

June 2011 **POWERLINE**  
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara



**Sunday Services (11:00am)**

Worship Associate Jeanne Aydelotte and Caring Circle Associate Marge Gillies

**June 5:** *The Web of All Existence* – Rev. Theresa Kime

With summer coming close to us and spring in full bloom, we'll consider our relationship to nature and the possibilities for spiritual awakening it offers.

Please bring a dish to share for a congregational potluck after the service.

**June 12:** *So, do you think the right way?* – Yvonne Stocker

Poets, chemists, composers, mathematicians, musicians think differently from each other. Inspiration is the magic that leads to discovery. These fuzzy thoughts or perceptions are but a first step that might be right or might set things right. But how do we sift right and yet respect each other?

**June 19:** *Staying Power* – Rev. Theresa Kime

Be with us today for the last formal service of our congregational year. At today's service, we will share in our flower communion ceremony.

*Please bring a flower or flowers to exchange with others.*

**June 26:** *Summer Services* begin – lay led

**Minister's Weekend Schedule:**

**Saturday, June 4:**

10:00am-1:30pm: Calls and visits. If you'd like to schedule a meeting with Rev. Terry during this time, please email her at [tesskime@gmail.com](mailto:tesskime@gmail.com) or leave a message on the church answering machine.

2:00- 3:30pm: Planning for Growth Team

**Sunday, June 5:**

Noon-2:00pm: Potluck luncheon

2:00-4:00pm: Board meeting

**Saturday, June 18:**

9:30-10:30am: Worship Committee

10:30am-Noon: Caring Circle

Noon: Lunch at Café Lola on Third Street

1:30-2:30pm: Children's Religious Education Committee

### **From Your Minister:**

June brings the arrival of summer and the summer solstice - the longest day and shortest night of the year. This is a time to celebrate and reflect on the lights in our life and the lights that we bring to life.

Where is our brightness - what makes us shine - feel most alive and engaged with life? Do we find time in our life to savor that brightness?

How do we let our light shine? What do we do that brightens the day for us, for others and for the wider community?

I invite us all to pause at the turning point of spring into summer and consider these questions. Perhaps an answer will emerge that will give us new direction or clarity about how we're living life and if it is in keeping with how we wish to be.

Over the summer months of July and August, I will keep you all in my prayers and good wishes, and hope you'll do the same for me.

And I hope the summer shines brightly in your hearts,  
Wishing you all every blessing,

*Terry*

### **President's Corner**

I am excited to be the President this year. This church has been a welcoming community for me and my family for the past six years; it is very important to us.

Last year we started many important activities. I look forward to continuing these important social and community activities with all of you. I look forward to hearing about new ideas from the congregation.

Of course one of the most critical activities is Imagining Our Future. Our FUUN Futures Committee will spearhead and coordinate but cannot do it alone – we need ALL of you to help! We cannot be invisible this year. We must remember that although each one of us might only feel that we can only do a tiny bit, that is never an excuse to do nothing.

I wish each and every one of you an enjoyable and restful summer and hope to see you at the picnics.

*Erica Kopp*

### **FUUN Futures**

The newly constituted FUUN Futures Committee, comprised of past President Peter Diachun, President Erica Kopp, and President-elect Ed Tormay, met on Wednesday, May 25, to begin a process of brainstorming our church's long term future. It quickly became apparent that brainstorming must, from the very beginning, include any and all interested church members. To that end, the committee will speak to this during coffee hour on June 5, in preparation for a June 19 brainstorming session also to be offered during coffee hour. This conversation can be as wide-ranging and as out-of-the-box as members wish it to be. We are imagining our future! We hope that this opportunity will give everyone the chance to think big, believing that all things are possible!

*Ed Tormay*

## **Financial Reports**

The following is a condensed summary of the financial progress and condition of the church. Complete financial reports are available to any member on a one time or monthly basis. Request them from any Board member.

	Church Year 8/1/2010 - 7/31/2011 Actual Year to Date at the end of the month of April	Church Year 8/1/2010 - 7/31/2011 Budget for the Full Year
Income from Operations	\$29,836	\$39,300
Income from Investments	\$2,754	\$4,000
Total Income	\$32,590	\$43,300
Expenses from Operations	\$49,325	\$66,100
Capital Contributions Less Capital Expenses	-\$265	-\$4,000
Change in Money Assets for the Year	-\$16,999	-\$26,800
 Total Money Assets as of April 2011	 \$99,407	

*Peter Diachun*

## **Board of Trustees News**

April 20 Board meeting highlights

Contract renewal with Rev. Terry Kime was reviewed and discussed. The board will recommend a renewal of the contract with thanks to Rev. Terry for her fine work. Proposed budget was reviewed and discussed and will be recommended for approval to the congregation. Planning for the future of the church was discussed at length and the board will recommend next year be devoted to looking at the possible future of our church. An oversight committee will coordinate efforts and see the work stays on track. The congregation will be updated regularly on progress. First Friday potlucks were reviewed and final plans made. Thanks to Ed Tormay for his work on a successful pledge drive. A new policy regarding political campaigning was adopted. Preparation of the annual report was discussed. The list of voting members was reviewed. Approval was given to liquidate some securities as we need the money to pay our bills. Next Board meeting – Sunday, June 5 at 1:30pm. All members are welcome.

*Judy*

## **Annual Meeting - Sunday, May 15 - Highlights**

Minutes of Special Meeting on Bylaws and Minutes of the last Annual Meeting were approved. Contract with Consulting Minister Terry Kime was approved with the understanding that the lack of pay raise in no way reflected on the quality of her work with us but simply our lack of funds. The proposed budget for 2011-2012 was approved. The capital budget was approved. Teresa Labuszewski and Ed Tormay were elected to the board. Ed Tormay elected as the President-elect. A Futures Committee was approved to oversee the study of possibilities for the future of our congregation. It is comprised of past President Peter Diachun, President Erica Kopp and President-elect Ed Tormay. There will be plenty for everyone to do in this effort throughout the year.

*Judy*

### **Come Grow with us**

Much has happened since we embarked on the Planning for Growth exercises with the six other small churches in our district.

Some of the things that have happened since we started on the Planning for Growth:

- Membership has increased with new people, most of whom participate
- Several long-time members have died
- The number of active members is roughly constant
- An active and functioning Caring Circle was formed and works fairly well – it's not perfect but we are trying to look out for each other
- An educational 'Outreach' has run three times (annually) with an increasing number of non members (11, 16, 20) and a constant 11 members participating. Some non-members might be potential new members - some have joined - others such as the Sisters of St Francis have gotten to know us and like us better
- Three small group activities have taken place, involving almost all members with a standard core of 11 participants. They enabled us to get to know each other as real people with strengths and weaknesses and fears
- Our worship services have become more inclusive. Rotating Worship Associates and Caring Circle Leaders carry forth during all the Sunday services, not just when Rev. Terry is with us
- A regular monthly social function (First Friday Potluck) including invitation to the larger community is working
- The revival of Circle Dinners was a big success
- Greeter training was completed, and this year we have a greeter at almost every service
- The Board developed a policy manual and had a very transparent budgeting process
- The team reviewed demographic data which provides some ideas about source of new members and alternate sources of income or 'bridge financing' as input to the FUUN Futures Committee

Peter Diachun, Rev. Terry Kime and Yvonne Stocker participated in the latest retreat at Canandaigua on May 13 and 14. We bring back a new project in which any member of our church might participate along with members of the Fredonia and Auburn churches - the creation of a Virtual Church. Speak to Yvonne to learn more about it!

*Yvonne*

### **Monthly Outreach**

For the month of May our Outreach donation of \$141.60 went to the Magdalene Project, a most worthy local cause from which prostitutes and street people receive help, food and community.

We are going a bit farther afield on June 19 as we donate to Rev. Richard Gilbert's Interfaith IMPACT of NYS. This group lobbies the State Legislature from a liberal religious point of view. Since the religious conservatives continue to escalate their influence on the Legislature, Albany needs to hear how strong the other side is and how we are thinking.

*Betsy*

### **Caring Circle**

The Caring Circle will continue its work throughout the summer. If there is a need please contact one of the Caring Circle: Peter Diachun, Marge Gillies, Joy Rowlinson, Nan Simon, Yvonne Stocker, or Judy Bongiovanni.

*Judy*

### **Our People**

We extend our congratulations to Judy Bongiovanni who won first place in a needlework competition sponsored by the Amherst Museum. Judy's completely original design of bobbin lacework is an "Iris Mat". Those of you familiar with her work can just imagine how lovely this piece is. We hope to view it once it is no longer being displayed at the Museum.

Jack Knight of Guelph, Ontario died on May 24. His wife, Elinor Leighton Knight, has been a long-time supporter of our church and a friend to many of us. We fondly remember many fun times with both Jack and Elinor. We send our warm, loving thoughts to Elinor and her family at this time.

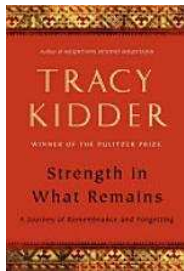
*Betsy*

### **Adult Reflection and Exploration**

We will be resuming our thoughtful and focused discussions on Sunday October 16 after Columbus Day in the Founders Room at 9:45am. If you would prefer a different time or place, please contact Judy Bongiovanni.

*Judy*

### **Book Discussion Group**



On the second Tuesday of each month we meet, talk and laugh with a good book. This month we will discuss *Strength In What Remains* by Tracy Kidder. This is the story of a young medical student in Africa who escapes the genocide in Burundi and Rwanda and ends up in New York City. He is helped and returns to medical school. Read the book for the rest of the story. We will meet June 21 (not our usual second Tuesday) in Unity Hall at 7:00pm. Come and join your opinions and thoughts with ours.

*Judy*

### **Children's Religious Education**

This year the children worked on the Seven UU Principles.

Here is a children's rainbow to help remember the Seven Principles:

**Red-** Respect the importance and value of every person.

**Orange-** Offer fair and kind treatment to everyone.

**Yellow -**Yes to spiritual growth and learning together.

**Green -**Grow by exploring ideas and finding your truth.

**Blue -**Believe in our ideals and voice your vote.

**Indigo-** Insist on justice, freedom, and peace for all.

**Violet -** Value our responsibility in the web of life.

In June, the children are planning a trip to the aquarium.

*Erica*

## **Facebook**

The church is now on the social network, Facebook. If you have a Facebook account, search for First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara. To receive the information on our Facebook page you must select "Like." We update the page with each week's service and social events. There are pictures of our last potluck, movie nite, and the children's activities.

If you are unsure, I can assist you. I also can show you the Facebook page during coffee hour if you do not have an account.

Every time I update the status it will be sent to everyone who has "liked" the page. If anyone comments or likes the status it will be sent to all of their friends on Facebook and so on. Information is shared exponentially.

Ask me any questions! Call or text 523-8103, e-mail [ericakopp@yahoo.com](mailto:ericakopp@yahoo.com) or message me on Facebook.

*Erica*

## **Social**

### ***Potluck***

- **June 5** luncheon in Unity Hall
- **September 4** – cookout and social time in the back yard of the church

### ***Summer Picnics***

- **July 10** – Angela Flower – 6933 Oxford St. Niagara Falls, ON L2J 1J3
- **July 24** – Elaine Pethybridge – 909 Orchard Dr. Lewiston, NY 14092-1815
- **August 7** – Karen Labosky – cottage 27 L 87 Lakeshore, Long Beach, ON

All these picnics begin after Sunday service – about 12:30pm. The postal address for each picnic site may be used as the destination for GPS tools. For further geographical assistance please speak with Betsy Diachun.

For all these events please bring a dish to pass.

## **Summer Birthdays**

### **June**

- 7<sup>th</sup> – Terry Kime
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Jennifer Gray
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Kathy McCunn
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Ed McGreevy
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Andy Peterson

### **July**

- 5<sup>th</sup> – Lou Ceraso
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Austin Pietrobono
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Logan Iannone
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Marge Gillies
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Leslie A Pietrobono
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Ezekiel J. Gray
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Mike Bailey
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Jordan West

### **August**

- 7<sup>th</sup> – Carole Manson
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Paul Brundage
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Zachary Chrzanowski

Invitation to the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilgrimage Barneveld

# 88th Annual Pilgrimage

## Unitarian Church of Barneveld, N.Y.

Sunday, June 19, 2011, 11a.m. Service  
10a.m. Reception on church lawn



Special Guest Speaker  
**John Zogby**

**Secular Spiritualism and the New American Dream**  
Leading public opinion expert. Founder, former CEO/President of the internationally recognized polling firm Zogby International. Mr. Zogby is Chairman of the Board and Chief Insights Officer of IBOPE Zogby International.

A columnist for Forbes magazine, a founding contributor to the Huffington Post, an author and a frequently featured expert in articles in leading newspapers and magazines and on radio and television, Mr. Zogby's insights into politics, society and culture are fascinating and informative.

Reverend Chris Antal, Reverend Lucy Ijams, Dave Munro of the St. Lawrence U.U. District Board & the combined Choirs of the Barneveld, Utica and Little Falls U.U. Churches.

Lunch at Unity Hall and the Sophia Mappa Quilt raffle follows the service.

Unitarian Church of Barneveld  
Park Avenue, Barneveld, NY 13304

Unity Hall  
101 Vanderkemp Avenue, Barneveld

More Info & Directions:  
[www.uchurchbarneveld.org](http://www.uchurchbarneveld.org)  
[www.unityhall.com](http://www.unityhall.com)



## The Real Role of the Editor

In writing, an editor plays a variety of roles: initiator, organizer, advisor, gatekeeper, encourager, reviser and polisher. Among an editor's most onerous roles are pleader, soother of feelings, and the bottom-line role of relentless nag. All of the articles published here are worth the reader's attention, but some required far more effort than others to cajole from the author.

Ours is the age of endemic prevarication. Promising an article by a given date and failing to deliver for circumstances within one's control (such as management of time) is disappointing and unfortunate. My beliefs are far too secular to make me a good Quaker, but one principle worth accepting is "Make your eye, eye and your nay, nay."

To those authors (you know who you are) who delivered clean copy on time, my heartfelt thanks.

*Yvonne*

## UU Niagara Activities – June 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	29					
11am Sunday Service		30	31	1	2	3 2pm Planning for Growth Team
	5					
11am Sunday Service		6				
12pm Potluck Luncheon	6:30pm Habitat for Humanity		7	8	9	10 9am Saturday Work Party
1:30pm Board Meeting						
	12					
11am Sunday Service		13	14	15	16	17 9:30am Worship Team 10:30am Caring Circle 1:30pm Children's RE Team
	19					
11am Sunday Service		20	21 7pm Book Discussion Group	22	23	24
	26					
11am Sunday Service		27	28	29	30	

If you have comments, arguments or articles you may submit them to the editor either electronically [yvonestocker@gmail.com](mailto:yvonestocker@gmail.com) or by mail 4118 Bell Street, Niagara Falls NY 14305-1606 or phone 716 278-0176

*Yvonne*