



Our Outlook



First Universalist Church of Rochester

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Sunday Services | July & August 2022

July 3 | *General Assembly Sunday Morning Service - Online Only*

We will be sharing the recorded 6/26 Sunday morning service of the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations after a brief welcome/introduction by our Worship Associate! Rev. Gretchen Haley of the Foothills UU Church in Fort Collins, CO, will be preaching, with Allison King directing the General Assembly Choir. Additional worship team members includes Rev. Shari Halliday-Quan from First Unitarian Church of Rochester!

— *Rev. Gretchen Haley*

July 10 | *Queering Unitarian Universalism*

To queer something is to take a perspective outside of the binary, outside of either/or. What could this bring us when we queer Unitarian Universalist theology? In the week leading up to PRIDE, let us explore the intersections of queer theory and what we believe.

— *Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

July 17 | *White Privilege and a Bag of Chips*

When an eight-year-old boy in Syracuse stole a bag of chips from a corner store, I was shocked at the harsh reaction some of my liberal friends had. We'll explore just how insidious white privilege is, and how even white liberals exercise it without realizing it.

— *Peter House*

July 24 | *Seventeen Years to Live*

We live in a death-denying culture. In some circles, the mere mention of the fact that we are all destined to die is strictly taboo. Can cultivating an awareness of death deepen our spirituality, and help us live richer lives while we're alive?

— *Peter House*

July 31 | *To Rest, To Restore*

What does it look like to truly rest one's body and mind? Taking heed from the Nap Bishop Tricia Hersey and the newest meditation guide out from Skinner House books, *Incantations for Rest* by Atena O. Danner, we will explore the power of rest for our creative capabilities and for our own livelihoods.

— *Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

August 7 | *A Text From 35,000 Feet*

We think of compassion as something we give for purely altruistic reasons. But do we ourselves receive any direct benefits when we show compassion to others? One answer came to me from the skies.

— *Peter House*

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Sunday Services

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August 14 | *How Easy It is to "Other"*

Many of us are familiar with the concept of "Othering", a phenomenon in which we claim privilege above those we perceive as different from us. But do we only do this with strangers? Or is possible to "other" even those we love?

— Peter House

August 21 | *I Grieve Differently*

Kendrick Lamar put out an essential album, *Mr. Morale & The Big Steppers*, with commentary on family dynamics, grief in the midst of COVID, addiction, and mental health. Inspired by this album, this service will ask us to dig more deeply into the life issues we are currently facing.

— Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

August 28 | *TBD*

TBA

— Peter House

❖ Services begin at 10am ❖

Worship will be online and 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. ❖



Queer “Theyology”

Message from
Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

As we head into PRIDE month in Rochester, rather than the usual June of the rest of our country, I want to take a moment to write to you all about an upcoming book project I am working on and what it all means.

I am working with my colleague, Michael Crumpler, on a collection of essays about queer “theyology” for Unitarian Universalism and beyond with Skinner House Books. This project is just in an infant stage—we are collecting abstracts and beginning to think about how the book will be shaped. But I want to share with you one of my passions that I will be working on in the coming year.

For those of you unfamiliar with queer theyology, it is an area of study that takes a queer theory lens to theological belief systems and exploration. Queer theory is the study of looking beyond categories and binaries to explore both/and as well as the in-between.

Queer theology (or theyology, as we are using for the book) is theology written from queer experience that works from a sacred text and seeks new readings that disrupt usual narrative based in either/or thinking.

For some of us, the term “queer” can feel off-putting and insulting, and I want to honor and acknowledge that this has often been used as a derogatory term towards people who do not fit the norm. And I want to hold this movement to reclaim the term “queer” as a term that is disruptive to binaries, that is an expansive expression of gender and sexuality as well as theology. We are a community that gets to hold both of these meanings together.

I will be exploring with you all some of what this means for Unitarian Universalism on July 10, for one of the services I will be leading this summer.

I imagine the next year will bring many opportunities to explore what queer theyology is and to explore what it could mean for us as a religious community.

Happy Rochester PRIDE month, First Universalist!

In Faith and Courage,

Rev. Lane-Mairead ❖



Perspective

Message from Peter House

I recall a service many years ago with Beth Banks. Her sermon that morning was on perspective, the fact that the world looks different to everyone because we all occupy a different corner of the universe. To illustrate her point, she asserted that most of us tend to sit in the same part of the sanctuary every week. So, before the sermon started, she told each of us to stand up, and move to a spot in the sanctuary we had never sat in before. Once we were settled in our unaccustomed spots, she invited us to look around, and note that our sanctuary still held surprises when viewed from a new angle.

This past Sunday, for the first time in over two years, I had the opportunity to attend an in-person service in our sanctuary, and I had the rare opportunity to sit in the pews. My accustomed vantage point is the pulpit and the faces of our beloved community are far away. It was wonderful to be among everyone.

From my perspective of location and time, I saw a certain weariness on many faces that wasn't there in the summer of 2019, when I last saw most of you in person. It has been a rough two years. The pandemic kept us isolated. Staying in contact with community required lots of work.

The pandemic wasn't the only challenge either. The political realm has turned darker than any of us predicted. Dangerous voices once relegated to the fringes of society have become mainstream. And the institutions we have always counted on seem to be more fragile than imagined. But do not forget we've fought these battles before, and can do so again. And let us not lose sight that the universe does bend overall toward justice.

I invite you to use summer to nurture your spirit, and practice self-care. Look for joy, nurture hope, and cultivate courage. I promise to partner with you in this mission. Let's work together to change our perspective from weary to invigorated. ❖



Let's Get YOKED!

*Message from
Rev. Michelle Yates*

In this season, I find myself thinking a lot about what it means to be yoked. I took my first UU Congregational Polity class as an intensive at a General Assembly. One of our class field trips was to the Service of the Living Tradition to note and talk about the significance of ministerial "fashion" choices. The stole, "a strip of fabric used as a vestment, worn over the shoulders," was symbolically connected to a yoke, "a crosspiece that is fastened over the necks of animals and attached to the plow or cart they pull."

When choosing to wear a stole, ministers, like me, might appreciate the symbolism of a team that pulls together in a shared vision, faith, or service.

I'm thinking about being yoked as I look toward my fellowship journey as a UU minister. I'm thinking about being yoked as our Faith Development programs are in need of a new vision. During the pandemic, we "circled the wagons." We focused on staying together and taking care of each other. We are finally back in a place of looking towards re-yoking ourselves and "moving out!" But where are we going? What is our vision, especially for Children's Faith Development programming and Family Ministries? We were in need of a new vision and set of shared ministry goals even before the pandemic.

It is time for a REvisioning process! Child and family ministry programs all over are in discernment about how to serve, include, and connect with families; how to share the love and grace of Unitarian Universalism!

You will hear more about this process and opportunities for involvement in the fall. I look forward to working together, yoked as stakeholders in the vision of UURoc.

I am excited to be "back!" Perhaps never "back" as it was in the past, or "back" as it was before the pandemic started, but "back" in partnership with you ALL on the mission and vision of the church and its faith development programs.

Yours in the Journey,
Rev. Michelle ❖

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 for the Zoom link, or look on uuroc.org! Sometimes our discussions are based on books/articles, but you don't have to do any prep to participate. Just drop in!

July 5 | *Open Topic*

It's mid-summer; hopefully everyone is enjoying the opportunities that the warm weather offers. What's on your mind? Join us for a discussion of ????. We are never at a loss for a topic, so come and find out.

July 12 | *Plant-Based Diet and Climate Change*

Animal agriculture is a major driver of climate change. It's also the one that we as individuals have the most control over, with our dietary choices. And that's not the only reason to make the switch! Presented by Ted Barnett, MD, and Carol Barnett of Rochester Area Vegan Society and Rochester Lifestyle Medicine Institute.

July 19 | *What Are Sermons For?*

Do we challenge ourselves with discordant voices or are we unwilling to hear different voices? Do we live in a cocoon surrounded by those too much like ourselves? Bill Elwell will guide us through this topic.

July 26 | *Heroes*

A hero is someone who inspires us because of what they've done or what they are. Who are your heroes? Do we need heroes? Phil Ebersole presents.

Drop-In Discussion will continue in August 2022! Keep an eye on our weekly emails and website for topic listings.

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

2022-2023 Social Justice Plate Recipients!

Submitted by Jean Ott

Thank you to all who participated in our poll to select the Share the Plate Social Justice Organizations for the 2022-2023 Church Year.

The organizations selected are:

- *Being Black in the Burbs*
- *Center for Youth*
- *Climate Solutions Accelerator*
- *Compeer Rochester*
- *Metro Justice*
- *Rochester Community Bikes*
- *Reconnect Rochester*
- *Rural and Migrant Ministry*
- *YWCA of Rochester*

Thanks again to all who voted! ❖



Small Group Ministry: *Opportunities For Connection*

Submitted by Rev. Michelle Yates

Are you longing for deeper connection? Small Group Ministry is designed to foster connection, caring, spiritual growth and development, and to strengthen the fabric of our church community by exploring various topics. Each group is led by a trained facilitator.

A new idea for a group to start in the fall is one focused on issues of justice, self-development, grief, and spiritual enrichment.

Interested in joining or facilitating with training and support starting in September? Take a look at the description on uuroc.org under the "connect" tab, or email SGM@uuroc.org. ❖



Finance News & Notes

Submitted by Ann Rhody, Finance Chair

Another annual meeting and budget vote is in the books! Thanks to all who created, developed, advised, and voted on the proposed budget.

As you know, we are looking to expand the volunteer base for finance roles, and it's going well! We now have some folks learning more about the treasurer's job, as well as the payroll and benefits. What a great start!

This month, I'd like to focus on what is, in my opinion, one of the "unsung" but critical roles in the life of our church: the collector!

Our collector, Bill Jones, has been filling that role for more than two decades. Though Bill makes it look easy, don't be fooled! Both Jim Milch and I have filled in for Bill when he is out of town, and both of us have gained a true appreciation for what Bill does, and a deeper understanding of what's really involved in the collector's job.

So what does the collector do? Our collector is responsible for exactly what the name implies: collecting the funds that folks give to the church.

Each Sunday, the ushers take the collection of cash and checks from the plate, and they carefully count and record what came in. Having two ushers count and sign off on the record-keeping ensures accuracy and transparency. The ushers then put the money into the safe in the church office.

During the week, folks also mail or drop off checks to the church. Our office administrator puts any incoming checks into the safe.

Now the collector steps in! The collector opens the safe and organizes the cash and checks. How much money was received, and what was it for? How much is for pledges, plate, building rental, etc? The collector also makes note of all pledge payments and applies them to the right person. That's how statements are periodically sent to you, letting you know how much you have paid and how much you

still owe each year.

The collector then takes the cash and checks to our bank, Canandaigua National, and deposits the funds. The records from the deposits are checked against the records from the ushers and the checks that people have sent. The "deposit report" is then sent to the treasurer, who does the bookkeeping and records the deposit in Quickbooks.

WHEW! You can see why this is a difficult role to fill! Both legwork and bookwork are involved. Perhaps some of the work could be shared among people? Might our new database be helpful in recording information? Sometimes, when we've done something the same way for years, that's because it is the best way—and other times, it's great to have fresh eyes on a job to see if there are updates that would make sense. Might you be those fresh eyes?

Clearly, there are some specific skills and requirements for a job like the collector. A long-time commitment to the church is key—attention to detail, and a comfort level with some technology. An advantage to this job is that it doesn't require a whole lot of meetings (the finance committee meets about 4 times a year; although the collector can be involved in stewardship, it's not a requirement). It can also be done at whatever time suits the person—it doesn't have to be done on a particular schedule.

So the next time you see Bill Jones, thank him for his great service over the years—and let's see if we can lighten the load for him in the future. If you have ideas or want more info, email finance@uuroc.org.

It truly takes a team to care for the financial health of this church, and we've got some of the best. I'm grateful for all of them, and for all of you, who are part of this beloved community. ✦

THINGS TO KEEP



Credit: blessmymessy.com



Rochester Red Wings PRIDE Night Out with with Rochester Religious Communities

Submitted by Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

First Universalist is teaming up with a bunch of religious communities in Rochester to attend PRIDE Night Out with the Rochester Red Wings baseball team on Wednesday, July 13, at 7:05pm. Tickets are \$10 per person. Please wear your First Universalist t-shirt or your "Side with Love" t-shirt. Discounted tickets can be purchased here: www.ticketreturn.com/prod2/youraccount.asp?&submit=Continue&Cookies=yes&HoldID=21603#.Yqip-S-B1pQ! If you need accessible seating, please contact Mike at Mewing@redwingsbaseball.com. ❖

Book Group

Submitted by Shirley Bond

We didn't meet in June, since the Social Justice Fair was held on the same day as the book discussion.

We will be meeting on July 10 at noon to discuss the book "Interpreter of Maladies" by Jhumpa Lahiri. She was born in London. Her parents migrated from India and she grew up in two very different cultures. These 12 short stories are fascinating; she certainly is a fabulous writer. This is her first book and she won a Pulitzer Prize!

It will be great to get together again in the Chalice Room to discuss this important work. In the meantime, enjoy this time of year and please bring some book suggestions to share! ❖

FPGROC (RAIHN): Make the Match and Join the Celebration!

Submitted by Chris DeGolyer

As we write this in mid-June, we are 60% of the way toward the goal of matching \$2500 offered by an anonymous donor for the Richard Brush Memorial Fund! The fund will help pay for temporary apartment housing for families as they look for permanent housing. The deadline to meet the match is August 31. To donate online, use the button on First Universalist's homepage https://bit.ly/donate_uuroc. Be sure to choose "Richard Brush Memorial Fund". Or write a check to First Universalist with "Richard Brush Memorial Fund" on the memo line. For more info, ask Chris DeGolyer or Ed Deller.



Miss seeing our shelter guests? Here is a chance to connect. FPGROC is throwing a celebration for guests and graduates—on Wednesday, July 20, from 4-8pm at the Day Center, located at 142 Webster Ave. If you would like to help with planning, set up, take down, food prep, or hospitality, sign up at <https://www.fpgroc.org/volunteer-jobs>. ❖



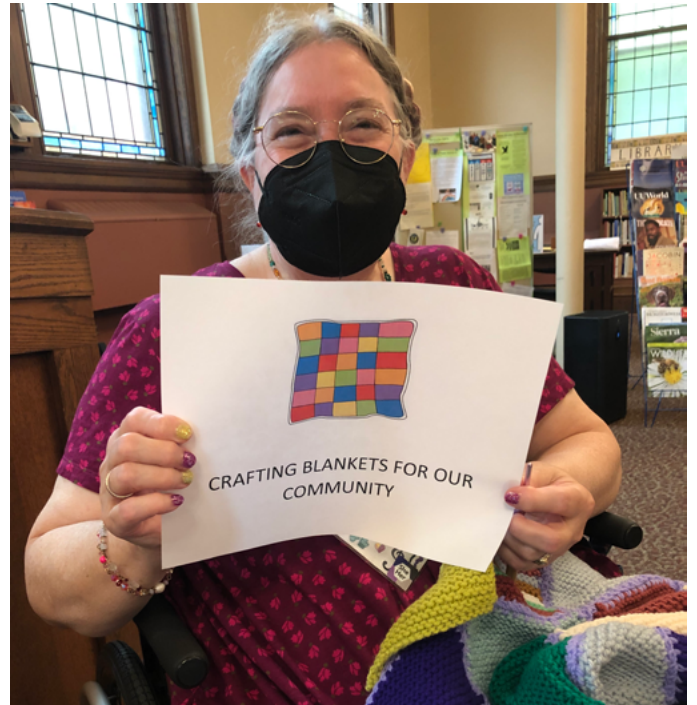
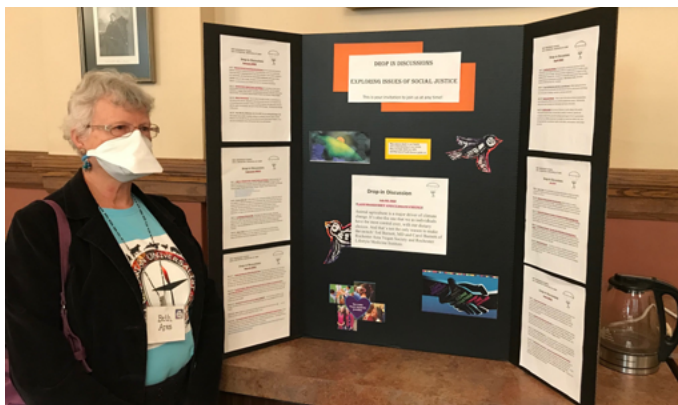
Credit: [blessthemessy.com](https://www.blessthemessy.com)

Living Our Values, Making a Difference

Submitted by Emma Barry and Constance Valk



First Universalist has a strong array of social justice activities! The FIAC Social Justice Fair highlighted the efforts of our Church Project (FIRE) based on racial equity, the various Social Justice Circles, and Family Promise. FIAC stands for *Faith In Action Council*, and is the administrative umbrella for our social justice efforts.





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 10am on Sundays

Minister | Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

Minister of Life Span Faith Development |
Rev. Michelle Yates

Music Director | Brock Tjosvold

Office Manager | Emma Barry

Nursery Care Provider | Carol Williams

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More info is available on our website: uuroc.org

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