

Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara

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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

March 1: “Muslim women's biomedical decision-making through an anthropological lens”

Amanda Buonopane, daughter of Joan Davis, recently completed her Ph.D. in cultural anthropology on cross-cultural Muslim experiences of infertility. She will be speaking to us on anthropological ways of understanding others, illustrating with her research findings on the role of religion in medical decision-making. **Amanda Buonopane**

Coffee Hour Host: Pam Smith

Usher: Andrea Galipeau

March 8: “In Equality?”

Are all religions created equal? And do all religions contain a claim to be the only right way to believe? **John Snodgrass**

Coffee Hour Host: Marie Spears-Howard

Usher:

Adult religious education discussion 12:30 – 1:30

The Buddha - a brief introduction to the origins of Buddhism, in reaction to the Caste System of Hinduism. How did a warrior's son become the Buddha? What is "Enlightenment"? And what are the truths that lead to this awakening?

March 15: "Awomen"

A Jewish Rabbi used to say this in honoring the divine feminine during Shabbat services. Today we will honor the women who have played important roles in our UU history. **Susan Frawley**

Coffee Hour Host: Linda Hurley

Usher:

March 22: “A Song of Longing”

We all long for newness and renewal.

Don Reidell

Coffee Hour Host: Betsy Diachun

Usher: Joan Davis

March 29: “A contradiction in Terms or a Struggle for Equality?”

“In a world where stem cell research, robotics and space travel are commonplace, it’s baffling that civil rights still struggles for equality.”

Marge Gillies

Coffee Hour Host: Paul Brundage

Usher: Bill Lisk

President’s Message

On a recent trip Betsy and I visited the Unitarian Church in Lexington, KY. There we discovered a possibility that might be worth some attention by our congregation.

It is called the 8th UU Principle. This has not been adopted and is probably controversial within our denomination. It seems to have some relevance to us in our initiative on white privilege and white fragility. It reads as follows:

8th UU Principle

“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association covenant to affirm and promote:

Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural beloved community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

This was written by Paula Cole Jones and Bruce Pollack Johnson.

I have not developed a position on this proposal. I think it has some merit, but also could provide some difficult challenges.

The best way to find out about this 8th Principle proposal is to read the website written by proponents of it. You can read everything on their website in less than 30 minutes. I suggest you start at the Home Page and select Background. Read everything on the Background page. Then return to the Home Page and move down the page and click the section "The Black Lives of UU". Read this entire section also.

<https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/>

A short flyer was written for the Members of the Lexington UU Church we attended. They are planning to vote on it in December. It is copied below, but it is not as clearly written as the website above. Read this only to get an idea what another UU Church is doing about this:

The 8th Principle

It was written in response to the continued inability of the UUA and UU's in general to meet the needs of our BIPOC's in our institution. The 8th Principle is really just the beginning of action, rather than the ultimate goal.

The 8th Principle is a call to action to work to dismantle white supremacy and build beloved community. Beloved Community happens when people of diverse racial, ethnic, educational, class, gender, sexual orientation, backgrounds/identities come together in an interdependent relationship of love, mutual respect, and care that seeks to realize justice within the community and in the broader world.

White UU's hold themselves accountable to communities of color, to make sure whites do what they say they will do. In practice, this can mean having a People of Color Caucuses within congregations, districts, etc., to discern and express needs and concerns to the rest of the community. Black UU's hold each other accountable and help each other see and dismantle signs of internalized racism. We need an

effective mechanism or structure to ensure this. Similarly, for other oppressions

Our existing seven principles imply this 8th Principle, but do not explicitly hold us accountable for addressing each oppressions directly, especially at the systemic level. Dismantling racism white supremacy, and other oppressions requires work at the personal and institutional levels. The UU principles were designed to be dynamic, not a fixed creed. It means we want to always continue to be educating ourselves, exploring truth, and rising our consciousness. None of the other principles mention love; by having beloved community in the 8th Principle it brings our commitment to love.

The eighth principle is a call to action. The new Jim Crow (mass incarceration and criminal Justice system replacing the older systems of slavery and Jim Crow laws), police violence against people of color, recent supreme Court decisions on voting rights and affirmative action, and the election of Donald Trump with advisers and followers (including attorney general Jeff Sessions) openly supporting white supremacist show that the country is moving quickly and dangerously in the wrong direction. UUs need to take strong leadership to reverse these trends.

UU's funding and focus on the last decades shifted towards shallow diversity rather than deep multicultural Beloved Community and structural change. UU's support of the movement for Black Lives has been encouraging; the best way for us to truly support racial justice in a significant way is to purge ourselves and our institutions of the culture and exclusive practices of whiteness and white supremacy.

What Can You Do?

- Go to the 8thprincipleuu.org to learn more about this movement.
- Contact us at eighthprinciple@uucl.org with any questions.
- Get involved in the process by emailing at the address above.
- Have conversations with your fellow UUs and yourself on what it means to build beloved community.
- Look for upcoming discussions run by your 8th Principle team.
- Vote to adopt the principle in December.

Peter

Our People

Theatre Party

John Snodgrass and Winnie Storms have written one act plays which will be presented at the Alley Cabaret Theatre, 672 Main St. Buffalo. We are planning to go on Saturday, March 7 – the day before John is here to preach again – at 8 PM. The tickets are \$12.00. (We got ours on line but the phone number is: 852-2600). There are 4 humorous, one act plays under the title “The End: Amen”

Some of us will meet at 6 PM to have dinner at Dinosaur Barbecue on Franklin St. before going to the play. If you are interested in being included in that please contact Betsy D. (764-2830 or ediachun@gmail.com) by March 3rd so she can make reservations.

Bryce Malluma-Kopp's First Show

Bryce will be in the opening band Daze Ago playing bass. The show will be at Buffalo Iron Works. For more inf or tickets

<https://buffaloironworks.tunestub.com/event.cfm?cart&id=313531>

Show Details

- When: *Thursday, Apr 2, 2020 9:00 PM (Doors open at 7:00 PM)*
- Ticket Price: *\$12.00 – \$15.00*
- Door Time: *7:00 PM*
- Restrictions: *18 & over*

Thank you

Thanks to Wally Lamb for our gleaming collection plates. White gloves are provided for the ushers to keep them shining after all his hard work..

Brunch

It's almost spring and time for BRUNCH at S. Wilson Fire Hall, 4194. We'll meet at 9am on Sunday, March 15. That gives us time to eat lots of fantastic food and get back to N.F. for church. Adults: \$12; Children 10-5: \$5.00 If you need a ride or have questions contact the Diachuns.

Announcements

Greetings, UU Congregations of Western New York

On April 11th we will be hosting a screening of the film, *The Condor and The Eagle*, as part of the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth's effort to bring a wider viewership of this important film, and to raise funds for the filmmakers and other indigenous partners in climate justice efforts.

The Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth recently put out the call for screenings and have asked congregations to concentrate on this spring for the biggest impact. We chose Easter weekend because of the resonance with a message of hope. We hope to educate and inspire the community, creating new partnerships and opportunities to foster healing and wholeness. To that end, 25% of the proceeds from the event will benefit Native American Community Services and their programs.

It is our hope to create a fuller experience and attract a larger audience with a full-on event/symposium. We have budgeted for a keynote speaker, whose focus would be to celebrate Indigenous culture and the interdependence of all life, to open the event. We plan to provide a community dinner prior to the screening as well. Here's the tentative schedule of the day's events:

4PM Keynote speaker or workshop on indigenous culture and responses to climate change
5-6:30PM -- Community dinner
7PM -- Film screening (90 minutes)
8:30-9PM -- Discussion

Here are some ways that you, our sibling congregations, can help support this project:

- Encouraging your members to attend the event on April 11th
- Publicizing this event heavily in your local coffee shops, non-profit organizations, libraries, and gathering places
- Becoming an event co-sponsor by providing a \$50-100 donation to augment our early publicity fund (in which case we'd list you on all PR materials as such!)
- Helping with set-up, event management, and/or cleanup on April 11th

If you have questions, we're happy to provide more information about this event! Feel free to contact the event chair, Director of Faith Development Angela Warren, at 634-3010 X104 or dfd@uuamherst.org. Or just write back with any questions, and I'll pass them along!

Thanks so much, and I look forward to seeing you there!

Yours in faith and justice,
Kristina Church, Intern Minister
Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst, New York

UUA

Amplified a Thousandfold

By [Lindasusan Ulrich](#)

February 5, 2020

“A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees.”

—Amelia Earhart

My friend Ty is a rock star. I mean, he’s literally a rock star. His band Vintage Trouble has played shows all over the world, headlined music festivals, and opened for the likes of The Who and AC/DC. I love telling people about his success not because I want to name drop or bask in reflected glory, but because I’m so thrilled that the universe is blessing him a thousandfold.

Make no mistake: Ty’s success comes from dedication to his craft, a lot of hard work, and a ridiculous amount of talent. Anyone who saw him as the Scarecrow in our fourth grade production of The Wizard of Oz could already tell that it was a question of when he’d hit it big, not if. (I played the Wicked Witch of the West.) When someone radiates charisma like that, it’s inevitable that they’ll also be popular. What has stayed with me most, though, is his kindness.

When you grow up fat in the U.S., as I did, kindness can be a rather rare commodity. Peers teased me mercilessly for years. Even now, I struggle with caring about my body because I’d ingested so much toxicity early on.

Ty always treated me as worthy of respect, even when I didn’t believe it myself. I remember a Saturday afternoon at his house where he and I listened over and over to a recording of “The Longest Time” so we could create an arrangement for our a cappella quintet. It was the kind of creative concentration I experience now with my colleagues as we craft a worship service. I felt at ease. I felt valued.

After I asked him to our senior prom, he told me that he already had a date, but he never made me feel as though the idea of the fat girl asking the rock star was absurd or a joke. That alone cleared a liter of toxins from my system.

We have so many opportunities to bless each other in this world, but they don’t always announce themselves as moments of profound transformation. I choose to plant seeds of life wherever I can, just in case. I may never know whose song I’ll amplify in the process.

Prayer

Spirit of Kindness, offer your healing balm to all who need it. Let it remove thorns and soften scars. Inspire us to spread your gifts generously in a hurting world, for you reflect the love that no one is beyond, whether they believe it or not. Amen.



Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich is a minister, writer, musician, and activist dedicated to a vision of radical inclusion in both language and action. She currently serves as Assistant Minister at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor.

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/amplified-thousandfold>

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Facilities available for Wedding Services,
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<http://firstuunf.org>
Find us on Facebook



"Singles Social Club" established over 40 years ago. We are a friendly group that welcomes newcomers to our activities, game nights, dances, picnics, restaurants and much more....come join us! (Ages ranging 50 to 80 years old now, but all welcome) Call for more info 716-550-1232. Find us on facebook: Singles Social Club

*If you have comments or articles you may submit them to
uuniagara@gmail.com with the subject "Powerline*



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Return Service Requested
March 2020

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