

Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Niagara

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

March 2017

Learn, Love, Build a Better World

Sunday Programs P 2
Minister's Message P 3
President's Corner P 4
Members and Friends P 5

Announcements P 6
Reflections P 7
Community P 8
Calendar P 9



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, Judy Bongiovanni, and Susan Frawlev.

Sunday Services 11:00am

March 5: "What's in a name?"

That which we call any creature on earth, has a power. The title or description that one uses to give identity to themselves is an oft under realized expression of power. We will explore pronouns, labels and why all this matters if we call ourselves Unitarian Universalists.

Susan Frawley

Coffee Hour Host: Kath McCunn and Wally Lamb

Usher: Jesse Higuera

March 12: "Prayers for Resistance

In these anxious times, many UUs are taking part in direct activism for the first time. They are discovering how empowering protest is, but also how challenging and even devastating it can be. How do we sustain ourselves as we do the hard work? In this service we'll consider the things that support us in our holy work for justice.

Robert Lavallee

Coffee Hour Host: Paul Brundage

Usher: Judy Bongiovanni

March 19: "ALIENS!"

We're hearing a lot right now about the dangers of "Aliens" in America, but North America has already seen plenty of "Alien Invasions" (and not just from other planets). We'll be looking briefly through the history of immigration, rediscovering our own immigrant roots, maybe feeling some blame but also looking at the bright side of being "Aliens in America". We'll also be looking at the dark side of Johnny Appleseed and his mysterious business-partner.

John Snodgrass

Coffee Hour Host: Peter Diachun

Usher: Paul Brundage

March 26: "THE QUIZZICAL LOOK

Providing an answer to the look of puzzlement.

Don Reidell

Coffee Hour Host: Judy Bongiovanni

Usher: Pam Smith

Minister's Message

Greetings to all.

January seemed so long being away from you all. And yet, my time in Chicago studying at Meadville Lombard seemed so short. Intensives, as the January learning time are often referred to, is a time of concentrated study in an insular community. I wrote last time of my experience in observing the city of Chicago's reaction to President Obama's goodbye address. There was so much electricity, literally and figuratively. Being present for the Womans' March in Chicago was an experience that I will never forget. So many people, one of the second largest Marches. What impressed me was the diversity of participants: Men, women, children, Jews with yarmulkes on, ministers in clerical collars, Sikhs with turbans, Muslims with Hajibs nuns with veils, lots of pink pussy hats...all assembling peacefully and respectfully. At one point, a person fell and I saw the group stop, make a circle around the fallen marcher, so that the person had space to get up. No pushing or shoving or immediacy of movement. Everyone was interacting lovingly and kindly. "This is what democracy looks like" was the chant. I also thought, this is what love looks like. This is what caring looks like. This is what a community committed to justice looks like. And what was interesting was that space was held for those who walked, those who rode on scooters or wheel chairs, those who sat adjacent and cheered and those who observed from a distance through electronic participation. Some, like me, carried the names of friends who couldn't be physically present but who sent their spirit and energy. And for all the churches, temples and mosques that I have visited; I never felt a more sacred space than I did on South Michigan Ave that day. There was intention, devotion, energy, desire, dreams and hopes. All the things prayers are made of. In this time of resistance, talk back, accountability and witness; I want to hold up the sacredness of all the ways that people can participate within boundaries of comfort and ability. A common UU message is that service is our prayer. In whatever way we can serve to support the democratic process (which is one of our principles) and the upholding of dignity, truth and pursuit of justice; we engage in UU prayer. It doesn't look the same for each person and no one can or should say what level and amount of engagement is required. But this above all, engaging in any way to support the beliefs we speak in church out in the world and in the streets puts us in touch with the essence of love as our doctrine and service as our prayer.

Love on. Blessed be. Sue

President's Corner: Marge Gillies

It has been a fairly mild winter, especially in recent days. Isn't it nice to see people out walking again? Stores are bustling with customers on rainy days. Life seems good. I hope you are well and ready to enjoy the onset of spring on March 20th. First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara is gearing up for a promising FUUN year.

Thanks to Susan Frawley for reaching out to the community. The **Rainbow Coalition meets in the evening of March 23rd at our church** with an average attendance of 17 people. All are welcome. Especially in this turbulent political climate, marginalized folks need safe places to gather and we are glad that they have chosen our meeting space. Susan is also visiting venues for 'Pub Theology' including the Tap Room on Third Street and the Orange Cat in order to engage the wider community.

There will be a **Health Fair on Saturday, May 13th in Unity Hall**. Please save the date. The time will be determined at a later date. This event has been coordinated by Susan Frawley. Local health service providers will be on hand.

When feasible, please start transferring any plants to pots that you may wish to donate to the church for our rear garden and possible plant sale. This sale will be held at the same time as the **Garden Walk on Saturday, July 15, 2017**. There will be free bus transportation from a variety of commercial and residential sites on that day running from Portage Road, Main Street and Walnut Avenue.

As information becomes available, the board has expressed interest to the Jewish Community Services and the City of Niagara Falls that we wish to assist the settlement of the Congolese refugees who emigrate to the City. There is a long-standing tradition at our church to offer sanctuary to those in need. At this point, the process has been halted until organizers are sure that the refugees would be allowed to travel. Our hearts go out to all immigrant families, here and abroad, as their hope for safe haven hangs in the balance.

If you haven't heard, Ivy D'Amico is our new musician. I know you'll welcome her warmly.

Daylight Savings Time resumes on Sunday, March 12th so be sure to mark your calendars and spring forward as you adjust your clocks.

All the best, Marge

FUUN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

*Sad news was received on January 25th that **Paul Force** died on January 24, 2016. He and his widow, Carol have supported the church financially for many years. Paul's parents were long-time members of First UU Niagara. We offer our condolences to their family and to close friends Gary and Kathy McCunn. Carol formerly worked at the Book Corner.*

*Congratulations to our Ministerial Intern, **Susan Frawley**, for successful completion of required classwork last month at Meadville Lombard Seminary.*

*Best wishes to **Betsy Diachun** for a speedy recovery from the flu (and to any other flu sufferers. She needs to get better fast to celebrate her birthday on March 1st.*

*Good wishes to "**Indivisible Niagara**"- a progressive group that met at our church last month in the Sanctuary. This group offers concrete ways one may be involved in advocating for a better, kinder America. Betsy Diachun is one of the founders.*

***Marge Gillies** just returned from a few weeks in Bradenton, FL to visit her brother, Bruce. The flight went well. She thanks all at FUUN for their support, especially Patty and Bill Lisk and Joe Ewing, who helped schedule, deliver and retrieve her from the airport.*

*A special "Happy Birthday" to **Judy Bongiovanni** on her birthday, March 7th, to Marge G's grandchildren, Sammy and Charlotte, on their 8th birthday, and **Andrea Galyn** on her birthday March 13th. Hoping there is plenty of cake for each of these celebrations.*

*A fond remembrance to Rob and Marie in remembrance of **Elaine Pethybridge** in honor of Elaine Pethybridge's March birthday. We take courage from Elaine's life-long personal commitment to civil rights.*

***Jessie Higura** is back at church after a harrowing scary diagnosis of tuberculosis. Fortunately it was NOT TB, but a really bad case of the flu. Glad he is back among us.*

*Congratulations to **John Snodgrass**, regular speaker at First UU for the one act play her wrote, "Clowntime is Over." It was presented in February and may be seen on March 2-4th at the Alleyway Theatre in Buffalo. Cost is \$ 25 and \$18 for students. Several folks were going to attend on Feb. 25th.*

UU Announcements

Coffee with Sue

Wednesdays 12:00 – 1:00
Orange Cat Coffee Co
703 Center St, Lewiston, NY 14092

Thursdays 2:30 – 3:30
24 Below Gallery & Cafe
435 3rd St, Niagara Falls, NY 14301

Legacy Fund

A Legacy Fund for the church was set up by a vote of the Congregation at a Special Meeting. The purpose of this Fund is to provide long range financial stability for the church.

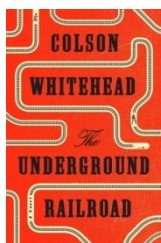
A vehicle is now in place to facilitate Church Members' and Friends' desire to fund immediately or bequeath long-term financial support for the church. It is time for all of us to pool our financial resources for this purpose.

It is essential that everyone understand that this has nothing to do with the upcoming annual pledge drive which provides operating support for the church for the next fiscal year. Funding for the current year and providing long-term financial stability are two separate challenges. We need to rise to both.

TOPS Gift Cards

We still have TOPS cards we are selling as a fundraiser. We make 5% on each sale and it doesn't cost the buyer a thing. They really are easy to use at the stores. See Erica if you wish to buy cards.

Book Discussion Group



Our readers and talkers will meet March 21 at 7pm in Unity Hall. We will be discussing *Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead.

Everyone is welcome so come and add your opinions and thoughts

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.

Reflections

A Prayer in Spring

By Robert Frost

1874-1963

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.
Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.
And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.
For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfil.

Community

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



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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*



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 639 Main Street
 PO Box 2566
 Niagara Falls, NY 14302
 Return Service Requested
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UU Niagara Activities March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Don Reidell 8am - Recycle	27	28	1	2	3	4
5 Susan Frawley	6	7	8	9 5:30pm - Pride	10	11
12 Robert Lavalie 8am - Recycle	13	14	15	16 6pm - Drumming	17	18
19 John Snodgrass 12:30pm - Board	20	21 7pm - Book Group	22	23 Rainbow Coalition	24	25
26 Don Reidell 8am - Recycle	27	28	29	30	31	1