

Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara

639 Main Street
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November 2019

Learn, Love, Build a Better World

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The Powerline is a monthly publication of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara. It is free online to anyone who wishes to subscribe- members, friends, and anyone else anywhere in the country and beyond.

It's a simple one step process: Just email your request to uuniagara@gmail.com or click the link. Please spread the word.

Many thanks to our contributors Peter Diachun, Erica Kopp, and Betsy Diachun.

Sunday Programs

November 3: "Sermon: Walking on Water"

We live in a fluid world where everything is constantly changing. From the environment to raising families, careers, retirement -- even gender identification -- we always have to be ready to adapt to change. What's the solution? Do we have learn to walk on water?

Donna Evans-Deyermund

Coffee hour host: Patty and Bill Lisk

Usher: Paul Brundage

November 10: "Shout!" - Football as Religion

A look at elements of religion (a sacred day of the week, rituals, clothing, foods, etc) and how, for many Americans, the religious impulse is stronger during a football game than during a church service.

John Snodgrass

Coffee hour host: Marie Spears-Howard

Usher: Susan Diachun

Adult religious education discussion

12:30PM -1:30PM November 10, 12:30-1:30 - Jihad and Fundamentalism - What is the central "Jihad" (struggle) in Muslim belief and practice? And how has Muslim Fundamentalism distorted western understandings of the religion? Recommended Reading: Armstrong, Karen - Islam and the West.

<http://www.firstuunf.org/john-snodgrass.html>

November 17: "Dirty Dishes"

When giving thanks, we focus on what is received. Sometimes, it is what we can see that demonstrates our gratitude. After a holiday meal, the dirty dishes tell a tale of what we hold as special, loved and blessed. Looking at our "dirty dishes" of faith, thanksgiving and cleaning up messes left over.

Susan Frawley

Coffee hour host: Peter Diachun

Usher: Joan Davis

November 24: "Alone Together"

Don Reidell

Coffee hour hosts: Paul Brundage

Usher: Andrea

President's Report

As I watched the World Series this week I was impressed not only with the talents and skills displayed by the players, but by the diversity of these among the players. The pitchers throw with great power and precision with the ball reaching 100 miles per hour when it arrives at the plate, and making it curve and dive as it travels. Some batters hit the ball hard enough to reverse its direction to 100 miles per hour with the swing of their bats. Other batters specialize in hitting to empty areas in the field. The outfielders can move towards a ball very rapidly and are able to throw it fast and long with pin point accuracy. Infielders show lightning fast reactions to stop hard hit balls and the ability to throw to teammates quickly and exactly where it is needed to get the runner out.

All of these diverse skills must work together like a well oiled machine to produce a championship team.

Our Church is composed of even more diverse talents and skills. Just think about the range of abilities we contain:

- genius ability to solve technical problems
- cooking skills
- operatic quality singing
- creative thinking
- compassionate care of people
- ability to write well
- organizational abilities
- can make graphic designs
- willingness to take risks
- determination to remain safe
- both good leaders and followers
- the ability to provide money

This list goes on and on. In order to progress toward our goal this year of becoming more sustainable and less dependent on a few people we need to utilize our diverse talents and skills.

I am asking each person in this Church to write down on a 3X5 card the things you like to do. Don't worry about how it fits the Church. Everybody has things they like to do, and look forward to doing, and which they are probably pretty good at doing. I want to include all our Church people in this exercise,

even those who are house bound, live far away, or rarely attend Church services—some people who we do not even know.

Give or send these cards to me (snail mail or email), put them in the collection plate, or send them to the Church. Please identify yourself on the card, but be confident that your identity remains confidential.

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Holiday Giving

In December we will have a clothesline up for our SOCK IT TO ME! give away. We'll see that the homeless get new socks in time for the holidays. But there is a 2nd way to give this year.

Reverse Advent Calendar

For each day in the month of December there is a food item to put in a box. Then, between Christmas and New Years' we'll see that the boxes get distributed to the poor. If you're willing to participate, there will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex so that we know how many families we can help.



**REVERSE
ADVENT CALENDAR**

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

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Our People

Linda Hurley's hospitality. Everyone who attended got to go on an old fashioned hay ride, sit around a bonfire eating burnt marshmallows, s'mores, and doughnuts, while drinking cider (hot or cold).



Book Group will continue to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every other month from 5 to 6 at the church. We'll try to get the title out to everyone. All are invited to join us; even if you haven't read the book. Discussions frequently turn to general topics, brought out in the book.

UUA

Stewards of Hope

“I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.”
—Maya Angelou

I’m delighted by how Spirit moves through our spiritual communities. A few summers ago, a member of our congregation drafted architectural plans for a Little Free Library (LFL). The brilliance of the design is that there are doors on two sides of the Library: one side is for adults and one side is just for kids' books. With the help of many volunteers (including the congregation's youth), two Little Free Libraries were built and installed: one near a main entrance and one near a walking trail at the edge of the property. They’ve been chugging along by themselves; people keep them stocked and utilized. These libraries are a beautiful self-sustaining phenomenon: a gift to the community.

And then, Spirit moved (again!) and a generous congregant asked to be a steward of the Little Free Libraries. He realized that with a little love and regular attention, the LFLs could be even better—and was moved towards deeper ownership.

I love this. This is the beauty and sparkle of spiritual communities. We dance together in the gentle unfolding of how we strive to be together. Needs arise and beloveds appear to ask, “How can I help?” There’s no fixed timeline, just the spiritual practices of generosity and stewardship.

As a religious leader, I am also a steward of Hope. So often, we can slip easily into conversations and endless news cycles that focus on dire calamity and we feel overwhelmed, crushed, and dispirited. Yes, there is much wrong with our world, and so much has already been lost.

The “Yes, *and...*” endures, though: we *do* have time to make changes, today. We *do* have time to practice courageous love, today. We *do* have time to revolutionize how we live out our faith, today. This is how I serve as a steward of Hope: by remembering and reminding others with a wink and smile that today can be for the good one breath at a time, one act of love and forgiveness at a time, one act of defiance and change at a time. The prayer of my heart is that Hope gives rise to insight, which gives rise to action—for the good of us all.

Prayer

Spirit of Life and Love, may we perceive the needs that arise around us like a clarion call of love. May we recall with audacious hope the words of Martin Luther: “Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.”



Rev. Rebekah Savage (formerly Montgomery) is the full time Associate Minister at the UU Congregation of Rockville, MD; a permanent member of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee; served previously as a military chaplain and Licensed Professional Counselor; and is completing a Doctorate in Ministry.

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara
Facilities available for Wedding Services,
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