

Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara

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June 2020

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

Church activity has been reduced substantially by the Corona Virus. All programs have been suspended including our 11 AM Sunday Programs. This will continue through our Church year which was scheduled to end on June 21, 2020. We will have missed our regular Sunday Programs 14 times. We are now scheduled to resume regular Sunday 11 AM Programs on September 13, 2020.

This summer we were planning to have lay led Programs every Sunday at 11 AM as we have done for the last several years. This is still the plan with one huge provision—that we can and are allowed to. There is no certainty that we will be able to conduct them starting on June 28. In fact that seems unlikely to happen that early. We want to start these lay led summer programs as soon as possible. This is a call to anyone who would consider conducting a program this summer to contact me so we can be prepared when we get the green light to resume Church Programs and feel it safe and wise to do so. If anyone would like to host a Church picnic and has enough space to be able to maintain 6 foot distances, please let me know.

The Church Board has been meeting virtually using a conference calling system set up by Bill Lisk. We were able to conduct a complete Annual Congregational Meeting using this same call-in system in addition to in-person attendance using appropriate social distancing and wearing masks by Members who chose to attend. Everyone was allowed to speak and vote. The Minutes and the Financial Report were accepted. A budget for the next fiscal year was adopted. New Board Members Marge Gillies and Andrea Galipeau were elected with Andrea as President Elect. Patty Lisk was announced as the Unsung UU Hero.

Much work needs to be done. We need volunteers to do many things to keep the Church going. In addition to the normal needs, there are a few special one right now.

- Plan and conduct our 100th Anniversary.
- Prepare Sunday Programs for next year (starting September 13, 2020). Most Sundays have been scheduled, but many are still open.
- Jump in and improve our ability to conduct better virtual meetings, including video. I am not able to do this.
- Serve on a committee chaired by Joan Davis to acquire and use medical monitoring instruments for better controlling our safety and reduction of spreading the Virus.
- Keep in touch with Church people who are alone and more restricted than all of us. Contact Marge Gillies for direction.

Patty Calback is now acting as our Building Caretaker and is moving into the 3rd Floor. Among other things she will be cleaning the Church and checking it often.

The annual Gould Lecture May 2020 is on video because of the Corona Virus. You may see it at:

<https://www.uua.org/central-east/resources/gould/2020gouldpurcell>

Peter

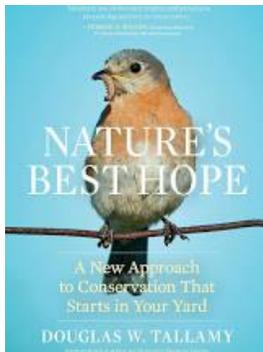
The Sunday Service Committee

The committee has begun scheduling for the next church year. We are going on the assumption that we will be able to open on time in September.

John Snodgrass will be coming on the 2nd Sundays of the month and lecturing after coffee hour on the world's religions. Susan Frawley will be coming on the 3rd Sundays. Donna Evans-Deyermond will be with us for at least 5 Sundays throughout the year and Terry Kime is coming next spring for 1 service. We have asked others but have no confirmed dates.

Don Reidell is retiring after many years of being with us. We will miss him. Most of the Sundays which are open are either 1st or 4th Sundays. [and one 5th Sunday in January] You can view the calendar on the church's google docs. on the web page <http://www.firstuunf.org/yearly-schedule.html> . If anyone knows of a speaker or wishes to present something, please contact Betsy Diachun as soon as possible.

Book Group



One activity which will get started in Sept. is the FUUN BOOK CLUB. We shall meet as usual on the 3rd Wednesday of every OTHER month from 4:30 to 5:30 The book for September 16th is "Nature's Best Hope: A new Approach to Conservancy" by Douglas W. Tallamy. We will follow any rules at that time which are still in effect from Covid 19 - such as physical distancing and wearing face coverings. EVERYONE is welcome to join us all the time or some of the time - depending on your reading preferences and your time. If you have any questions please speak with Kathy McCunn, Erica Kopp or Glen Herman.

Puns for Educated Minds Part 2

13.

I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

14.

A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'

15.

The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

16.

The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

17.

A backward poet writes inverse.

18.

In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.

19.

When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.

20.

If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.

21.

A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'

22.

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says 'Dam!'

23.

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

24.

Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'

25.

Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcendental medication.

26.

There was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

UUA

Refusing the Lie

“Specialists without spirit, sensualists without heart; this nullity imagines that it has attained a level of civilization never before achieved.”

—Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

Raise your hand if you believe you’re not doing enough right now. Do you feel like you still need to honor a commitment you made before the world lurched into chaos? Are you holding yourself to a higher standard than you are your loved ones? In light of the desire of some “to go back to normal” before it is factually safe, I feel echoes of the Puritan Work Ethic in its most deadly form.

In [*An Indigenous People’s History of the United States \(for Young People\)*](#), Roxanne Dubar-Ortiz makes a compelling argument that the Puritans and the Pilgrims were each a cult. They were so outside of mainstream theology that they had to flee their country in order to create “godly societies.”

Once I saw that in print, I could feel myself backing away from that zealotry. What if we sought to deprogram ourselves from the cult of the Puritan work ethic that’s still taught in schools and underlies our myth of the “American Dream”? What if we allow this time of physical distancing become the strangest lesson ever for all of us?

It’s hard for me to accept it today—maybe it’s hard for anyone paying any attention—but taking a shower in the morning feels like an accomplishment right now. You, too, are absolved of your “sin” of not being more than a human can be.

We can’t turn back the clock to save lives, but maybe we can change our addiction to productivity that enables our leaders to fail us so tragically. Maybe we can change our habits of corporate consumption or unending growth of markets that leave small towns ruined. Maybe sustainability of markets—and our hearts and minds—is more important than the wealth of ten people on this globe.

Amidst the genuine worry, pain, fear, and death, maybe we can make a ritual of believing that we have the power to reverse the ethic that’s killing our planet and wrecking our hearts.

I’m going to refuse to believe the cult’s lie that I need to overwork myself to death, recommitting to the changes we need to make to dream a new way of living into a world that is sustainable. Nothing is impractical when it comes to the necessity of a sustainable world.

Prayer

Spirit of Grace, ever remind us that a new way can be found, and move us toward the possibility of courageously living our lives in the face of all that is before us now.



Rev. Jude Geiger serves the UU Fellowship in Huntington, New York. He is on the UUMA Center Team, and is a Good Officer. Jude is also a Board Member of Interfaith Impact of NYS.

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/refusing-lie>

"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,
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