

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
WEEKLY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER
February 8-February 15, 2018



Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 9:30am & 11:15am

“Love and Transgression”

Rev. Joel Miller, preaching

Sue Steepy, worship associate

Our plate collection will help support [our church](#).

Gratitudes, Joys and Sorrows

The Nominating Committee would like to thank all those who recommended names for the Search Committee selection process. We had a 44% response rate! In the coming weeks we will be working on next steps of the process to assemble a Search Committee for our next senior minister, and will update the congregation as we are able. Thanks, again, for contributing to this important process.

If you have a concern about a member of our congregation, please don't hesitate to contact Rev. Tina at 585-271-9070 x104.

Minister's Column by Rev. Joel Miller

In 189 years, our church has had a significant ministry for racial justice. It has been an outward focused ministry in the past. But as we come to better understand that racism is imbedded in our psyches, it's clear that we also have profound spiritual work to do within ourselves. If you would like to read more about this spiritual work, Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed wrote about our struggles as Unitarian Universalists with our racism [in this UU World article](#).

I've learned from members of our church who are people of color that it takes more than just reading for us to grow spiritually toward racial justice within our own selves. We need to be physically present for it. It's as much an emotional experience as it is an intellectual one.

There is an exciting conference at the end of this month at the UU Church in Buffalo that I invite you to attend: [Diving into Our White Culture to Surface Racial Justice](#). Kenny Wiley, who grew up Unitarian Universalist, is part of Black Lives Unitarian Universalist (BLUU), is a UU World senior editor, and program director for the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado. His writing has appeared in the Boston Globe, the Houston Chronicle, and Skyd Magazine.

I will be attending this conference, and I hope you will join me. The conference cost is a sliding scale, but our church has confidential scholarships available so that all who want to attend are able (email me at jmiller@rochesterunitarian.org with questions or requests). Carpooling will also be arranged (watch for announcements).

This conference will also have parallel programming for people of color.

[Diving Into Our White Culture to Surface Racial Justice - An Experimental Conference](#)

Saturday, February 24, 9:00am-4:00pm

UU Church of Buffalo

695 Elmwood Ave.

Buffalo, NY 14222

Happening This Week



As we, the members of First Unitarian Church of Rochester, move forward in our transition and begin searching for a new minister, we each have a vital role to play in helping to chart our course as we embark on Our Road Ahead – together. We look forward to charting our course for the road ahead – with YOU! To learn more, go to <http://rochesterunitarian.org/our-road-ahead/>.

The next meeting of Aging Gratefully, on **Thursday, February 8, 1:00-2:30pm**, will discuss “What is our community and what do we do to improve it?” Please note that the meeting time has changed and is now 1:00-2:30pm. Aging Gratefully is a discussion group open to anyone aged 60 and above that meets on the second Thursday of the month to discuss a topic chosen by the group. For questions, contact Garry Mount at gmount@frontiernet.net.

All are welcome to Literature and Visual Arts (LAVA) group's discussion of *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel Brown this **Friday, February 9, at 7:00pm** in the Susan B. Anthony Lounge. This best-seller is the true story of the rowing team of blue-collar students from the University of Washington who beat traditional championship teams from the East Coast and Britain, and then went on to defeat the Nazi team at the 1936 Olympics. It centers on a farm boy who had been abandoned as a child during the Great Depression. For more information, contact Bill Fugate at wrfugate@frontiernet.net.

Black Lives Matter/Racial Justice Task Force: If you would like to take action on racism in the Rochester community, please drop in to our next Task Force meeting to learn about projects to participate in. We meet next on **Sunday, February 11, at 12:30pm**. For more information, contact Len Stein at drlstein@rochester.rr.com.

Our Church Bookstore will be open this Sunday, February 11, from 10:00am to 1:00pm. This week we are featuring two books: *It's Even Worse Than You Think: What the Trump Administration is Doing to America* by David Cay Johnston, and *You Say to Brick: The Story of Louis Kahn* by Wendy Lesser. We have new titles among our selection of both fiction and non-fiction. Topics cover race, politics, economics, inequality, environment, spirituality, human rights, history, fantasy and more. We also have a selection of children's books. Stop in and browse, chat with the bookstore volunteers and other congregants, and find that special book. We offer discounts of at least 20% off list price and as always, your purchases support our church. We gladly accept cash or check.

Discover the Fun of our Soulful Community: Join Intergenerational Game Day at our church this **Sunday, February 11, at 12:30pm**. Participants are asked to bring a favorite, non-electronic game to play and share. All are welcome! Parents and guardians of children under age six are encouraged to bring age-appropriate games or toys to share. Attendants can feel free to bring snack foods to share with the group. For questions or suggestions, email Fritz Lange at fflange13@gmail.com.

Currents discussion group next meets on **Wednesday, February 14, 12:15-1:45pm** to expand on last month's topic and discuss “Gender Role Expectations in Our Society: How They Affect our Perceptions of Sexual Harassment and Assault.” The Women's March held on Saturday, January 20, 2018 bears out the need for a deeper understanding of these issues. Drop-ins are welcome to join us for our discussion. If you would like to be included on our mailing list to receive reminders and/or readings, please contact Gary at gpudup@gmail.com.

Food Cupboard Suggestions: Despite requests to keep donations in standard sizes last week, a gift of six rolls of paper towels was much appreciated. Other paper goods like toilet paper and tissues are welcome, as well as the usual canned and boxed foods. For questions or more information, contact Alison Wilder at awilder@frontiernet.net or 585-342-2459.

Calls to Action and Other News

Environmental Task Force Green Tip of the Week: According to *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reduce Global Warming*, the food we waste releases about 4.4 gigatons of carbon dioxide into the air, making it third on the list behind the United States and China. So what can be done to reduce food waste? The EPA offers several practical tips about how planning, prepping, and storing food can help your household waste less, at <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/reducing-wasted-food-home#ways>. And for a more extensive list of steps to reduce food waste, see Greatist at <https://greatist.com/health/how-to-ways-reduce-food-waste>. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose.

When UUs Reading Non-Fiction next meets on **Wednesday, February 14, 7:00-8:30pm**, discussion will be on *This Fight is Our Fight: The Battle to Save America's Middle Class*, by Elizabeth Warren. This autobiographical account reveals the author's ascent from a financially difficult childhood to a position that has empowered her to apply her insights to protect the fulfillment of the "American Dream." All are welcome to join our discussion. Contact Audrey Perry at auperry066@gmail.com or 585-244-4013 with questions.

Next Sunday, February 18, after both services, Jenna Bernardi will offer brief Tarot readings in exchange for a donation to the Grace Fund. Sign up that day at her table in the Williams Gallery for your appointment.

Grant Money Available: Through **Friday, March 23**, the First Unitarian Grants Panel is accepting applications for grants of between \$2,000 and \$4,000 from the Social Justice Fund, and the Josephine and Paul Wenger Fund for Peace through International Understanding. If you are aware of a Rochester organization that needs funds to carry out a project related to Social Justice or International Peace, please let them know about this potential funding from our church. Information, applications and sponsor forms are available by going to rochesterunitarian.org/grants/. Additional questions may be directed to Mary Palmer at mmkp120@gmail.com or by calling 585-242-0522.