

Powerline

*First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara*

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February 2023

Learn, Love, Build a Better World

Contents

Sunday Services	2
President's Report	3
Potlucks	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

February 5: "A King has died, but can't be forgotten"

Humanity, over the centuries, has lost many Kings. In this reflection, our speaker will talk about an extremely important King, his impact while alive and his impact after his death and beyond.

What is truly stunning is the impact of Unitarian-Universalism upon this man and his work. A truly fascinating tale!

Speaker: Ron Skowronski

Coffee Hour: Cookies and Coffee

Usher: Paul Brundage

February 12: "Holy Cow"

A look at sacred cows in Viking myth, Hindu Religion, and the American midwest.

Speaker: John Snodgrass

Coffee Hour: Teresa Labuszewski

Usher: Wally Lamb

Adult Education Class February 12, 12:30 - 1:30

February 19: "The People of Kenya"

Speaker: Donna Evans-Deyermond

Coffee Hour: Coffee and Cookies

Usher: Susan Diachun

February 26: The "Bowl of Super"

February has Sports fans consumed with the Super Bowl. Why is it so super? What does a bowl hold? Why do we use bowls as metaphors for life or life events? Let's explore this idea and examine our relationship to bowls.

Speaker: Susan Frawley

Coffee Hour: February Potluck

Usher:

President's Report

We are coming into February as winter is still upon us. Maybe the Groundhog, Dunkirk Dave, or Punxsutawney Phil can avoid seeing their shadows with a hopeful early spring. We can only hope.

Good news is at this point in time of the winter season, the days are getting longer.

All speaker dates are filled for the season according to our last Board Meeting.

As far as work on the church building, the leak repair has been holding. No more leaks but Bill is keeping watch.

Our snow removal from the contractor is going well as Patty is in contact with the contractor. We are also providing Patty with checks to pay for snow removal on a monthly basis.

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

Potlucks

We will have potluck at the end of each month. There is plenty of food -- everyone is welcome. Bring a dish to pass if you are able.

UUA

Inspired by My Ancestors

By [Melissa Jeter](#)

January 25, 2023

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us.”

—Hebrews 12:1

New year, new me, right? Maybe, but I just want to sit on the couch. The days are longer and my dog wants to go out. She monitors my every move for a sign that the walk is coming, but after feeding her I just want a nap. Also, I was going to read another book about racism; I was losing hope for anything to change. Perhaps I’m like Sisyphus: pushing the rock up the hill just to let it fall back and start again.

The last time I chose the couch, I thought: *During slavery, people worked fifteen to eighteen hours a day!* Anytime people say that Black folks in America are lazy, I consider it a slur. That’s when my grandfather came to mind.

John Frank was a part of the Great Migration: he migrated from the Carolinas to Ohio. The plantation that bears our last name is still there. My grandfather carried the last name of those who came to Virginia via England, and to England from France. French Huguenots. The name is French for *to throw away*.

Once he came to Ohio, my grandfather worked in steel mills while owning his own business repairing houses. As a kid, I didn’t see him much. When I did see him, he’d usually be working on his truck, and it was a treat to see him. He was still tall, though his knees were bad.



I stopped working out intensely when my own knees felt it was going badly. And I had intended for many years to start to intensify working out. This year I really need it so I can recharge my brain. When I’m in my body instead of my mind, I ruminate less on all the things that I cannot control and did not cause.

My grandfather was a boxer. Kickboxing workouts were my favorites. So this month, I’ve started to intensify my morning routines to work out. I’m sure that thinking about my grandfather and his life inspired me. I will not think my way out of, or into, this life. Inspired by his memory, though, I can at least get off the couch—and like Sisyphus, push that rock.

I’ll be stronger and more hopeful for the work of it. I anchor this new year in the cloud of witnesses that are a vital force in my life.

Prayer

Let us be grateful for the vital force that wakes us and moves us. Let us be grateful for the inspirational foundations upon which we stand. Let us never forget the mighty cloud of witnesses who are revealed in our being.

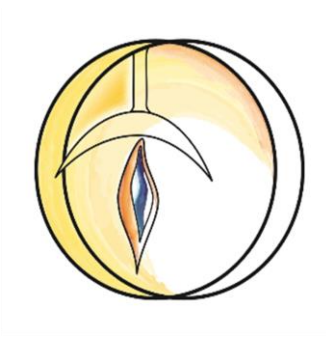


[Melissa Jeter](#)

Melissa Jeter (she/her/hers) is currently a full-time seminarian at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio as well as a full-time librarian in Toledo, Ohio. Melissa is the student minister affiliated with First Unitarian Church of Toledo and regular participant in the Multifaith Council of Northwest Ohio.

She has served on the social justice subcommittee of the City of Toledo Human Relations Commission. As an adult services reference librarian, Melissa helps people learn how to use computers and electronic media. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois and a Master of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Toledo. Before her work in libraries, she worked or volunteered in programs based on community issues housing, civil rights, domestic violence at nonprofit agencies in Toledo, Ohio.

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/inspired-my-ancestors>



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February 2023

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



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