

# Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Niagara

June 2017

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](mailto:uuniagara@gmail.com) or click the link. Please spread the word.

Many thanks to our contributors Marge Gillies, Betsy Diachun, Judy Bongiovanni, and Susan Frawley.

## **Sunday Services 11:00am**

### **June 4: “Tooth and Consequence”**

How is religion like dentistry? And how is dentistry like religion? What can these two painful phenomena teach us about each other, and our place in the world?

**John Snodgrass**

*Coffee Hour Host: Jen Hill and Paul Bradford*

*Usher: Marge Gillies*

### **June 11: “Fake Priest: A sermon from inside the Erie County Holding Center”**

Called by his UU values, Bob LaVallee participated in a protest at the Erie County Holding Center and was arrested. During his brief time inside, he learned a few things about how the jail is run, what ministerial authority can (and can't) do, and what the beloved community might look like.

**Robert Lavallee**

*Coffee Hour Host: Jesse Higuera*

*Usher: Peter Diachun*

### **June 18: “Say my Name Service and Flower communion”**

Our Annual Flower communion is part of a special service where we acknowledge the inherent worth and dignity of all by saying our names and acknowledging the names of those who have not had their names said aloud in church.

**Susan Frawley**

*Coffee Hour Host: Board Trustees*

*Usher: Erica Kopp*

**Summer programs begin June 25.**

## Minister's Message

Goodbye, so long, farewell, my friends,  
Goodbye, so long, farewell.  
We'll see you soon again, my friends,  
So goodbye, so long, farewell.”

These are the opening words of the goodbye song my kids sang every week at their Music together class. I thought of this song as I sat to write a closing message for my time as your Intern Minister. It has been my extreme honor to work with, sit with, pray with and worship with you this year. I have learned so much about Niagara Falls and the FUUN church. I have gotten know about the wide range of concerns that FUUN church puts its heart and energy into supporting and helping. I have said to many that the heart of FUUN lies in its commitment to social justice and to each other. I have seen how you hold each other up in times of sorrow or grief, how you celebrate each other's milestones and achievements and how you work tirelessly to create a home for strangers to find and come and become family. This is what our UU faith is all about.

Together, we have increased our connections to other liberal faith church's in Niagara Falls, we have reached out to the LGBTQ community and given shelter to a community that had no place to come together. Together, we have taken care of our brothers and sisters in need in Niagara Falls by collecting materials. Together, we have held information and media sharing with our larger community and engaged in dialogues to further understanding and connection. Together, we brought acts of kindness to a community when it was suffering. Together, we have talked to each other about our faith and how we walk in it each day.

I could not have had a better experience than the one you gave me this year. I am indebted to the Lay Committee who gave of their time to meet with me and guide me; Betsy Diachun, Paul Brundage and Marge Gillies. My experience with the care committee has broadened my understanding of how small churches take care of each other. Thanks to Shelly Baxter, Judy Bongiovanni, Peter Diachun and Marge Gillies for trusting me and enriching me.

My children have been so welcomed and loved by you all. They beg to come to “the bedrock church” (as they call it). The future of this church lies in its welcoming of families and children and you have demonstrated that you are committed to that in how you have regarded mine.

As I move on in ministry, I know I will not stray from FUUN. I intend to stay

connected. You have gotten into my heart. You live there now. We are connected in our missions.

So, as they sing at Music Together:

Goodbye, so long, farewell.  
Goodbye to everybody here,  
Goodbye, so long, farewell.  
Goodbye, so long, farewell my friends,  
Goodbye, so long, farewell.  
We'll see you soon again,  
And then we'll make worship together again.

## **President's' Message**

The 2016-2017 Church year is drawing to a close. First came the canvassing numbers which came in slightly lower than last year since our membership base has decreased. Unfortunately most expenses do not decrease so we'll have to work hard to meet our financial goals.

Then on May 21, 2017 we held our 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. At the meeting Teresa Labuszewski was elected to the Board and would be willing to serve as co-president in 2018-19. We still had one spot to fill but, at coffee hour, Erica Kopp stated that she would be willing to be the other new member serving as co-president with Teresa. We thank Erica for agreeing to this arrangement which is conditional upon congregational approval.

We also wish to thank our retiring Board members: past President, Marge Gillies, and Paul Brundidge, who completed an unfilled term for us after finishing his own term. They both worked hard during the last year. And, with our limited numbers, we may see them back on the Board in the future.

Our formal Sunday services end as of June 18 but summer programs are already being lined up. Peter Diachun has suggested that we include a monthly "Free Thinkers" program hopefully, to attract some unchurched people in the area. This will be tested this summer to see how our own members respond. Please be alert for these programs and give us lots of needed feedback. I believe the summer program will be further explained elsewhere in this newsletter.

As I take over the presidency I hope that all our local friends and members will continue to work with us. Your presence is needed and appreciated. Please try to attend programs and work on all that you can to help us grow and spread the idea of a liberal religion.

We love UU and YOU!

~Betsy Diachun

## UU Announcements

### **June 1<sup>st</sup> 5:00 City Hall Pride Flag Raising**

Join our Mayor, council people and the Rainbow City Coalition in raising the pride flag at City Hall, then stroll down to FUUN church for food trucks and the movie; Gender Revolution.

### **June 1<sup>st</sup> 6:30 Gender Revolution**

Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York and the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara will screen National Geographic's "Gender Revolution, A Journey with Katie Couric" on Thursday June 1st at 6:30 pm at the First Unitarian Universalist Church at 639 Main



Street in Niagara Falls, New York. The documentary explores the complex and continuous evolving topic of gender identity. Following the screening there will be a brief discussion of how we can create an inclusive community locally.

At 5:30 PM, before the screening, there will be food trucks in front of the church for time to socialize and discuss issues to come up in the movie.

Community agencies that provide affirming services to the LGBTQ population will have the opportunity to have representatives and resources available prior to the screening. Agencies can e-mail Lynne Neveu at [Lynne.Neveu@ppcwny.org](mailto:Lynne.Neveu@ppcwny.org) to reserve a table.

**The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara is a free and open religious community that believes a shared liberal religious community is vital to ourselves, our community, and the world.**

Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York provides high quality, nonjudgmental reproductive health care; promotes responsible and healthy sexuality; advocates for access to comprehensive health care; and supports those affected by sexual violence. Each year, PPCWNY serves over 31,000 women, men and teens throughout Central and Western New York.

## Heart Love and Soul



Baskets will be placed in vestibule for donations of toiletries for Heart Love & Soul community showers. Please donate hotel, airline or other "sample" size items such as shampoo, tissue, body wash, lotion, toothpaste, etc.

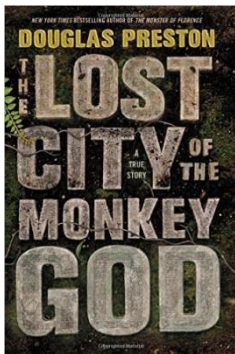
Place donations in either "Men" or "Women" basket as appropriate, and when baskets are full they will be delivered and replaced with new baskets.

THANK YOU!!

## Minister Community Hours

Summer recess for hours. Look for times in fall at new locations

## Book Discussion Group



Our readers and talkers will meet June 20 at 7pm in Unity Hall. We will be discussing *The Lost City of the Monkey God* by Douglas Preston

Our group tends to talk about ideas presented in our books so it is not necessary to have read the book to attend and share your opinions (although it helps). Everyone is welcome so join us for a chat.

## Meditation

### THE HOLY WORK OF SHOWING UP

By Ashley Horan

How is it with your soul?

This is the question that John Wesley, Anglican priest and the founder of Methodism, was known to ask of participants in small reflection groups. I ask you because, for me, this has been a hard week. So, beloveds, how is it with your souls?



If your response to that question is anything like mine, I want to invite you to pause as you read this. Take a deep breath, say a prayer, sing a song, light your chalice, feel the force of gravity pulling us all toward the same center—whatever helps you feel more rooted and less alone.

Now do it again. And again, and again.

And, once you feel that rootedness and connection, hear this:

**You are loved beyond belief.** You are enough, you are precious, your work and your life matter, and you are not alone. **You are part of a "we,"** a great cloud of witnesses living and dead who have insisted that this beautiful, broken world of ours is a blessing worthy of both deep gratitude and fierce protection. Our ancestors and our descendants are beckoning us, compelling us to onward toward greater connection, greater compassion, greater commitment to one another and to the earth. Together, **we are resilient and resourceful** enough to say "yes" to that call, to make it our life's work in a thousand different ways, knowing that we can do no other than bind ourselves more tightly together, and throw ourselves into **the holy work of showing up**, again and again, to be part of building that world of which we dream but which we have not yet seen.

Visual Art



*“We Reside” by Jennifer Morrow, Sedgwick, Maine*



## Community

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara

Facilities available for Wedding Services,  
Receptions, and Celebrations



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Niagara Falls, NY 14032 - 2566  
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E-mail [uuniagara@gmail.com](mailto:uuniagara@gmail.com)  
<http://firstuunf.org>  
Find us on Facebook



"Singles Social Club" established over 36 years ago. We are a friendly group that welcomes newcomers to our activities, game nights, dances, picnics, restaurants and much more....come join us! (Ages ranging 50 to 80 years old now, but all welcome) Call for more info 716-550-1232. Find us on facebook: Singles Social

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*If you have comments or articles you may submit them to  
[ericakopp@yahoo.com](mailto:ericakopp@yahoo.com) with the subject "Powerline*



June 2017

Return Service Requested

Niagara Falls, NY 14302

PO Box 2566

639 Main Street

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara

## UU Niagara Activities June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Don Reidell	29	30	31	Jun 1	2	3
4 John Snodgrass 8 Recycle	5	6	7	8 5:30p ■ Pride Unity Hall	9	10
11 Bob LaVallee	12	13	14	15 6p ■ Drumming	16	17
18 Flower Ceremony Susan Frawley 8 Recycle 12:30p Board Meeting	19	20 7p ■ Book Group	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	Jul 1