

Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara

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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, Erica Kopp, and Betsy Diachun.

President's Message

This is not a usual Powerline. These are not usual times. Since all our usual programs in the Church building have been suspended because of the CoronaVirus, there is no point in listing the schedules of Sunday Morning Programs or other meetings and activities. Since this information is most of the content of a usual Powerline, this Powerline is very short.

The Annual Pledge Drive was scheduled to start a few weeks ago after all the Church's activities were suspended. Our wonderful Committee has brought the Church imaginative, entertaining, and effective Pledge Drives for the last several years. The Church has gratefully benefited from the work of our Membership/Stewardship Committee. Thank you Committee!

This year another such Pledge Drive was planned. Since it can not take place as planned without regular Programs, the Committee has decided to do it online, by telephone, mail, and any other Virus safe ways. Read about what is happening with out Pledge Drive in this unusual Powerline.

We all need to use the Committee as an inspirational model. We can not let this Virus get the best of us. It is a challenge we need to work to meet. We all need to look after each other. We need to share any triumphs and console one another over failures. There is almost nothing we can do about the Virus. We can do a lot in how we react to the situation.

Here is a list of things which occur to me which we can do to make this Virus less damaging to us.

1. Keep in touch with friends and family, including our Church family. This can be done with the safe methods of communication which are available to each of us.
2. Do some tasks which you have put off for a long time. Everyone has plenty of these to do to get us through this bad time. When it is over we will be pleased and glad we did this instead of wasting all the extra time available to us.
3. We are all probably watching more TV, and other electronic entertainment than usual. Be selective about what you watch or listen to. Work to make quality choices and share them with others.
4. You may not know many of your nearby neighbors very well. Go out of your way to get to know them better. It should be easy when they, like you, are probably home much more than normal. You can meet and greet them over fences and at safe distances in the street.

You may have some ideas which you are willing to share. Please do so. We all need as much encouragement and suggestions as we can get.

I plan to continue to be at the Church during our regular Sunday Program times of 11 AM until Noon and other times during the week. I am working on building projects. Please feel free to ring the buzzer and come in to talk at a safe distance, or to work at even larger distances.

The Church has committed to hosting a concert by the Buffalo Gay Men's Choir on Sunday December 13, 2020 at 3:00 PM. We will be given free advertising space in BGMC programs for the season. We need to make good use of this advertising. We need some fresh, attention grabbing, effective copy. Please tell me if this is something you would like to do.

We also need someone to take over the responsibility for operating our Tops cards "business".

Other volunteer Church work is needed. Please contact me.

Peter 716-754-2830 or peter.diachun@gmail.com

SUUPER Hero



Pictured here is our very own SUUPER Hero. SUUPER Heroes have been popular for the last few years. Our rendition was to be in church at the end of March. COVID-19 changed all that. But now here it is in the Sanctuary - safely distancing from others.

Our SUUper Hero is asking “What are **YOUR** SUUper Powers which can be used for FUUN?

This is the time of year for our financial pledges to be given to support our church in its 2020-2021 fiscal year. (Aug. 1, 2020 thru July 31, 2021)

This year our drive is for more than financial aid. That is actually secondary. We need to know your other SUUper Powers. There are things that need to be done around the church and there seems to be only a few people who are contributing their SUUper Powers. Here are a few of the little things that have to be done consistently. Can we put your name next to any of these chores, or others of your choosing.

Watering plants – inside and out

Gardening – especially in backyard - mulching

Cleaning things you see that are neglected – or organize a cleaning day or days

Painting places you see need a dab here or there – or organizing a bigger painting party

Decorating – Make the church look better.

Visiting/calling on people/ social activism..

Taking care of all or part of the finances. (a simple bookkeeper, making & keeping track of bank deposits)

Organizing speakers (maybe 2 people could work together.)

Promoting and helping with Powerline.

Keeping up our Website and Facebook pages.

We’ll be contacting you soon. In the meantime here is a video to watch about super heroes.

Spiderman: The Toys are Back in Town:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lk_5121rBOY

From Your SUUper Heroes,

The Membership/Stewardship Committee

Puns for Educated Minds Part 1

1.
The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference.
He acquired his size from too much pi.
2.
I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3.
She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4.
A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5.
No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6.
A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7.
A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
8.
Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
9.
A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
10.
Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11.
Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
12.
Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
13.
I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

UUA

The Muscle of Our Collective Spirit

By [Aram Mitchell](#)

April 1, 2020

“My days are a thirsty atonal combination of the mundane and the apocalyptic.”
— Audre Lorde, in [A Burst of Light: And Other Essays](#)

I have a muscular intimacy with my bathroom door. What I mean is that when I close the door, I sort of fling it shut behind me as I walk in. I realized the other day that the amount that I push the door is fine-tuned to the precise amount of push needed for the door to latch without slamming.

If the window is open, the pressure in the room is different and the door shuts with much less push. I know this in my muscles: I know how to interact with the weight of the door, with the friction of the hinges, and with the pressure of the room. It’s an instinctual, muscular knowledge. (With regular visits to my bathroom, over time, I’ve gotten amazing at it.)

It’s comforting to experience this familiarity with my home and with what’s required of me, because most of the rest of life feels pretty off.

The weight of the world right now is not familiar. The pressure in the room is unprecedented; it’s hard to know what’s required. For many, the abundance of stillness and spaciousness is disorienting. There’s a new variety of overwhelm as, for some, the nature of work shifts and risks increase. Others are losing opportunities to work. The landscape of home life is terranova. And waves of uncertainty lap and recede, lap and recede, leaving blank the etchings of our plans previously drawn in the sand.

I don’t know how each of us ought to reorient to our new, shifting realities. But I’m confident in our human ability—our propensity, even—to gradually, day-by-day, *together* muscle our way into knowing... and being in... and renewing our world.

Confidence means "to be with faith." That’s what I’ve got right now: faith in the muscle of our collective spirit, and a sturdy hope that we’ll keep on figuring out how to put it to use.

Prayer

As we cross the threshold of each new day, may we find strength in the confidence that we’re moving together. May we rest assured that yesterday’s unknown will be a little more familiar tomorrow. And may we remember that right now we just have to live today.



Aram Mitchell (he/him/his) is a Registered Maine Guide and Wilderness First Responder with a Master of Arts degree in Religious Studies from Chicago Theological Seminary.

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