, bagels, veggies, crackers and cheese and perhaps a cake. The coffee is made by the sexton and keeping the coffee refilled is required as is clean-up. So, if you like Coffee Hour on Sunday, please consider serving at least one Sunday a year.

Contact Bill Elwell for complete instructions at [williambearcat@gmail.com](mailto:williambearcat@gmail.com).

# The Interim Minister Transition Team Welcomes Your Feedback

*Submitted by Ed Deller*

As recommended by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), a transition team was established within our congregation to support our Interim Minister, Rev. Peggy Meeker, as she helps prepare us for our next Settled Minister. Our team of Karen Ruganis, Marie Sidoti, Janet Clarke-Hazlett and Ed Deller has been working with Rev. Peggy in this role.

Together with the board, the transition team assessed the focus of Rev. Peggy's interim ministry to be more one of sustaining us rather than driving major process changes. The areas identified for Rev. Peggy's attention are:

- Help the congregation heal from Celie's departure, addressing lingering questions that may exist regarding the range of religious identities our members, friends and guests bring to our church.
- Maintain the momentum of the new Social Justice process.
- Help the board continue to fine-tune the governance structure for the church.
- Maintain the sense of optimism that exists in the congregation.
- Support our congregation's continuing presence in downtown ministries.

Rev. Peggy and the transition team welcome feedback about the congregation and this shared interim ministry. We have feedback from the Leadership Assembly held in October and from a Drop-In Discussion group, but less structured feedback is welcome too. How do you feel things are going? Let us know.



## Caring Committee

*Submitted by Paula Marchese*

We shopped, we wrapped, we delivered the goods to the new RAIHN center on Webster Avenue. And all was gratefully received. Many thanks to those who helped make this an abundant holiday for a family in need through the monies collected in November's Spare Change Drive. Members and friends donated gift items as well, so most requests and special wishes have been met for this family of five. Thank you all for helping put our faith to good action this holiday season.



## Library News

*Submitted by Keith Stott*

The church library has acquired several new books, including two by church members and the UUA Common Reads. The books are displayed on top of the shelves. Check them out!

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 248.3 B   | Braestrup, Kate; <i>Beginner's Grace: Bringing Prayer To Life</i>   |
| 262 H     | Hoertdoerfer, Patricia, ed.; <i>The Safe Congregation Handbook: Nurturing Healthy Boundaries in Our Faith Communities</i> |
| 262 R     | Rahnema, Mitra, ed.; <i>Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry</i>                               |
| 320.973 L | Lappé, Frances Moore; <i>Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want</i>            |
| 323.1 O   | Ovington, Mary; <i>Black and White Sat Down Together</i>  |
| 363.738 H | Hawken, Paul, ed.; <i>Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed To Reverse Global Warming</i>                   |
| 920 O     | Osta, Elizabeth; <i>Saving Faith: A Memoir of Courage, Conviction, and Calling</i>  |
| 921 M     | Milch, Jim; <i>Edward Milch's Journey to America</i>  |

# Finance Committee

Submitted by Ann Rhody

*Goodbye and thanks .....*



Our collector, Bill Jones, will be in Berlin for the first half of 2018. Bill has served the congregation as collector for many, many years, and he is the one who records pledges, deposits funds, and reports income to the treasurer and all donors. A big job! We are grateful that Jim Milch has stepped up to learn the collector's job, assisted by Karl Abbott and Ann Rhody. Our deep gratitude to Jim, and to Bill for his years of faithful service in this role.



# Investment Update

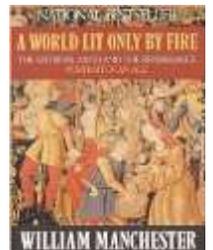
Submitted by Ann Rhody

The Finance Committee met with our investment advisor, Bob Reeves of Geovest, in late November. Bob provided an update on our investments and their performance. Some changes in the past year include having more stocks in companies involved with defense and cyber-security. The church owns some electric utilities stock, but no companies directly involved with fossil fuels. More detail is available in Bob's written report; please contact a member of the finance committee or email chair Ann Rhody ([annrhody@gmail.com](mailto:annrhody@gmail.com)) to request a copy.

## Book Group

Submitted by Sarah Singal and Shirl Bond

January 28<sup>th</sup>'s selection is "A World Lit By Fire" by William Manchester. This book for highly recommended and is being enjoyed by the group. It is an historical non-fiction book and is apparently riveting.



Our February 25<sup>th</sup>'s selection is "The Fundamentalist" by Soshin Hamid.

March brings us "La Rosa" by Louis Erdrich.



So ... Just a reminder that one does not have to have read the book to come to the discussion group. We meet upstairs in the Chalice Room at noon on the Sundays indicated. For any questions please contact;

Shirley Bond ([bondshirl1@gmail.com](mailto:bondshirl1@gmail.com))  
Sarah Singal ([ssingal@rochester.rr.com](mailto:ssingal@rochester.rr.com))

# Drop-in Discussion Schedule

Submitted by Phil Ebersole

Drop-in discussions are held each Sunday in the Chalice Room on the second floor of our church, **starting at 9:15 a.m. during the regular church year.** 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.

**January 7 | UUs and Social Activism.** Do you have to be a social activist to be a good Unitarian Universalist? That question is asked in an article in the Winter issue of UU World. We'll look for answers. Phil Ebersole will facilitate.

**January 14 | Oneness.** All of us have grown up in a culture of "othering"- claiming value because we are not part of an "inferior" group (like people of color, immigrants, women, poor people, gays, etc.). The powerful story of heaven and hell suggests that God believes in othering. Now, as we try to figure out global problems like climate change, we need a new story. We must recognize and act out our Oneness. Hank Stone will facilitate.

**January 21 | Life's Long Haul.** Shirley Bond will review and lead a discussion of *The Long Haul* by Finn Murphy, a biography about life on the road of a long-haul truck driver. Much to his parent's chagrin, the author dropped out of college and worked his way up in the trucking business until he eventually owned his own truck and business. Do you ever wonder how your life would have turned out if you had made a different career choice or other life choice?

**January 28 | Intelligence Overrated?** Here is a provocative thought: Is individual intelligence overrated? Bill Elwell will help us explore the possibility that, from an evolutionary perspective, individual intelligence may have been less important than we think.

Feb. 4. **The Poorhouse.** In early America, unemployed poor people were sent to an institution called the Poorhouse. Drawing on *The Poorhouse: America's Forgotten Institution*, Shelley Adams will make a presentation and lead a discussion on questions such as: What were the Poorhouses of the past used for? Who stayed in them and for how long? How does the legacy of the Poorhouse live on in today's institutions and attitudes?

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



## Thursday Lunchtime Concerts

The **Eastman at Washington Square** concerts will resume here at First Universalist on January 04, 2018 at 12:15 pm, ending at approximately 12:45 pm. Brown bag lunches are welcome during the performances, and admission is free. For more information and the schedule, visit

[www.esm.rochester.edu/community/events/lunchtime](http://www.esm.rochester.edu/community/events/lunchtime)

See you in the New Year!

## RAIHN

Submitted by Kathy Russell

**During RAIHN Week, January 7-14, 2018:** We will turn our church into a home for temporarily homeless families by converting our classrooms into bedrooms, cooking meals, staying overnight, washing bedding, and providing other help. To join our volunteer team, sign up in the lounge after church on Sunday, or contact Chris DeGolyer at [chrisdeg@frontiernet.net](mailto:chrisdeg@frontiernet.net). If you are interested in being a RAIHN volunteer, please contact Jen Canning at [coordinator@raihn.org](mailto:coordinator@raihn.org). Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network: keeping families together. Getting families home for good.



# House Committee News

*Submitted by Tom Ruganis*

Renovations are being planned for the Minister's Office. One of the walls will be getting some plaster repairs but unfortunately this may need to wait for repairs to the flat roof above this area. Other improvements include plans for painting, wiring changes, stained glass repair and lighting changes.

The house committee has agreed that more research needs to be done on the storm window replacement. Additional contractors will be contacted, and the examples need to be reviewed.

The recent problems with the thermostats seems to be battery related resulting in loss of the programs. New batteries have been installed. Also, please make sure your event is on the church calendar so that the thermostats can be programmed appropriately.

Several possible locations for bulletin boards were reviewed and recommendations have been forwarded to the Communication Committee.

In order to protect the new carpet, "snow walk off" mats are being sourced for the ramp in the Clara Barton lounge. In order to help, please try to remove as much snow from your footwear as possible when you enter the building.

The church sexton and the writer attended active shooter training for houses of worship that was put on by the City of Rochester. The Board has indicated that a group will be formed to further address this issue.

New receivers for the hearing loop in the sanctuary are being sourced. If you have input to the selection, please contact the house committee.

As always, if you are interested in helping with the planning and maintenance of the building please feel free to contact anyone on the committee. The Committee is currently: Tom Ruganis, Chair ([tom.ruganis@frontier.com](mailto:tom.ruganis@frontier.com)), Sarah Singal, Marcy Klein, Michael Scott, Ed Deller and Shirley Bond. We would love to hear from you!

# Roc/ACTS News

*Submitted by Shirley Bond*

First Universalist Church of Rochester needs to continue to partner with Roc/ACTS.

Although the church is located in the center of Rochester and is a welcoming connection to the Black and Hispanic Communities it has not been fully successful in activating change.

It is through gatherings promoted by Roc/ACTS such as 'Sacred Conversations' that people of faith will improve understanding and work with each other to promote change through visible community forums.

By this method, we can use forums that cover subjects such as improving wages for healthcare workers, raising childcare subsidies, protection for migrant workers and undocumented workers and their families, transparency of police actions, and fighting systemic racial prejudice with consistent informative communications to those able to effect political change.

This can be done!

Thank-you for your support.

Shirley Bond Roc/ACTS Board Member  
Robert Remley Roc/ACTS Board Alternate

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## Social Justice Plate

*Submitted by Shirley Bond*

On January 21st the plate collection will be for GRCC, the "Greater Rochester Community of Churches." This organization works to bring awareness of social justice issues through interfaith efforts. The point is that working together we can accomplish much. Becky Elwell is the contact person for this organization.

By the way, thank-you for your November contribution going to the teenage Urban entrepreneurship called "Well Ventions." They were very grateful. Please check out their indoor stall #12 at the Farmers Market next spring!

## From the



## Social Justice Circle

“Harvesting Justice”

*Submitted by Connie Valk*

Join us in supporting a “Limited Purpose Driver’s License for Undocumented Farmworkers in NYS.” After the service on January 28<sup>th</sup> consider signing a post card to be shared with NYS legislators.

Why we are doing this:  
Imagine working in the apple orchards or on a dairy farm in rural areas with no access to transportation. You are dependent upon the farmer to take you to the grocery store once a week, because NYS does not allow the undocumented to have a drivers’ license.

So, what do you do if your child’s school calls and says to pick up your child because he/she has a fever? Sometimes you borrow a car. And if law enforcement pulls you over, and you cannot show a license, you will be arrested and deported. Your family will be without one of its parents.

This does not have to be. Twelve states and the District of Columbia issue a limited driver’s license to the undocumented. These licenses cannot be used for other purposes – just for driving. And it’s safer for ALL drivers. Since New Mexico changed its policy in 2003, their rate of uninsured drivers fell from 33% to less than 9%. Even Alabama has a limited drivers’ license for the undocumented.

Drop by our table on January 28<sup>th</sup>, and learn more, and support this effort by signing a post card. The post card will be brought to legislators by the New York Immigration Coalition.

## Food Cupboard Update



*Submitted by Richard Reed*

The Community Cupboard of Rochester on Nester St. continues to prosper due in part to regular Ingatherings and donations of food. Our church happens to be the largest and most regular contributor of food, health and beauty aids, and sundry items; it is greatly appreciated and also needed. The Cupboard is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 am until 12 pm for appointments, and emergency food giveaways. The Cupboard services 6 zip-code areas (14605, 14607, 14609, 14617, and 14621) throughout Northeast Rochester and Irondequoit.

The Cupboard also has a large Senior Program wherein approximately 175 households in these ZIP-codes receive a free bag(s) of groceries each month, based on family size. For the calendar year 2016, The Cupboard distributed over \$185,505 in food. As of November 01, 2017, the food distribution has increased by 15%. The Cupboard has seen this increase due in part to the refugees from Puerto Rico.

Thanks again for your past support and for your continued support in the future. As a reminder, cash donations are always welcome and are tax-deductible.

There is also an ongoing need to help deliver our monthly ingathering to the Food Cupboard. If you are interested in helping deliver the food, please email Katherine Flynn at [kmcmfly@gmail.com](mailto:kmcmfly@gmail.com).

# Proposed Bylaws Change Regarding the Vote for a Settled Minister

*Submitted by Edward Deller*

The board has approved a motion to change the voting process for calling a settled minister. This motion requires congregational approval to be enacted.

The current bylaws, Article VIII, Section C-801 state, "A minister shall be selected by the Society by a three-fourths majority vote of the qualified members present and voting at a duly called Business Meeting of the Society."

The board proposes a motion to change this section of the bylaws to read, "A minister shall be selected by the Society by a 90% majority vote of the qualified members present and voting at a duly called Business Meeting for which a quorum shall be designated as 40% of the Society's members."

The rationale for this change is to have a larger representation of the congregation needed to call a settled minister. This would benefit the congregation and provide more of a vote of confidence for the new minister. Under the current bylaws if 75% of a legal quorum (40 members) for a business meeting vote in favor of a new minister it would only require 30 votes of our 150 members to call the new minister. The proposed bylaws change would increase that minimum requirement to about 54 votes based on our current membership.

A congregational meeting will be called in the coming weeks to vote on this proposed change. In the meantime, if you have questions about this proposal please contact a board member.



## MSC Report

*Submitted by Edward Deller*

Advent had new meaning this year for the MSC (Ministerial Search Committee). December was a month of preparation and waiting, since in early January we will learn which ministers have applied for ministry at our church. Bridget Watts has put the finishing touches on a very attractive search website. Our UUA Transitions Coach, Jeff Donahue, held his last meeting with us, in which he informed us about next steps and how to conduct interviews. We tried out Zoom, online conference software recommended by UUA, for this meeting, since we will use Zoom to conduct preliminary interviews. We are developing interview questions and, also rating scales which we will use to weigh how well ministers match our church's priorities. Rev. Peggy will soon do a mock interview with us, to help us polish our interviewing skills.

In January we will be reading ministerial records and choosing which ministers to interview via Zoom, and then will choose whom to interview in person during February and March. We also will be checking references.

On Sunday, January 21st, from 12-12:30 in the sanctuary, we will report on our progress, including results of October's congregational survey. Please remember that we can't share any information about the ministers who apply, including names, numbers, and other characteristics, but we can tell you what we have been doing and plan to do. We hope you can join us!

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## Thank You ...

*Submitted by Ann Rhody, Finance Committee Chair*

For your generous contributions for staff bonuses! The Board was able to distribute a meaningful bonus to each of our employees, who were greatly appreciative.

## Service Auction

*Submitted by Ann Rhody*



It's our big fundraiser, and so much fun! Donation forms are available starting January 1 at church or via email ([pmarchese@rochester.rr.com](mailto:pmarchese@rochester.rr.com)) OR donate online at [uuroc.org](http://uuroc.org). Donations must be received by Wednesday, January 24 in order to be in the auction booklet. AND be sure to plan to attend the auction of February 4.

If you've participated in the Service Auction before, you know that it's a great time and helps raise funds for our church's programs. If you're new to the Auction, please know that you are welcome and encouraged to participate! Here's how it works:

- Members and friends donate services or goods... perhaps a dinner, outing, or specialty item. Donations can be made until January 24, online at [uuroc.org](http://uuroc.org) or by using the paper form available at church.
- A booklet of auction items is produced and will be available one week prior to the auction. You can look through the items and plan your bidding strategy and budget. Prices can range from a few dollars to... well, why limit ourselves? There is something for every budget!
- Auction Sunday arrives, we enjoy a lunch after the service, and the bidding begins! It's a user-friendly event whether you're an experienced auction participant or if you've never bid on anything before.

How to get started? Think about what YOU can donate and place up for bid, AND be sure to plan to attend the auction on February 4. Watch for updated information with each week's announcements. If you have questions about the Auction, please contact Paula Marchese ([pmarchese@rochester.rr.com](mailto:pmarchese@rochester.rr.com)). Don't miss out on the fun!



## Return Your Guest at Your Table Boxes

*Submitted by The Rev. Michelle Yates*

A big thank you to all who participated in the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's (UUSC) annual Guest at Your Table Campaign. You can bring in your change, cash, or check and leave them in the volunteer office by the end of January for the church to send to the UUSC, or you can send your donation directly to the UUSC at 689 Massachusetts Ave. Cambridge, MA 02139-3302 or donate online at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org).

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## Illuminating Justice Film and Discussion Series

*Submitted by The Rev. Michelle Yates*

On the **second Sunday of the month** thru April one or several film clips on a justice issue will be shown in the sanctuary after service at 12:15pm. Films will last no more than 45 minutes to leave time for discussion.

Please email Rev. Michelle Yates with film, clip, or documentary ideas at [edu@uuroc.org](mailto:edu@uuroc.org).

**Jan 14<sup>th</sup>** - Justice and Health Care- clips from UNNATURAL CAUSES: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?

**Feb 11<sup>th</sup>** - Accountability and our Police

**Mar 11<sup>th</sup>** - Incarceration in the Criminal Justice System

**April 8<sup>th</sup>**- Topic TBA

# Common Read Book Discussion

Submitted by The Rev. Michelle Yates

## **Common Read Book Discussion:** 3 Sessions.

Together we will read and reflect on one of the two UUA Common Reads this year, *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry*, edited by Mitra Rahnema which may be bought or borrowed from the church bookstore and library during coffee hour. Centering focuses on the stories, analyses, and insights of many Unitarian Universalist religious professionals of color as they explore how racial identity is made both visible and invisible in UU communities.

Jan 18th, Feb 1st, and Feb 15 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Chalice Room. Please let Rev. Michelle know if you are interested in attending at [edu@uuroc.org](mailto:edu@uuroc.org), and if you would be interested in reading and discussing the 2nd Common Read book “*Daring Democracy*” in the spring.

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## Small Group Ministry

Submitted by Robert Remley

### Small Group Ministry I

The SGM I will meet every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month from 7 pm – 9 pm in the Chalice Room. Alec Pita is the facilitator.

Everyone is Welcome!

### Small Group Ministry II

The SGM II will meet at the home of Connie Valk. It will be facilitated by Bob Remley and Connie Valk.

For more information please email Connie Valk at [cvalk@frontiernet.net](mailto:cvalk@frontiernet.net), or Robert Remley at [humans@rochester.rr.com](mailto:humans@rochester.rr.com).



Our Meeting with Elaine Spaul

## WSPCA News

Submitted by Newcomb Losh

On October 18, Washington Square Park Community Association (WSPCA) held a Meet the City Council At-Large Candidates event at Rochester Central Library to build community and engage people in city government. The room was abuzz with 12 candidates representing eight political parties and one write-in candidate talking with members of the public in one-on-one conversations.

On November 9, the City held a re-dedication ceremony for the World War I Austrian howitzer cannon in Washington Square Park that had recently been refurbished. This cannon was a gift from the people of Italy in appreciation of Rochesterians of Italian descent who fought in World War I. Our own Eleanor Siegfried, Richard Reed, Newcomb Losh and the Rev. Peggy Meeker attended.



Fall



Clean Up

# First Universalist Church

150 South Clinton Avenue  
Rochester, New York 14606

## 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 10:30 am Sundays

**Minister** | The Rev. Peggy Meeker

**Director of Life Span Faith Development** | The Rev. Michelle Yates

**Music Director** | Stacey Yang

**Sexton** | Brandon Fagan

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

**Office Administrator** | Andrea Lewis

**Office hours**, Tuesday – Friday, 9:00 am – 3:45 pm.

Closed Mondays. **Telephone** 585.546.2826

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

