

Powerline

*First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara*

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January 2021

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.

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

Sunday Services

January 3: "A time for healing"

We have all been damaged in one way or another from the events of 2020. Scientific advances will help us heal the physical challenges, but what about our emotional and spiritual challenges. The past twelve months have changed us. We are more solitary, more wary of others and of the processes of life in general. This year, 2021, is an opportunity to focus on our minds and souls and heal those parts of ourselves that hold the hidden hurts. How are we going to do that?

Speaker: Donna Evans-Deyermond
Coffee Hour Host: Betsy Diachun
Usher: Erica Kopp

January 10: "Winter Versus Summer"

Description: Will winter ever end? Will warm weather return? And what might the new year be like? These were big, mysterious questions in the ancient world, and we'll be looking at old European folk traditions and rituals of competition between winter and summer, some of which survive in modern playing cards and games of chance.

Speaker: John Snodgrass
Coffee Hour Host: Carolyn and Winnie
Usher: Linda

January 17: "Solitude, rest and rebuild"

In the solitude that Covid has given us; we have an opportunity to calm our soul, grow our faith and work to envision what we would like the world, our church, our home and our heart to be like in post Covid time. Today we are going to breathe in peace, breathe out fear and be still so as to see the vast wonder of possibility. Join us in this quest.

Speaker: Susan Frawley
Coffee Hour Host: Andrea Galipeau
Usher: Pam

January 24: 100th Anniversary

This service will be the beginning of our 100th Anniversary Celebration. Because of Covid19 we are taking things slowly. On this day we hope to acquaint friends and members of our beginning years, using material from our archives. Marge Gillies will be the moderator.

Speaker: Marge Gillies

Coffee Hour Host: Marge Gillies

Usher: Erica Kopp

January 31: The "Other," Reflexivity, and Examining Privilege

Cultural anthropologist Amanda Buonopane, daughter of Joan Davis, will be returning to speak to us again on anthropological ways of understanding others. She will take us through the concept of reflexivity, or recognizing how your own position becomes the lens through which you think about others. These ideas have an immediate bearing on all of us, given the division in our society and inequalities (of race, class, sexual preference, etc.). By examining the role of privilege (and our own privileges) we can work to break down barriers and gain a better understanding of others and the structural inequities that impact their lives.

Speaker: Amanda Bounopane, Ph. D.

Coffee Hour Host: Betsy Diachun

Usher: Marge Gillies

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

Transforming the New Year

By [Tim Atkins](#)

December 30, 2020

"In our perfect ways
In the ways we are beautiful,
In the ways we are human—
WE ARE HERE.
Happy New Year's. Let's make it ours."
—[Beyoncé](#)

As a religious humanist, I've never quite found a winter holiday that speaks to me on a deep, spiritual level—that is, until I started transforming New Year's into my own, personal holiday and created a bunch of traditions. For example, every year I give my apartment (and now house) a deep cleaning, because I don't want to bring last year's trash (either literal or metaphorical) into the new year. Another tradition that I started was choosing a single word to be my theme for the upcoming year. Last year, I was fortunate enough to [introduce many of you to this practice](#), and we heard back from many of you about the words you were choosing for the year. (My word for 2020: authenticity.)



Part of my New Year's tradition is also reflecting on the past year. And really, how much do any of us want to look back and reflect on the year that was 2020? It was a rough year for just about all of us. But when reflecting on the past year, I do it through the lens of my word of the year: Was I being authentically me? There were times during 2020, when faced with a tough decision, that I relied on asking myself, "Which choice is more authentically me?" Years down the road, when I reflect back on 2020, sure I'll remember the masks, but I'll also remember it through the lens of my word for that year. But enough of the year that was 2020. I know I'm ready to move on and I bet you are too. So what's my word for 2021? Roots. I made a major move this year, to Oklahoma City, and assuming all goes well, just days into the new year I will officially close on a house and become a first-time home owner.

It's time for me to set down roots in my new neighborhood and my new town. But I can take roots further: I want to explore my own family's roots more, in order to better fully understand my own cultural story. I want to explore the roots of my beliefs more, and examine the sources that drive my actions. (Also, I want to garden. Now I've finally got the space to do it!)

What's your word for 2021? What's the one word you hope will define your upcoming year?

Prayer

Oh source of creative inspiration, guide me and my thoughts. Help me see all that I may be, to help me be authentically me, on this journey of self-exploration. May our upcoming year be better than the last. May our upcoming year be grounded in peace, rooted in hope, and guided by love.



Tim Atkins (he/him/his) serves as the Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration for the First Unitarian Church in Oklahoma City.

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/transforming-new-year>

"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

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Receptions, and Celebrations

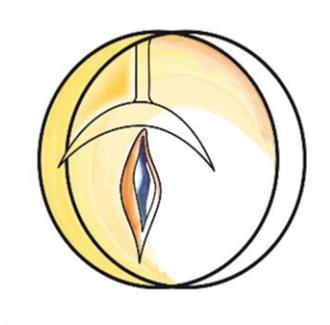


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