

# Powerline

*First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Niagara*

639 Main Street  
Niagara Falls, NY 14301  
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**October 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.

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 Betsy Diachun, Andrea Galipeau, and Erica Kopp.

## Sunday Services

### October 3: "Life is Goo"

We all know the saying is really, "Life is Good," but we also all have many days when life is not so good, in fact, life is goo. Life is like jello, some parts are wiggly, soft and easy. Other parts get a little crusty, thick and nasty. Our mission -- whether we choose to accept it or not -- is to get through the nice, easy parts and the crusty nasty parts, and come out of it all as whole human beings filled with humanity and compassion -- even on the days we are slogging through the goo. How do we get through this goo and come out on the other side?

Speaker: Donna Evans-Deyermond

Coffee Hour Host: Betsy Diachun

Usher: Shelley Baxter

### October 10: "COMPETITION"

Competition can bring out the best in us, and also the worst. Competition can be toxic and divisive. How can competition also inspire positive change?

Speaker: John Snodgrass

Coffee Hour Host: Susan Diachun

Usher: Erica Kopp

### **Adult Education Class 12:30 - 1:30**

Adult Education:

Religions of the Great Plains: An exploration of Native American beliefs and traditions from the midwest.

### **October 17: “Pet Blessing Sunday”**

Blessings for all the pets in our lives .This is a special Sunday with lots of activity and outdoor celebration. Service will focus on the blessing that pets are in our lives

Speaker: Susan Frawley

Coffee Hour Host: Joan Davis

Usher: Teresa Labuszewski

### **October 24: TBA**

Speaker: Ron Skowronski

Coffee Hour Host: Andrea Galipeau

Usher: Peter Diachun

### **October 31: TBA**

Speaker: TBA

Coffee Hour Host: Linda Hurley

Usher: Erica Kopp

## President's Report

“And all at once summer collapsed into fall.” ~Oscar Wilde

That has certainly been the energy here at FUUN as we transition into our cooler months. Services have resumed as normal so far with John Snodgrass, Rev. Susan Frawley and next week with Donna Evans-Deyermond.

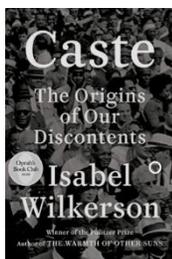
I like to extend my gratitude to our members who were able to join me this past Sunday to clean out the room that had been previously used for Religious Education with the intent to resume that program for the young members and attendees of our church. Thank you Marge, Theresa, Jim, Wally, Paul and Gail for your efforts organizing and cleaning in order to get an RE program running again. Though we ran into the ever unavoidable obstacles as is often the case with older buildings, I am hopeful and excited for what is to come.

Things are coming together for the Blessing of the Animals service on Oct. 17th. So far Precious Paws, Buffalo Pugs and Diamonds in the Ruff have agreed to join us for that service. We are in need of volunteers to help prepare for that service so if you are able to do any preliminary work and/or be of assistance on the day of, please let me know ASAP.

Happy Fall!

Andrea

## Book Group



Our next meeting will be on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM at the church. We are going to try to Zoom these meetings if people are interested. The book we are reading is “Cast: the Origins of Our Discontents” by Isabel Wilkerson.

## UUA

Only Clay on the Wheel

By [Jake Morrill](#)

September 22, 2021

“In time the Rockies may crumble /Gibraltar may tumble /They're only made of clay  
But our love is here to stay.”

—Ira Gershwin, lyricist of “[Love Is Here to Stay](#) (YouTube)”

One night a few years ago, I lay facing up on the frozen blacktop of a parking lot beside the Grand Canyon, listening to a park ranger’s astronomy lecture. Polaris, she explained, only serves as our North Star for now. The restlessness of our North Celestial Pole means that in two thousand years, another star, Errai, will become our North Star.

That was news to me. I’d always thought the North Star was just the North Star. It’s easy to mistake longevity for permanence.

Take the Smoky Mountains; they’re among the oldest mountain ranges in the world. But what’s there now is only part of the story. At one time, a mountain range ran down the center of the ancient super-continent, Pangaea, before the whole thing broke apart, sending some mountains to North Africa, some to the Scottish Highlands, and some to Appalachia, where they ended up as the Smokies I love.

A person might despair at the thought of impermanence—or at best, find acceptance. Personally, as a work in progress, I’ll admit I find hope.

In the Book of Jeremiah, God tells the prophet, “Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” Jeremiah continues, “So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.” God, the potter, is a process that forms and re-forms.



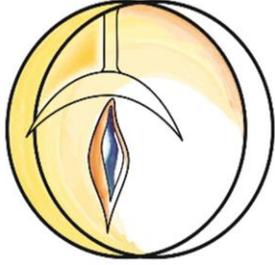
When I was young, I was drunk with ambition. I thought I should be famous. Now, I just want to be clay in the hands of the potter; to be shaped in a way that lets me serve the eternal. Any status, form, or appearance that we claim is only for the time being. Ask Polaris. Ask the Smoky Mountains. What endures for all time is the work of creation that leaves us changed, if we let it, and then changed again, all to meet the next moment as a relatively functional vessel of love.

Prayer: God, wean us of our addiction to certainty and willpower. Help us learn the ways of wonder and surrender, as we are re-fashioned into trusty vessels of justice, compassion, and love. Amen.



Rev. Jake Morrill (he/him/his) has served the Oak Ridge (TN) UU Church as Lead Minister since 2003. The Executive Director of the UU Christian Fellowship, he’s also a therapist and leadership coach. His weekly e-newsletter, “Tenacious Play,” comes out on Mondays; readers can subscribe to it [at his website](#).

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/only-clay-wheel>



Return Service Requested  
October 2021

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