

September 2011 **POWERLINE**

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara



Sunday Services (11:00am)

Theme: **Beginning**

Worship Associate Peter Diachun and Caring Circle Associate Nan Simon

September 4: *Beginning: Embracing a New Adventure* – Rev. Theresa Kime
Be with us this special Sunday-- the first formal service of our new congregational year - as we share our water ceremony and consider the possibilities of the new congregational year before us. ***Please bring water, from some place you found respite or adventure this summer, to add to our common pool in celebration of our reunion.***

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

September 11: *Beginnings* – Ed Tormay and Yvonne Stocker
Let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we'll change the world.

September 18: *Faith-filled Beginnings* – Rev. Theresa Kime
Ours is a liberal - progressive - faith tradition, filled with beginnings that required conviction and trust. What is it we have faith in, and how might that inform our new congregational year? We will also dedicate our Board during this service.

September 25: *As We Begin the Adventure* – Rev. Donald Reidell
At the start of the church year, in concert with the monthly theme of *Beginning*, we begin the adventure.

Minister's Weekend Schedule:

Saturday, September 3:

9:00-10:00am: Worship Committee
10:00am-noon: Caring Circle
Noon: Lunch at Café Lola's on Third. All welcome!
1:30-3:00pm: Wedding Ministry Working Group
3:00-4:30pm: FUUtutes Committee

Sunday, September 4:

Noon-2:00pm: Potluck picnic

Saturday, September 17:

9:30-10:30am: Children's Religious Exploration Committee
10:30am-Noon: Planning for Growth Team
12:30-2:00pm: Chalice Group
2:00-4:30pm: Board Planning meeting

Sunday, September 18:

2:00-4:00pm: Board meeting

From Your Minister:

An important congregational year is before us - an exciting time as members and friends develop their mission and a long range plan to guide the congregation in upcoming years. The FUUtures Committee will be creating a process for this so watch the newsletter and plan to attend the gatherings offered to make it happen.

In October, the Planning for Growth Team will be finishing its three-year commitment to the District Small Congregation Growth and Vitality series. An overview of their work has appeared in newsletter articles over the past years, and it is with gratitude we await their final report in the fall.

And there's something new in worship this year as the Worship Committee has adopted a new format for planning. We'll be focusing on a theme a month, anticipating this will provide us with the opportunity to consider more deeply each one. Our themes for this year will be:

September	Beginning
October	Belonging
November	Vision
December	Witness
January	Gratitude
February	Courage
March	Forgiveness
April	Unity
May	Wonder
June	Joy

Chalice Groups (monthly small group gatherings) will be offered to coordinate with these themes as well, giving us the additional chance to explore the themes through personal sharing with others.

There is much to engage us in the year ahead to deepen our connection and commitment, to stir our spiritual growth, to nurture our creativity. I am looking forward, with gratitude, to all the possibilities before us.

With every good wish to each of you,

Terry

President's Corner

At the beginning of the church year I am optimistic! The church had a historic summer. We held the first legal New York State same-sex marriage: Justin and Jarrod Atkinson. It was a beautiful ceremony with Marge Gillies officiating. I also attended with many other members of our church the First Group wedding ceremony on Goat Island at the Falls where our minister Terry Kime was one of the officiants. I hope we continue to be a church that welcomes and supports marriage equality with full civil rights for all Americans.





Erica Kopp

FUUN Futures

The FUUN futures committee, committee, officially represented by outgoing president Peter Diachun, incoming president Erica Kopp, and president-elect Ed Tormay, really belongs to everyone. It truly depends upon the active participation of each and every member. Let me reiterate what was said last spring following our annual meeting in mid-May: the future belongs to each and everyone of us. It is in our hands. This coming church year offers us yet another opportunity to actively imagine our church well beyond the foreseeable future. What we do now may well help us to chart our course for years to come. We want and need to think in terms of the children in our midst, and of succeeding generations who will continue to embrace our principles and living tradition. Many good and creative ideas came out of our June “brainstorming” meeting, as well as from those who chose to fill out the service pledge and fundraising sheets contained in last spring's pledge drive material. We have just begun to scratch the surface!

The FUUN Futures Committee

Closing 2010-2011 Financial Summary

	Church Year 8/1/10 Through 7/31/11 Actual Year to Date	Church Year 8/1/10 Through 7/31/11 Full Year Budget
Income from Operations	\$37,665	\$39,300
Income from Investments	\$4,523	\$4,000
Total Income	\$42,189	\$43,300
Expenses from Operations	\$62,273	\$66,100
Capital Contributions Less Capital Expenses	-\$165	-\$4,000
Change in Money Assets for the Year	-\$20,249	-\$26,800
Total Money Assets July 31 2011	\$101,121	

This is the closing report for the fiscal year just ended. It is an improvement over the projections presented at the annual meeting with two favorable departures from that projection.

1. \$2000 capital gain on stocks sold
2. \$2000 less fuel used for heating than expected largely attributable to the new furnace control system.

Peter Diachun

Board of Trustees News

June 5 Board meeting highlights

Having a new president, Erica Kopp and new president-elect, Ed Tormay, we spent some time getting comfortable with our new roles. We reviewed what is expected of everyone on the Board. Marie Howard agreed to continue as treasurer and Teresa Labuszewski agreed to take on the role of secretary left open by Judy Bongiovanni. Current committees were reviewed. Erica, Ed, Marie and Rev. Terry each chose committees to contact to see if current members planned to stay on and make sure that there are committee chairs for each. A Board retreat is scheduled for July 24.

The coming year will be one of challenge and change, with a special emphasis on the long-term future of the church. If any church member has any concerns that they wish the Board to address, please contact any one of us on the board: Erica Kopp, Ed Tormay, Marie Howard, Paul Brundage or me, Teresa Labuszewski. We had good chemistry at the meeting and are all looking forward to the retreat and a fruitful year ahead.

Next Board meeting – 2:00pm Sunday, September 18. All members are welcome.

Teresa

Monthly Outreach

Once again this year we will participate in Outreach Sunday – the third Sunday of each month when the plate collection will be given to a selected organization, usually local but also special help for UUA or UUSC disaster relief projects.

Our first candidate this year is the Lewiston Public Library, which has graciously hosted our annual Outreach Workshop that Rev. Terry has facilitated. The attendance at these events has increased each year. Some new members have been attracted but also several new friends in the community have a clearer and more positive attitude towards UU and our church in particular.

Outreach Sunday has several goals, not least to provide some financial aid but also to introduce local organizations to our members and promote volunteering. We welcome suggestions for future recipients – please speak with Janet, Betsy or Yvonne.

Betsy, Janet, Yvonne

Caring Circle

This group includes Marge Gillies, Peter Diachun, Joy Rowlinson, Yvonne Stocker, Nan Simon and Judy Bongiovanni with the help of Rev. Terry Kime. Our goal is to be the institutional face of our congregation's caring. We cannot begin to do it all but we can help spread the word, coordinate efforts and see that nothing falls between the cracks. If you know of a joy, concern, sorrow or reason for celebration and especially a need for assistance, please contact one of the caring circle members. Have a great autumn.

Judy

Our People

Our sympathy is extended to Steve Wittkowsky whose mother died early in August. Steve is still working nights at the Quality Hotel.

Barb Hathaway was scheduled for surgery in mid-August. She is now at home recovering and appreciates calls.

One of our members, Jeanne Aydelotte, will be honored for volunteering with Niagara Area Habitat for Humanity at their awards dinner at 6:00pm September 14 at Antonio's.

Tickets are \$20 and it would be good to show her lots of support. Habitat is an all-volunteer organization which is also looking for sponsors for the dinner. See Betsy for tickets and more details.

Najwa and Tom Loretto with their family stopped here this summer on the way to visit Tom's mother, Pat Loretto, in California. They were able to have a nice long visit with Pat during their stay out west.

Rev. Terry performed an outdoor, private wedding for Andrea Galey and Tina Deakyne on July 25.

Marge Gillies worked hard over the summer trimming and beautifying the front landscape of the church. Three cheers for Marge!

Betsy



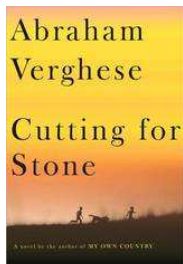
Niagara Gazette - July 21st

Adult Reflection and Exploration

We will resume our wit and wisdom sessions at 9:45am October 16 in the Founders Room. If you prefer a different time or day or location, please speak with Judy Bongiovanni. Start saving up your snippets of wisdom to share. In our first session we will be discussing one thing we passionately believe.

Judy

Book Discussion Group



On the second Tuesday of each month we meet, talk and laugh with a good book. We will meet at 7:00pm September 13 in Unity Hall to discuss *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese. This novel moves from India to Ethiopia to an inner-city New York City hospital, weaving medical issues into the decades covered. A long book but very well written.

Judy

Children's Religious Education

We are excited about starting the new church year. This year the children's programs will focus on a theme each month with more involvement in the service.

The children will decide this month if they still want to continue movie nite and if they will organize game nites during the winter.

Anyone interested in helping CRE or with ideas please see Erica or Ed Tormay.

Any person working with the children must sign a new Ethics Form each year. Blank Ethics Forms are located in the CRE room.


Erica

The Larger Community

Interfaith Impact of New York State - MARRIAGE EQUALITY PASSES IN NEW YORK! After more than a decade of effort, our fundamental democratic and religious belief in the equality of all persons prevailed 33-29 in the State Senate on June 25. In our congregations we responded to the cries for justice from same-sex couples, their families, relatives and friends with love, understanding and action. We walked the talk, the prayers, and the sermons. Religious support for marriage equality for same-sex couples played a major role in turning the tide in favor of equality for all, helping make marriage a civil right and once again affirming the wisdom of our founding fathers in separating church and state. It took a while for folks to recognize that the definition of marriage was religiously biased, but they got it, the New York State Legislature got it, and now marriage is a civil right for all New Yorkers. But we won't forget that there's a lot more to do: equal rights for transgender New Yorkers, a moratorium on hydrofracking, immigrant rights, criminal justice reform, passing the Reproductive Health Act, and more.

West Seneca Presbyterian Church wspres.org presents *Posi Palooza* by Empower Music Arts empower.com on September 23.

Theatre in The Mist presents Annie.



Theatre in the Mist
in conjunction with Beyondus presents

Annie

Book by THOMAS MEEHAN Music by CHARLES STROUSE Lyrics by MARTIN CHARNIN

September 16-24, 2011
Niagara Falls High Performing Arts Center
4455 Porter Road • Niagara Falls, NY 14305

Directed by David Bondrow

Thur: 7:30pm Adults \$14
Fri: 7:30pm Student/Senior (62+) \$12
Sat: 2pm & 7:30pm Child (12 & Under) \$6

For More Information
Call Toll Free 877-856-0694
or visit www.theatreinthemist.org

Annie is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
Theatre in the Mist, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

\$1 from every ticket sold is to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation of WV.

MAKE-A-WISH
WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER

The Office of Continuing Education at Niagara University will offer an advanced certificate program in applied urban ministry beginning this fall. This program is designed to enhance participants' abilities to think theologically, assess urban conditions and formulate ministry solutions. University president Rev Joseph L. Levesque CM said, "Our advanced program boldly wishes to empower the people of our local community by providing vision and hope for our community through the thesis projects that will be carefully developed. Call NU's Office of Continuing Education at 286-8181 or ce@niagara.edu.

In the month of September when our country is remembering the dreadful events of 9/11/2001 for the tenth time, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is launching 'Muslims for Life' nationwide campaign to let the people know that Islam sanctifies and respects human life. The Buffalo Chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community plans a blood

donation drive from 10:00am to 3:00pm September 10 at its mosque, Masjid Mahdi, 9610 Colvin Blvd, Niagara Falls.

Kathleen Ordiway, chair of the Religious and Community Services Committee of the Community Missions, invites participation from community members to become involved whether on a regular basis or even just once. "There is a surplus of ideas out there, we just need you to help us identify and harness those ideas!" she says. Meetings are held at the Community Missions on Buffalo Ave. Contact Kathleen at kathordway@yahoo.com

Travel with Unitarians to experience our historic roots and explore this fascinating part of Europe – Transylvania and Hungary, June 4-18, 2012. One fourth of all Unitarians live here. Includes a three day stay in a Transylvanian Unitarian village - attending church, sharing a relaxed picnic and experiencing rural village life. For details see www.nuuc.ca or contact Beverly Carr bgcarr@rogers.com.

Social Action/NOAH

Emily Stewart joined NOAH (*Niagara Organizing Alliance for Hope*) in May as lead organizer. She graduated from Vanderbilt University where she coordinated a series of lectures entitled *Project Dialogue* and worked at a homeless shelter in downtown Nashville, TN as their volunteer coordinator. She has begun a series of conversations with our members and visited during one of our summer services. She plans to join us for a service in September.

Whenever you drive past the intersection of Ferry Ave. and Portage Rd. in Niagara Falls take a look at the playground and the children with their parents enjoying themselves. The effort to create this playground was initiated by two member congregations of NOAH who identified a community need and brought it to the attention of NOAH. NOAH worked with the Niagara Falls Board of Education which owns the land and the Niagara Falls city government to make this dream a reality. The basketball courts across from Trott Access also benefited from NOAH support.

Ongoing NOAH efforts include several task forces: (1) Jobs/local hiring, (2) Education/suspension policy in Niagara Falls and (3) Lockport/Oxford House.

NOAH members have supported our congregational efforts such as the Operation Paperback books for Armed Services personnel project led by Janet McKenna. Niagara University staff members were especially generous in their donations.

NOAH held a training program on August 23 at Heart and Soul Food Pantry in preparation for its October 23 public meeting at the Niagara Falls First Presbyterian Church. Additional information is available from NOAH <http://noah.gamaliel.org> or Emily Stewart emily.d.stewart@gmail.com.

SLUUD

LEADING EDGE: Congregations at the Speed of Change

9:00am-3:30pm October 1 May Memorial, Syracuse

Keynote: Catching Fire in the Burnt-Over District - Rev. Renee Ruchotzke

Workshops: Adaptive Leadership · Leading through the Generations · Building Pastoral Care Programs · Lessons from Breakthrough and Threshold Congregations · 21st Century Stewardship · Commissioning Lay Leaders · Learning Tools for Building a Multicultural Community · Growing the Spirit of a Leader

Register and pay online at <http://sld.uua.org/> : \$30 for adults, \$15 for students

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UUA

The latest edition of the UUA monthly Congregational Bulletin is now available. You can find it at <http://www.uua.org/communications/bulletin/>

At this year's General Assembly in Charlotte, NC, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Unitarian Universalist (UU)-United Nations Office (with the strong support of the Canadian Unitarian Council), announced agreement on the terms of a merger of our international programs. <http://www.uu-uno.org/>



Mayra Hidalgo

As Unitarian Universalists around the country unite to stand up for justice, I urge you to join in solidarity with the DREAM Sabbath campaign taking place this fall. Get involved and you can help. Together, we can defend our community and stand up for the people that have worked so hard to build it. Together, we can ensure that the dreams of young people like me, all across this country, can become a reality. Sign up to pass the DREAM Act, which is legislation proposed in the US Senate to provide conditional residency status to illegal immigrants who arrived as children and have graduated high school and completed two years post secondary education or military service.

<http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/take-part-in-the-dream-sabbath/>

The Religious Left: Universalism Then and Now

Keynote: Dan McKanan, Emerson UUA Chair, Harvard Divinity School

October 7-8 Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton

For more information, contact Joyce Gilbert of NYSCU jtgilbert@frontiernet.net

Shampoo warning

Check your shampoo bottle label. I don't know WHY I didn't figure this out sooner!!!! It's the shampoo I use in the shower! When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body and (duh!) printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning, FOR EXTRA VOLUME AND BODY! No wonder I have been gaining weight!!! Well! I have gotten rid of that shampoo and I am going to start using Dawn dish soap instead. Their label reads, DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE. Problem solved!!! If I don't answer the phone I'll be in the shower!!!

September Birthdays

- 15th – Janet McKenna
- 20th – Erica Kopp
- 26th – Caralina Titer
- 30th – Lori Zaremski

Social

Potluck September 4 – after the service at about noon. Cookout and social time in the back yard of the church. Please bring a dish to pass (rain location – Unity Hall)

From The Archives Closet **FUUN and DeVeaux area home**

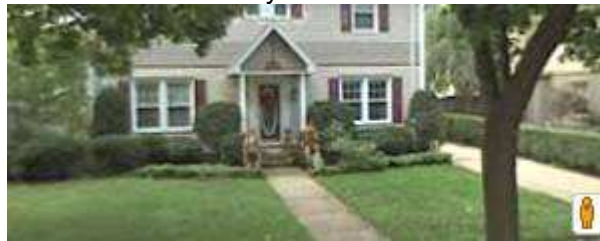
A pleasant-looking house in the far north end of the city has had a long and curious association with First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara.

According to the 1900 Niagara Falls City Directory, the next street north of Harrison was Park Ave. It was located very near DeVeaux School. Building lots had been platted over 100 years ago, but no houses had been built. The owner of the land was given as B. Davis on a 1908 street map. At the time Park Place, just across Main St. from FUUN, already existed in a built-up neighborhood as it still does. What happened to Park AVENUE?

On September 6, 1901, President William McKinley was assassinated at the Pan American Exhibition in Buffalo. In memoriam, schools, buildings, public works, and streets were named for him. Any street called "McKinley" had to have been named after 1902 but not too far afterward, because his death was no longer big news by 1930 when streets like Lindbergh or Harding were named.

Park Ave. seems to have been transformed into McKinley Ave. after World War I. The city directory's first mention of a street of that name was in the 1919 book. Park Ave.'s name had vanished, and McKinley Ave. replaced it. No houses had been erected yet on the renamed street. Meanwhile, First Unitarian Church, FUUN's predecessor, had begun meeting and was officially organized on October 17, 1920. Founding father J. Allen Johnson and his family lived at 212 Cedar St., and pastor Rev. Orville Bruce Swift resided at 536 Fifth St. By 1921 the Johnsons had moved to 813 Chilton Ave.

As the Jazz Age moved on, so did McKinley Ave. and church people. In 1922 three new houses were built: they were numbers 949, 969 and 919 McKinley. Guess who built and purchased the house at 919 McKinley? None other than the Rev. Swift.



The 1922-23 city directory listing for the church (the present building of which had been dedicated in January 1922) is: "First Unitarian Church, Main St. near Park Pl. Rev. Orville B. Swift PhD, 919 McKinley Ave."

The Internet describes the house as a single family five-bedroom dwelling with 1 1/2 baths. Measuring 2,041 sq. ft., it's located on a small city lot. But - don't believe everything you read on the computer. The internet errs in giving the house's building date as 1928! Rev. Swift occupied it at least five years previously. In fact, he resigned his pastorate in 1926 and left Niagara Falls.

The next owner of the house - J Allen Johnson and his family, definitely a move up for them. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and their three children lived there until Mr. Johnson's early death in 1937. Lucy Johnson, his widow, remained. Her daughter and son-in-law, Helen and Hans Popp, are also listed as occupying the house until Mrs. Johnson died in 1967.

Later family names associated with 919 McKinley are Sabato, Hirsch, Bird, and the present owners, Michael and Adrienne Navaroli. The Navaroli family has lived there since 2000. And what goes round comes round. Adrienne Navaroli is the FUUN Musician, playing for us for Sunday Service. So again, FUUN is associated with the nice home at 919 McKinley Ave.

It has been asserted that a specter of a former owner was seen by a young resident. The FUUN presence continues.

UU Niagara Activities – September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						3 9am Worship Committee
					1	2 10am Caring Circle
						1:30pm Wedding Ministry Working Group
						3pm FUUtues Committee
4 11am Sunday Service						
12pm Potluck Picnic	5	6	7	8 11am Wedding		9 10
						17 9:30am CRE Committee
11 11am Sunday Service		13 7pm Book Discussion Group	14	15		16 10:30am Planning for Growth
	12					12pm Chalice Group
						2pm Board Planning Meeting
18 11am Sunday Service						
2pm Board Meeting	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 11am Sunday Service						
	26	27	28	29	30	

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

Yvonne