

# Powerline

*First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Niagara*

**November 2022**

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](mailto:uuniagara@gmail.com) or click the link. Please spread the word.

Many thanks to our contributors Paul Brundage and Erica Kopp.

## **Sunday Services**

### **November 6: “Momma, Where is Heaven?”**

One of the most “taboo” subjects in America is death. We are at the same time fascinated and frightened by it. Considered by many as an authority on the subject due to his work with Hospice and the Spiritualist Church, our Speaker will share his insights. Nothing kooky. Nothing scary. The speaker promises that you will come away…… Thought Provoked.

*Speaker: Ron Skowronski*

*Coffee Hour: Paul Brundage*

*Usher: Marge Gillies*

### **November 13: “The Three Sisters”**

To the indigenous peoples of New York, corn, squash and beans were known as "The Three Sisters" because of how these staple crops grew cooperatively. In this service we'll explore the biological and spiritual aspects of these intertwined plants as a model of companionship.

*Speaker: John Snodgrass*

*Coffee Hour: Kathy McCunn*

*Usher: Wally Lamb*

### **Adult Education Class November 13, 12:30 – 1:30**

An exploration of Haudenosaunee/Iroquois farming and how it relates to religion.

### **November 20: United Nations Union Rights Attorney**

*Speaker: Graig Molkiber*

*Coffee Hour: Erica Kopp*

*Usher: Joan Davis*

### **November 27: "Thanks Giving”**

We celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving. How do we extend thanks and do so with a joyful heart of giving?

*Speaker: Susan Frawley*

*Coffee Hour: Potluck*

*Usher: Patty Lisk*

## President's Report

I hope everyone had a safe and fun Halloween and now as we come into November, most leaves will be on the ground as we have Thanksgiving to look forward to with family and friends.

I'm looking forward to our next meeting in November to get down to business with the other Board Members.

Erica has been taking on the responsibility of paying our speakers, and offered to pay other payable expenses like utilities, etc. So it was approved by the board to have her pay the other bills as well. This will give Peter more time to do the financial accounting.

We have open speaker dates currently in progress of being filled. The dates are January 15, 2023

As far as work on the church building, a leak was discovered above the 2nd floor conference room. It seems it came from the 3rd floor and the roof above that ultimately discolored the 2nd floor wall in that room. Bill has been active in repairing the leak. Also, it discovered the leak was caused by leaf buildup on the water drains causing the rain water to run over. The cleaning and repair is in progress by Bill, Jim and others help.

As a reminder, we discussed keeping our building open on Christmas Day morning this year since it is on a Sunday. New Year's Day is on Sunday too January 1st, 2023 and we will be open for anyone who wants to attend.

These are just a few of the things we need to do and in the next few months, we will go forward with these current changes and the ones to come.

President of UU Board –  
Paul Brundage

## Potlucks

We will be having end of month potlucks! Everyone is welcome. Bring a dish to pass if you are able.

## Articles

If you would like to add poetry, stories, artwork, etc., to the Powerline, you can email [uunigara@gmail.com](mailto:uunigara@gmail.com).

## UUA

### Unfinished Business

By [Karen G. Johnston](#)

October 26, 2022

“Don't fear your mortality, because it is this very mortality that gives meaning and depth and poignancy to all the days that will be granted to you.”

–Paul Tsongas

How much notice would I want ahead of time before I die?

Is it six minutes? Six days? Six months? There are wise ones who say not to waste your time and energies on things we cannot know or change. Yet this set of hypothetical questions has been an evocative way for me to discern what's most meaningful in my life.



All things being equal—given my current state of affairs and the current condition of my body and mind—which time frame terrifies me the most? Which one the least? What possibility do I sense in each of them? In a class I lead where we engage these questions, our conversations are juicy. When participants share their reasons, it invites further reflection for all of us.

Is six hours enough to say good-bye? Maybe.

Is six months enough to do the things you've been putting off? It depends.

Is six days enough to put end-of-life papers in order? (No, I promise you, it's not. Start now as a gift to those you love who will survive you. It's worth facing whatever distaste or fear. Truly.)

How much time do any of us need to “finish our business” in this life?

Maybe that's the wrong question, since we all leave unfinished business whether we die too soon or right on time (whatever that means). Perhaps a better question is, How do we embrace the fact of our mortality—not as an obstacle to finishing “business,” or as a source of fear that sours our life, but as an ever-present companion, giving our living days a deeper sense of meaning and depth and poignancy?

It is in engaging that question, over and over, that is the meaningful work of being alive. It is in living into that question, be it in solitude or in community or a combination of both, that gives us the best chance of making precious, perhaps even sacred, the business to which we do tend.

### Prayer

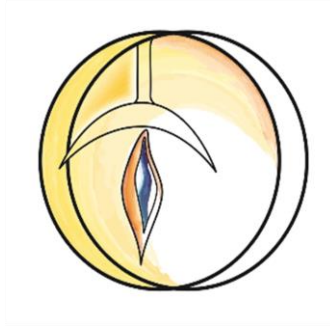
Spirit of Life and Love, be with us at all times. May our turning to face mortality—that of those we love and our own—be a passage to living the days of our life more fully and with more meaning. May we live with ease. May we die with ease.

*Editor's note: this reflection concludes Braver/Wiser's October series on death & dying.*



**[Karen G. Johnston](#)** (she/her/hers) is the settled minister at The Unitarian Society in East Brunswick, NJ. Before becoming a minister, she spent 20+ years as a clinical social worker. Buddhist meditation and befriending death practices sustain her, as does her delightful dog, Vera, and a blessed abundance of other beings in her life.

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/unfinished-business>



Return Service Requested  
November 2022

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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