

# Powerline

*First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Niagara*

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

**November 2020**

*Learn, Love, Build a Better World*

## Contents

Sunday Services .....	2
President's Message.....	3
Our New Logo .....	5
Post-Election Detox!.....	5
Remembering Our Church.....	5
Niagara Pride .....	6
New FUNN DVD Library .....	6
Medical Testing .....	6
UUA.....	7

REMEMBER TO TURN BACK YOUR CLOCKS AN HOUR ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1st



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, Betsy Diachun, Andrea Galipeau, and Erica Kopp.

## **Sunday Services**

### **November 1: "Mercy Now"**

The Rev. Frances Manly with special guest Doug Yeomans

"Mercy" is not a word we hear a lot about, but maybe mercy is one of the things our world needs most of all, and one of the most important things we can offer each other. This service will weave together song, story, and reflection to explore the intersections of mercy, grace, and justice.

Rev. Frances Manly is Minister Emerita of the First UU Church of Niagara and an active member of the UU Church of Buffalo. Singer/songwriter/guitarist Doug Yeomans is a member of the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame.

Presenters: Frances Manly and Doug Yeomans

Coffee Hour Host: Linda Hurley

Usher: Erica Kopp

### **November 8: "Gratitude"**

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we'll be looking at Gratitude for the lessons of the past and the blessings of the present.

Speaker: John Snodgrass

Coffee Hour Host: Teresa Labuszewski

Usher: Paul Brundage

### **November 15: "Change Amongst Chaos"**

We are in a time of chaos as we process the election, new pandemic issues and the season of autumn which brings us close to examining life, death and dormancy. How do we journey through in good spiritual health? Come hear ideas, thoughts and good music to carry us on our way.

Speaker: Susan Frawley

Coffee Hour Host: Marie Spears-Howard

Usher: Susan Daichun

## **November 22: "True Grit - Defining Courage"**

We tend to associate the word "courage" with extraordinary acts and extraordinary people, but the truth is, we are all courageous, and not just at one time or another, but throughout our lives. Strength and courage are many things, and to say we are not strong, or not courageous is to deny our own sense of inherent worth. What are the ingredients for having "true grit," and how do we integrate these various traits into our lives every day?

Speaker: Donna Evans-Deyermond via ZOOM

Coffee Hour Host: Peter Diachun

Usher: Joan Davis

## **November 29: "Will you get on the bus?"**

A talk about engaging with communities before their needs are decided for them- This is a product of white privilege.

Mr. Kirkwood is an author, a veteran, a speaker, a trainer, and a social justice and education advocate. He is a husband and father of three. His passion is to help individuals push through their perceived limits to take control of their lives.

Speaker: Duncan Kirkwood

Coffee Hour Host: Paul Brundage

Usher: Andrea Galipeau

## **President's Message**

There are some interesting "ethical" issues I want to pose to the congregation about our intentional growth which we all want and need. Specifically, how much, if any, of our commitment to Free Thinking are we willing to relax to attract more people? Does this conflict with our commitment to acceptance and diversity? Should we even have such a discussion as a congregation? I think it might guide us towards appropriate conclusions.

At one extreme we could offer salvation, eternal life, and a prosperous life on earth. This might make an attractive package if bounded to little or no difficult requirements to earn these benefits. At the other extreme we could promise none of these benefits but require absolute rational thinking and its acceptance always.

The tradition of our church and our denomination comes much closer to the second of these extremes than the first. I think this is an important reason that both our church and denomination are small. Few people hold rational thinking to be as important as we do. On the other hand we espouse acceptance of all people and regard diversity highly. We clearly proclaim our welcome of all people regardless of their religious and cultural backgrounds. We proudly state that Atheists, Christians, Buddhists, and all others belong here. What are our ethical standards?

We saw last month at our church that when we we offered the traditional Catholic custom of blessing the animals we attracted not only attention, but also participation by people outside our church. Most of us found it fun and interesting. Was this a sell-out of our principles, or maybe a living of our commitment to diversity?

\*\*\*\*\*

There is another "ethical" consideration about our church's policy on taking positions on public issues. As Members or Friends you should all be familiar with Article 2--Purpose of our By-laws which reads in its entirety:

"The purpose of this Church is to foster the enjoyment and practice of religion founded upon the dedication to individual freedom of belief, and to further the spirit of community. The Church shall provide a forum for differences, but as a whole shall not take a formal position on issues."

I was active when this statement was first added to the By-laws, and when it has been modified. In both cases I was personally involved in the discussion of it.

The stakes in national politics has been raised to another level. It is clear, at least to me, that a dangerous situation exists with the mighty military powers of this country in the hands of the President. Is this a case where the restriction of our By-laws should prevail, or is this exactly what it is for?

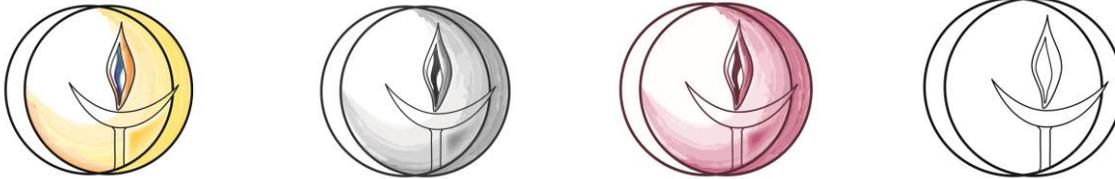
\*\*\*\*\*

All church people who are interested are invited to participate in an ongoing discussion about our church "ethics". We are establishing an Ethical Corner in our Powerline which will be open to comments and contributions by church people. Depending on your reactions we could establish one or more evening group discussions, or devote a Sunday 11 AM program to that kind of discussion.

Peter

## Our New Logo

We are premiering our new logo, as seen after the Table of Contents. It was created for our 100 year anniversary but is generic enough to use anyway we wish. It can be done in color or black and white - or black and white with grey tones. Also, we put no writing with the picture itself, but anything can be added as wanted



## Post-Election Detox!

Wednesday, November 4, 2020 from 4 PM to 8 PM.

Relax and talk over concerns about election – whatever the results. Coffee, water and tea will be available.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND MASK WEARING WILL BE PRACTICED.

All Voters Are Welcome! Come together and heal.

*We are in need of church members and friends to volunteer to help host this event for an hour or more, as available. Please let Betsy Diachun or Andrea Galipeau know if you will be able to join us and for how long.*

## Remembering Our Church

As we, the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara, celebrate our first 100 years at 639 Main St. we remember all the people who have come through our doors and stayed for various lengths of time. You may be one of them or someone you know or someone to whom you were related. If you can remember any stories they told you about being a “UU” we’d love to hear about them. They could be joyous, funny, sad, or life changing. We plan to put together a booklet including them all and would like to know by the end of September. If you know any names which should be included in our history or stories they have told please send to: [uuniagara@gmail.com](mailto:uuniagara@gmail.com) or call 716-285-8381 and leave your contact information

## **Niagara Pride**

NIAGARA PRIDE is collecting food for Heart, Love and Soul for use at Thanksgiving. They are storing some at our church and would like members and friends to contribute as they can. This is the announcement which appeared in the Niagara Gazette.

"Drop off non-perishable food donations to First Unitarian Universalist Church, 639 Main St, Niagara Falls during Sunday services on Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8 and 15 from 11 a.m. to noon."

## **New FUNN DVD Library**

We are starting a new DVD Library which will make good quality DVDs available for showing on the big screen in our auditorium as a part of a program or as Movie Nights (or Day) Programs. These DVDs will also be available for FUUN Members to borrow for viewing at home. Thanks to Nan Simon for providing many of her DVDs and to Wally Lamb for organizing and listing them. These will soon be ready.

Anyone who has good quality DVDs which you would be willing to share through the FUUN Library is encouraged to contact Wally or Erica or to bring them to the church.

More details will be available soon.

## **Medical Testing**

Medical testing equipment is now available. We have a blood pressure monitor, a forehead thermometer and a finger pulse oximeter for checking body oxygen level. The equipment will be kept in the kitchen drawer below the first aid supplies. Each has directions for use. It is important that the monitor be cleaned with alcohol after use. If you need assistance with a device please ask. Joan Davis will be happy to provide hands on learning.

**A Message from the UUA President: UU Theology Calls Us To Defend Our Democracy**

October 22, 2020

Dear leaders,

I hold you all in my heart in these unpredictable and volatile times. I know I am not alone in having moments of overwhelming grief for too many loved ones lost, and moments of acute fear and despair, mindful of all that is at stake in this coming election.

Sometimes it may seem that we, as religious leaders, are asked to project an aura of “calm certainty and strength.” But rather than appearing “strong,” what I believe our communities most need is our authenticity and honesty.

**One thing we must be honest about is the reality that our democracy is under attack and has been for a long time.** Almost daily, there are efforts, whether by policy or inflammatory rhetoric, to systematically undermine faith in our elections. Shameful examples of voter suppression and the trampling of rights are happening all across the country.

History teaches us that, in the United States democracy has never been available to everyone. Its expansion and protection have always come through struggle, organizing and protest. This time is no different.

**The first, and most important thing we can do to make sure our voices are heard is to vote in massive numbers.** We launched UU The Vote with a goal of reaching one million potential voters. By late September, we had already reached 1.3 million. This week is the [National Week of Action for UU The Vote](#) and there is still time to help us reach two million voters by election day.

And we must also prepare for how we will continue to work for justice, democracy, and the protection of our loved ones and our communities *after* November 3rd. So much is uncertain, and rhetoric that encourages white supremacists to threaten public officials, watch polling locations, and that questions election results is dangerous.

If the results of the election are challenged, if the integrity of the election is compromised, or if there is a refusal to respect the results, **we must be prepared to join in collective, moral, faithful action to defend our democracy.** Now is the time to prepare to act if need be.

Will we show up in the streets, set up or contribute to a bail or legal assistance fund? Will you open your congregation building to protesters needing sanctuary from state repression, for a medic station, organize fundraisers or tap into discretionary funds to make sure frontline organizers have the money they need to move the work? It’s more important than ever that we have bold spiritual imagination and audacious leaders and communities that show a new way forward.

**As Unitarian Universalists, it is important to remember that our commitment to democracy is not just political or moral, it is fundamentally theological.** It grows from our affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of every person and the Universalist understanding that we are all part of one creation, interconnected. These theological values of human dignity and interdependence are why we know everyone needs a voice in the matters that affect their lives.

Whenever I feel discouraged by the rhetoric of division, scarcity, and cruelty, I draw strength from our faith and from all of you. From the borderlands of Arizona, to the cities of Louisville, Rochester, Kenosha, Portland, and so many more—Unitarian Universalists are demonstrating that we have the courage, the heart, and the faith to meet this moment, together.

Yours in faith and gratitude,

Susan Frederick-Gray

### **Resources to Prepare, Learn, and Act**

Use this [asset mapping tool](#) to frame congregational conversations and prepare for ways to respond to community needs and potentially dangerous post-election scenarios. Here's a [companion video](#) that explains the tool.

**Sign** and share an interfaith [pledge to defend the democratic process](#). It is open for sign-on by religious leaders and congregation members.

**Read** this recent [UU World article](#) to be inspired by the ways UUs are showing up in Louisville, Kenosha, and more. **Learn** how UU leaders and communities are caring for each other in the [Pacific Western Region](#).

**Act** with the [UU the Vote National Week of Action](#) October 21-27. Join a phone bank in WI, PA or AZ; host a phone bank with your congregation; host a UU the Vote worship service.

For more information contact [pw\\_specialist@uua.org](mailto:pw_specialist@uua.org).

<https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/theology-and-democracy>

"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

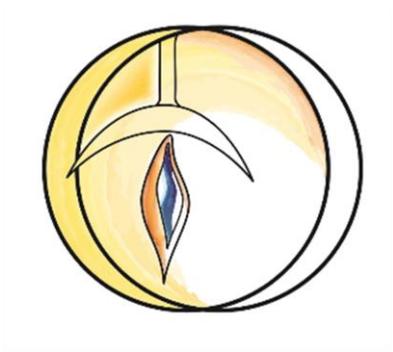
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara  
Facilities available for Wedding Services,  
Receptions, and Celebrations



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  
November 2020

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

