

# Powerline

*First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Niagara*

639 Main Street  
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**December 2022**

*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.

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Many thanks to our contributors Paul Brundage and Erica Kopp.

## **Sunday Services**

### **December 4:** "Have a Transcendental Holiday!"

With guidance from Henry David Thoreau, The Grinch, and even Mr. Rogers... Our speaker will help us tread water in the sea of materialism & crazy that we have come to call "The Holidays".

*Speaker: Ron Skowronski*

*Coffee Hour: Bill Lisk*

*Usher: Joan Davis*

### **December 11:** John Snodgrass

*Speaker: John Snodgrass*

*Coffee Hour: Shelley Baxter*

*Usher: Bill Lisk*

### **Adult Education Class December 11, 12:30 – 1:30**

### **December 18:** "Gifts Do Keep On Giving"

In her book "Braiding Sweetgrass," Robin Wall Kimmerer says that gifts create bonds between us that are the real value in the act of giving. In this season of giving, what gifts will you make that will enhance your relationships and with our world? Are there things we can do to enhance the lasting effects of our gifts?

*Speaker: Donna Evans-Deyermond*

*Coffee Hour: Joan Davis*

*Usher: Kathy McCunn*

### **December 25:** "Lessons and Carols"

In typical UU fashion, a selection of 7 songs and seven lessons that accompany the theme and /or content of the songs will be the Christmas morning service

*Speaker: Susan Frawley*

*Coffee Hour: Potluck*

*Usher:*

## **President's Report**

I hope everyone had a very nice Thanksgiving and now as we come into December, we have already experienced the November Snow storm and I am thankful that here in the Falls we did not get the snowfall amounts of Buffalo and the South towns. Our hearts and prayers go out to those in the South Towns who experienced roof and other damage due to this storm. As we enter December, I wish everyone Happy Holidays!

I, Erica, and Bill had a small non-quorum meeting to keep business moving. I'm looking forward to our next meeting in December to get down to business with the other Board Members.

Thank you Erica for taking on the additional responsibilities of paying our speakers, and other expenses. It is very appreciated by me and everyone in our Church.

As far as work on the church building, the leak repair has been in progress by Bill, and a Contractor.

As a reminder, we discussed keeping our building open on Christmas Day morning this year since it is on a Sunday. New Year's Day is on Sunday too January 1st, 2023 and we will be open for anyone who wants to attend.

These are just a few of the things we need to do and in the next few months, we will go forward with these current changes and the ones to come.

President of UU Board - Paul Brundage

## **Christmas Service**

In typical UU fashion, a selection of 7 songs and seven lessons that accompany the theme and /or content of the songs will be the Christmas morning service.

## **Potlucks**

Christmas will be our potluck this month. Everyone is welcome. Bring a dish to pass if you are able.

## UUA

### Long May They Wave

By [cristy cardinal](#)

November 23, 2022

“An army of lovers cannot lose.”

—from “Queers Read This!,” a 1990 manifesto by ACT UP

The picture of the flagpole, bent at a ninety-degree angle, and the small scrap of fabric, edges frayed where the flag ripped apart, snapped me back to reality—the reality where our state governments are attacking trans folks and their families, the reality where the Supreme Court is repressively restricting our reproductive rights. The reality where so many things are contributing to the collective trauma of late-stage capitalism.

I was at General Assembly, 2,500 miles away from home, wrapped in the love and dynamic tension of colleagues and congregants. My partner Jay was in Michigan, taking care of my feline overlords. He sent me pictures of the reality back home: someone had yanked the Progress Pride flag down from the front of my house—the house where my kids live.

Tears stung my eyes, and fear filled my body.

I shared on social media what happened and almost immediately, a straight friend sent me a message offering to replace the flag. I said, “YES!” and she told me when to expect it. Jay re-hung the flag, which seemed bigger and brighter this time around.



Then I came home. And I held the flagpole, and moved the scrap of flag through my fingers. The tears came back, this time hot with rage.

I shared on social media again, this time talking about the emotional toll. This was not just vandalism, but violence.

Someone suggested that I fill my yard and cover my house in pride flags. “YES!” I thought again. I made an online wishlist with various flags and shared that as well. Two days later, I came home from the office to a stack of packages on my porch.

I came down with COVID that day, so I thought that the flags had to wait—and community showed up again, when another person offered to come put them in the yard for me.

Never have I felt it more true that “an army of lovers cannot lose” than when I saw this in my front yard.

Tears of joy filled my eyes as I saw the brightly colored compassion and love of community wave in the grass. Queer joy is resistance.

### **Prayer**

Beloved queer kin, you are wholly divine. Your queerness is sacred: may you never doubt it, and may the world come to know it. May the blessings of community surround you when you are scared, and when you are full of rage. And may your pride flags hang from reinforced steel flagpoles.



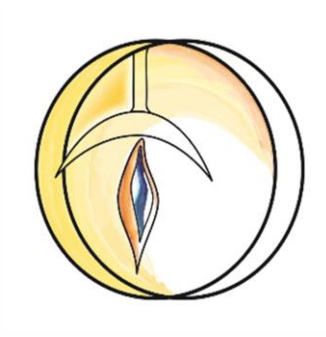
cristy's lawn

cristy cardinal's lawn after an "army of lovers" flooded their mailbox with pride flags



[cristy cardinal](#)(they/them) is a candidate for UU ministry, studying at Starr King School for the Ministry.

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/long-may-they-wave>



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December 2022

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