

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
WEEKLY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

December 7-December 14, 2017



Upcoming Worship Services

Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 7:00pm

Soul Assembly with Orange Sky

Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 9:30am and 11:15am

Greater Good Intergenerational Services

Rev. Joel Miller, preaching

Jule Sanchez, worship associate

Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 5:00pm and 7:30pm

Soltice Services

Rev. Joel Miller, Rev. Tina Simson, Sheila Schuh, and Thom Snell

Sunday, December 17, 2017

NO SERVICES

Gratitudes, Joys and Sorrows

A big thanks to our Bi-Fri helpers for installing a brand new floor in our church elevator. Thank you all for keeping our building in tip top shape! If anyone has an interest to join this group, please contact Dave Schwardt at Schwardt@frontiernet.net.

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

Roof Communication Team Report

The roof replacement project is nearly complete and well-tested after three very large rainstorms and NO major leaks! There are two very minor leaks that are being addressed. There has also been additional work required beyond what was contracted. Item #1: The deck of the roof over Gilbert Hall had a shallow depression covering a large area. While there are no structural concerns, an adaptation to the roofing system was required that included the use of a heated roofing material that self-settles at level. This will allow water to drain from this area of the roof. Item #2: A wooden structure built over parts of the Sanctuary roof-deck required significant repairs because it was failing. Item #3: The Sanctuary lighting was originally mounted by brackets placed right under the roofing material. All these brackets and the lights themselves have been inspected and, if needed, reinstalled with new hardware to ensure safety. Item #4: Many repairs to the roof, roof-drains, and counter-flashing in walls above the second story were required due to weathering and errors in the installation of the previous roof. Item #5: The southwest arch of the 1968 addition was badly deformed, causing leaks and preventing the completion of the replacement roof. The arch (a unique style known as a "jack arch") must be completely replaced. Item #6: Five very small, obscure areas of roof will also be replaced.

The current cost for all this additional work is expected to be less than 10% of the initial cost of this new roof, (\$743,830.00). The manufacturer of the roof-membrane materials, The Garland Company, warranties their materials for 40 years and made daily inspections during the roof replacement installation. The contractor, Spring Sheet Metal and Roofing (SSMR), used zinc-coated copper to make the flashing for this new roof, and the flashing should last well beyond the 40 years warrantied for the roof-membrane materials. The entire project has been overseen and documented by Virginia Searl of Bero Architecture. SSMR is cautiously anticipating a December 13 completion of the new roof. Roof Communication Team - Sue Ames, Ken Buckle, and Tim Farnum.

Happening This Week

Upcoming Art Show in the Williams Gallery: You are invited to meet Joe Woody, a self-taught wildlife and scenic photographer, at the opening reception of his exhibit "Nature's Beauty" this **Thursday, December 7, 6:00-8:00pm**. Joe Woody's favorite subject is the common loon; he has occasionally been called "Birdman." The natural world ignites his imagination so that he is passionate about capturing images of various wildlife and landscapes. His wildlife and nature interests also include many four-legged creatures, especially the bear, deer, the fox and coyotes. Most of his photographs are from the Adirondacks and the Western New York area, but he also enjoys photo trips to the western United States, Canada, and Kenya. This exhibit runs through Monday, January 15, 2018.

Literature And Visual Arts (LAVA): All are welcome to a discussion of *The Underground Railroad*, the Pulitzer-Prize-winning novel by Colson Whitehead, this **Friday, December 8, 7:00-8:30pm**. In the 1800s, a teenage girl flees from slavery in Georgia on the Underground Railroad, which in this story is literally a railroad beneath the ground. Much as in *Gulliver's Travels*, she discovers a different society (and a different form of racial oppression) at each stop. For more information, go to www.frontiernet.net/~wrfugate/lava/.

Soul Assembly! Join us this **Saturday, December 9, 7:00pm** as we come together to sing, dance, and wrestle with the dynamics of our inner and outer worlds. Our core mission: Joy as resistance! Come as you are and leave with a little more fuel to carry you through. We are so pleased to welcome two very special guests this month! Our friend Jonathan Stills returns to our church to share his incredible voice and open heart, and Cha Ron Sattler-Leblanc from Moms Demand Action will talk to us about gun violence in America and how we can be most effective in supporting efforts to save lives.

Our Coming of Age Youth (9th graders) will be serving up some soup for a suggested donation of \$3-5 to benefit the Greater Good Project this **Sunday, December 10, after each service**.

Our Common Life: Being Part of a UU Community as Parents

This **Sunday, December 10, after both services**, we will be offering Our Common Life, a class to learn more about what is involved in being part of a UU congregation, specifically as a parent. Sheila Schuh, Director of Religious Education, and Shannan Foos, Membership Coordinator, will team up to provide an overview of membership, programs, expectations, and common misconceptions. Children are welcome. If you are interested in attending, please contact Shannan at membership@rochesterunitarian.org. Drop-ins also welcome!

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Parent Orientation: If you are a parent who has not yet been oriented to OWL Sexuality Education for your 6-9th grader, please plan to attend a session this **Sunday, December 10, 12:30-2:30pm**, in the Youth Room/Basement. Contact sheilas@rochesterunitarian.org with questions.

Our Bookstore will be open this Sunday - Last Chance before the New Year

Our bookstore will be open this **Sunday, December 10, 10:00am-1:00pm**, and this will be the last time the Bookstore will be open in 2017. This is your last opportunity this year to find that special book for gifting at a very reasonable price - at least 20% off list. We have in stock several children's books, holiday themed and otherwise, along with a wide selection of titles for adults. We have fiction and non-fiction covering politics, race, economics, inequality, environment, spirituality, human rights, history, fantasy and more. So stop in and browse, chat with the bookstore volunteers and other congregants, and find that special book you know either you or someone you know will love reading. As always, we gladly accept cash and checks.

Uknitarians will have a knitting circle this **Sunday, December 10, 10:30-11:15am** (between services) to keep the children at Schools #15 and #22 warm this winter. Learn how to knit or crochet, or work on a project you already have underway. We have patterns, needles and yarn available to use and take with you. For questions, email Jenny Cos at jennycos717@gmail.com or Kathy Dear at heighho@mindspring.com.

Interim Conversation: Rev. Joel invites all interested members and friends to an Interim Conversation this **Sunday, December 10 at 12:30pm**, just after the second Sunday service. This conversation will be on the search process for our church's next senior minister, beginning with the current process of selecting the search committee. Rita Capezzi, the Intern Minister at the UU Church of Canandaigua, is a previous member of a search committee, and she will speak about her experience on the committee and about the search process from a congregant's perspective. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Currents Discussion Group: During the past several years, American discourse has become so polarized that our divisions contaminate our conversations - from the dinner table to the halls of Congress. Can we find a way back? At our next Currents discussion, we'll strive to rediscover the shared values that can unite us. Drop-ins are welcome to join us as we discuss "Rediscovering Our Shared Values" on **Wednesday, December 13, 12:15-1:45pm**. If you would like to be included on our mailing list and receive readings prior to our discussions, please email Sue at srscalnek@aol.com, Gary at gpudup@gmail.com, or Dave at davebccf@hotmail.com.

UUs Reading Non-Fiction: If humans epitomize the fittest beings ever to survive, then why are we rushing headlong toward our own destruction? In her book *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, Elizabeth Kolbert describes past extinctions, and offers a way forward which can impede the rapid, ongoing disappearance of species that we are experiencing now. All are welcome to join us when we discuss this book on **Wednesday, December 13, 7:00-8:30pm**. For questions, contact Audrey Perry at auperry066@gmail.com or 585-244-4013.

Aging Gratefully is a group open to anyone aged 60 and above which meets on the second Thursday of every month to discuss a topic chosen by the group. The next meeting will discuss "Our Bucket List" on **Thursday, December 14, 1:30-3:00pm**.

Please join us for First Unitarian's Solstice Celebration, Saturday, December 17, at 5:00pm or 7:30pm. We will gather in the Sanctuary with Rev. Joel and Rev. Tina, Sheila Schuh, and Thom Snell and our choir. Members of the Youth Group, RE and the congregation will offer a deep and inspiring celebration. Together we will find the gifts of darkness and welcome the light that shines in each of us.

Calls to Action

Uknitarians will have a knitting circle this **Sunday, December 10, 10:30-11:15am** (between services) to keep the children at Schools #15 and #22 warm this winter. They are collecting warm outer clothing, especially coats, hats, mittens/gloves for children ages 5-12. Clothing can be handmade, gently used or store bought. Items may be dropped off any time at the UU/Schools Partnership area in the Workroom. For questions, email Jenny Cos at jennycos717@gmail.com or Kathy Dear at heighho@mindspring.com.

Call for Gilbert Spirit Fund Proposals: We have posted updated information about the Gilbert Spirit Fund, and the new application form, on the church website (<http://rochesterunitarian.org/gilbert-spirit-fund/>). Proposals are due by **Thursday, February 1**, either in hard copy to the church or by email as noted on the application form. Please help spread the word to non-profit organizations in our community that focus on social justice and/or the arts.

Contact the Selection Committee Chair, Jane Tuttle (janetuttle@bluefrog.com), with any questions.

The Brighton Food Cupboard needs more cranberry sauce and stuffing for the Christmas Baskets. The last two weekends' collection amounted to 42 pounds, somewhat less than usual. Let's not forget the less fortunate! For questions, contact Alison Wilder at 585-342-2459 or awilder@frontiernet.net.

Pledge Payment Options: You have options in the way your pledge payments are processed. Some choose to send a check directly to the church. Another good alternative is automatic ACH contributions from your checking account. They are the easiest way for our Church Office to receive pledge contributions. They are easy to set up and save us credit card fees. Your monthly contributions would come out of your account on the 15th of each month. Contact Al Gundlach at 585-271-9070 x103 if you are interested.

Other News and Reminders

Holiday Worship Schedule for 2017 – Mark your calendars!

As we enter into the holiday season, please mark your calendars with our holiday schedule of services. We hope you will all join us during this special time of year!

December 2017

- Saturday, December 9: Soul Assembly with Orange Sky at 7:00pm
- Sunday, December 10: GREATER GOOD Services at 9:30am & 11:15am
- Saturday, December 16: SOLSTICE SERVICES at 5:00pm & 7:30pm
- Sunday, December 17: No services
- Sunday, December 24: No morning services. Christmas Eve services will be held at 3:30pm (for families with young children), 7:00pm (with Music by Orange Sky) and 9:30pm (traditional candlelight service)
- Sunday, December 31: ONE Worship Service at 10:00am

January 2018

- We resume our regular worship schedule, with services each Sunday at 9:30am and 11:15am, through Sunday, May 20, 2018.

Governance: The approved October 2017 minutes, and draft November 2017 minutes, are now available on the church website. Go to <http://rochesterunitarian.org/board-of-trustees/>. Both documents, and the Agenda for the upcoming December 12 meeting, are also posted on the Bulletin board in the Lobby.

Solstice Meditation: All are invited **Thursday, December 21, 6:30-8:00pm**, for a time of quiet contemplation in the company of others. Behind the human activity and emotional turmoil of our time, is the unfolding space and equanimity of Nature, inside and out. Join in guided and silent meditation, to listen to our deepest selves, and connect with the gifts and resources of this seasonal shift of light. No meditation experience is necessary. Family and friends are welcome! Tea and light refreshments will be served after the time of silence. Please RSVP to livingandworking.info@gmail.com by December 16.

Youth Group Alumni Reunion Potluck: Youth Group alumni are invited to come back and enjoy a good old Youth Group together on **Wednesday, December 27, 5:00-9:00pm** in Gilbert Hall. We'll have a precious time lighting the Chalice and doing a check in. We'll share a meal together, and play games. It will be an absolute blast reconnecting with each other! All Youth Group Alumni, participants and former youth group advisors are welcome. Please bring a dish to pass. For questions or suggestions, email fellow youth group alumni Tyler Dewey at tylerwilliamdewey@gmail.com or Hazel Moellering at hamoellering@gmail.com.

Another Green Tip from the Environmental Task Force: With real winter temperatures predicted to arrive this week, here are some tips to cozy up your home. Calk around drafty window frames, inside and out. Be sure heating and return vents are open and unobstructed so that heat can be evenly distributed to all areas. Cover windows with heavier curtains at night and on cloudy days, and cover wood and tile floors with rugs. When it's sunny, open curtains/blinds to allow passive solar energy to warm your home. Reduce, reuse, re-purpose, and recycle.