

# Powerline

*First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Niagara*

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

**May 2021**

*Learn, Love, Build a Better World*

## Contents

Sunday Services .....	2
President's Report .....	4
Book Group .....	5
Our People .....	5
My Family Story .....	6
Church Member in Niagara Gazette .....	7
Death and Dying Resources, Flo Kane .....	7



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 Peter Diachun, Betsy Diachun, and Erica Kopp.

## **Sunday Services**

### **May 2: "To Rest the Heart"**

It is likely during this tumultuous time of COVID and social unrest that our hearts have been restless and troubled. Yet without rest, our hearts can become overwhelmed, exhausted, burned out-- no longer able to care or to act. This Sunday we'll consider where we might find rest for our hearts and touch into renewal.

Speaker: Re. Theresa Kime

Coffee Hour: Nan Simon

Usher: Susan Diachun

Immediately following the service we will be holding our Pledging Sunday entertainment fun. This year, while celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Church, we will be playing a theme related Jeopardy game. There are prizes! After that we shall move to Unity Hall for a scrumptious luncheon prepared by Nan and a birthday cake! Be sure to attend as you are able!

### **May 9: "Hardware"**

It can be hard, steering through the media superstorm of the twenty-first century, we can easily get lost. How can the human hardware adapt to the ever-evolving software of information technology? And can our brains, hearts and guts keep all of these newsflashes in perspective?

### **12:30 – 1:30 Religion Class**

#### **Goddesses**

The earliest traces of humanity's spiritual development are not a search for a male god in the sky, but a female goddess of survival and abundance on earth. In this session we'll be examining how European Goddess worship went underground as Europe became Christianized.

Speaker: John Snodgrass

Coffee Hour Host: Kathy McCunn and Wally Lamb

Usher: Peter Diachun

**May 16: "May I come in?"**

Slowly the world is opening back up to people visiting and interacting with one another. As our doors to our homes, church's, community venture extend out; who are we extending welcome to ? Who needs the shelter and invitation to come into our space.

Speaker: Susan Frawley via ZOOM

Coffee Hour Host: Linda Hurley

Usher: Pam Smith

**May 23: "Inspiration and Perspiration"**

This past year could only be described as "inspiration-draining." How do we put the joie de vivre back into our lives? What are the things that inspire you enough to get through the perspiration it takes to accomplish your goals? Where can we find inspiration when we need it?

Speaker: Donna Evans-Deyermond

Coffee Hour Host: Susan Diachun

Usher: Erica Kopp

Special Congregational Meeting will be held at 12:30 to consider 2 amendments to the bylaws. The Annual Meeting will follow directly after. Please see President's Report for exact details.

**May 30: TBA**

Speaker:

Coffee Hour Host: Peter Diachun

Usher: Shelley Baxter

The Service Committee has begun to look for speakers for next year. If you have anyone to suggest, please speak to Joan Davis, Andrea Galipeau, Nan Simon or Betsy Diachun. Or, if you have a subject you'd like to hear about, let us know.

## President's Report

Our 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary as a Congregation has caused all of us to pause and think about the founders of this church 100 years ago. They came together to establish a home for people of “liberal religion” which means today, I think, largely what they meant 100 years ago. They sought support for the freedom to decide for themselves about the same important questions we still consider today. Is there a god, and if so, what is god’s role in our lives, if any? What about our mortality and life after death? They probably did not agree, even with each other, about the answers to the questions, any more than we do today. The important thing was that they did not want to be told the answers by any authority – secular or church. They demanded the right of deciding for themselves with their own free minds.

We continue this fundamental commitment to individual free thought. The results of that thinking has, and continues, to change. Right now we have a chance to consider together amending the Bond of Fellowship in our church’s bylaws to make it more inclusive.

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held at 12:30 PM on Sunday, May 23, 2021 just before the Annual Meeting to consider this change in the bylaws and another proposed change. See the official announcements of these meetings below.

Peter

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Special Congregational Meeting of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara  
at  
639 Main Street, Niagara Falls, New York  
May 23, 2021 at 12:30 PM

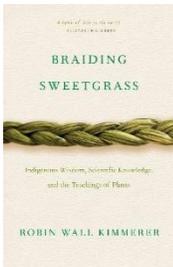
The only agenda items will be to consider 2 proposed amendments to the bylaws.

1. In Article 3, The Bond of Fellowship words “men and women” shall be replaced with the word “people”.
2. Article 5, 5.1 The term limit of the members of the Board of Trustees shall be expanded from one term to two terms.

The Annual Meeting of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara at 639 Main Street, Niagara Falls, New York  
Previously announced for May 23, 2021 at 12:30 PM will start immediately following the Special Congregational Meeting of that day and time.

Note: Both of these Meetings will be conducted in person with masking and safe distancing. They will also be available for participation on Zoom to the best of our ability. Only Members are allowed to vote in either meeting.

## Book Group



The Book Group had a good discussion about “So You Want to Talk about Race” by Ijeoma Oluo. There’s paperback copy in Unity Hall on the counter below the other books. It was recommended by one of our speakers and she left us copies. This one has some underlining and comments.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, June 24<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 “Braiding Sweet Grass” by Robin Wall Kimmerer, who is a professor of Biology. Her work describes the connection between Native American beliefs and plant uses and more scientific methods and ideas. The book is available on-line.

## Our People

**Norm Rowlinson** died on May 17. There will be a service June 6 at 2 PM. Joy may be contacted at 69 Pine Woods Drive, North Tonawanda, NY 14120

**Joan Davis** had successful surgery on her back at Buffalo General. She is still in rehab there but may be getting home soon. Her address is 5059 Marywood Road, Lewiston, NY 14092.

## **My Family Story -- by Mukhles Rahman**

Mr. Rahman has been with us – mainly via Zoom for the past few months. I hope this will help us get to know him better since we are so separated at present

My family history compares with the human history of migration. Why do people migrate? To escape aggression, oppression, corruption, injustices, domination, exploitation, slavery etc. Sometimes people migrate just for a better life.

Why do people migrate? To escape uncertainty and bleak future.

Our most reliable records begin with the 1st generation of Kairat Paluan born in 1625 in Jangalbari in Bangladesh. Kairat was a small landlord zamindar and a minister of the local ruler of the Mughal family. After migration to Assam, India in 1770, the 8th generation was born in 1805 in Assam, India. The family migrated to Lankakhola, Bangladesh due to political and religious tensions, and racial incompatibilities of Bengalis and Assamese. This is where my grandfather Samir Sarkar was born in 1875 and my father was born there too in 1918. However, I was born in the town of Mymensingh.

As a student I came to America for education and then got a job at the Eastman Kodak Company. I came to America to embrace its glorious liberty, freedom, justice, and infinite opportunities for honest and hardworking men and women.

My father lived his last 11 years in Rochester, New York and became a proud US Citizen. My son Saamir was born in Rochester, NY, USA.

Why do people migrate? Essentially to escape political, religious and racial persecution and to seek peace, happiness, progress and prosperity.

In conclusion, my family history of 400 years is similar to the growth of worldwide migration.

I invite and request you to accept migration as part of our global human history and embrace the new with the old as we become one big community for a better world.

Here is a relevant quote from the 32nd POTUS, Franklin D. Roosevelt.:  
“Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists.”

## Church Member in Niagara Gazette

### Making employable enjoyable

Building marketable skills is everything at Workforce Training Center

By Joe Genco joe.genco@niagara-gazette.com Apr 27, 2021



High School Equivalency Instructor Erica Kopp shows off graduates from the program.  
JAMES NEISS PHOTO

Read article here:  
[Niagara Gazette](#)

## Death and Dying Resources, Flo Kane

Health care proxy forms can be found here

[https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/patients/health\\_care\\_proxy/](https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/patients/health_care_proxy/)

Information about Advance Care Directives (Living Wills) can be found here

[https://www.health.ny.gov/community/advance\\_care\\_planning/faq.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/community/advance_care_planning/faq.htm)

Information from the Funeral Consumers Alliance can be found here

<https://funerals.org/>

Hospice Foundation of America can be found here

<https://hospicefoundation.org/Hospice-Care/Hospice-Services>

You can find a Death Doula here

<https://www.inelda.org/find-doula/>

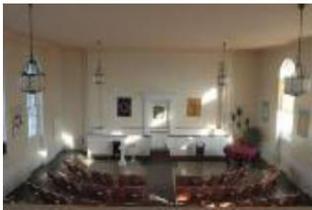
You can google 'Natural' or 'Green' Burial in WNY and find a list of cemeteries in the area that do green burials.



Return Service Requested  
May 2021

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara  
639 Main Street  
PO Box 2566  
Niagara Falls, NY 14302

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



639 Main Street,  
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(716) 285-8381

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