

# Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Niagara

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

January 2020

*Learn, Love, Build a Better World*

## Contents

Sunday Programs .....	2
President's Message.....	4
Announcements.....	5
UUA.....	6



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 Peter Diachun, Erica Kopp, and Betsy Diachun.

## Sunday Programs

**January 5:** Joan Davis is conducting our January 5 service for the Season. It is a program filled with love, courage and grace straight from South Africa. She will read a sermon created by Rev. Alan Storey a Methodist minister in Cape Town. Rev. Storey believes that to take the whole bible literally is an absurdity. Jesus would much rather be taken seriously than worshipped; the division of the world into saved and "un-saved" is hate speech; the holy land is not a place to visit but a place to value; and inequality is a weapon of mass destruction.

*Coffee hour host: Carolyn and Winnie*

*Usher: Linda Hurley*

### **January 12: "Faith Healing"**

We may not believe in "Faith Healing," we do tend to take a doctor's advice without question, and often without a real understanding of what the chemicals and procedures really do - we take their advice on faith.

**John Snodgrass**

*Coffee hour host: Andrea Galipeau*

*Usher: Pam Smith*

### **Adult religious education discussion**

Jan 12:30PM -1:30PM

<http://www.firstuunf.org/john-snodgrass.html>

**January 19: “No Regrets”**

As a new year comes upon us and we plan the future of 2020, let’s look back on 2019 with no regrets. Holding the lessons, blessings and growth that being human affords us in life and in faith actions.

**Susan Frawley**

*Coffee hour host: Teresa Labuszewski*

*Usher: Shelley Baxter*

**January 26: “A Beginning and a Renewal”**

How will we view this year?

**Don Reidell**

*Coffee hour host: Pam Smith*

*Usher: Marge Gillies*

## President's Message

Happy New Year!

This message is mainly a revision of last month's message. It is important that our decision towards a White Privilege initiative be moved upon. Below is a copy of what I wrote last month. The part in underlined italics has been changed.

We have been struggling for several months with establishing a White Privilege initiative. This has not ignited our Congregation as I thought it might. As we discussed this at the last Board Meeting we concluded that we need to narrow our objective, and concentrate on grasping the concept ourselves before we even think about trying to lead a White Privilege or White Fragility initiative outside the Church.

White Privilege and White Fragility are hard to understand. They are new concepts for all of us. It is hard and uncomfortable to have to confront our own racism and our benefits from being in a racist society. I do not know anyone in our Church who is proud being a racist or from benefiting from the established racist system in which we all live. Yet this is exactly what apparently is the case.

The Board decided to devote the next open, Sunday Morning Church Program to understanding this together. This will not be to plan what to do. We are not ready, and may never be ready, for that. First we need to understand what White Privilege and White Fragility are. These are new concepts for all of us. It will be difficult and painful. We need to do this together so that we can support each other. *The date will be Sunday, January 5. There will be no outside speaker. We will share with each other what we have learned and how we feel. Each of us needs to prepare to listen and to share. The more each person finds out about White Privilege and White Fragility before January 5, the better.* We now have lots of information to read or watch on videos shown on a page of our our website:

<http://www.firstuunf.org/white-privilege.html>

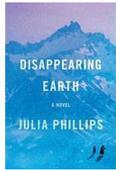
The Sunday Program for December 1 was canceled due to a snow storm. The Board decided to reschedule the program planned for that Sunday to January 5, and have a short discussion of our White Privilege initiative during Coffee Hour that same day. I will lead this discussion by starting with the story of what inspired me to promote this initiative in our Church. This initiative has only been suggested. Its adoption and implementation is up to the Congregation.

Peter

## Announcements

### **Play Date SATURDAY, January 25**

If it is cold and snowy, people can enjoy sledding, cross country skiing or ice skating at BOND LAKE in Sanborn. (Be aware there are no rentals.) If we can't enjoy outdoor sports, or after enjoying outdoor sports, we can use the warming house to play cards or board games and eat some of Peter's famous vegetarian chili by their great two sided fireplace. We plan to gather around 11 AM either way. Erica will oversee the food inside and Betsy and Peter will show others the cross country skiing trail. Sledding and ice skating are right outside the warming house on Lower Mountain Road. If you have questions or need more information contact the Diachuns: 754-2830 or [ediachun@gmail.com](mailto:ediachun@gmail.com). Some carpooling may be available.



**Book Group** January 15, 2020 at 4:30 PM, Disappearing Earth by J. Phillips. An intriguing novel first mentioned in Donna Evans-Deyemond's November Sunday service. All are invited to attend our meetings since the philosophical discussions which are brought up because of our reading tend to range far from the subject and can be participated in by all.

### **NOAH**

NOAH hosted a Building a New Niagara conference on December 12th. The organizers asked each member congregation to host a "house meeting" to listen to the community and gather feedback on NOAH's proposed 2020 campaigns:

- 1) Child Care/county subsidies;
- 2) Criminal Justice reform;
- 3) Local Job creation, and enforcing Community Benefits Agreement with Niagara Falls.

Another conference will be held on February 8th to get a readout of community interest and concerns.

Tentative "House Meeting" after coffee hour on a Sunday. January 19th at 12:30-1:30.

Linda Hurley

## SOUL LIFTS

By [Tess Baumberger](#)

Wouldn't it be great if you could take a picture of your soul?  
Then when your mother wanted to brag about you  
she could show people the picture and say,  
"That's my daughter, doesn't she have a beautiful soul,  
all sparkly and many-colored and flowing all around her?"

Wouldn't it be great if we walked around  
surrounded by our souls,  
so that they were the first things people saw  
instead of the last things?  
Then people would judge us by who we really are  
instead of how we look.  
Imagine no more racism, ageism, sexism, fatism, shortism, homophobia.  
Imagine falling in love with who a person is,  
just by looking at them.

It would be a kind of cloaking device,  
hiding physical faults defects or even perfections.  
I'd want it to be mandatory.  
Then people would work at making their souls more attractive  
instead of their bodies and faces.

Imagine people knowing by your soul that you really need a hug.  
Imagine people helping each other and their souls changing colors  
or growing.

Imagine soul gyms  
with exercises to get your sagging soul in shape.  
Imagine the long lines forming for soul-lifts  
at churches, temples, mosques, synagogues  
or nature's grand cathedrals.

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/5541.shtml>

"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

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara  
Facilities available for Wedding Services,  
Receptions, and Celebrations



639 Main Street,  
Niagara Falls, NY 14032 - 2566  
P.O. Box 2566  
(716) 285-8381

E-mail [uuniagara@gmail.com](mailto:uuniagara@gmail.com)  
<http://firstuunf.org>  
Find us on Facebook





First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara  
639 Main Street  
PO Box 2566  
Niagara Falls, NY 14302  
Return Service Requested  
January 2020

[www.niagarafallsstatepark.com](http://www.niagarafallsstatepark.com)

