

# Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Niagara

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

June 2019

*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 Marie Howard, Peter Diachun, Erica Kopp, and Betsy Diachun.

## Sunday Programs

### **June 2:** “Rising Green”

We live thanks to a series of intricate and delicate relationships that ties us to the planet that formed us and continues to sustain us. Our human and more-than-human connections are all that keep us alive on a spinning ball in the middle of a vast universe. But we humans have frayed the interconnected web to its breaking point. How can we get back into right relationship with our planet?

**Kristina Church**

*Coffee hour: Stephen Wittkowski  
Usher: Paul Brundage*

### **June 9:** “HEY JUNE”

Colorful ways to express excitement about the coming of summer.

**John Snodgrass**

*Coffee hour: Carolyn and Winnie Storms  
Usher: Erica Kopp*

### **June 16:** “Thus Do We Covenant With Each Other...”

What does it mean to become a member of a UU congregation? How is a covenant different from a promise? What does our religious history tell us about this important aspect of our faith tradition?

**Sally Hamlin**

*Coffee hour: Board of Trustees  
Usher: Betsy Diachun*

## Summer Sunday Morning Programs

The last regular Sunday 11 AM Program until next Fall will be on June 16. Our first Summer Sunday 11 AM Program will be on June 23. We intend to have a Sunday Program every Sunday this Summer.

Traditionally our Church, like most Unitarian Universalist Churches, had no Sunday Programs during the Summer months. Now the reverse is true. For the last several years we have been open every Sunday with a program starting at our usual time of 11:00 AM. This summer we will follow the casual format of our Sunday Programs of recent years.

The most important difference between these casual Summer Programs and our Sunday Programs during the rest of the year is that they are lay led by our Members or other volunteers. They do not contain live music and usually have no music. They do contain much more audience participation, usually discussion about the topic of the day. There will be a single Order of Service which we will use each week.

Typically the person conducting the Program will present an article, short talk, demonstration, or video. Then the attendees respond. We do not have a coffee hour following the Program in the Auditorium. This is up to the presenter. Last year we sometimes had "simple" coffee hours with only coffee served. However we have also greatly enjoyed an excellent Ice Cream Social which has been provided by Nan and Glen once each year.

Please come to Church at 11 AM on Sundays this year. Some people like these programs better than our regular programs.

Please consider conducting a Sunday Program this Summer. It is easy, stress free, and fun. There is no pressure to be professional or scholarly. Share with the other attendees something in which you have an interest, or about which you have a passion.

If you want to produce a Sunday Program this Summer, see Peter to discuss it and select a date. More than one person can conduct a program together.

The last few years some days have been designated as Free Thinking Sundays. For this purpose we define Free Thinking below:

A Freethinker is one who forms opinions on the basis of reason, independent of authority. He/She is not necessarily an atheist, agnostic, or anti-religious.

You might choose to designate your program as a Free Thinking Sunday.

Let us all enjoy our Summer, including continuing our UU experience together!

Peter Diachun (716)754-2830 or [peter.diachun@gmail.com](mailto:peter.diachun@gmail.com)

## Announcements

Desi and Hector Rodriguez, our NYC friends who are with us in the summer, are going back to the City for 6 weeks. They will return then in time to help with our tag sale. In the meantime, check out the front doors of the church which Hector just painted for us! Thanks a lot, Hector!

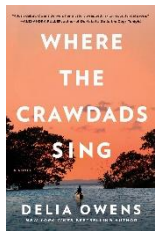
## BAZAAR news

It's getting closer. Mark you calendars, and save the dates. July 19 and 20. Church family and friends will have a preview sale on Thursday July 18. Times to follow. We still need workers. There is a signup sheet in Unity Hall ... Attached to the Bazaar calendar. Please sign up. You can start bringing things into the church. Sundays after Service would be great. Call me if you need a different day. Plants are still needed... Please let me know if you need help.



Thanx &  
Marie  
Call or text  
716-550-1438

## Book Group



Our next book group meeting will be on Wednesday, June 19th, from 5:00 to 6:00. We are going to read: Where the Crawdaddies Sing by D. Owens. This book is available on line from Kindle and at the library.

## UUA

### Everyone for Everyone

“I marched so that my children and grandchildren would have equality.”  
—Anita E. Baldwin

While attending a protest with my kids, we were standing around waiting for the “marching” part to begin. My middle child asked me what we were doing—meaning what were we waiting for in that moment, and when were things going to begin? My youngest (who was just beginning to gain some words) piped up, “We’re marshing!” with as much enthusiasm as she could muster.

When my mom marched in the 1960s, she not only marched for herself and others; she also marched for the kids and grandkids she might one day have. She believed that the sit-ins and protests would give her future family an equality that she didn’t have. She didn’t realize that we, her descendants, would one day march for those same rights.

Mom was saddened when I took my children to protest. She felt like she had let us down, and that her protesting and sit-ins and refusing to sit at the back of the bus were all for nothing. Why did she do all of that for us when we’re still protesting for the same rights she protested for all those years ago?

I often wonder about how, or if, things have really changed. I know that things are different—but inequality’s head is still reared in many ways. I wonder if my children will take my grandkids to march and protest for the same rights I protest over today. Will things change and look different, but still be there? Will I, like my mother, lament over failed efforts to bring about equity and justice? At what point does true change take effect?

For me, the answer is that people of color—and other marginalized people—can’t just *want* things to be different. It has to be everyone doing this work, no matter how uncomfortable or mundane or monotonous. It has to be *everyone* wanting things to be different for *everyone*.

### Prayer

Great Spirit of Life: May we live a life that is not in vain. May our works and deeds have meaning. May the path that our ancestors tread, that we follow and leave for others, lead to true equity and justice.

### About the Author



Rayla D. Mattson serves as the Director of Religious Education for the Unitarian Society of Hartford (Connecticut). Outside of congregational life, she is raising her three beautiful children as a single mom.

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara  
Facilities available for Wedding Services,  
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"Singles Social Club" established over 40 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 Club

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