

Powerline

*First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara*

639 Main Street
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June 2022

Learn, Love, Build a Better World

Contents

Sunday Services	2
President's Report	3
Summer Programs	3
UUA	4



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 Paul Brundage and Erica Kopp.

Sunday Services

June 5: American Freethought Video Series

Coffee Hour: Marge Gillies

Usher: Kathy McCunn

June 12: “Origin of Speeches”

A look at how speech and text have shaped our human journey, connecting us through space and time, enabling us to communicate with the past and future.

Speaker: John Snodgrass

Coffee Hour: Teresa Labuszewski

Usher:

Adult Education Class April 10, 12:30 – 1:30

Shakespeare and the Fairies - an exploration of English Fairylore and how William Shakespeare re-shaped it for *Midsummer Night's Dream*. It's recommended that you read *Midsummer Night's Dream* or watch a film adaptation before this session. And copies of Snodgrass's new book *Supernatural Shakespeare: Magic and Ritual in Merry Old England*, which will be available for sale (\$20)

June 19: “Welcome”

This month many days are celebrated. Our church is a place that says "Welcome, You are celebrated here." Today we honor and celebrate all the days of June that are special to us all

Speaker: Susan Frawley

Coffee Hour: Board

Usher: Wally Lamb

President's Report

I am looking forward to serving you as President of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara for the coming Year 2022-2023. Starting with our next meeting June 12th, we will get down to business continuing our present course which looks like a great and exciting year.

Nothing is without some challenges but I know we can take care of anything as we work together.

I am very thankful for this church and the people that are a part of it.

Thank you.

Paul Brundage - President U.U.

Summer Programs

Summer programs will begin June 26, 2022. If you would like to be a service leader for our casual discussions, please contact Erica Kopp, EricaDKopp@gmail.com.

UUA

Us, Human, Here

By [Laura Solomon](#)

June 1, 2022

“You at the edges and shores, in the rooms of quiet, in the rooms of shouting, in the airport terminal, at the bus depot saying “No!” and each of us looking out from the gorgeous unlikelihood of our lives at all, finding ourselves here, witnesses to each other’s tenderness, which, this moment, is fury, is rage, which, this moment, is another way of saying: *You are who I love You are who I love You and you and you are who*”

–Aracelis Girmay, “You Are Who I Love,” from Split This Rock’s [The Quarry: A Social Justice Poetry Database](#)

As we collectively attempt to process the trauma, pain, and senseless violence of the past several weeks, I find myself repeating Aracelis Girmay’s phrase: *you are who I love*. I’m thinking about how heavy the world feels and how hard it is to breathe under that weight. I’m thinking about self-care and the ways we talk about it and the ways we don’t. It’s easy to accept the weight of the world’s suffering into our hearts and onto our bodies. It is easy to become heavy with the burdens of the world.

You are who I love.

Many believe that religion is the place where we find answers and meaning to the unanswerable questions. For some, religion is the place where answers to the unanswerable questions about evil and violence, death, injustice, and cruelty reside. My Unitarian Universalism doesn’t give me answers to unanswerable questions, but does give me a faith big enough to hold my questions in a place beyond answers.



To be human is to not have answers. To be human is to feel as though the enormity of sorrow, anger, grief, and pain will pull me into the undertow. My Unitarian Universalist faith reminds me that this is simply the way of it: our hearts are meant to crack open under this enormity of grief. Because of this cracking and unknowing—because of this stumbling and holding one another—you are who I love.

Us, human, here, breaking and crying, crumbling and loving still: you are who I love. Your tenderness, your rage, your hope and hopelessness, your justice-seeking, your protesting, your loving us anyway: you are who I love.

We do not need to fear the *how* of putting-back-together. We will come back together because it is what humans have always done: fallen apart and witnessed the crumbling; come together and tethered ourselves to each other.

We are an angry and beautiful people. We hold our questions, our rage, our not-knowing, our loss, our devastation, and even in the uncertainty, we know we are made to hold one another.

Prayer

Spirit of Life, hold us in our questions, our rage, our not-knowing. Hold us as we learn, imperfectly, to hold one another. Guide us in our reassembling—in the ways we gather ourselves and one another up in love.



Rev. Dr. Laura Solomon (she/her) is the Assistant Minister of Spiritual Growth at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring (MD). A graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School, Laura is passionate about living a life of authenticity and love while working towards freedom and liberation. Laura lives in Sykesville, MD with her dog Maizel Roo and her rats, Ginsburg and Nova.

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/us-human-here>



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June 2022
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First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara
Facilities available for Wedding Services,
Receptions, and Celebrations



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