

Powerline

*First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara*

September 2023

639 Main Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14301
716-285-8381

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 Shelley Baxter, and Erica Kopp.

Sunday Services

Last summer program:

September 3: Ice Cream Social with Nana Simon

September 10: "Great Snakes!"

If the Snake in Eden wasn't Satan, then who was it? And why did so many ancient religions view serpents as symbols of wisdom and protection? We'll be exploring the significance of snakes in numerous mythologies.

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

Speaker: John Snodgrass

Coffee Hour: Board of Trustees

Usher: Teresa Labuszewski

September 17: "Welcome Home"

In this meditation on the act of Welcoming, our speaker asks... Do we really know what authentic welcoming means? Do we as individuals and as a spiritual community really engage in the True Spirit of Welcome? Come and consider how you can grow spiritually when you understand this subject in depth.

Speaker: Ron Skowronski

Coffee Hour: Pam Smith

Usher: Teresa Labuszewski

September 24: "Atonement"

In this season of New Years and fresh starts, the idea of atonement in the Judeo practice is prevalent. What does it mean to atone? How and why do we do so as UU's? Come join us in this exploration.

Speaker: Susan Frawley

Coffee Hour: End of Month church potluck

Usher: Teresa Labuszewski

President's Report

I hope this report finds you well. I am pleased to share with you the highlights of the summer at our small church.

1. Summer programs

- a) We had an engaging Video from Patty Calback .We had a wonderful time watching an engaging video presentation by Patty Calback at the beginning of the summer programs.
- b) Cruising with Patty Lisk.We enjoyed Patty Lisk's cruise featuring exotic Hawaii with Pina coladas.
- c) Successful Church Picnic. Our annual church picnic was a delightful affair. The weather was cooperative. The picnic provided an opportunity for fellowship and strengthened our sense of community.
- d) John Snodgrass hosted two summer programs
- e) We look forward to our last Sunday program on September 3 with Nana Simon-The Ice Cream social

2. Resolved Drain Issues:

I am happy to report that we have successfully resolved the recurring issue of drains backing up in the church. Our maintenance team worked diligently to address the problem, and we haven't experienced any further issues.

3. Improved Safety Measures:

In our commitment to ensuring the safety of our members and volunteers, we have decided to introduce a bulb Graber system to change lights in the sanctuary. This decision was made after considering the potential injury risks involved in using ladders. By investing in this system, we aim to minimize accidents and maintain a safe environment.

4. Upgrading PC for Zoom Issues:

To address the technical challenges encountered during Zoom meetings, we have decided to purchase a new PC. This upgrade will help us effectively handle any issues that may arise and ensure smoother online communication.

As always, I encourage you to reach out with any questions, concerns, or suggestions. Together, we can continue to make our small church a welcoming and thriving community.

Erica

GED Graduation

Erica will be hosting her GED Graduation in our church. We have never had a GED graduation in Niagara Falls since she began teaching the GED in 2006.

We will start organizing/decorating on Wednesday 20th. The staff that work on 6th street will finish setting up chairs and tables in the Narthex in the morning of the 21st.

Everyone is welcome to come to celebrate. Anyone wanting to help set up or usher people in or help serve food, let Erica know EricaDKopp@gmail.com or

716-343-0360.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

Graduation
CELEBRATION

Thursday, September **21** 5:30 PM — 6:30 PM

639 Main Street, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara, Niagara Falls NY
RSVP Ms Kopp with the number of guests by September 14
at ekopp@onbores.org OR 716-731-6800 EXT 3105 OR Facebook



Graduates need to arrive before 5PM

Refreshments and photos will be the following ceremony

Nadja

Nadja traveled by train to Moscow, Russia to dance with her school's 8th grade classmates. She was on stage and when everything broke out. War was suspected between the Russians and Germans. She said they put gas masks on her and the others and put them in a truck and drove them home into the night. Her mother was frantic for her return. This was her last memory shared before the Nazi's occupied Lenin in Belarus. Making a ghetto for the Jewish people and eventually killing them in a mass grave.



Then the Nazi's came for Polish people. Nadja's remaining family consisted of her mother Elaina, and sister Calonja who was older, married, and had a small child. They were in front of Nadja in the line in Lenin, Belarus. The belongings they were carrying from their home had to be abandoned. Her sister said the baby was cold, before she disappeared into a building.

They took her family separating the teenagers, but stopped the line at Nadja. Nazi's put the people in a room, then Nadja heard the bomb. Nadja said she look around and seen she was alone all the young people were gone. They must have all run away and hid.

She had two bundles, clothes and blankets in her arms. Nadja at 14 years old was scared and alone. She didn't want to go to the farm, no one was there. She walked about 15 miles to a cousin's house. A family of three generations in one room. She did not feel welcomed, of course they had no room for her or food.

Nadja had to sleep between the boys. A couple months past and the German police came and said if she wanted to in work in his home, so she did. Out in the country in a big house she did all the work and his wife did nothing. Nadja was doing slave labor as the rich policeman's wife laid in bed. Nadja decided to run away back to the cousins. Not long after that they came for Nadja to go to Dachau concentration camp In Germany. But she had to be 16 to work in Dachau, she was not but they told the Nazi's she was. Nadja thought well it would be better than being homeless.



UUA

Fingerprints on the Wall

By Katie Romano Griffin

May 5, 2021

“Don’t touch the walls! The oils on your hands will leave marks!”

—Mamá Romano

For most of my childhood, my mom was a stay-at-home mom. She focused on managing our household and raising two rambunctious children with passion and verve. And our house? When I think back to those years, two scents come to mind: Garlic cooking on the stove, because all good meals start with garlic, right? And bleach, because nothing is truly clean in the house unless it has met with bleach. When she wasn’t corralling my brother and me or magically making pennies stretch, we were just as likely to see my mom salsa dancing with the fridge—celebrating life while making dinner—as we were to see her using bleach to scrub a fingerprint only she could see off the wall.

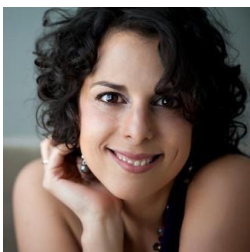
My household has never been the tight ship my mom ran, but my walls were somehow fingerprint-free until the pandemic hit. My oldest son moved home when he lost all of his jobs in one day. My youngest was suddenly taking online school and we parents were working from home full-time. Within weeks there was chaos in the house. Fingerprints were everywhere, dust bunnies materialized in corners, missing socks multiplied, and I had to relearn 10th grade history between zoom appointments.



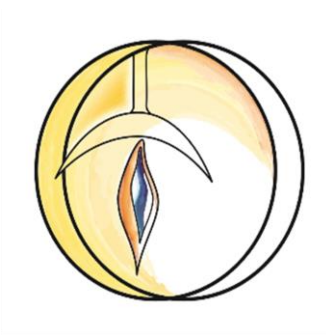
One night I was sipping on a glass of Malbec and staring at a fingerprint on the wall as the boys were having their second (or third?) post-dinner snack. In that moment I realized how much I cherished that fingerprint. As challenging as this time has been, it has also been a gift to have both of my children together. As they get older, it seems harder and harder for us to be together in the same place. So I’m leaving the fingerprints on the walls, even as they return to their jobs and busier lives as things reopen. I’m also salsa dancing with the fridge as I prepare each meal I get to share with them at home as we lean into these times together.

Prayer: Spirit of Life and love moving in us and through all things, remind me to release that which no longer serves me in my relationships so that I may be present to the joy of them. May it be so.

Amen and Blessed Be.



Rev. Katie Romano Griffin (she/her) serves as the Senior Minister at All Souls Indy in Indianapolis, IN.



Return Service Requested
September 2023

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara
639 Main Street
PO Box 2566
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First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara
Facilities available for Wedding Services,
Receptions, and Celebrations



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