

**First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Niagara  
Powerline**

**January 2016**

*Learn, Love, Build a Better World*

**Sunday Services (11:00am)**

**January 3:** Coming Home: Stories About Veterans

Bob Lavallee

**January 10:** "SUCCESS"



How do we define "success"? Does it mean the achievement of personal goals, or does it mean the continuance of culture? How has the meaning of "success" changed in human history? How might men and women have different understandings of "success"? We'll explore these and more questions in a sermon guaranteed to provide no answers.

BIO: J. Snodgrass is a first-generation Hungarian American, another friend of Ishmael, and an obsessive collector of old vinyl records. He teaches Religious Studies courses at Buffalo State and Canisius College. He lives with his wife and three children in Buffalo.

John Snodgrass

**January 17:** “When a Body Meets a Body: The Ethics of Displaying Human Cadavers.”

Robert Louis Stevenson’s “The Body Snatcher” and Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* both address the very real phenomenon of body snatching (best exemplified by the real-life case of Burke and Hare, the “resurrection men”) which was endemic in early 18<sup>th</sup> century England. I will discuss the medical demands for cadavers at the time, as well as the interesting reasons why the philosopher Jeremy Bentham had his body put on display in the front foyer of the University of London shortly after his death in 1832, where it still remains, as an attempt to encourage people to donate their bodies to science. I will also address recent examples of “body snatching” in cases where human remains and tissues have been stolen and sold for profit, as well as the phenomenon of such exhibits as Gunther van Hagens’ “Body Worlds.” Should cadavers be displayed and, if so, what – if any – should be the ethical limitations on such practices?

Tim Madigan

**January 24:** “A Cup of Kindness”

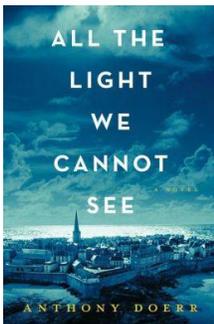
I can think of no better resolution for the new year than for each of us to continue to be kind to one another

Rev. Don Reidell

**January 31:** "Pope Francis Welcomes Atheists into the Kingdom of Heaven; To Hell with Persecutions."

Martin X. Moleski, SJ

**Book Club Tuesday January 19 at 7pm:**



All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr. Bring your ideas, thoughts, insights and a sense of humor.

## President's Message

Happy New Year!

It is time for our Church to face reality and decide our future.

We are small, too small to continue by conventional wisdom. We have not been able to grow for many years despite our best efforts and the advice and suggestions of the denomination.

On the other hand we have displayed a determination to continue. We feel the importance of being a beacon of free liberal religion in our community. Our commitment to support individual Members' and the Church's actions of social responsibility is strong. The care we provide to Members and Friends is important. Our programs provide intellectual stimulation and emotional enrichment.

We can choose to continue doing what we are doing now about our future, which is really little. We are just proceeding without doing much to control our future, following the path of least resistance. Maybe this is, indeed, our only real choice. We might be able to continue like this indefinitely. There are, however, two dangers to this approach.

First, we are vulnerable to many possible substantial problems. At any time we could suffer a major financial challenge which could exceed our limited resources. This could be one of several possible problems with our building. Right now we are facing the need to spend more than we can afford on the furnaces and roof. We are dependent on fewer donors who support our operations each year.

Second, to be not doing anything about our Church's future gives us no control over it. This does not seem what we would choose. Clearly there are many things which we can not control, but there are some which we may be able to effect.

I suggest that we come together as a Congregation and seriously face the future of the Church. I am convening an all Congregational discussion of our future after Church on January 24. Please plan to attend and participate.

Peter

*If you have comments or articles you may submit them to [ericakopp@yahoo.com](mailto: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  
 January 2016

## UU Niagara Activities - January 2016

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