



# Our Outlook

## First Universalist Church of Rochester

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**First Universalist**  
Church of Rochester

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## Sunday Services | April 2025

### April 6 | *In Our Hands: Climate Change & the Role of Individual Action*

A service exploring the urgency of climate change through real-world examples—devastating storms, rising sea levels, and environmental injustice—while emphasizing the power of individual and collective action. A major focus is on how personal choices, particularly regarding food and sustainability, can drive systemic change. First Universalist will be joined by Jasmin Singer of *Environmental Connections* on WXXI!

— *Jasmin Singer*

### April 13 | *Come, Come Whoever You Are † Stewardship Sunday*

On this Palm Sunday, an exploration of inviting all, preparing the way, and what a generous welcome looks like (not the kind where we welcome the stranger and then betray them later in the week). Join in a celebration of all that has been given over the course of our Stewardship Campaign and what is to come.

— *Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

### April 20 | *Rising and Waking Up to This Moment † Easter Sunday*

A resurrection of sorts is coming about. Can you feel it? Inspired by the resurrection of a Palestinian Jew in community and relationship, we will explore what Jesus's return means to us in this season and how we can be inspired by those who have been oppressed, gone before us, and continued to get back up again and again and again and again...

— *Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

### April 27 | *Responsible Relationships*

Unitarian Universalism is a covenantal religion, meaning we make promises to one another about what it means to be in community together. For the past 40 years, one of our central values has been on “a free and RESPONSIBLE search for truth and meaning.” (emphasis mine) What does it mean to be responsible to one another? To those we care about in our lives?

— *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. ❖*



## Responsibility to Each Other

*A Message from  
Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

As I witness so many acts of ignoring responsibility by our national government, our universities, and by elected officials—I am thinking a lot about what it means to be responsible to one another. I am thinking about how to remember the humanity of others when they are doing things I don't agree with. I am thinking about what leadership looks like when it is responsible to the people who are being led. I wonder if you have been thinking the same.

As I enter into these final months of my time at First Universalist, I am remembering all of the ways we have been called to be responsible to one another. In covenant, to commit to relationships of mutual respect. Times when a pandemic spread throughout our country and this church decided to shift what we were doing to take responsibility for the health of us all. The many moments we have been responsible to needs in our community, whether through being a medic triage site in the uprisings following the death of Daniel Prude, opening our restrooms for community events, or providing space for families experiencing houselessness. I am thinking of moments when I fell short of my responsibilities—where I knew to ask forgiveness and where I didn't.

How can we act with responsibility towards one another? The task is not to take responsibility for how someone else feels or for their response, but to be responsive to their experience. As Unitarian Universalists, we put relationships first. That's what it means to be a covenantal people. We are responsible to our relationships, to the people we are in community with. We care for one another, we ask after one another, we offer help when help is asked for. We seek ways to repair relationship when relationships have been harmed or hurt. This is what it means to really live into our interdependence.

Blessings,

Rev. Lane-Mairead ❖



## Interdependence: Playing Well with Others

*A Message from  
Rev. Michelle Yates*

I am so grateful to be part of this team: this staff team, a team with you at First Universalist, a team of religious professionals in New York and across the continent, the team of all Unitarian Universalists.

Now, I did not always feel this way about teams. In middle school I embraced the idiom, “does not play well with others.” Group projects were my personal nightmare. I avoided “team” sports. Teachers and coaches relied on the fear of peers and shame of failure to force each team member to do their part.

Thankfully, when I stepped into leadership as a UU Youth Group advisor, I learned a different way to be on a team: with humility, curiosity, commitment, trust, grace, and forgiveness. With gratitude that we get to do this work, and that we don't do it alone.

I learned about grounding a project in our mission, and among religious educators I learned about building a culture of trust and support. Enough that I came to know I could go to them when I made a mistake, when things fell apart, and to ask for grace and help.

We so often think we have to do everything ourselves, but the most important work might be making the connections with others to support each other in our missions. To honestly know what it is that we do best as individuals, groups, churches. To know others, their strengths and gifts, and find ways to collaborate. To embrace our interdependence, and “play well with others.”

We have some upcoming opportunities for connecting and “playing” with the larger team of UUs and justice seekers!

• **Building Beloved Community Beyond the Binary** – April 26, 2025, 8:30am-5pm – *First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse*. In-person and virtually!

• **CER Learning, Transformation and Community Networking Days: Leading with Love at the Center** – May 3, 2025, 10am-4pm – *May Memorial UU Society, Syracuse*

• **General Assembly 2025** – June 18–22, 2025, multi-platform event – Baltimore, Maryland

Yours in the Journey, Rev. Michelle ❖



## Stewardship

Submitted by Ann Rhody & Howard Spindler  
2025 Stewardship Co-Chairs

Ours is no caravan of despair...Come, yet again come!

Our hymn No. 188 is a round in four parts. Rumi's beautiful poetry sings of wandering and worshipping; our voices in canon collide with each other, creating sonorous harmonies as we flow together.

Stewardship for our beloved church is another way of joining together to create harmony. Ensuring the vitality of our congregation today and long into the future, please raise your voice and make a pledge!

This year, we are hoping to have a pledge from every member and friend of the church. To that end, we are bringing back our "100 for 100 Campaign": if we reach 100 pledges or more, 23 people have pledged to give an extra \$100 to the church!

• **April 13: Stewardship Sunday:** Our celebration with pie, after the Sunday worship service!

We ask for your pledge to be in before that date. Thank you for being a part of this wonderful congregation—the First Universalist Church of Rochester! More info can be found at [uuroc.org/stewardship](http://uuroc.org/stewardship). ❖



## April Social Justice Plate: *REACH* Advocacy

Our April Social Justice Plate Offering is designated for *REACH* Advocacy.

*REACH* Advocacy is a community-minded organization seeking safe, supportive housing for people experiencing chronic homelessness in the Rochester, NY, region.



Please contribute as generously as you can to support this important work. For more info, visit their website [reachadvocacy.org/](http://reachadvocacy.org/). ❖



## Passover Seder

Submitted by Richard Reed

Please come enjoy a traditional Seder for all ages on April 14. The Seder begins at 5:30pm, and we will enjoy a buffet meal at 7pm. Please bring a dish to share. Tableware, soup, wine, grape juice, and matzoh will be provided. Questions? Please contact Lew Ward-Baker or Richard Reed. ❖

# Drop-In Discussion

Submitted by John Lukes

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 for in-person discussions. Contact [DropInDiscussion@uuroc.org](mailto:DropInDiscussion@uuroc.org) for the link, or look on [uuroc.org](http://uuroc.org)!

## Sunday, April 6 | Restorative Practice \*In-person\*

Restorative Practice is a process of dealing with conflict that works with all the parties involved to hear the different points of view, explore the impact and find mutually agreeable solutions. How does this differ from Conflict Resolution and how can we make this an everyday practice? David Damico will lead a discussion. We meet at 9:15am the first Sunday of the month through June 2025 in the Chalice Room.

## April 1 | How Compatible Is Atheism with UU?

After summarizing our shared understanding of core UU principles and the concept of atheism, let's discuss to what degree atheism is compatible with our "free and responsible search for truth and meaning." John Lukes will moderate our discussion.

## April 8 | Open Topic

Let's discuss whatever is on our minds. These discussions are often our most interesting and engaging conversations. John Lukes will moderate.

## April 15 | Spiritual Grounding in These Anxious Times

*Side with Love*, a national UU justice campaign, invites us to ground ourselves before taking action. When the ground beneath is shifting, tactics and response must shift. Join Rev. Lane-Maired in a discussion to orient ourselves to what is happening and engage in practices to help ground ourselves for times ahead.

## April 22 | How To Be An Activist

Want to get politically active but not sure where to start or what might help? Join MJ Curry and others for a talk on how to get involved.

## April 29 | Build Healthy Boundaries, not Walls

Every day we are subjected to news that shocks or depresses us, or both. How do we maintain peace of mind in unprecedented chaos? Join us to learn about simple ways to feel better by setting healthy boundaries. Joy Leccese will lead our discussion.

Have a topic for us? Contact our team with your proposal at [DropInDiscussion@uuroc.org](mailto:DropInDiscussion@uuroc.org). ❖



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
BALTIMORE • JUNE 18 - 22, 2025

## Nominating Committee: General Assembly 2025!

Submitted by Nancy Gaede

This year's Unitarian Universalist General Assembly will be held in Baltimore, June 18-22.

Our congregation is entitled to have 3 delegates to represent our congregation. If you are interested in serving as a delegate, please contact Nancy Gaede, chair of the Nominating Committee, on or before Saturday, May 31.

More info can be found at [uua.org/ga](http://uua.org/ga). ❖





## Monthly Gathering of the Men's Group

*Submitted by Tom Williams*

Held in the Clara Barton Lounge on Saturday, April 19, from 10am to noon. All who identify as he/him or they/him are invited. We hope to see you! ❖

## Eastman at Washington Square Concerts

Concerts are held at our church at midday on Thursdays. Each concert begins at 12:15pm and ends at approximately 12:45pm. Admission is free!

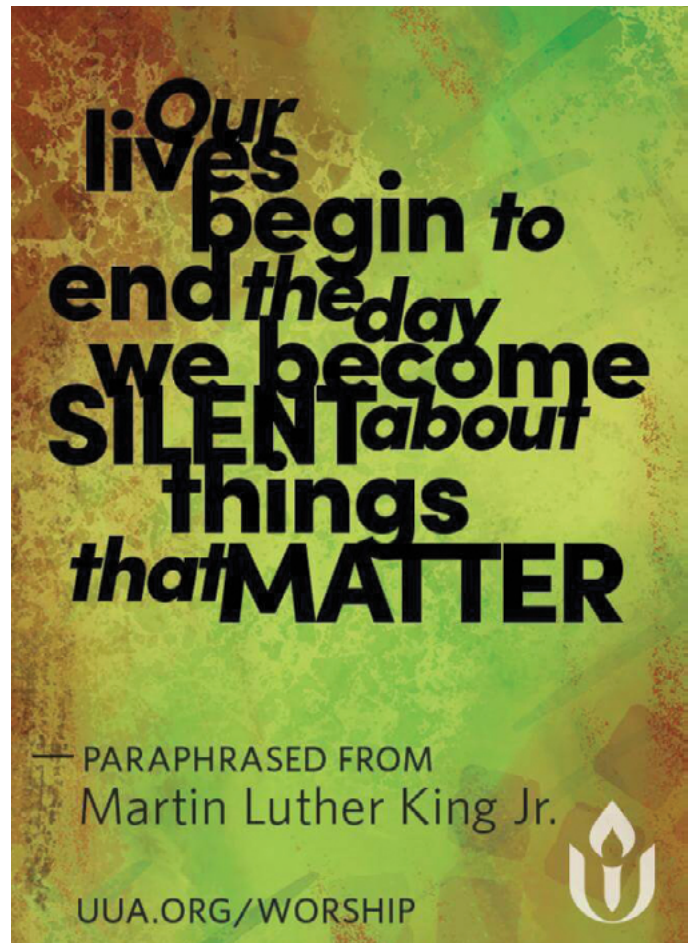
- **April 3 | An Afternoon with Strings**  
The Lazuli String Quartet will share a variety of unique selections for strings.
- **April 10 | Ying Quartet**  
As quartet-in-residence at the Eastman School of Music, the Ying Quartet occupies a position of unique prominence in the classical music world, combining communicative performances with a fearlessly imaginative view of chamber music in today's world.
- **April 17 | One Piano—Many Fingers!**  
Please join the students of Professor Tony Caramia as they explore piano compositions at one piano with multiple players. This digital extravaganza features pieces by Bizet, Bonis, and Casella.
- **April 24 | “A Time to Remember...”**  
Spend an afternoon with a preview of Eastman's Holocaust Remembrance Concert. ESM faculty and students will perform works by Jewish composers who died in or survived the atrocities of World War II. ❖



## Our Little Free Library Needs You!

*Submitted by Marcy Klein for the Library Committee*

Can you help fill our Little Free Library box? It has been hugely popular with passersby, some of whom return many times to check out our offerings. Often a third of the books are gone every week. Now our stock of used books has been depleted, and the freestanding bookcase in the church library area is empty. Please consider bringing any books you don't want to church and leaving them in the LFL box in front of the church on Clinton Avenue. Almost any topic is appreciated. If we could offer a steady supply every week, that would be a wonderful gift to our downtown community! ❖



# HFA: FPGROC Bowl-a-thon—We Raised \$900!

Submitted by *Chris DeGolyer*

Many thanks to everyone who donated to the Bowl-a-thon to benefit Family Promise! Church members and friends donated \$900, which will shelter a family for six weeks! Thanks to our age-diverse team, our lane had bumpers, and we had no gutter balls! ❖



▲ Our spectacular 2025 Bowl-a-thon Team!

## What is the Homeless Outreach Team Doing to Assist the Unhoused?

Submitted by *Bill Schubmehl & Elizabeth Osta*  
*Members of the Homeless Outreach Team of Rochester*

A young couple cannot pay their rent so they are evicted and find themselves in the same predicament as hundreds of people in the Rochester area—homeless. They pitch a tent in a grassy area next to a senior housing complex and this becomes their “home”. The senior residents are not comfortable having unhoused people nearby and the police are called. Fortunately, the case is referred to the Homeless Outreach Team (H.O.T.) of Rochester and the team is sent to offer assistance to them. Initially, the couple is suspicious but over the course of several

months, H.O.T. builds trust and is able to arrange a referral for housing and case management services. The couple is pleased and the residents at the senior apartments are pleased. This is one example of the efforts of the Homeless Outreach Team assisting unhoused folks in the Rochester area.

In October, 2022, the Homeless Outreach Team of Rochester was created by Capt. Gabriel Person of the Rochester Police Department. His vision was to bring together a collaborative group of agencies who were already working on addressing the needs of unhoused people in the Rochester area. The team is comprised of reps from Person Centered Housing Options, Catholic Charities shelters, Huther Doyle, Safe Options Support, the Person in Crisis Team, members of local churches, RPD members from the Community Relations Dept., the Center for Youth, the Forensic Intervention Team of Monroe County, House of Mercy, Open Door Mission, ROC Fitness, and the Veteran's Administration. Every Thursday (and every other weekend), the outreach takes place.

Capt. Person holds a briefing to discuss updates and areas of the city where we will be offering our services. These include referrals to shelters, addiction and mental health treatment referrals, case management, food, clothing, and info about additional services (such as food pantries). Then H.O.T. visits places where unhoused people have been gathering recently. In the past year we have gone to encampments at local parks, Rt. 104 underpasses, Lyell Ave, N. Clinton St., Main St., the Transit Center, the Central Library of Rochester, and busy intersections where people hold up signs asking motorists for donations. If the people we approach are unhoused, a member of the team is often able to provide an immediate referral to a local shelter. They will also be offered additional services, as needed.

Most people we meet during outreach have experienced significant losses and traumas, as well as struggles with addiction and/or mental health. Prior to their contact with us, they have often been treated as if they are invisible. They are so thankful for something as small as some food or a pair of socks; even more so when they are offered immediate shelter referral. Sometimes what they're most grateful for is someone that has compassion enough to stop, talk, and truly listen to them. ❖

# Book Group

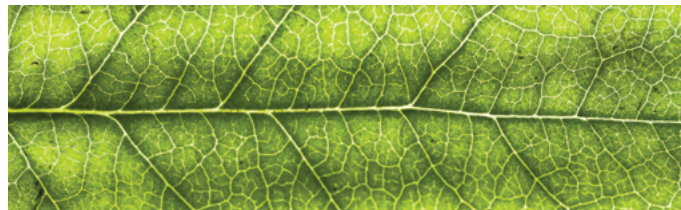
Submitted by Dolores Da Lomba

The Book Group will meet Sunday, April 13, after coffee hour, in the Chalice Room to discuss the 2022 novel “*Demon Copperhead*” by Barbara Kingsolver.

Ron Charles’ *Washington Post* review said “it may be the best novel of 2022, equal parts hilarious and heartbreaking. It is the story of an irrepressible boy nobody wants but readers will love. Set in the mountains of Southern Appalachia, it is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single wide trailer with no assets beyond his dead father’s good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit and fierce talent for survival. Charles Dickens wrote *David Copperfield* from his experience as a survivor of institutional poverty and its damages to children in his society. Damon Copperhead speaks for a new generation of lost boys and all those born into beautiful, cursed places they can’t imagine leaving behind.”



You do not need to read the book to participate. Questions? Contact [bookgroup@uuroc.org](mailto:bookgroup@uuroc.org). ❖



# EcoJustice

Submitted by Sarah Singal

Earth Month is April, and Earth Day is April 22. We UU’s join many religions in a core belief calling for the care of the earth and its people, as we hold “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”

Jasmin Singer will be a special guest preacher on April 6. You may know her from the *Environmental Connections* series on WXXI. You can watch previous programs on demand at [wxxinews.org/environmentalconnections](http://wxxinews.org/environmentalconnections). We are delighted to have her speak to us.

So, Earth Month! Don’t we have enough chaos? How do we deal with so many unprecedented, existential threats in so many aspects of our lives at once? Well, how about composting? Backyard, commercial paid pick-up, drop-off. Whatever method, this carbon capture draws down greenhouse gases, diverts food scraps away from the landfills, results in a product a back-stoop grower or an entire county can use to improve crops and gardens, and it teaches us and our children and grandchildren how to care for the earth for generations to come. Many of us do some kind of composting, but if you don’t, now is a great time to start!

And here’s how to take it an easy step further. Monroe County wants to know how much interest there is in providing county-wide composting. Anyone who lives in Monroe County can help just by stating what they currently do with respect to composting, and opinions on various county options. <https://bartonloguidice.mysocialpinpoint.com/monroe-county-omp/share/df4c22cd>. What do you think about county-wide curbside pick-up of food scraps?

During the month of April, check out the EcoJustice Group green bulletin board in the Clara Barton Lounge. We aim to have a new topic featured each week.

Plant something for bees, join the Garden Group, take a hike, embrace the miraculous planet that is our home, spread the love with others who need it most, and have a blessed Earth Month! ❖



## Membership Committee

*Submitted by Donna Anderson, Membership Chair*

This month Membership Committee's article is highlighting members of our church to share a bit about themselves, how they found their church home here, and why they joined First Universalist. This month Kevin Parkes is sharing his journey.

"My journey to First Universalist Church of Rochester (UUROC) started at the young age of 5 years when I attended UU kindergarten Sunday School at the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca, NY. I've been a UU ever since (66 years), being a member of UU churches in Ithaca, Silver Spring and Frederick (MD), where I met my wife Joanne, Flagstaff (AZ), and most recently, UUROC. I've also attended other UU churches across the USA, and the UU Fellowship of Tokyo, Japan. Joanne's and my careers have enabled us to live and work here and there in the USA, as well as Japan, Republic of Korea, Germany and the Netherlands.

My parents settled in Rochester for their twilight years and in 2020 my mother was diagnosed with cancer. We decided to move from Flagstaff, AZ, where Joanne and I had retired, to Rochester to be nearby to assist my parents through their healthcare and other day-to-day elder-life challenges. We arrived in April of 2021.

Joanne and I first checked out First Unitarian Church of Rochester, and Joanne became a member there. I wasn't "feeling it". Plus, I learned that my mentor in the UU learning program in Boy Scouts in the late 1960's, Reverend Dick Gilbert, is a member of First Universalist. So, I headed here to reacquaint with Dick. However, Dick wasn't there during my first few visits.

Instead, other First Universalist members warmly greeted me, notably, Bill Ewell and Tom Williams—and they were both at subsequent services I attended, and later on, so was Dick. I very much enjoyed the spirited, informal meeting and greeting taking place before services, and was cheered by Rev. Lane-Maired's vigorous attempts to get us to compose ourselves to start the services. I knew that First Universalist would be my next UU home and became a member in spring 2023. I served on our Finance Committee for a year, and am now a member of our Membership Committee and church choir."

Respectfully, Kevin Parkes, *March 2025*

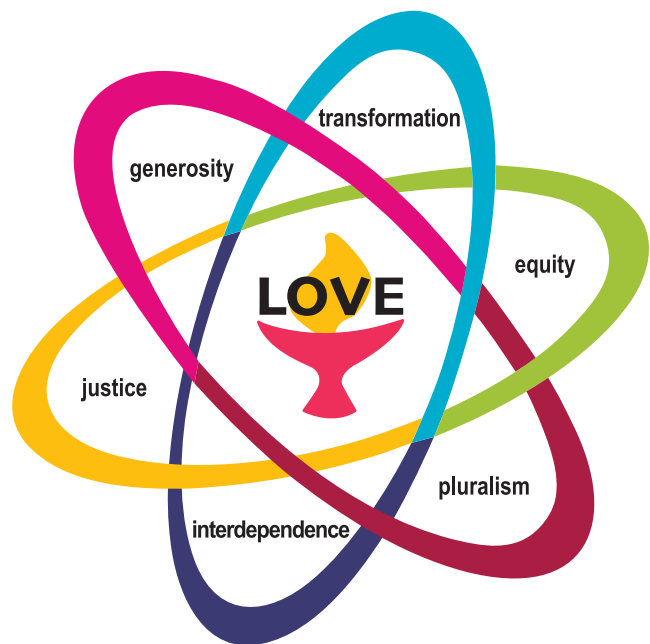
Thank you so much, Kevin, for your wonderful article and for being a valued part of our church community!

In the coming months, we'll have the opportunity to hear from others as they share their journeys with us! If you're interested in sharing YOUR story, feel free to reach out to me!

Upcoming membership event:

- Friday, April 11, at 6pm – Potluck Dinner to celebrate spring

We'd love for you to bring your favorite spring dish or another cherished dish to share, along with a memory you'd like to share—whether it's about the dish itself or any other special memory! Get ready for an evening filled with delicious food, laughter, and wonderful stories. We can't wait to see you there! ❖







## House News: Spring Work Day on May 3!

*Submitted by Ed Deller*

Our annual Spring Work Day is coming up on Saturday, May 3, 9am to noon! We'll get the church and grounds ready for warmer weather, handle some minor repairs and do some spring cleaning.

Please join us if you can. There will be tasks for all talents and opportunity for purposeful mingling with fellow members and friends. Contact Ed Deller or Moritz Wagner with any questions. ❖



## Church Picnic!

*Submitted by Karl Abbott*

The church picnic will be held on Sunday, June 15, 1-4 pm. The location is the Longhouse Shelter in Seneca Park (it is accessible, with bathrooms nearby). A map will be posted in church. Need a map/directions? Contact Karl Abbott!

Bring a dish to pass along with a list of ingredients for those that have food allergies (NOTE: please don't bring nuts or make any dishes containing nuts). Also bring something to grill, along with something to hold what you grilled, and a beverage. The church will provide:

- Plates, utensils, cups, napkins, & serving utensils
- Bottled water
- Condiments
- A charcoal fire (aluminum foil will be available for vegetarian /vegan grilling)
- Some grilling tools will be available

Please note that this will be the last year Karl will be organizing the church picnic. If you wish to do the future picnic organizing, please contact Karl Abbott. He is happy to assist new organizing folks. ❖





## DECONSTRUCTING MYTHOLOGIES OF UNITARIAN ANTI-RACISM

Lectures by:



**REV. DR. WAYNE ARNASON**

**Rehearsal for Reconstruction**

April 30, 7 pm CDT

Unity Church-Unitarian and online

Jim Oberly responding



**REV. LISA FRIEDMAN**

**"To Uplift the Race"**

May 8, 7 pm EDT

First Unitarian Church of

Rochester, NY and online

Annette Marquis responding



**REV. DR. MARK MORRISON-REED**

**Founders or Followers?**

May 14, 7 pm EDT

First Church in Boston, MA

and online

Rev. Mark Harris responding

The series begins with the significant Unitarian presence at the Port Royal, S.C., "rehearsal for reconstruction" during and after the Civil War.

Moving to the turn of the century, the second lecture will show how Unitarians remained comfortably situated in their privileged caste, supporting industrial education to "uplift the race" while remaining silent as Reconstruction crumbled and the Lost Cause movement resurrected the dominance of white supremacist culture.

The final lecture explores how a few Unitarians in the early 20th century defined an anti-racist identity beyond abolitionism and paternalism, which led to their leadership in the founding of the National Association of Colored Women and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

**REGISTER TODAY | [MINNSLECTURES.ORG](https://minnslectures.org)**



**MINNS**  
LECTURES



**Deconstructing Mythologies of Unitarian Anti-Racism**

April 30, May 8, and May 14, 2025

*Rev. Dr. Wayne Arnason, Rev. Lisa Friedman, and Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed*

St. Paul, MN | Rochester, NY | Boston, MA | online

**Register Today | [minnslectures.org](http://minnslectures.org)**



**MINNS**  
LECTURES

**“To Uplift the Race”**

Deconstructing Mythologies of Unitarian Anti-Racism, Lecture 2

*Rev. Lisa Friedman*

*Annette Marquis responding*

First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY  
May 8, 7 pm EDT

**Register Today | [minnslectures.org](http://minnslectures.org)**



**MINNS**  
LECTURES

**Rehearsal for Reconstruction**

Deconstructing Mythologies of Unitarian Anti-Racism, Lecture 1

*Rev. Dr. Wayne Arnason*

*Jim Oberly responding*

Unity Church-Unitarian

April 30, 7 pm CDT

**Register Today | [minnslectures.org](http://minnslectures.org)**



**MINNS**  
LECTURES

**Founders or Followers?**

Deconstructing Mythologies of Unitarian Anti-Racism, Lecture 3

*Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed*

*Rev. Mark Harris responding*

First Church in Boston

May 14, 7 pm EDT

**Register Today | [minnslectures.org](http://minnslectures.org)**



# 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.

**Minister** | Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

**Minister of Lifespan Faith Dev.** |  
Rev. Michelle Yates

**Music Director** | Dr. Brock Tjosvold

**Office Manager** | Mx. Emma Barry

**Finance Admin** | Maresa Carmody

**Nursery Care Providers** |  
Carol Williams & Lily Thatcher

**Worship begins at 10:30am on Sundays**

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024–2025

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Jim Milch (*Clerk*), Shelley Adams, Bridget Watts,  
Howard Spindler, & Michael Scott

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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.**