

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



Sunday Services (11:00am)

Theme: **Vision**

Worship Associate Paul Brundage and Caring Circle Associate Peter Diachun

November 6: *Why Bother with Religion?* – Rev. Theresa Kime

What is it that draws us into religious community – to THIS Unitarian Universalist community? What is the vision that holds and enfolds us, enabling us to stay connected? Let's explore some possibilities..

Potluck Lunch following service – bring a dish to pass and share fellowship and food.

November 13: *Dreaming* – Yvonne Stocker

Dreaming is the most important element in the quest for truth. Come dream with me.

November 20: *Our Calling* – Rev. Theresa Kime

What engages us? How might we “deepen our understanding and expand our vision” as our UU Principles and Living Tradition closing puts it? We'll consider some answers.

November 27: *Paradox and the Dynamic Duo* – Rev. Donald Reidell

It is said that in spirit we never grow old. Perhaps, retaining the strength of a child's nature is the core ingredient.

Minister's Weekend Schedule

Saturday, November 5:

10:30am-Noon: *Discover Your Spiritual Type* a class open to the larger community to be held at the Community Room at Memorial Hospital in Niagara Falls. All welcome!

This is a good opportunity to invite a friend to a UU event

1:30-2:30pm: FUUtutes Committee meeting

2:30-3:30pm: Caring Circle meeting

Sunday, November 6:

Noon-2:00pm: Potluck Lunch

2:00-3:00pm: Stewardship Committee

Saturday, November 19:

10:00-11:00am: Children's Religious Exploration Committee meeting

11:00am-Noon: Worship Committee meeting

1:30-4:00pm: Calls and Visits

Sunday, November 20:

1:00-3:00pm: Board Meeting

FROM YOUR MINISTER:

November is traditionally a month when we are reminded of our many blessings. It's a time to examine our experiences in life, our opportunities and connections, and give thanks for all that has, and continues, to support, guide, and strengthen us to live with joy and compassion. It is also an opportunity to consider how we might pass blessings on, looking at where, in our lives, we might offer opportunity or connection or caring for another's well being.

The great Buddhist teacher Shantideva wrote in his teachings: "All who are unhappy in the world are so as a result of their desire for their own happiness. All those who are happy in this world are so as a result of their desire for the happiness of others." As with all Buddhist teachings, this teaching has something for each of us to consider and see how it rings true or not for the way we experience life. If it's helpful use it, and if not, to let it go.

However we celebrate Thanksgiving Day this year, I hope we will each take time during the month to offer thanks from a place deep in our hearts, and know the joy and refreshment of experiencing gratitude and appreciation.

With every good wish, and with my heartfelt thanks for your kindness and caring, which are such a blessing in my life and in the life of the communities we create together,

Terry

Discover Your Spiritual Type Class offered again!

If you missed it the first time, or would just like to repeat it, be sure to attend this class led by Rev. Terry for determining your most natural mode of spiritual engagement. Is yours a mystic, head, heart, or visionary spiritual type? Find out what your type needs in terms of spiritual practices and the challenges it has for you.

The class will be Saturday, November 5, from 10:30am-Noon at the Community Room of Niagara Falls Memorial Hospital. It is free and open to the public. Bring a friend and enjoy!

President's Corner

October was a rather quiet month. Creating publicity materials for November events was my main activity.

- I made flyers to promote 11/11/11 @ church Vets with Betsy
- I made flyers for Rev Terry's **Outreach Class** *What is your Spiritual Type* held this time at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center on November 5.
- I submitted our ad to GLYS including photos of the church. They emailed me saying they loved the ad. We were the only organization that mentioned the new marriage law!

Erica

Board of Trustees News

October 16 Board meeting highlights

Your Board met after church and reviewed committee reports. The Planning for Growth Team is finishing the three year program with the UUA and had a final retreat on October 14-15 in Canandaigua. They will submit a report that we will share with the congregation soon.

The FUUtures Committee also met on the 15th. One of their goals is to finish the timeline and also position the church's history with the history of the city of Niagara Falls and the country. They need your input. Some of our long time members could help us with that. For instance, when were we participating in the Women in Black Movement? Who was involved? I know several of our members were involved in the Civil Rights

Movement. Did the church as a whole get involved in local civil rights issues at that time? We need everyone to dig back into their memory banks and make the timeline a real historical document as well as a deeply personal one. To try and figure out where we want to go, it helps to know where we have been. I know we have members who can't attend who would be really helpful in this regard. Please contact one of the FUUtutes Committee: Peter Diachun, Ed Tormay or Erica Kopp.

We also decided we wanted to have a "Generosity Corner" in the Powerline. We all give our time and money to the church, but there are all sorts of things that get done by special little church fairies that never get acknowledged. For instance, did you know that Elaine Pethybridge does laundry for the church. When you have a clean table cloth or dish towel, it is thanks to her. If you know of any other special things that people do for the church that you feel should be celebrated, please tell Marie Howard or me. We are the Stewardship Committee which will meet with Rev. Terry November 5, after the potluck. If any of you are interested in how we care for the church, from finances to fund raising, please attend.

Unfortunately, we have not gotten very far with our Poetry Out Loud goal. I contacted the senior English teacher at Amherst High School, where the WNY finals have been held the last three years. He told me that they only had five schools participate last year, and there have been no schools from Niagara County. Adrienne Navaroli contacted several Niagara Falls English teachers. They sounded interested, but have not contacted either one of us. One teacher said they did poetry in the spring. The finals of the contest are in the early spring in Washington. So we may not be participating in the Poetry Out Loud official contest, but we discussed hosting our own local contest in the spring here at the church. I am asking anyone who may have contacts at any Niagara County high schools to contact me. I will email school administrators to see if we can get any interest in a local contest, or even the actual Poetry Out Loud contest. We hoped to get more involved in the community in which the church is actually located, but that may not pan out this year. I am disappointed, because I think it would not only be helpful to the community, but fun for us at the church.

We also decided that we will not have a Holiday Bazaar this year, but Betsy Diachun and Marie Howard would like to plan one for December 8, 2012. This way, we have more time to plan and hopefully get the word out to the community and get more than church members attending. Our goal is to raise our profile in the community.

Erica Kopp and Betsy Diachun put together a nice flier that will be available for the 11/11/11 event at the church. I plan to put one up at my clinic and at the Grand Island Senior Citizens Center if I can.

Next Board meeting – Sunday, November 20 at 12:30pm. All members are welcome.

Teresa

Outreach

For the month of November we are concentrating on honoring our military veterans. On Veterans Day, 11/11/11, we will have an open house from 10:00am-4:00pm for anyone who has served in the military. We will have refreshments and a military memorabilia bulletin board. There may be some agencies present which can offer services to veterans. Church members are invited to join us any time during the day to listen and learn about the lives of our veterans.

Then for our monthly **Outreach** on the third Sunday, November 20, we will donate the plate to the VA Hospital in Buffalo. Kristen Weese will join us to briefly to describe some of their needs.

Betsy

Our People

Andrea and Tina Galyn celebrated their marriage on Saturday, October 8. The brides looked radiant with happiness and everyone had a wonderful time both at the service and at the reception following in Unity Hall.

We are pleased to report that Pat Loretto's sister, Dee, was able to travel from Texas to California with her daughter, to visit with Pat, her son Ken and his family. It was a joyously busy reunion which may have left Pat a bit jumbled but no doubt these happy thoughts will peek through her memory from time to time.

Betsy

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.

Summary financial report for the for the first month of the Church fiscal year ending July 31, 2012.

	Church Year 8/1/2011 - 7/31/2012 Actual Year to Date on September 30, 2012	Church Year 8/1/2011 - 7/31/2012 Budget for the Full Year
Income from Operations	\$6,497	\$39,800
Income from Investments	\$27	\$3,400
Total Income	\$6,524	\$43,200
Expenses from Operations	\$6,188	\$64,350
Capital Contributions Less Capital Expenses	\$0	-\$1,000
Change in Money Assets for the Year	\$336	-\$22,150
Total Money Assets September 30, 2011	\$101,457	

Caring Circle

Caring Circle members continue to care. Please contact a member if you have any concerns or are in need of help or if there is a special joy or milestone to celebrate. The members are Marge Gillies, Peter Diachun, Nan Simon, Joy Rowlinson, Yvonne Stocker and Judy Bongiovanni under the leadership of Rev. Terry Kime.

Judy

Adult Reflection and Exploration

We have regrouped for this church year. We meet in the Founders Room at 9:45am on Sundays. Although homework is "occasionally" assigned, it is not necessary to do it to attend and discuss. All points of view are welcome. Come join the fun and expand your thinking.

Judy

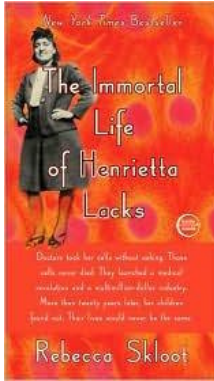
Celebration

Sunday, November 6, Niagara Area Habitat for Humanity will hold a dedication for the Williams/Hill house at 42 A St. in Niagara Falls. The ceremony will be held at the church at 3:00pm with an open house to follow at the recently completed home. This is the twentieth house built by this Habitat affiliate. Please join us in the celebration.

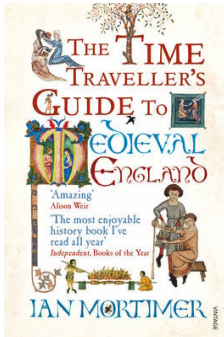
Betsy

Book Discussion Group

We meet and share ideas in Unity Hall at 7:00pm, usually on the second Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome to come and chat with our lively witty group



On November 15, ***please note the date change!*** we will discuss *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Laks* by Rebecca Skloot. This nonfiction selection is a multilayered account about faith, science, journalism and grace and also a tale of medical wonders, arrogance, racism, poverty and the bond that grows between very different people.



On December 13 we will discuss *A Time Traveler's Guide to Medieval England: a Handbook for Visitors to the Fourteenth Century* by Ian Mortimer. The author addresses every aspect of medieval life from the mundane to the bizarre and gets to the heart of a different time zone.

Judy

Children's Religious Education

The children have been following the same themes as the congregation. The children planned a "creation" story for September but they got carried away and needed more time. They need to modify what they have planned!

The children made their favorite gingerbread haunted houses for coffee hour for Halloween Sunday. However, I think the kids ate them before any of the adults did!

Erica

Social

Contest How many Religious Signs do you know?

GRAND winner – Teresa Labuszewski!

Thanksgiving dinner

Are you interested in attending a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, on Thanksgiving Day, at the church? People will be asked to bring certain dishes. If so, sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, or call Betsy at 754-2830. If there is enough interest we'll go forward with time and assignments. Everyone is welcome.

Betsy

November Birthdays

- 4th – Tom Bateson
- 11th – Alexandra Nicosias-Kopp
- 18th – Jean Speck

From the Archives Closet

Ghosts of Universalists past Part II: The church that never got built

The Unitarian Church in Niagara Falls followed an earlier Universalist society. Universalists had worshipped in Niagara County as early as 1810, the Middleport church being constructed in 1841.

Supposedly the Niagara Falls Universalists first gathered during 1889 (*Souvenir History of Niagara County* c 1902.) In the chapter “Universalist Church,” Rev. Otis F. Alford says that they met first in a hall, later in the parlors of the International Hotel, and finally “a chapel was fitted up on Main Street.”

The business of the chapel fitted up on Main Street was repeated in at least three county and city histories. Universalist meetings bounced around the principal streets of the city apparently until finally expiring and then being transformed into the Unitarian Church.

Two newspapers printed in Niagara Falls and Suspension Bridge carried church news in the closing years of the 19th century. The Archivist has yet to read them all. It was reported in the *Daily Cataract* on January 3, 1900 that religious services were held in Crick’s Hall at the corner of Falls and 3rd Streets. Crick’s Hall was multi-purpose, hosting other public functions like dances.

The *Daily Cataract* of January 13, 1900 noted that “Universalists are discussing plans for organizing a congregation.” A number of the leading citizens of the Cataract City might become associated with the new congregation (which makes one wonder how securely they were organized in the 1890s.) Among them were Mayor Hastings and City Engineer Walter Jones. Further reading indicates that Walter Jones was the J. Allen Johnson of his era, a leading promoter of Universalism in Niagara Falls.

They would initiate steps toward establishing a Universalist congregation in the city “and the subsequent erection of a handsome church edifice.” They were optimistic with “matters looking favorable to advance the movement,” although no action was taken on building a church at January 14 services.

By February, services had moved to the parlors of the International Hotel at Falls and Main Streets. Destroyed by fire in 1918, the huge hotel had been established in 1853 and was “one of the finest public houses in the state.”

Mrs. Karl Hutzel remembered that “sometime before 1913” the Universalists met in “Clark’s Furniture Store on Main Street.” On May 6, 1900 the *Gazette* reported that the “chapel fitted up on Main Street” would host its first service. A two year lease on 348 Main Street was taken out on the old Clark Furniture Company building which was painted, a rostrum put in, and illuminated with incandescent lights.

Mrs. Hutzel also remembered that “they had hymn books and a small organ which she sometimes played and was rewarded with a silver locket and chain. A money making supper to serve the public was attempted.” (From “Unitarians in Niagara Falls,” a speech given by Mrs. George Cooley on March 27, 1960.)

No home address for the Universalists appeared in city directories from 1900-1903, but the First Universalist Church was listed as being at the corner of Niagara Street and 4th in 1904-1907. The lease at Clark’s Furniture must have expired and not been renewed. In 1905 Universalist services took place at Odd Fellows Hall, Niagara and 4th.

Fate intervened. Both Mr. Jones and the church's minister, the Rev. Frank H. York, died. The Gazette of March 24, 1906 reported:

The hopes of the late Walter Jones and the late Rev. F. H. York are soon to be realized for there is a movement afoot to select a site for a church building to be erected by the Universalist Society of this city... It is expected that in the course of the next month a site for the church will be selected.

By 1913 J. Allen Johnson was recruiting fellow liberal religionists into a Unitarian group. Within seven years the Universalists had not built a church and were basically moribund.

With thanks to the Niagara Falls Public Library,

Janet

UU News

Standing on the Side of Love

THIRTY DAYS OF LOVE, beginning Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and culminating with Valentine's Day, will be a time for deepening our commitment to our mission through listening, discovery, community engagement, education, inspiration, celebration, lifting up, and daily, direct actions for love. THIRTY DAYS OF LOVE is envisioned as a process, not an event that will result in beautiful conversations across the country culminating in a story of us, and a story of now. We don't always know what the goals are, or where we will end up. But we know that at the heart of the process is love.

Yvonne

UU Niagara Activities – November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3		4
						5 9:30am Spiritual Outreach "Discovering Your Spiritual Type" 1:30pm FUutures Committee 2:30pm Caring Circle
	6	7	8	9	10	11
11am Sunday Service 12pm Potluck Luncheon 2pm Stewardship Committee 3pm Habitat House Dedication					10am Veterans Open House	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
11am Sunday Service		7pm Book Discussion Group				10am CRE 11am Worship Team 2:30pm Wedding-WC - 3PM
	20	21	22	23	24	25
11am Sunday Service 1pm Board Meeting						26
	27	28	29	30		
11am Sunday Service						

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

Yvonne