

Powerline

*First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara*

December 2020

639 Main Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14301
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Learn, Love, Build a Better World

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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 or click the link. Please spread the word.

Many thanks to our contributors Peter Diachun, Betsy Diachun, and Erica Kopp.

Sunday Services

December 6: "The Blame Game"

We live in a world where so many resort to blaming rather than taking responsibility for their mistakes. Is this new, or a symptom of a decline in civility? How can it be corrected and what role can our churches play in correcting this situation?

Speaker: Donna Evans-Deyermond

Coffee Hour Host: Stephen Wittkowsky

Usher: Patty Lisk

December 13: "Novelty"

Description: Christmas 2020 is a good day to curl up with a good novel (any novel that *doesn't* have a character called "Scrooge"). We'll be celebrating the power of the novel to connect us with distant times and places, and distant friends and relatives.

Speaker: John Snodgrass

Coffee Hour Host: Kathy McCunn and Wally Lamb

Usher: Bill Lisk

December 20: "What child is this?"

Winter is often referred to as a child's delight, child like magic, children's wonder. Winter holds many memories for older people of the childhood, some good, some not so good. Exploring winter and children and memories and magic are a part of this Sunday's sermon.

Speaker: Susan Frawley

Coffee Hour Host: Joan Davis

Usher: Kathy McCunn

December 27:

There are two possible choices for this open Sunday.

We will have a Congregational discussion on some of the church ethics brought up in the Powerline last month. A copy of the President's Message last month is available. There has been some response and conversations on this.

OR

We will see the first part of a video series on American Free-thought. It emphasizes some of the founders' religious contradictions. There is a focus on the Thomas Paine's life, career, and writings. It provokes many ethical questions.

Express your choice of program for this day to any member of the Board.

Speaker: Peter Diachun
Coffee Hour Host: Pam Smith
Usher: Erica Kopp

President's Message

We are struggling to have our church programs available on Zoom. Fortunately we have a FUUN Zoom Committee which is charged with, "Get FUUN Zooming so that it is not a burden or stressful to anyone, and that as many as possible can participate in our programs." This committee consists of three Zoom experienced church Members: Carolyn Storms, Andrea Galipeau, and Erica Kopp. Thank you, committee members!

We are conducting Sunday church programs which can be attended in person by people who choose to and wear a mask and practice social distancing. The quality of the Zooming of these programs is still not acceptable, but it is improving.

Our Christmas Tree

Thanks to Treetop Acres (John and Vicki Fuerch) for giving and delivering to us, the Christmas tree in front of the church. We'll send out a picture of it in our January Powerline.

Treetop Acres is on Upper Mountain Rd. in Cambria, just beyond (from Niagara Falls) Rte. 425.

Future Service

On Sunday, January 24, **2021**, Marge Gillies, our historian, using as a guideline, the Order of Service from Sunday, January 15, **1922**, will lead us in a remembrance of our past. This was the first service to be held in our current church building. There were actually 2 services that day, but we will stick with one at our usual 11 o'clock hour.

At that time we will also give out our 100th Anniversary Memories Booklet which has been compiled by Patty Lisk, along with 100 Reasons Why We Love FUUN.

Do plan to attend that day and be a part of this historic occasion. In your booklet you will find remembrances from several of our friends who have moved away but still remember our church congregation and building with great fondness.



Photo: <http://wakeupniagara.weebly.com/unitarian-church.html#.X8Zfpc1KiUk>

UUA

The Eternal, Calling

By [Jake Morrill](#)

November 25, 2020

“Birds that live on the forest floor evolved lower-pitched calls so they don’t bounce or become distorted by the ground as higher-pitched sounds might. Water birds have calls that, unsurprisingly, cut through the ambient sounds of water, and birds that live in the plains and grasslands, like the Savannah Sparrow, have buzzing calls that can traverse long distances. And birds of the same species adjust their singing as their habitat changes, too. Birds in San Francisco were found to have raised the pitch of their songs over forty years in order to be better heard above the noises of the increased traffic.”



—David Byrne, in *How Music Works*

Just as birds sing differently because you are there, you live differently for the presence of birds. That’s not a poetic notion, but an ecological fact.

I live in a rust-colored landscape of low hills and thin creeks, teeming with the creatures of Appalachia and coursing with the rhythms of how life is here. Your landscape may be different. How we live plays a part in what happens out there. And what happens out there plays a part in our lives.

But landscape isn’t sewn only from the fabric of space. We also inhabit a landscape of time: the grassy patch of a day; the rough meadow of a year; the old-growth forest of a decade, with the light pouring in.

When the pandemic hit, my calendar dissolved just like sugar in water. Days and weeks ran together. I stopped changing my clothes. For a while, I’m told, my hygiene could have been better.

In October, a friend of mine died. I wanted to rewind the tape, to get to say all the things I’d been meaning to say. But then someone said he was in the arms of the Eternal. And that made me think. Because “eternity” is a word that can mean different things.

It can be an endless duration: the train on its tracks, chugging ineluctably forth, with no stations ahead.

But it can also be the expanse to either side of those tracks. The wilderness there. And the ocean beyond.

It's this second, ever-present Eternal—the wilderness and the ocean—I am learning to visit. Prayer makes a trail to it. So can a dream. Or sweeping the kitchen if it's mindfully done. All our beloved dead are there, as is that within us and the world which we'd counted as lost. And all of that yet to be.

Who can say how you've been hurtling through all these days, flung from morning to night, all of it such a far cry from what you had planned? All I know is that the wilderness alongside every moment, sprawling in each direction, holds more than the silence that theologians imagine of God. Listen. There is something like birdsong, sweeter for the simple, holy fact of your life. It calls even now from the forested edge of the day, to awaken that within you which has always been there, so you know what to follow as you make your way home.

Prayer

Holy One, lead us into green pastures by still waters where we will know peace and the kinship of all souls, and will at last be about the work of mercy and justice for as long as we live. Amen.



Since 2003, Jake Morrill has served as Lead Minister of the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church. He has also served as Executive Director of the UU Christian Fellowship since 2015. From 2013-16, he served as a Chaplain in the U.S. Army Reserve, and was a Trustee on the UUA Board from 2009-13.

"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

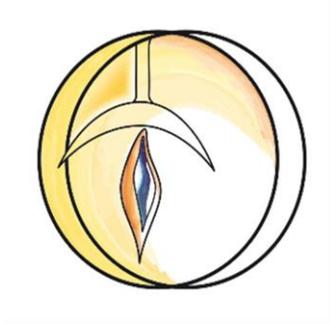
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara
Facilities available for Wedding Services,
Receptions, and Celebrations



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