

January 2015 **POWERLINE**
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara
Sunday Services (11:00am)



January 4: “We Begin Again in Love” **Rev. Renee Ruchotzke** (ruh-HUT-skee) | Congregational Life Consultant | Central East Regional Group (CERG)

January 11: Discussion

— **John Mayer**

January 18: Face to the Sky Rev. Frances Manly and Doug Yeomans

Grace has been defined as all that comes to us from the wildly generous hand of life beyond our deserving; it’s what supports and upholds us when our resources have come to an end. Singer, songwriter, and guitarist Doug Yeomans will join Rev. Frances Manly in exploring these ideas to a background of “Amazing Grace” and other music, from bluegrass standards to the Beatles’ “Let it Be.”

Rev. Frances Manly is Minister Emerita of this church, which she served as minister from 1996 until her retirement in 2008.. She is currently a member of the UU Church of Buffalo, where she sings in the choir, works with the Adult Faith Development Team, and preaches occasionally.

Doug Yeomans, a member of the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame, plays a hybrid style including blues, bluegrass, rock and roll, and country with influences from jazz and beyond. He performs regularly throughout Western New York in venues ranging from churches to clubs, has toured nationally with Broadway shows, and composed and performed the music for “A Lesson Before Dying” at the Studio Arena Theatre.

January 25: Why Do We Count The Years ?

Perhaps we count the years in order to stop ourselves, to stay awake, to stand in the eternal moment.
—**Rev Donald Reidell**

President's Report

Through the efforts of our Sunday Programs Committee, those who planned and staffed the FUUNtastic Auction, the Health Fair, and everyone else who has done the work to keep things going during 2014, we have continued the tradition of FUUN that was begun nearly 100 years ago. Over those years, the culture and city have changed tremendously, and our beautiful church on Main St. has continued to provide interesting Sunday programs, activities, and support for one another.

After coffee following the January 25th service, we will have a planning meeting. Its purpose is to develop ways to increase church membership and strengthen our programs. All members are invited to attend, offer suggestions, and comment on ideas offered by others.

We need stimulating Sunday services to complement our positive and supportive environment. The longevity of the church depends on a steady influx of new members. Attracting and keeping people depends on providing the best possible experience.

With the goal of increasing interest in our church, I will propose that we try online advertising using Google or possibly other search engines and am personally willing to fund this experiment. Such advertising would direct the searcher to our web site. For this to be effective, our web site home page needs to make a strong positive impression on those who are unfamiliar with us. We are the ideal church for those seeking answers to the mysteries of life. As others have said, there seem to be a large number in the area who would love to be among us if they only knew about us.

Although it would not directly generate new members, I believe we should also reach out to the millions who visit Niagara Falls every year. Our philosophy does not conflict with the essential teachings of any major religion. Visitors from other countries or elsewhere in the U.S. could have a nice experience by attending our services and visiting with us at coffee hour. They could take in the local culture in our positive environment. I believe that we would all benefit.

I feel positive that there are ways to greatly increase interest in our church—much like Edison's thinking, when he was sure there was a way to make a light bulb but needed to find the right material to use. After many trials, he had his answer. Growing the church is possible. The ingredients for success are there. The issue is finding the right strategy.

So what's your suggestion? I hope that you will join us after church on January 25th to help plan our future.

Winter Solstice



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.

TOPS CARDS

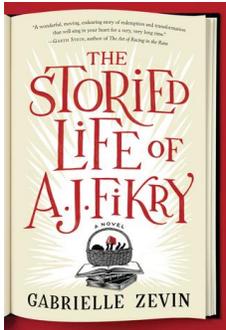
A new supply of TOPS cards is available. Contact Erica (ericakopp@yahoo.com) or Betsy (ediachun@gmail.com) to purchase. Help the church finances while shopping as you normally would.

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.

Book Club Wednesday January 21:



At 7PM the book club will meet to discuss the book, *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry: A Novel*, regardless if you have read it all. 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

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 with the subject "Powerline"



First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara
 639 Main Street
 PO Box 2566
 Niagara Falls, NY 14302
 Return Service Requested
 December 2014

UU Niagara Activities – January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4 11am - Rev. Renee	5 W2	6	7	8	9	10
11 11am - John Mayer	12	13	14	15 Taxes	16	17
18 11am - Rev. Frances 12:30pm - Board	19	20	21 7pm - Book Group @	22	23	24 10am - PRP2 @
25 11am - Rev Donald 12:30pm - Planning	26	27	28	29	30	31