

December 2014 **POWERLINE**  
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara  
**Sunday Services (11:00am)**



**December 7:** GENUINE SNAKE OIL. Tim Madigan will give a brief history of the phenomenon of “Snake Oil Salesmen,” peddlers of patent medicine in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century who combined showmanship, homemade medicine and old-fashioned larceny, and existed on the fringes of the medical community. Madigan is himself the descendent of “Snake Oil Johnny McMahan,” his maternal great-grandfather, who peddled his wares in the Black Rock area in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century – and, as a professor of philosophy himself, some say Madigan is continuing in the family tradition. **November**

**December 14:** Discussion

– John Mayer

**Decem 21:** “Celebrating the Solstice”

- Sunnie Thomas

**December 24:** “Carols by Candlelight” Christmas Eve Service

Gather at 7pm to join in celebrating and singing.

**December 28:** “The Sanctity of the Ordinary”

As another year is about to end, we reflect on the days of our lives and on what lies ahead

-Don Reidell



*Merry*   
*Christmas* 

## Thanksgiving 2014



### **Congregational Meeting December 14, 2014 at 12:30**

The Congregational meeting regarding Right Relations Policies which started on November 9 is in recess. The Congregational Discussion of these policies occurred last Sunday as scheduled. There were 7 people present. The differing proposals were discussed and it was agreed to try to draft a version which would be acceptable to everyone. The full Congregational Meeting will be reconvened on December 14 at 12:30 as scheduled. This will be the only item on the agenda of that meeting.

### **Christmas Mitten Tree**

The MITTEN, HAT, SCARF tree is up and awaiting its decorations. All items will be given to a charitable agency after the first of the year. Homemade, or store bought, all are most appreciated.

### **Tax Deductions**

A reminder: Anyone wishing to take a tax deduction for donations to the church in 2014 may do so for all payments received by Erica before the end of the month

### **Christmas Eve Service**

Dec. 24 - There will be a Christmas Eve Service. Patty Lisk is organizing it and would appreciate any help or suggestions. Music - Stories - Holiday cheer. The Service will be at 7 with a reception following. Marie Howard will be hosting and again would like help - cookies, punch whatever. Speak to Marie.

### **A Touch of our Childhood**

Christmas Surprise! Paul Brundage is working on getting Mike Bailey's train set up and running in Unity Hall. He has already purchased some missing pieces and hopes to have a tabletop scene ready to show later this month. At some point he plans to invite Mike's family in to do a bit of reminiscing about it.

### **Scottish Dinner**

Riverside Presbyterian Church is once again putting on a Scottish dinner in honor of Robert Burns on Saturday, Jan. 24. The tickets are \$30.00. It is a fun filled event which is fun to attend in a group. In the past it has been held at the Frontier Fire Hall on Williams Rd. For more information or to buy tickets call Barb at 283-4708.

### **Local Christmas Shopping**

They will be selling Christmas trees, greens and holly at Park Place Markte, across the street from the church from 10 - 4 Saturdays and Sundays in Dec. (plus Nov. 29) We are trying to support this growing "farmers' market & gifts" so if you are getting a tree or greens, please consider buying one there. Thanks!

### **TOPS CARDS**

A new supply of TOPS cards is available. Contact Erica ([ericakopp@yahoo.com](mailto:ericakopp@yahoo.com)) or Betsy ([ediachun@gmail.com](mailto:ediachun@gmail.com)) to purchase. Help the church finances while shopping as you normally would.

### **Heating the Church in Winter**

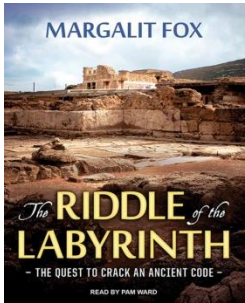
We are now in the heating season. There are two important actions all members must understand.

1. Anyone using the Church building must be aware that it will be cold unless a request is made to bring up the heat at least 24 hours ahead. It takes at least that long to heat the auditorium. Unity hall heats up in about 6-8 hours. If you want any part of the building heated you must let Peter or Erica know at least a full day before so it can be reprogrammed to meet your needs. It can be programmed up to 6 days in advance. The Founders' Room (Office) is an exception. It automatically senses activity and will be up to temperature in about 10 minutes after someone enters. You can use the Founders' Room any time with out any prior arrangement for heat.
2. In order to conserve heat, all the inside doors which now have spring closures on them must be kept closed except when people are going through. Please do not prop them open. Treat these doors as you would an outside door—that is closed during the heating season.

## **Habitat for Humanity**

Habitat will hold their annual Graham Cracker House decorating for children during the Lewiston Christmas Walk on Dec. 6 and 7 from noon until 4 in the back room at the Brickyard Restaurant. at \$5.00 per house the activity takes about 15 to 30 minutes.

## **Book Club Wednesday December 17:**



At 7PM the book club will meet to discuss the book, regardless if you have read it all. The Riddle of the Labyrinth: the Quest to Crack an Ancient Code by Margarit Fox. Come and join the lively discussions.

## **Website**

Have a look at the new website <http://firstuunf.org/>

It still needs some changes. Please email Erica with any thoughts or suggestions:  
[ericakopp@yahoo.com](mailto:ericakopp@yahoo.com)

## **FUNDRAISING**

The church is listed as a charity on Ebay. Anyone can sell items on Ebay giving 10-100% of the proceeds directly to the church. Ebay discounts the seller's fees at the percent of the donation. There is also an option to make a direct donation. Proceeds are directly deposited in the Church's checking account. So far we've raised \$200 from the first few of Jeanne Aydelotte's Hummels. We also have a beautiful ornament from Patty Lisk listed. Sometime - will be listing a number of items donated by Mamie Simonson and Judi Bongiovanni. Ebayers in the church can check out:

<http://givingworks.ebay.com/charity-auctions/charity/first-unitarian-universalist-church-of-niagara/58459/>

If you have comments or articles you may submit them to [ericakopp@yahoo.com](mailto:ericakopp@yahoo.com) with the subject "Powerline"



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 Return Service Requested  
 December 2014

## UU Niagara Activities – December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 7pm - Book Group @	18	19	20
21 12:30pm - Board	22	23	24 7pm - Christmas Eve	25	26	27 10am - PRP2 @
28	29	30	31	1	2	3