



Our Outlook

First Universalist Church of Rochester

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Sunday Services | March 2025

March 2 | *Keeping Love at the Center in Times Like These*

Our newly adopted set of values asks that we keep Love at the Center of all that we do. In times such as these—when forces are at work to undermine basic human needs in brazen acts of harm—it is difficult to know how this is possible. Yet this is the labor we are called to if we are to not become what we most reject—even in times such as these.

— Rev. Cindy Terlazzo

March 9 | *Conflict as a Pathway to Deeper Interdependence*

Conflict can be an essential way to deepen relationships, embrace honesty, and learn about one another. In these oft conflictual times, what can we learn about one another when we lean into conflict, rather than avoiding it? Rev. Lane-Mairead will be referencing and sharing out First Universalist's new Covenant of Right Relations and Policy on Responsible Behavior.

— Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

March 16 | *TBA*

TBA

— TBA

March 23 | *Butterfly Wings Beating and the Interrelatedness of the World*

Process theologian Alfred North Whitehead used this image of a butterfly's wings beatings and its reverberations and influence as a central image to the idea that what one of us does affects all of us. As First Universalist explores interdependence, a reminder that individual and collective decisions, actions, and indecisions have reverberations beyond what can be seen at first.

— Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

March 30 | *Can We Perceive Each Other?*

To be seen and understood is at the heart of many healthy human relationships. On this Sunday closest to *Transgender Day of Visibility*, let us explore the healing power of being seen and understood as well as what we might be missing when we choose not to see or choose not to be seen.

— 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. ❖



We Need One Another

*A Message from
Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell*

It was our focus on interdependence that first pulled me in as a Unitarian Universalist. And it didn't come to me in a sermon or in a worship service or even in my Sunday School program necessarily. It came in the form of church potlucks, of being a part of a regular program where we fed houseless people at our church, in being the child of a choir member and being informally cared for by other church members while my dad rehearsed and sang for two church services each Sunday.

These networks of care showed me what it means to show up for one another, to listen for and meet needs in our community. I was reminded recently at a vigil for Sam Nordquist, a Black transgender man who was killed in Canandaigua, that all we have is each other. I feel especially in touch with this during these political times. We need one another because the state is no longer providing for many of us. And even if the state is providing for you and you are not feeling the loss of funding or support networks or the systemized invisibilization, you know and love someone who is. There will likely come a time when you yourself are directly affected too.

We need one another, we need this earth, we are dependent on the labor and the sacrifices of so many we cannot know nor name. It is a fact of our existence. I wonder in what ways Unitarian Universalism has helped you realize our interdependence. I wonder what has pulled you in or continues to tug at your heartstrings in this sacred community. And I wonder how this church and the people who make the church will be called upon to dig even deeper into interdependence in these times. Let us explore this together over the course of these next two months.

Blessings,

Rev. Lane-Mairead ❖



Interdependence Puzzles

*A Message from
Rev. Michelle Yates*

When we are first taught about cause and effect it's a simple line of logic: if you do that, then this happens. It is the tiniest formula within the grand scheme, in the interdependent web of all existence.

On a small scale of rearranging a room or a house, I find it more like a "sliding block puzzle" or a Rubik's cube. There are many interwoven variables.

There are things that don't move, like windows and heat vents. Things with some flexibility, like power outlets with power strips. And things with lots of flexibility, but are still dependent on other variables. A lamp can go anywhere, but it needs power and a flat surface.

I've recently been working a lot on forming our Connection Circles groups. Imagine my dining room table covered with color coded index cards for each person who signed up. I start with the most limited availability and go from there. Then the cat jumps up when I turn my back. More variables! Then check the church calendar. Is our Zoom account available? What rooms are available at the church? Several times I've had to pivot or change directions. A plan I thought was great turns out not to be practical.

Interdependence is AMAZING...and sometimes really frustrating. When it's feeling complicated and frustrating, I find that is a GREAT time to revisit your mission or vision for the project.

What gets people together, connecting and supporting each other the most quickly? Which way is least likely to run into obstacles? Which room arrangements best separate my "night owl" kids from my "early bird" kids for optimum sanity?

There are a lot of variables in life these days. If you're feeling frustrated, consider what is your mission or core value for navigating our Interdependence.

I recommend asking a UU values question: "What puts LOVE at the center?" "How am I putting my energy into interconnections that are centered on love and care?" "What do I need most, in order to give what I have to offer?"

Yours in the Journey, Rev. Michelle ❖

2025 Auction: A Joyful Day at First Universalist

Submitted by Ann Rhody

It was February 2—Auction day! I'd been heading up the planning for this event for a few months, and wondering if I had covered all of the bases.

I arrived in the Clara Barton lounge, toting my crock pot of split pea soup. There was a beautiful energy in the room. Volunteers were already hard at work on set-up, sign-in, lunch, and more. People were arriving bearing soups and desserts. More tables were being added. Michael Scott was busily setting up a camera so that folks online could see and hear the auction action.

Then, the sound of music—the service was starting! Brock was playing an energetic rendition of “Born This Way,” and I came into a sanctuary full of joy and beauty. I settled in for the service, my mind, of course, still on the “checklist”.

When the offertory came, the choir streamed up to the front of the church. Once again, beautiful music filled the sanctuary as they sang “True Colors.” I counted 18 in our choir that morning—a dream that seemed impossible at some points during my history with First Universalist. I allowed myself to bask in the beautiful sounds, and the beautiful people providing them. And there was Michael Scott, singing a solo in the piece, and sounding great.

After the song, I watched the choir members return to their seats. But Michael passed by a pew where he grabbed a light bulb, and was clearly off to take care of another job that needed to be done. I felt such appreciation for Michael's service in so many areas of our church.



After the service, the lounge was abuzz with lunch, excitement, and making sure there were enough

chairs and food for everyone. The Auction was fun and fabulous, and by the end, we had raised about \$6,000 for our church's programs. More valuable than that, we engaged with our church community, made plans to fellowship and serve one another.



Scores of people contributed to the success of the auction: the volunteers, the donors, the bidders, and the cheerers.



The February 2 service contained an admonition to “not squelch our inner joy.” JOY. It's an audacious thing to feel joyful in these times. But we need this kind of joy more than ever. Auction day reminded me of why I love this church, and how lucky I feel to be part of this community. ❖

Interested in Decorating Our Chancel?

Submitted by Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

First Universalist seeks a Keeper of the Flame to decorate the chalice and chancel. Can be done weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or seasonally. If interested, please contact Rev. Lane-Mairead at minister@uuroc.org. ❖

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 for the link, or look on uuroc.org!

Sunday, March 2 | Do We Need Billionaires?

In-person

In the USA, the number, wealth and influence of billionaires increases while average citizens find themselves beset by higher prices and increasing insecurity. Are billionaires the problem? Phil Ebersole will present info and lead a discussion. We meet at 9:15am the first Sunday of the month through June 2025 in the Chalice Room. All are welcome!

March 4 | Ministerial Search Committee - Session 1 of 3

Our Search Committee members want to hear from us! Choose one (or more) of these three Tuesday evenings in March to share your vision, ask questions, and be part of our congregation's work to prepare to find our next minister.

March 11 | UU Church Civics 101 - Polity, Governance, and Other Words For How We Do Things Here

With wackiness in national politics and a change of ministers coming up for us, it's a good time to revisit the question "How Do We Do Things Here?" How are UU churches different from other denominations? How is First Universalist different from other UU churches? How does it actually work here? Facilitated by Rev. Michelle Yates.

March 18 | Ministerial Search Committee - 2 of 3

The second open session being held by our Ministerial Search Committee—they want to hear from all of us! Choose this session and/or next week's to share your vision, ask questions, and be part of the work to prepare to find our next minister.

March 25 | Ministerial Search Committee - 3 of 3

The third Search Committee Tuesday evening Zoom session where our Search Committee members are offering us a chance to share our visions, hear visions of others, ask questions, and help in the important work to prepare to find our next minister.

Have a topic for us? Contact our team with your proposal at DropInDiscussion@uuroc.org. ❖

UU Common Read Book Discussion:

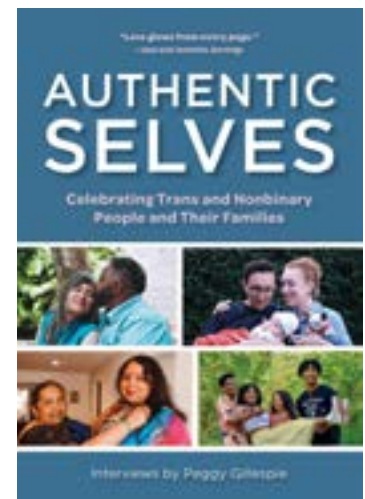
Opening our minds and hearts to Trans & Non-binary people in a time when it is most needed

Submitted by Rev. Michelle Yates & Rev. Peggy Meeker

This year's UU Common Read is *Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families*. Retired minister and member of the church, Rev. Peggy Meeker, will facilitate a discussion of this important book where we come to know the "real lives—revelations, challenges, joys, and networks of support" of trans and nonbinary folks along with their families. We will break up the book and discuss 1/3 at a time.

This will start March 13 and run for 3-4 sessions on Thursday evenings from 7-8:30pm on Zoom.

If you are interested or have questions please email Rev. Michelle at edu@uuroc.org. You can purchase the book through uuabookstore.org, or we can order 10 copies together for a discount (if we hear from you by March 5). ❖



Congregational Special Meeting: March 16

Submitted by Rev. Lane-Mairedad Campbell

The First Universalist Board of Trustees is calling a special meeting on Sunday, March 16, following the service. This meeting will seek approval for funds for a Sanctuary Ventilation Project, a beautification initiative from our Welcoming Team, and a change to church bylaws. Keep an eye on your email and church announcements for more details. ❖



Committee on Ministry: Covenant & Policy Updates

Submitted by Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

The Committee on Ministry reviewed and revised our church’s “Covenant of Right Relations” and its “Policy on Responsible Behavior”. These revised documents provide a structure to guide our process of conflict resolution. The documents can be found on our website at uuroc.org/bot.

We want our church to be a sanctuary in these challenging times—even as we are facing major changes ourselves. Distress around us can leak into relationships even in this community of intentional love and support.

We don’t want to lose members who might be having difficulties they are reluctant to express. We would like chances to resolve disappointments or institutional discontent; we welcome opportunities for healing.

The design of the new policy is based on the Unitarian Universalist value of Love at the center

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!

- **March 6 | The Sound of Low Brass**
Enjoy the magnificent sound of ESM Trombone Choir directed by Larry Zalkind.
- **March 13 | Women in Music**
Cellist Jennifer Carpenter and pianist Gina Lee perform music by French female composers Lili and Nadia Boulanger. ❖

of all interactions. Specific elements were developed from our own church’s previous policies as well as the work of other congregations.

There is a forum planned to discuss and practice the policy as well as to review the Covenant following the service on Sunday, March 30. Please plan to attend!

The documents have been approved by the Board of Trustees and other church leaders. We hope that some of you will look them over, and contact any member of the committee with questions or comments. Email any one of us at com@uuroc.org.

- Tom Williams, Chair
- Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell
- Chris DeGolyer
- Theo Munson
- Melissa Parrish ❖



Intro to Unitarian Universalism!

Submitted by Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

Join in a four-part series exploring the history, theology, and lived practice of Unitarian Universalism. A great course for people new to Unitarian Universalism or who have been Unitarian Universalist for years.

Sessions will be both informative and participatory. People can participate in-person and online on Tuesday evenings at 7-8:30pm from March 18 through April 8.

- Dates:
- Tuesday, March 18
 - Tuesday, March 25
 - Tuesday, April 1
 - Tuesday, April 8

Please email minister@uuroc.org to register. ❖

HFA: Small Kindnesses Matter

Submitted by Chris DeGolyer

Last October, Dwight Montague led folks in filling hospitality bags with non-perishable snacks to place in the little free library box in front of our church. Several people added drawings to the bags. Snack bags and drawings can have a more powerful impact than you might imagine. Andy Carey, founder of MC Collaborative, and volunteers deliver bag lunches to homeless people in the city every week. Andy told the story of a man who carried a crumpled lunch bag in his pocket for several months. After many visits from Andy's group, one day the man pulled the lunch bag out of his pocket, showed it to Andy and said "I'm ready and off to detox" (See https://www.instagram.com/reel/C_-0kagPZGR/).



Here's another opportunity to brighten someone's life. Family Promise has requested "moving-in" kits to give to guest families when they move into their own apartments. The kits would include cleaning supplies, from sponges to brooms, as well as kitchen and bathroom supplies, from paper towels to shower curtains. This month, please check the sign-up sheets in the Clara Barton Lounge on Sundays to see what is needed. Please sign up to bring in multiples of one item—five can openers, for example. Keep your receipt; we have a budget for reimbursing you. On Sunday, March 30, we'll form a team to assemble the kits during coffee hour. And in each kit let's include a welcome note! ❖

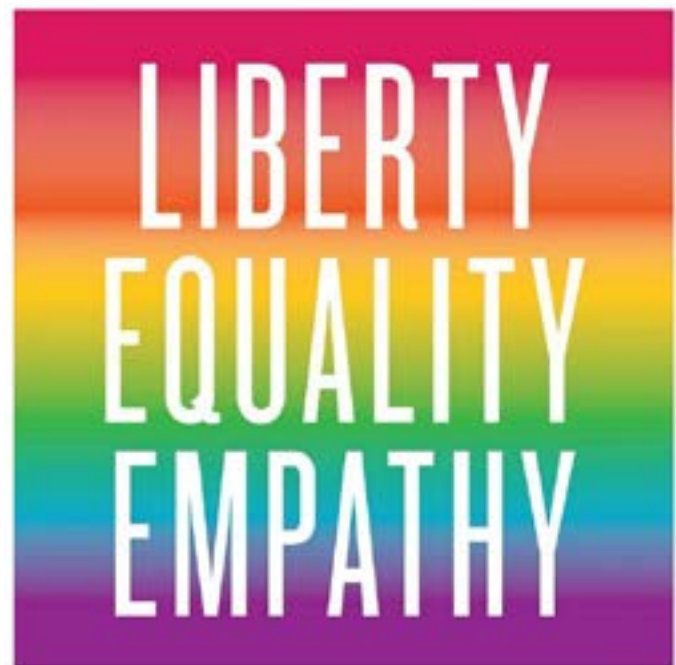
Stewardship: Wanderer, Worshiper, Lover of Leaving...

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

Rumi's poem, "Come, Come, whoever you are" is full of movement imagery. The second line combines notions of leaving and wandering together with worshipping. In our church and in our nation, we are confronting departures from accustomed norms and we find ourselves wandering into new places, some of which feel perilous. During the season of stewardship, we remember that our Beloved Community serves us steadfastly as an anchor, a microcosm of courage and care.

Upcoming church-wide stewardship events, following worship services:

- **March 30: Celebrating the Dream:** Scrutinizing last year's Dream list, celebrating our successes, considering our challenges.
- **April 13: Stewardship Sunday:** Our celebration with pie! ❖



Welcome Team Update

Submitted by Marcy Klein for the Welcome Team

At the board's direction, a small group of members has been working for several months to make the church building more welcoming and attractive. The Welcome Team is focusing on beautifying the main entries to the church, the Clinton Vestibule and the Clara Barton Lounge, and hoping to improve the first impressions of visitors and guests. These highly visible areas are especially important for accommodating a larger and more diverse congregation and for attracting more renters. The Team wants to make the spaces more useful, welcoming, and accessible to everyone, including those with mobility problems, low or no vision, and neurodivergence. The team plans to work with a designer to choose materials and furnishings appropriate for our historic building.

The Clinton Vestibule now has two comfortable chairs to provide seating for anyone who needs to sit down after climbing the stairs, change boots, or wait for a companion. A welcome table can be used by greeters and will hold some pamphlets. Most of the miscellaneous cleaning supplies that formerly cluttered the area have been removed or corralled behind screens by the south doors, but the Team hopes to have a storage cabinet built. Other recommendations submitted to the board include repainting the walls, replacing the lighting, refinishing the doors, stripping and sealing the tile floor, building a radiator cover, adding a durable carpet mat and some silk plants, and hanging new UU tapestries beside the Sanctuary doors.

The Clara Barton Lounge is in better shape; it had a major overhaul about 20 years ago and additional updates ten years ago. Recently, the worst of the clutter was removed so the area looks much better. The Team will suggest buying lighter tables, both round and rectangular folding ones, to make setup and take-down easier for everyone. The welcome table at the base of the ramp will be replaced by a desk with drawers to reduce tabletop clutter; it will hold our UU pamphlets in attractive new racks. Behind the table, they hope to add a tall fabric bulletin board to hang announcements and welcome sign, to keep drafts out of the library, and to provide privacy for seating behind. An upholstered chair and reading lamp behind the screen will appeal to readers, to a shy or neurodivergent person seeking quiet and privacy, or perhaps to a nursing mother.

The old library desk and freestanding bookcase will be removed to open up the library area. A new smaller, more appropriate historic-style desk will be added, perhaps tucked next to the tall screen by the piano. Four upholstered chairs and two end tables could be grouped in the middle of the library to invite quiet conversations, especially with visitors, or perhaps to accommodate a small committee meeting. A space for a wheelchair to park will allow the user to join in, or to watch activity in the dining area of the Lounge.

You can expect to see additional changes in the coming months; look for more articles with updates in the future. Feel free to pass on your suggestions or share your concerns with a Team member—Marcy Klein, Sarah Singal, or their board liaison and advisor, Michael Scott. Special thanks go to Kathi Milch, who started this project last summer, and initiated many wonderful ideas. ❖



Archives Update!

Submitted by MJ Curry

Three years ago, after Karen Dau stepped down as church archivist, we sought and received a grant from the *New York State Convention of Universalists* (NYSCU) to hire an archivist who organized our archives and created a finding aid. In the process, we learned that our building is not a suitable space to house our archives, especially to protect them from water damage. Fortunately, the *University of Rochester Rare Books and Special Collections* Department would like to acquire most of our archives.

Donating our materials to the UR will protect and at the same time make them more accessible to the public and to researchers, as we don't have someone at the church willing to become our next archivist. The UURoc Board of Trustees has voted to approve this donation. We have submitted another grant application to NYSCU to raise the \$8,000 donation the university requests to cover the costs of processing our collection and conserving it.

We'll know the outcome of this application by the beginning of April; if it's not successful, we'll seek other funding opportunities. ❖

Book Group

Submitted by Dolores Da Lomba

The Book Group will meet at noon on March 9 in the Chalice Room to discuss “*The Nickel Boys*” by Colson Whitehead.

“*The Nickel Boys*” is a gripping, Pulitzer Prize-winning novel inspired by true events. Set in Jim Crow-era Florida, it follows Elwood Curtis, a boy full of hope and ambition, whose life takes a tragic turn when he is unjustly sent to the Nickel Academy—a reform school hiding horrifying abuses behind its walls.

Through Elwood’s story and that of his friend Turner, Whitehead delivers a haunting but necessary reflection on systemic racism, survival, and the enduring fight for justice.



You do not need to read the book to participate. Questions? Contact bookgroup@uuroc.org. ❖



Social Justice Update from the Board

Submitted by Clinton Swingle

Your Board is pleased to announce a \$5,000 gift to Family Promise Rochester.

It was recently brought to the Board’s attention that these funds, originally earmarked for social justice work when Rev. Celie Katovich was our minister, was still on our ledger. The money was to have helped a local non-profit organization afford something with long-term impact that might carry the name of our church as the donor. At the time of

the set-aside, RAIHN (the *Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network*, now *Family Promise*) was the major social justice focus of our congregation. We were one of the founding congregations of RAIHN and hosted families experiencing homelessness four times a year for a week at a time. This work engaged 50 or more volunteers each host week, for more than 14 years. We were considering donating to the new RAIHN center for furnishings when COVID hit, and the shelter model changed from congregation hosting to motels, and then to rental apartments, with rents covered by RAIHN. A donation at that time would have been used for operating expenses rather than for long-term impact.

Fast forward to today—*Family Promise* has grown to the point where, in partnership with *City Roots Community Land Trust*, it has acquired two multi-family buildings donated by *City Roots*, adding seven apartment units for long-term transitional housing to the four already in operation above the Family Promise offices on Webster Avenue. All these newly acquired apartments need renovation and furnishings. Our \$5,000 is being used to furnish a room in one of these apartments, with a small, framed note indicating that the furnishings were provided by the congregation of the First Universalist Church of Rochester. Thanks to Marti Eggers, Chris DeGolyer, Sarah Singal, and Ed Deller for helping to coordinate this gift! ❖



Passover Seder

Submitted by Richard Reed

Please come enjoy a traditional Seder for all ages on April 14. The Seder begins at 5pm, and we will enjoy a buffet meal at 6pm. Please bring a dish to share. Sign-ups begin March 16.

Tableware, soup, wine, grape juice, and matzoh will be provided. Questions? Please contact Lew Ward-Baker or Richard Reed. ❖



Membership Committee

Submitted by Donna Anderson, Membership Chair

Our fall weekend workshop with Rev. Thom Belote provided us with a lot of information: Reasons Why People Come, Membership and Growth and Different Sized Churches. This article will address different sized churches.

Let's compare Pastoral Churches vs. Program Churches. The pastoral church is the stereotypical church that many Americans think of as church. It has a cozy feeling with the attendance between 50-150 people per Sunday. The church is pastor focused. Every person in the church has a direct personal relationship with minister. The minister knows your story. The Pastoral Churches functions as an organism in which everyone is moving in the same direction. Togetherness is prized. Much of what happens in the church is carried out by volunteers (choir director, religious education programs, office management, etc).

As you know, this is not how our church runs, we have paid staff.

The Program Church is bursting with energy and excitement. There is a lot happening. There is no expectation that everyone will have a direct relationship with the minister. Instead there is an abundance of programs where members feel their primary connection to the church and turn to their leaders or other people in the program for care and support. These churches have several high-profile professional staff members who run excellent programs. People turn to them for care and support as well. This church needs to have policies and organizational structures in place to navigate increasing organizational complexity.

Our church is a hybrid. We are on the continuum of becoming a Program Church. We have a number of paid staff who provide us with excellent quality of service, support, and work.

Our committees provide opportunities for folks to become more connected to our church community.

Many of our new members have elected to join choir, volunteered to light the chalice on Sunday, greet and/or usher, or help out with Sunday coffee hour, which gives them ways to feel more connected to our church community.

This next year will be a challenge as we say good-bye to Rev. Lane-Maired and hello to a new contract-to-call or transitions minister. During this time of transition our church community needs to support and care for each other, for we ARE the church. Let's pull together in planning for the fall! Membership Committee is planning some activities for the spring! Bring us YOUR ideas! Let's get connected during this time of change! ❖

**DON'T
MOURN
ORGANIZE**



ORGANIZE

AGITATE

EDUCATE

**MUST BE OUR
WAR CRY.**

**SUSAN B.
ANTHONY**



Family Promise

of Greater Rochester

50/50 Raffle,
Silent Auction
AND
POP-O-CUP!



STRIKE

OUT HOMELESSNESS

SUNDAY
MAR 9, 2025

12:45pm - Check-in
1:30pm - Bowling



\$300/lane or \$50/person

6 bowlers per lane, includes shoe rental,
2 games, and pizza.

Bowl-A-Roll Lanes | 1560 Jefferson Rd.
Register at: [Givebutter.com/FPGROC-bowl25](https://www.givebutter.com/FPGROC-bowl25)

Lane Sponsorship
Opportunities Available!

All proceeds benefit families at risk of or experiencing homelessness!



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

Clinton Swingle (*Pres.*), Heather Jones (*Vice-Pres.*)
Jim Milch (*Clerk*), Shelley Adams, Bridget Watts,
Howard Spindler, & Michael Scott

Editor, monthly newsletter, *Our Outlook*, & *This Week at First Universalist* (digital): Emma Barry

More info is available on our website: uuroc.org

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