

Powerline

*First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara*

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March 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.

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 Andrea Galipeau, Teresa Labuszewski, and Erica Kopp.

Sunday Services

March 6: "Greed and the First Cherry?"

Greed is usually listed as the second of the "deadly sins." We typically associate greed with money or eating --- the consequence of either of which could be deadly. There are other types of greed that affect us and the world around us in a variety of ways, including keeping us from living in and appreciating the present. How do we change our focus, accept our limitations and live fully in the present?

Speaker: Donna Evans-Deyermond
Coffee Hour: Marie Spears-Howard
Usher: Andrea Galipeau

March 13: "Forward March"

A look at how a gloomy, sober missionary ended up getting celebrated on Saint Patrick's Day.

Speaker: John Snodgrass
Coffee Hour: Bill and Patty Lisk
Usher: Teresa Labuszewski

Adult Education Class 12:30 – 1:30

Meet the Vikings. A brief look at Norse myth and religion

March 20: "Spiritual Narcissism"

We hear the word narcissist a lot. It is applied to many things, but a spiritual narcissist? Come find out what that is, how it manifests and how some acts of faith may fall into that category.

Speaker: Susan Frawley
Coffee Hour: Paul Brundage
Usher:

March 27: "Can't we all just get along?"

On May 1, 1992, Rodney King asked a profoundly simple question; "Can't we all just get along?" Well, can we? Are we hard-wired at the genetic level to be in a constant state of conflict? In this reflection, our speaker will share some insights on our apparent lack of ability in expressing what Rodney King asked. There will be very real surprises about our human condition and how we can find spiritual solutions without resorting to being religious.

Speaker: Ron Skowronski
Coffee Hour: Andrea Galipeau
Usher: Joan Davis

President's Report

Like myself, you may have recently come to admire and respect the bravery and valiance of Ukraine's President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He seems to be a dedicated and fair President, agreeing to meet yesterday to discuss negotiations with Russian negotiators. However, passive and submissive he is not. As the world watches on, we commend his loyalty and dedication to his people and his determination to keep Ukraine a free nation. As he leads his nation's defense, he has called upon the world to help him in his efforts to end the horrific injustice of Russia's invasion of his country.

A few of history's prominent figures have shared a version of what Winston Churchill most recently said about the importance of understanding the significance of world events. In 1948, as the world was still tending to her fresh wounds from WWII, he said, "*Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it*". While we can argue that Russia has clearly not understood this lesson, (do we for sure know the motives coming from the Kremlin?), let us turn our attention rather to those who have come to understand the power of Peace and Humanity.

In the face of this political and social disaster, most of the world has come together to stand for Ukraine. Among them, Europe and the Americas have shared their valiant disdain for Russia's actions, perhaps most notably (and loudly), Germany. Many seemed to have, in fact, "learned their lesson" and today choose to fight back in the face of tyranny. I truly believe that as a world, we are good and kind people who have learned the importance of rising up to challenge the injustices of the world.

While we continue to monitor the situation amongst our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and the surrounding areas, let us hold Peace and Hope in our hearts.

We here at FUUN genuinely know the importance of dedicated and determined leadership. Betsy's recent health crisis has shaken us to our core. For decades Betsy and Peter Diachun have been the lifeline of First Unitarian Universalist of Niagara. We are overjoyed to hear that Betsy's health has improved significantly; however, the situation is still fragile for the time being. As they navigate Betsy's recovery, I ask that you keep her and Peter in your hearts and minds, and that you send every prayer and ounce of positive energy that you can muster their way.

As we continue on our way through this year at FUUN, let's remember to reflect on the lessons learned in our lives, and to apply that knowledge to make tomorrow a better day. And let us also remember to love and appreciate the important people in our lives. Every day is a blessing, so let's make it count.

In faith, love, and resistance,
Andrea

Stewardship

I don't know about your childhood experience, but in my house, most things were done to music. My dad would put the speakers from the stereo in the windows on the back of the house and we played badminton to Harry Belafonte singing about picking bananas. I washed dishes and dusted to Mario Lanza singing La donna mobile from Rigoletto or the Monkees' Last Train to Clarksville. As teenagers, we all had the radio playing as often as possible, debating whether the Beatles were better than Paul Revere and the Raiders-a lot of nationalism in those arguments. Most of the TV shows were variety shows featuring various bands and singers. Ed Sullivan, Andy Williams, Carol Burnette. Think about the old television shows and I am sure the theme songs come to mind. Every time I hear someone whistle I think of Andy Griffith and Mayberry.

The movie industry started adding music to films in 1908. Camille Saint-Saens composed the first film music. Now, it would be unthinkable not to have background music in a film. It emphasizes the mood of the movie. Who does not recognize John Williams' Star Wars theme? Or the theme to The Bridge on the River Kwai? Even if you haven't seen the movie, you have heard the songs.

Last year I bought my dad a digital tablet called a Grandpad to give him a way of accessing the outside world. He is 96 and already isolated by his age, but the pandemic has made it all worse. I will tell you that he uses it primarily to listen to music. He finds old songs and can play recordings of the same song by many different artists. We debate which we think is the best version when I go to visit. He remembers events associated with each song: where he was when it was popular, the first time he heard it, significant events that happened then. Dick Clark called this phenomenon the sound track of our lives.

We often say music is the universal language. It can bring us together as nothing else can. It transcends language. You get a feel from a song. Think of how God Bless America became a tradition at ball games after 9/11. We stand as one and sing together. And in the very difficult year of 2021, with the January 6th insurrection and our continued isolation from one another, your stewardship committee decided that we need to reconnect with one another in a meaningful way. We can learn more about one another and have fun at the same time. So in the next few weeks, we are asking you to choose a song that has particular meaning for you and if you care to, share with us why it grabs you. We will use those songs to play our own wacky version of Name that Tune at our pledge Sunday event on May 1st. Patty Calback and I will be your musical director and game show host, respectively. We hope to make new musical memories with one another and we won't even have to sing. We'll let Patty do that. (Unless someone else volunteers to join in.)

On behalf of your stewardship committee,
Betsy Diachun, Patty Lisk, and Teresa Labuszewski

UUA

Asking for Help

By [Quinn Gormley](#)

March 2, 2022

“It is revolutionary for any trans person to choose to be seen and visible in a world that tells us we should not exist.”

–Laverne Cox

I locked myself out of my car recently. I called a garage and they sent a technician. Apparently, he tried to call me on the way over and I missed it. He left a voicemail, which meant he heard my message: "Hello, you've reached Quinn at the Maine Transgender Network."

My trans status isn't a secret. Being public about it is part of my job. But being public and being out to random men on the side of a quiet, rural road are very different things.

He arrived and we wrestled back into my Subaru. After handing over my insurance card, he got quiet for a minute. Nervously he asked, "You do the rainbow thing?"

It took me a second to put the pieces together. I froze for a moment. This question doesn't usually end well.

Tentatively I answered, “Yeah, I do the rainbow thing... Is that a problem?”

He shook his head and took a deep breath. And then he started to talk.



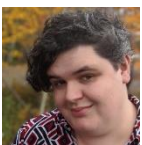
His kid came out a few nights ago and wants to transition. He's very worried. He watches the news. He knows how trans kids get treated. I do too. I was a trans kid. I released the breath I'd been holding. This was a conversation I know how to have.

We talked for a while about how cruel the world is, about how his kid might very well get hurt. Lots do. He's afraid to let them transition. But then we talked about how we can't control the world. His kid is different and might get hurt either way. "So why not let them control what happiness they can? You can teach them how to handle the rest." We talked about how happy kids are safer kids, because happy kids have adults they can ask for help.

A hug, a trading of numbers, and a few tissues later and he was on his way to the store to buy his son a clip-on tie and those Spider-Man shoes he didn't give him for his birthday.

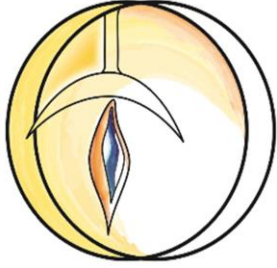
Sometimes the story does end well.

Prayer: Creator God, help us to create a world worthy of children's smiles and laughter. Help us to delight in all the ways we are beautifully different.



Quinn Gormley (she/her and they/them) serves as the Executive Director of MaineTransNet, a community based organization supporting transgender people and those who love them in rural Maine. Quinn believes in centering the wellness of marginalized communities, and that the root of power and...

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/asking-help>



Return Service Requested
March 2022

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



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