

Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara

639 Main Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14301
716-285-8381

December 2017

Learn, Love, Build a Better World

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Christmas Eve service is at 11AM. There is no evening service.



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 or click the link. Please spread the word.

Many thanks to our contributors Marge Gillies, Betsy Diachun, and Judy Bongiovanni.

Sunday Programs

December 3: Master of Disaster?

For the past two months, Bob LaVallee has been working in a federal disaster assistance call center. Spending all day speaking with survivors of hurricanes and wildfires has him wondering what disasters can teach us about community and resilience.

Bob LaVallee

Coffee hour: Pam Smith and Judy Bongiovanni

Usher: Kathy McCunn

December 10:

John Snodgrass

Coffee hour: Linda Hurley

Usher: Betsy Diachun

December 17: "A Time for Light"

No matter the faith or culture, light is a common factor in celebration and remembering. From our chalice light to menorahs and arcs; the season of winter is full of illumination. Come see, come share, come hear about the lights of cultures and faiths.

Susan Frawley

Coffee hour: Susan Diachun

Usher: Marge Gillies

December 24: "tis the Season to be..."

Beyond all of the activities, of commercialism, of buying and selling, each of us should contemplate what the holiday season means

Rev. Donald Reidell

Coffee hour: Betsy Diachun

Usher: Erica Kopp

December 31: Freethinker Sunday

This last day of 2017 will be a Free Thinker Sunday at our 11:00 AM program. They are for atheists, agnostics, skeptics, and non theists as well as all others.

A Freethinker is one who forms opinions on the basis of reason independent of authority. Historically Freethinkers have been persecuted mercilessly.

Peter Diachun

Coffee hour: Stephen Wittkowsky

Usher: Erica Kopp

President's Message

And so December is coming upon us with all its celebrations, merriment and sadness for some. I guess it was when I learned that many religions have birth stories which rival the Biblical history of Jesus' birth that I began to realize that Christianity had made use of many traditional holiday times to encourage people to accept their new religion. People didn't have to give up merrymaking festivities in the depth of winter to be a Christian. But now, after so many centuries, there are many who believe this is the true and the only way to live in the world. They forget the Pagans, Buddhists and others who already had established beliefs.

Many people are searching for the meaning of their life. We just had two Sunday talks which dealt with this. One was on "grace" and the extra blessings we have in our lives which we don't do anything to deserve. The other was talking about life beyond science. Those beautiful moments or happenings which can't be explained by scientific theories alone.

Most of us don't believe in a personal god or life after death, but we could take the teachings from Christianity and other religions and make a heaven here on earth. The memories of kindness which we leave behind will help. Let's do our part.

We LOVE UU and YOU!

UU Announcements

Recital

Sunday December 10th after church there will be recital hosted by Patty Calback.

Tops Gift Cards

TOPS gift cards available in \$25, 50, 100 or \$250. Special ones can be ordered. The church makes 5% on every dollar. and it costs you nothing. Good Christmas gifts.

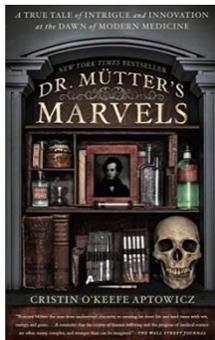
Interviews

In order to learn more about each other the Membership Committee has a new program entitled "This Is Us". To that end they are planning short interviews about members of the congregation within our church services. These would only be about 3 minutes in length with an interviewer asking about a significant event in one's life.

Heart, Love, and Soul

BASKETS are back in Narthex for small personal hygiene items to be given to Heart, Love and Soul for their clients. Don't forget to share shampoo, deodorant, soap etc. which you might get in your travels and don't plan to use.

Book Discussion Group



Our readers and talkers will meet at December 19 at 7pm in Unity Hall. We will be discussing *Dr. Mutter's Marvels: the True Tale of Intrigue and Innovation at the dawn of Medicine* by Cristin Aptowicz.

Our group tends to talk about ideas presented in our books so it is not necessary to have read the book to attend and share your opinions (although it helps). Everyone is welcome so join us for a chat

Visual Art



Water Color, Rustic Relic

Bonnie Soley

Community

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



639 Main Street,
Niagara Falls, NY 14032 - 2566
P.O. Box 2566
(716) 282-8381

E-mail uuniagara@gmail.com
<http://firstuunf.org>
Find us on Facebook



"Singles Social Club" established over 36 years ago. We are a friendly group that welcomes newcomers to our activities, game nights, dances, picnics, restaurants and much more....come join us! (Ages ranging 50 to 80 years old now, but all welcome) Call for more info 716-550-1232. Find us on facebook: Singles Social

*If you have comments or articles you may submit them to
ericakopp@yahoo.com with the subject "Powerline*



December 2017
 Return Service Requested
 Niagara Falls, NY 14302
 PO Box 2566
 639 Main Street
 First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara

UU Niagara Activities December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2
3 Bob LaVallee 8 Recycle	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 John Snodgrass 12:15p Recital	11	12	13	14 6:30p ■ Pride Unity Hall	15	16
17 Susan Frawley 8 Recycle 12:30p Board Meeting	18	19 7p Book Group	20	21	22	23
24 Don Reidell	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Free Thinker Sunday 8 Recycle	Jan 1	2	3	4	5	6