

Powerline

*First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara*

March 2023

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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

March 3: Easter Revisited... Again

Why do Unitarian-Universalists continue to argue about Easter? Our speaker will, once again, strive to help us understand our underpinnings, as we continue to grow beyond some threadbare theologies. You will hear from Paul, Father Richard Rohr, and Emerson. Sounds like a great Easter Gathering. Hope you are there.

Speaker: Ron Skowronski
Coffee Hours: Marge Gillies
Usher: Patty Lisk

March 10: Eclipse

Before there was Netflix, there was the Eclipse, a light-show in the sky that inspired great feats of human imagination and storytelling. As the solar eclipse approaches, we'll be exploring the significance of eclipses in world religions and mythologies.

Adult Education Class, March 10, 12:30 - 1:30

Speaker: John Snodgrass
Coffee Hour: Kathy McCunn and Wally Lamb:
Usher: Patty Lisk

March 17: Ain't God a hoot?!

With so much sadness in our world, can humor help restore us to balance? Our speaker will share his perspective on the power of humor. Participants are requested to bring with them a joke or two that may be shared during this joyful service. Let us also remember... It will also be St. Patrick Day ☘

Speaker: Ron Skowronski
Coffee Hour: Paul Brundage
Usher: Patty Lisk

March 24: Luck of the UUs

What, you think there are no Irish UUs? Come be filled with some shenanigans and malarkey about St Patrick and connections to UUs. You might just find a pot of gold this Sunday

Speaker: Susan Frawley
Coffee Hour: Marie Spears Howard
Usher: Patty Lisk

March 31: Easter Service

Speaker: John Snodgrass
Coffee Hour: Erica Kopp
Usher: Patty Lisk

President's Report

As we approach our annual meeting on May 19, I encourage your active participation and input.

If you're aware of potential speakers for the summer, please share their information.

Join us for an adult Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday after service – a joyful celebration for our community.

Additionally, mark your calendars for the GED graduation on April 11; reach out to Erica if you'd like to contribute to this special event.

Let's continue to foster a sense of community and engagement in our small church.

Erica

President of the Board

St Patrick's Day 2019



UUA

We Were Always Here

By [Connie Simon](#)

February 28, 2024

“White supremacy, as a culture, wants to claim anything of value and get you to believe that nobody else had an intellectual tradition.”

—Dr. Takiyah Nur Amin

As a new UU in Philadelphia, I’d walk through the church doors every Sunday and see a portrait of Frances Ellen Watkins Harper. I’d known of her only as a writer. Before 2009, I had no idea that she was a Unitarian and a member of my home congregation. When someone lists Unitarians or Universalists, they usually name white men from the nineteenth century: Channing, Parker, Thoreau, and maybe Ballou. Never anyone Black like me.

Maybe that’s why I was stunned when, at a recent visit to a congregation, a member came up to me and shared their understanding that Unitarian Universalism is a relatively new religion, and they learned it was started by James Reeb on his trip down South in 1965. I was too stunned in the moment to even process that, or ask who had taught them that. Even if it was a misunderstanding, it’s a telling one: the assumption that our faith arose from a white founder.



I used to teach a UU history class for one of our Regions, and I would always ask participants if they were aware that a person from Africa was one of the first proponents of Unitarian theology. *No*, they would say. *That’s not possible.*

Arius was a religious leader born in Libya, Northern Africa, who argued against the trinitarian view that God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were one: "If the Father begat the Son, then he who was begotten had a beginning in existence, and from this it follows there was a time when the Son was not." He was declared a heretic at the Council of Nicea in 325 CE—a bit before James Reeb. While some white UUs would prefer to think of Arius as European, the fact is that this Black ancestor has shaped our faith for nearly two thousand years.

A piece of "the free and responsible search for truth and meaning" includes being responsible in how you partake of the stories of others—for example, are you considering *all* the stories? It's not responsible to say that people who look like me weren't part of this tradition—because we were. As I heard Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed say years ago, we were always here.

Prayer

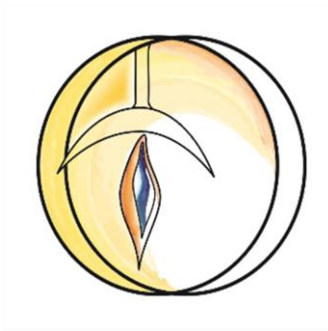
Spirit of Understanding, kindle the flames of our curiosity, opening our hearts and minds to the untold stories that ground us and shape this faith. Show us the depth and breadth of our spiritual roots. Give us the wisdom to value these stories for the gifts they are.

About the Author



Rev [Connie Simon](#) (she/her) serves as Interim Minister of the UU Church of Davis in Davis, California. Committed to supporting each of us find our inner divine, she describes her ministry as "helping people heal from the inside-out so they can do the outside-in work our world so desperately needs."

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/we-were-always-here>



Return Service Requested
March 2024

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