

March 2011 **POWERLINE**

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara



Sunday Services (11:00am)

Worship Associate Jean Speck and Caring Circle Associate Marge Gillies

March 6: *Margaret Fuller and her UU Transcendentalist Legacy* – Rev. Theresa Kime
This Sunday we'll consider the amazing biography of Margaret Fuller in preparation for the re-enactment of her life to be held at our church on March 12.
[This service was postponed from February.]

March 13: *Simply Pray: a UU Journey to Prayer* – Rev. Tina Simson
Director of Lay Ministries, First Unitarian Church of Rochester For many of us, prayer is not simple but complicated. Coming from other faiths, we may encounter prayer with creeds and images we just can't embrace. Yet perhaps we still have a yearning to connect to something larger than ourselves. Join us as we unwrap prayer and find its possible challenges and gifts to our faith tradition.

March 20: *The Overflowing Heart* – Rev. Theresa Kime
Today we'll explore some of the spiritual implications of cultivating generosity.

March 27: *Taxing Our Sanity* – Rev. Don Reidell
Taxes and our domestic tranquility.

Minister's Weekend Schedule

Friday, March 4:

6:00pm: First Friday Potluck

Saturday, March 5:

9:00-10:00am: Children's Religious Exploration Committee

Noon: Join for lunch at Café Lola

1:00-3:30pm: Pastoral Care Training/Refresher Session 4 – final session

Saturday, March 19:

10:00-11:00am: Worship Team/Committee

11:00am-Noon: Caring Circle

Noon: Join for lunch at Murphy's Cafe

1:15-2:30pm: Planning for Growth Team

2:30-4:30pm: Calls and visits

Sunday, March 20:

1:00-3:00pm: Board meeting in the Founders Room

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 2, 10:00am-Noon at the Lewiston Library
Rev. Terry will be leading the annual "community outreach" class. This one is entitled "Forgiveness: Freeing the Heart." All invited to join for lunch afterwards at Syros.

FROM YOUR MINISTER:

March - A transition month. Warm weather might surprise us during this time, but cold weather usually remains the norm. Sometimes we see crocus blooming out through the snow, a sign of promise that change is on the way.

What are the transitions in your life at this time? Health, relationships, home, family, work, all are places we experience change and transition at various times. What are yours and how are you finding support through them? Remember that our Caring Circle members (Marge Gillies, Judy Bongiovanni, Yvonne Stocker and Peter Diachun) are available to listen and to help find practical support.

What are the transitions in our congregation right now? How are we engaging one another and our larger community? What transitions do we see on the horizon? What ones do we welcome? What ones might we wish to avoid?

Transitions are often bumpy times and they also have the possibility of holding promise for new engagement with life. May the transitions we encounter lead to new insight and fresh starts.

With every good wish to each of you,

Terry

President's Corner

By the time you read this you will have received a detailed message about a combined program our church has started with New Hope Baptist Church. This is being carefully set up. There is some enthusiasm that our program could not only lead to better understanding between our diverse groups, but also towards some real cooperation among churches in our community. We anticipate finding areas where we may be more efficient by sharing some of our assets and resources. More important is to learn enough about one another to support each other. For example, we now know that New Hope operates a used clothing closet for those who need it. Recently some of our members have considered establishing such a service. It will be much better to cooperate with New Hope by donating clothing to their program. Some of our members can even work on this established project if it is something they choose to do. It seems clear that by cooperating and sharing, the churches in the community can serve everyone better. The first step is to get to know each other.

As a small church we do not have much strength or power alone. We can, however, be a substantial factor in bringing together the churches, especially the old line churches which are suffering similar declining memberships we face. Perhaps there are even secular groups which could be included. Everything worthwhile has to start somewhere. Right here, right now, seems like a good time and place!

Budget Process

The Finance Committee has now conducted several sessions to collect comments on each line of the budget. After a few more of these sessions all these comments will be circulated to all members. The next scheduled session will be held on March 13 after coffee hour. The comments recorded so far are available to anyone who requests them.

Work Parties

The next second Saturday morning work party will be on March 12. Please consider participating if you can.

Heat Control System

The new control systems for the furnaces are now complete and operating. They control all the furnaces, except the one on the third floor. Thanks to everyone who has helped install and set them up. It promises to provide better control, save money on fuel, and benefit our environment. We get all these benefits with a much easier system which can be operated from any computer on the internet. I am writing a simple document on operating this system.

Peter Diachun

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	Church Year 8/1/2010 - 7/31/2011 Budget for the Full Year
Income from Operations	\$20,368.93	\$39,300.00
Income from Investments	\$1,923.11	\$4,000.00
Total Income	\$22,292.04	\$43,300.00
Expenses from Operations	\$29,844.43	\$66,100.00
Capital Contributions Less Capital Expenses	-\$265.00	-\$4,000.00
Change in Money Assets for the Year	-\$7,817.39	-\$26,800.00
Total Money Assets as of January 31 2010	\$108,588.41	

Board of Trustees News

February 20 Board meeting highlights

The Men, Women and Margaret Fuller program was discussed and use of the sanctuary and Unity Hall, rent free was approved. We will be having a potluck dinner with another church from our area. Plans for circle dinners and the pledge drive were reviewed.

Welcome to the Mr. Jostein and Mrs. Reinhild Vadla who joined the church today. Next Board meeting – Sunday, March 20 at 1:00pm. All members are welcome.

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 or message me on Facebook.

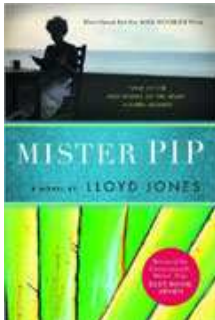
Erica

Adult Reflection and Exploration

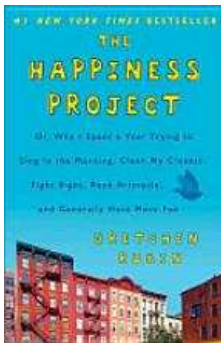
We continue to meet in relative peace on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am in the Founders Room. The articles for discussion are from the UUWorld magazine. Specific questions are listed in the activities sent out weekly. Come and join the lively repartee

Judy

Book Discussion Group



On March 8 we will discuss *Mr. Pip* by Lloyd Jones. This haunting fable explores the powers and limitations of art for a child trapped between rebels and soldiers as well as between her teacher and her fiercely religious mother.



On April 12 we will return to non fiction with *The Happiness Project* by Gretchen Rubin. The Happiness Project: Or, Why I Spent a Year Trying to Sing in the Morning, Clean My Closets, Fight Right, Read Aristotle, and Generally Have More Fun. A thoughtful and prescriptive work on happiness filled with practical advice, sharp insight, charm, and humor.

Judy

Operation Paperback: success!

Two car loads of paperback books and magazines were collected for Operation Paperback as donations to US Armed Forces personnel overseas. That' s 17 boxes of leisure reading, supplementing the offering on Feb. 20 for our monthly Outreach effort. Thank you to all contributors, those who hauled books upstairs, and especially Ed McGreevy and his Niagara University associates. Their last minute books doubled FUUN' s donation.

Janet

NOAH

The regular NOAH Board meeting is March 1, 2011 at 6:00pm at the NOAH office, 1419 Falls St. Niagara Falls. This meeting is open to all members of our congregation. Consult Ed McGreevy for further information.

Ed

News From CRE

In February the children learned about the fourth principle. They also hosted movie nite with popcorn, chocolate and pop.

In March we will work on the fifth principle, the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

Madison and Vicky will lead the congregation with their opening words once a month. The words are:

*We are the church of an open mind,
We are the church of a loving heart,
We are the church of the helping hands,
We are the church that cares for the earth,
We are the church that works for friendship and peace.*

Anyone interested in helping CRE, call or text: 523-8103 or email Erica ericakopp@yahoo.com or Ed Tormay columbaltd22@gmail.com

Anyone working with the children must sign a new Ethics Form.

Erica, Ed

UUNY Cluster

The UUNY Cluster's next meeting is Thursday, March 10 at 7:00pm at the UU Church of Amherst.

Yvonne

March Birthdays

- 1st – Betsy Diachun
- 5th – Elaine Pethybridge
- 7th – Judy Bongiovanni
- 9th – Bill Burke
- 13th – Andrea Galey
- 15th – Carmedy West
- 18th – Joey Pietrobono
- 23rd – Marn Weld
- 30th – Donna Marie Goss

SOCIAL

* March Potluck

We will celebrate the start of Circle Dinners with a Round Potluck on March 4 at 6:00pm in Unity Hall. Bring a dish to pass – make anything you like but it must be **Round** or **Circular** or **Tubular** served on a round plate of course! Following the dinner we will adjourn to the Sanctuary to sing rounds led by Cheryl Rich who is coming all the way from Fredonia around Lake Erie to lead our rounds! Any Questions – ask Marie.

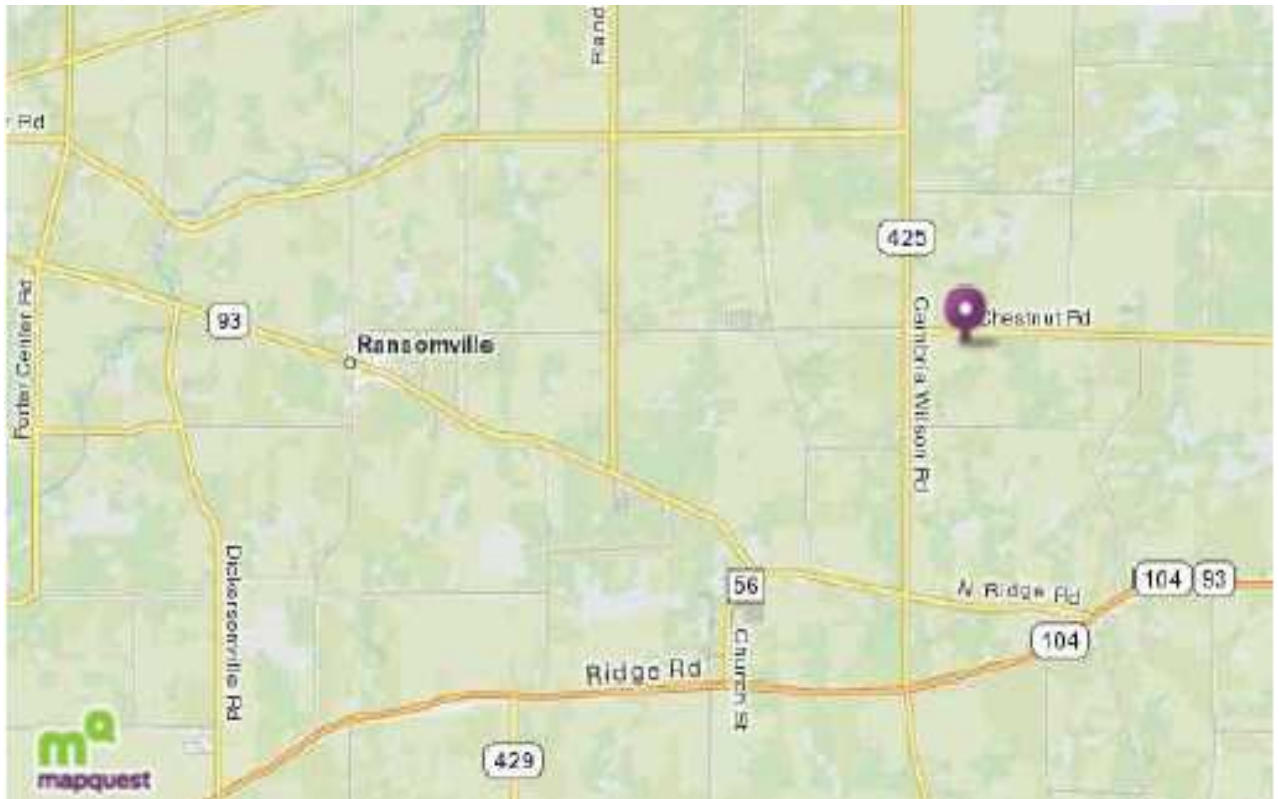
*Drum Circle

We are drumming again. Carolyn Zimmermann will lead the drum circle on March 5 at 4:30pm in Unity Hall. It will last about one hour followed by coffee and cookies. There is no need for talent, rhythm or experience or even a drum! You may bring your own drum or use one of ours. Children are welcome. Visit Carolyn's website drum4health.net. For more information call Erica 523-8103 or ericakopp@yahoo.com or via Facebook

We ask for a \$5 donation.

*Extra Social Event

Every year on the six Sundays during Lent the South Wilson Fire Hall on Chestnut Road, Wilson, puts on a tremendous brunch from 9:00am-1:00pm. Usually, some church members attend on Palm Sunday at 9:00am. This year Palm Sunday falls on April 17, so keep the date open. The meal costs about \$10 for adults and less for children. There is plenty of time to get back for our church service after eating. Dining at the South Wilson Fire Hall is definitely a slice of Americana (especially the sticky buns). Direct any questions to Betsy.



South Wilson Fire Hall 4194 Chestnut Rd Wilson, NY 14172

From the Archives Closet

WW Kincaid and Old Fort Niagara

Former church member Robert Gagen communicated recently. Along with a generous gift for FUUN, he sent copies of part of a booklet on the history of Old Fort Niagara and the large part played by William Wallace Kincaid in its restoration.

WW Kincaid was a charter member of First Unitarian Church of Niagara Falls. As the president of Spirella Corset Co., he was “a man with wide political, business and social contacts,” according to the booklet. Apparently the French Castle was in ruins when Mr. Kincaid was appointed to a committee to raise money for repairs. In the mid-1920’s he was instrumental in badgering local Congressional representatives to appropriate funds for the Castle’s restoration.

He was named the first president of the Old Fort Niagara Association and felt it was a “privilege” to raise money to furnish the building.

Mr. Kincaid’s legacy now is a major historical and tourist attraction in Youngstown. What with the bicentennial of the War of 1812 approaching, the influence of a church founder might be recalled in bringing the fort from decay.

Thanks to Mr. Gagen for passing this information along.

Temple Beth El and the Unitarians

Oral history says that the Unitarian Church, our predecessor, and Temple Beth El, the Jewish house of worship on Ashland Ave., have enjoyed friendly relations for almost a hundred years. The Archivist read in the Temple’s Centennial book that the Unitarians held services in the Ashland Ave. building.

After boggling her eyes reading microfilm copies of the *Niagara Falls Gazette* for 1919 and 1920, the Archivist still has not found notices to the public to join the Unitarians in worship at the Temple. The Temple was dedicated in 1915. The Unitarian Church was

dedicated in January 1922, but notices in the newspaper advertised services at 910 Main St. at Grey and Trigg Hall.

Does anyone care? Is this a quixotic search? Maybe the Temple archives go into more detail? Stay tuned if this interests you at all.

Janet

UU Niagara Activities – March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 6p Potluck - Game Night	5 9a CRE Committee 11a Pastoral Meeting 1p Pastoral Care Training/Refresher Session 4 4:30p Drum Circle
6 11a Sunday 7 Service		8 7p Book Discussion Group	9	10 6p Dinner - joint potluck with New Hope Baptist	11 7p Show Rehearsal	12 9a Saturday Work Party 7p Men, Women and Margaret Fuller
13 11a Sunday 14 Service		15	16	17	18	19 10a Worship Team 11a Caring Circle 1:15p Planning for Growth Team
20 11a Sunday Service 1p Board Meeting	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 11a Sunday Service	28	29	30	31		

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

Yvonne