

# Powerline

First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Niagara

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

April 2017

*Learn, Love, Build a Better World*

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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](mailto: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**

### **April 2: "AMERICAN CHRIST"**

There is no topic in Unitarian Universalism more contentious than Jesus Christ, so first off let's be clear: This sermon will not be about Jesus the Israeli rebel OR Christ the Roman god-emperor. This sermon will not try to sell you a religion or save your soul. Instead, we will look at ways in which America has been making and remaking the Christ in its own image - the "American Christ" is economically competitive, politically conservative, militaristic, racially exclusive, judgmental of women, disgusted by the poor and the outcast. Almost a perfect opposite of that guy we heard about as children. But understanding the development of the American Christ can help us to understand the development of America, and where we may be headed.

**John Snodgrass**

*Coffee Hour Host: Stewardship Committee*

*Usher: Betsy Diachun*

### **April 9: "I'll Meet You There"**

There is a lovely poem by Rumi that includes the line "Out beyond the ideas of wrong and right doing, there is a field. I will meet you there." Islam (which Rumi practiced) has much to teach us. Drawing from my study of Islam and my experiences with Muslims (and non-Muslims!) in Afghanistan and in Buffalo, this sermon will talk about the everyday practices of Muslims and our relationship to Islam as an idea.

**Robert Lavalley**

*Coffee Hour Host: Erica Kopp*

*Usher: Shelley Baxter*

### **April 16: Greetings all**

Sermon for April 16th is titled "Steps from Wonder" On this eggcellent day to come to church, we will relish in the awareness of our being steps from a wonder of the world. What power, mystery, magic and mayhem does this hold for us? Bring your Easter Baskets, a UU egg hunt will occur.

**Susan Frawley**

*Coffee Hour Host: Marie Howard*

*Usher: Peter Diachun*

**April 23** “Funnier than Hell”

What a deadly religion if it has no humor

**Rev. Don Reidell**

*Coffee Hour Host: Rich Jagow*

*Usher: Erica Kopp*

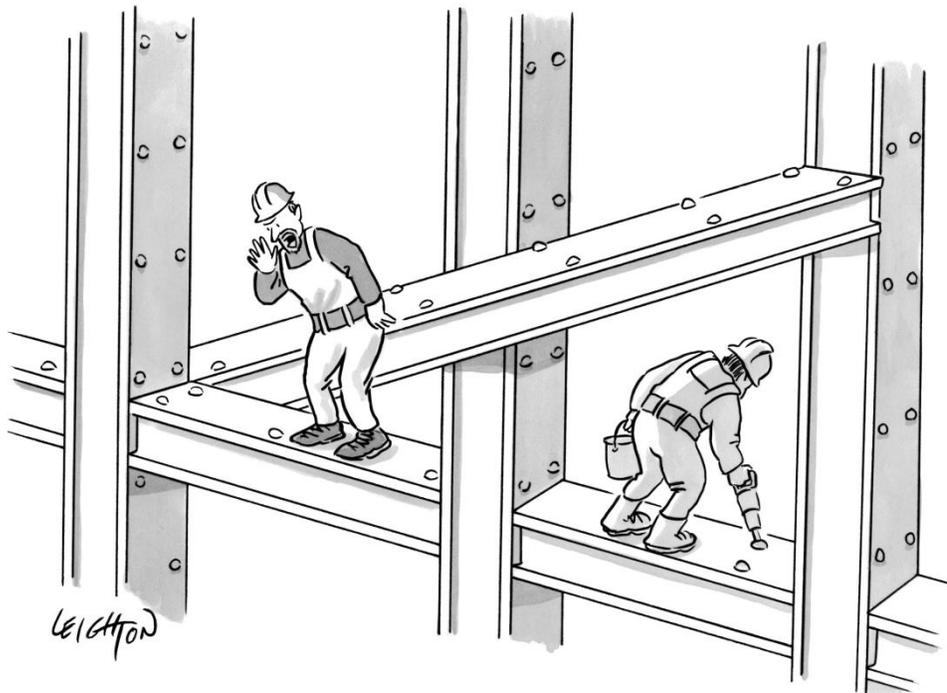
**April 30** “The Spiritual Guidance of our Animal Companions,”

If we are open to it, we often find that our pets provide us with invaluable life lessons. This service will explore some of the teachings our furry/feathery/scaly friends offer. *Please note: You are invited to bring to this service a photo of a pet dear to you, even if it is one no longer with us. We will have a table in the sanctuary to display these photos during the service.*

**Rev. Theresa Kime**

*Coffee Hour Host: Nan Simon and Glen Herman*

*Usher: Pat Velky*



“Escher! Get your ass up here!”

## **Minister's Message**

The air feels different. What was once harsh, bitter and freezing is now softer, subtler, warmer. It smells different too. Clean crispness of winter now turns to a musky, earthy, freshness. Little buds are beginning their transcendence from sleep. The days are longer and life feels a little lighter. We have survived the season of winter and now reap the rewards of renewal. The cycles of life are like that; always building upon each other, no one time better or worse than another. Each of us responds differently to each passage, some with joy, some with dread. But pass it will, each time of season or life. In Christian calendars, the celebration of Easter is occurring. Druids just celebrated the Equinox. Iranians celebrate Nowruz ( a new year celebration) and Buddhists observe Higan ( a remembrance of dead and celebration of life). Passover occurs for Jews. New babies will soon be strolled about and the zoo will put on display the new offspring of its inhabitants. All commemorate in a delicate balance the ying and yang of life and death. Outside our church, the small buds will begin on the trees. Inside our church, we have seen visitors emerge and check us out. This is a time for growth and life for us. There has never been a better time to be a UU than now. We need to let the secret out of the bag; burst from the confines of tree bud and blossom in great public display. What ails the world and our friends hearts has a balm, not in Gilead, but here at First UU Niagara. We, the congregation of FUUN, have the lightness of the air, the subtleness of the earth and the warmth of the longer day sun rays. How do you rise from the sleep and renewal of the winter and spring forth into the world as a UU? What do you show that says " We are not dead, we are alive, thriving and there is hope?" As bonnets are put on display in the famous Easter parade, lets think about how we can parade in our showing off of all that our faith and community have to offer.

Love on. Blessed be. Sue

## **President's Corner: Marge Gillies**

Is it really true that spring is here??? It hasn't been a bad winter though surely we need some healing thoughts and actions. With the joys of spring, there is healing and growth all around, including the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara. And there's work to be done too.

Inspiration comes from the variety of speakers every Sunday, including John Snodgrass, Susan Frawley, Don Reidell, and Bob Lavallee in March. In April, John, Susan, Bob and Don return as well as Rev. Terry. We are lucky to have such talented speakers.

From our own members and friends, committee work is progressing from the Caring Committee to the Stewardship/Membership Committee and the Board of Trustees. **Don't miss the "Unusual Talent Show" on Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup> following church. This FUUN event includes a delicious luncheon.**

A new Liturgy Committee is being formed to review the Sunday services all year long. For those who don't mind a little more intense work, an ad hoc committee will review our by-laws. I would also like to set up a Garden Committee to focus on the back yard. Garden Walk Niagara Falls USA will take place on Saturday, July 16th on Main Street and other venues accessible by the new free Discover Niagara Trolley. **Please let me know if you wish to join any of the committees. Your fresh eyes will make us all better.**

Thanks to Sue Frawley, the Rainbow Coalition meets here regularly, consisting of 25-30 people on Thursday nights. VanDee Van Deusen and Sunnie lead dancing and drumming circles. Stop by on the 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays for all the fun.

Peter will establish a work day for those who might help tackle the hard job of repairing the basement walls and I will organize a Spring Cleaning Day in April.

Lots of good things are happening at First UU Niagara. Please join us anytime for FUUN.

Happy Spring 2017!

## **FUUN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

*It was great to see **Paul Brundage's** mother and brother at church in March! We surely enjoyed meeting them both. Congratulations to **Bryce Malluma-Kopp** for his guitar accompaniment for the Niagara Falls High School play, "Hairspray." Wish Bryce a "Happy Birthday" on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

*Fond remembrance of **Joe Padlog**. Happy April 4<sup>th</sup> birthday greetings to you, Ruth!*

*Our own gifted and talented musicians, **Rich Jagow and VanDee Van Deusen** were featured at Yankee Spirits in Youngstown on St. Patrick's Day.*

*Welcome back to Niagara Falls, **Shelley Baxter and family**. **Shelley, Erica and her sister, Bernadette** traveled to Illinios for the wedding of Ashley and Brett Webb. Healing thoughts go to Shelley who lost her first cousin, Jill Baxter, unexpectedly.*

***Alexandra Nicosias-Kopp** is moving to Savannah Georgia to work with AmeriCorps. Congrats Alexandra!*

*"Happy April Birthday" wishes to **Rosemary Sweetman (April 6<sup>th</sup>)**, **Peter Diachun (April 20<sup>th</sup>)**, **Rich Jagow II (April 28<sup>th</sup>)**, and **Frances Manly (April 29<sup>th</sup>)**.*

***Janet Mackenna** was featured in an article in a Rochester publication regarding her experiences with hearing loss. Miss you, Janet!*

***Comforting thoughts to the family of Jeanne Aydelotte**, who said their final farewell to Jeanne Aydelotte in March.*

*Dear friend **Marian McAlpine** passed away peacefully. Love and peace to her daughter, Sarah Smonskey and her family, including Sarah's two- month old son Leigh. Remember Marian on her birthday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.*

# UU Announcements

## Heart Love and Soul



Baskets will be placed in vestibule for donations of toiletries for Heart Love & Soul community showers. Please donate hotel, airline or other "sample" size items such as shampoo, tissue, body wash, lotion, toothpaste, etc.

Place donations in either "Men" or "Women" basket as appropriate, and when baskets are full they will be delivered and replaced with new baskets.

THANK YOU!!

## Brunch

The South Wilson Fire Hall holds a wonderful brunch each Sunday during Lent from 9 to 1. Last year it was \$10 for adults. The food is wonderful. A group of us has been going on Palm Sunday, 4/9, right at 9 AM so we get back in time for our church service. Guaranteed to please. Please consider joining us. Talk to Betsy if you have any questions.

## Easter Sermon

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## Liturgy Committee announcement

Calling all who would like to assist in helping to shape next years liturgy line up. A workshop and work session will take place on Saturday, April 8th from 10-12 in Uniy Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and learn about how the Sermon system is put together and how you can shape it for next year. A sign up sheet will be on the desk at the Sanctuary entrance or you can email the intern minister, Sue, for more info [susanfrawley@aol.com](mailto:susanfrawley@aol.com)

## **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, NF, NY 14301

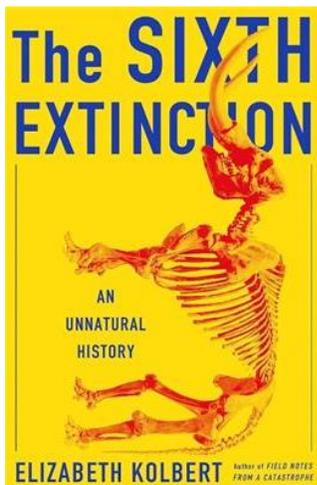
## **Health Fair**

Save the date. May 13 from 10-12, FUUN will host and sponsor a health fair. Various service providers will be in Unity hall to discuss and demonstrate. There will be several presented topics in the sanctuary. The Fair is open to everyone and special outreach is being done to LGBTQ and elder members of our community. If you would like to volunteer to be a greeter or helpful hand on that day, see Sue or sign up on the sheet at the front entrance of the Sanctuary.

## **Pub Theology**

Wine on Third 501 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Niagara falls, NY 14301  
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM  
Tuesday April 11 and Tuesday May 9.

## **Book Discussion Group**



Our readers and talkers will meet April 18 at 7pm in Unity Hall. We will be discussing *The Sixth Extinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert.

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.

# AN EASTER MEDIATION

By Samuel A Trumbore

Eternal spirit, we witness  
bringing green growth throwing out tiny tendrils seeking support;  
sprouting thin twigs reaching for the bright golden sun;  
guiding new tubers seeking water in dark, sandy soil,  
Be in and amongst us this Easter morning.

We gather this morning to celebrate the triumph of life over death.  
The body can be killed but the spirit cannot be quenched.  
Only yesterday had we given up all hope of the promise of the coming  
divine realm  
and today we are renewed and inspired as we realize it is now already here.  
This morning we remember that pain, suffering and death are not ends  
but can be scary underground passageways to more abundant life—  
If ... we have the courage to face our fear and crawl through  
to be pushed and pulled by the mind narrowing forces of lust, hate, and  
confusion.

This morning we renew our dedication to act from our love rather than our  
fear,  
We renew our faith in the inherent dignity and worth of all humanity—  
including ourselves—which cannot be removed from anyone  
and seek the nerve to face the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune  
which may come our way.  
In our moments of defeat and surrender,  
may we turn away from the paths of revenge, denial, and cynicism.  
May we remember the eternal truth spun into the web of life:  
our wounds can become sacred incarnational teaching  
of the wisdom imbedded in the story of resurrection.

Let us celebrate together this morning,  
the one who never gives up even in the darkest night of winter,  
our blue green planet earth, resurrected anew each spring.

# Community

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



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(716) 282-8381

E-mail [uuniagara@gmail.com](mailto: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



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*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  
 April 2017

## UU Niagara Activities April 2017

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