

Powerline

*First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara*

November 2021

639 Main Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14301
716-285-8381

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 Betsy Diachun, Andrea Galipeau, and Erica Kopp.

Sunday Services

November 7: "There's a light, what a light!"

Our first principle states "every person has inherent worth," but sometimes it's a struggle to find the inherent worth in every individual who comes across our paths, and even in ourselves. But as the Wilco song goes, "There's a light, what light," in each of us. What do we need to do to see that light in others, and to allow our own lights to shine brighter?

Speaker: Donna Evans-Deyermond
Coffee Hour Host: Teresa Labuszewski
Usher: Paul Brundage

November 14: Struggle

A brief look at the inner struggle for a sense of identity, how it helps us to develop our strengths, accept our weaknesses, and understand ourselves.

Speaker: John Snodgrass
Coffee Hour Host: Marie Spears-Howard
Usher: Susan Diachun

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.

November 21: "Saving Time"

An old Indian story tells of how ridiculous the white man's idea is of cutting off a top layer of the blanket and adding it to the bottom of the blanket to make it longer. In life and faith, we think time savers or hacks give us a richer, better life. We discuss this and other beliefs about time savers.

Speaker: Susan Frawley
Coffee Hour Host: Pat Brandum
Usher: Joan Davis

November 28: TBA

Speaker:
Coffee Hour Host: Paul Brundage
Usher: Andrea Galipeau

President's Report

I am once again happy to share that this year's Blessing of the Animals' service was a success, albeit a cold one! Several furry friends visited and were blessed by Rev. Susan Frawley. The winner of the "cutest-while-being-blessed" award, hands down, goes to Max of Buffalo Pugs and Small Breed Rescue who flipped out over being blessed, quite literally. I appreciate all whose efforts contributed to a lovely service.

I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge Bill Lisk, a longtime member, whose dedication to the church renders him invaluable. Bill consistently monitors and adjusts our sound system as needed to ensure successful Zoom broadcasting which allows many folks to access our services if they can not be present. I am so glad to be able to share what we offer here at FUUN to a larger audience, or simply to our members who may be on the move.

You may also catch Bill at church during the week minding any of a variety of maintenance projects that old churches are well-known to provide. Thank you for all of your hard work, Bill.

Though October offered us some unseasonably warm weather, November has reminded us of the chilly weather to come. Like other years, this year FUUN will hold a warm-clothing drive for our community members. Please consider donating new or gently-used gloves, mittens, scarves, hats and/or coats for children or adults, or donating your time to sort, organize and display the clothes.

Stay warm!

Andrea

FUUN Warm Clothing Drive

During the months of November and December, FUUN will be collecting new or gently-used gloves, mittens, scarves, hats and/or coats for children or adults. Please consider donating new or gently-used gloves, mittens, scarves, hats and/or coats for children or adults, or donating your time to sort, organize and display the clothes. For more information, please call Andrea at 508.965.6608.

UUA

A Thousand Voices

By [Tania Márquez](#)

October 27, 2021

“Listen more often to things than to beings.”

—from "Spirits," a poem by Birago Ismael Diop

Every year around this time, there is a distinctive smell in the air and the trees sway like the whisper of a thousand voices. That’s how I know they are coming. At that point the perpetual altar in my heart begins taking place outside of me, for a few days, and it dances with joy at the thought of their coming.

First, the table that will be the altar. A few boxes on top to create different levels. I begin to think about the pictures I am adding to my altar today; the beloved friend who didn’t get to say goodbye, the one I loved, my grandparents, the cousin who left too soon. I allow myself to think about the ones whose pictures won’t be on my altar, but that I still remember. The fragrance of the *cemapsúchil* fills the air; Grandfather Sun-made flower, a ray of light guiding them back, calling them home. It is a long way here. It is good to have some food and drinks ready, so they may quench their thirst, so they may eat and gain strength for the way back. I love adding chocolate and drinking *chocolate caliente*. I imagine a moment of communion that transcends the world of the living.



Once the altar is ready, I behold the sight of this place of encounter: they will come and will know they are missed. All of the times we spent together, all of the memories come rushing to us. Our elders told us, “To remember is to live again.” And that’s what we do when we allow ourselves to be surrounded by their presence and the stories of times we spent together.

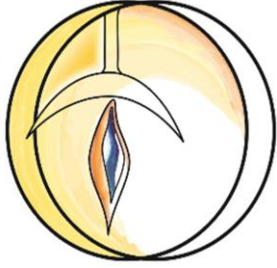
My family and I gather. We tell stories, we laugh, we also cry a little, we rejoice in their company. Their stories come alive in our telling, and so does the love we still feel. I have learned to listen more often to things than to beings; to listen to my heart that knows a different way of knowing. My heart knows that the dead aren’t really dead; their stories are perpetually being told by the world around us; like trees swaying, like the whisper of a thousand voices.

Prayer: Boundless Spirit, open our minds, our hearts, and all of our senses to a different way of knowing: the knowing of the heart that recognizes love transcendent, love everlasting, love that never dies.



Rev. Tania Yadira Márquez (she/ella) is an ordained UU minister, Spiritual Director, and Chaplain Resident. Her ministry is influenced by her immigrant and frontera experiences. Tania strongly believes in the healing power of words, community, and ritual.

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/thousand-voices>



Return Service Requested
November 2021

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



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