

Powerline

*First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara*

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January 2022

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 Betsy Diachun, Andrea Galipeau, and Erica Kopp.

Sunday Services

January 2: "Fall Up"

It's important to continue to take risks in life because even our failures offer us new opportunities. As we face the challenges of this upcoming year we must not shut down, but keep living our lives to the fullest extent.

Speaker: Donna Evans-Deyermond

Coffee Hour Host: Jim Hufnagel

Usher: Shelley Baxter

January 9: "Nicknames"

How do you escape a nickname you don't like? And which famous religions came to be known by nicknames the founders would have rejected?

Speaker: John Snodgrass

Coffee Hour Host: Carolyn and Winnie

Usher:

Adult Education Class 12:30 – 1:30

January 16: "In the Sweet, Sweet Winter"

Fully in the season of winter, it's time to reflect on what it means to us... climate wise, recreation wise and spiritual wise. What sleeps in this winter season awaiting it's spring?

Speaker: Susan Frawley

Coffee Hour Host: Andrea Galipeau

Usher: Pam Smith

January 23: Part 1

Speaker: Ron Skowronski

Coffee Hour Host: Marie Howard

Usher: Shelley

January 30: Part 2

Speaker: Ron Skowronski

Coffee Hour Host: Erica Kopp

Usher: Marge Gillies

President's Report

Happy New Year!

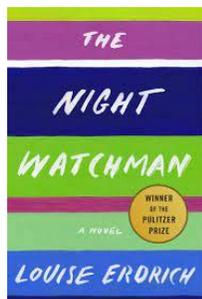
Many folks often welcome the New Year with intentions along the lines of "New Year, New Me." I prefer the idea of *New Year, Better Me* as it is important to take with us our experiences and life lessons. Let us look to this new year at FUUN with a similar scope. What do we want to bring forward with us as we move forward? What can we improve and how?

Looking forward to another year with a great group of folks. Let's stay FUUN!

Andrea

Book Group

Big Changes for the BOOK CLUB!



In an effort to have more participation we decided to move the one hour long meeting of the Book Club to. The 4th SUNDAY of the month at 12:30 - after our church service and an abbreviated Coffee Hour.

Besides that change we will also have one member who will give a summary of the book for those who haven't read it.

January's meeting will be on Sunday, the 30th at 12:30. The book is "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich. It's a great novel and a good read.

UUA

A Village of Strangers

By [Laura Shay](#)

December 22, 2021

“At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.”

—Albert Schweitzer

I’m fortunate to work in an inpatient hospice that permits family to be at the bedside during this pandemic. Even though the allotted number of family members has been markedly reduced, I’m grateful for the special presence only a loved one can bring. At times, the small facility seems too quiet. I miss the way things were before Covid-19, and reminisce about a special week in 2018.

For some families, Christmas can bring out the worst in them as they gather together once a year. This was not the case with these families. They were not just tolerating each other for the sake of the loved one dying; they were there for each other in the truest sense. There were ex-wives who quietly sat by the bedside; estranged children from second marriages; and grandchildren gathered in the common area by the fireplace.

One crafty daughter chose to deal with the stress by teaching people how to make beautiful paper stars. Day by day, each room had a new large beautiful star hanging from the window latch. Each star had a story, infused by the memories that flowed from the mouths of the creators.



The common area became a field of stars, and an integrated sacred space. Lutherans, Catholics, Methodists, Jews, and non-religious people sat in clusters, new connections, hearing wonderful stories for the first time. Tears and laughter, teatime cookies and finger sandwiches. All waiting; knowing that soon the members of this tiny village of strangers would be leaving. Who will be the first to go? Who will be the last to go? If only it could happen at the same time. Not wanting to be first, hoping to be last. Wanting one more day. Determined to stay even if everyone else is gone.

When I returned the following week, the tiny village of strangers was a thing of Christmas past. The common area was filled with new strangers. I missed that tiny village of strangers. Thankfully, the star made for the staff still hung prominently in the nurse’s station, reminding us of that special Christmas week when the world felt a little more peaceful.

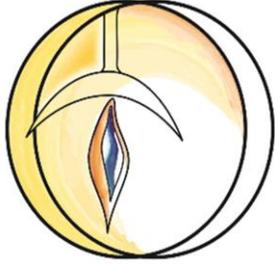
Prayer

May we continue to find ways to connect while keeping safe this holiday season. May 2022 find our physical spaces refilled with the special energy that often comes from perfect strangers. Amen and may it be so.



Laura Shay (she/her/hers) is a chaplain in an inpatient hospice facility in Maryland. She is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville (MD) and the co-leader of their Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship. She and her wife of 35 years enjoy yoga, hiking, biking and...

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/village-strangers>



Return Service Requested
January 2022

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



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