

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
WEEKLY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

November 30-December 7, 2017



Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 9:30am and 11:15am

"Chasing Lucifer: When Enough is Enough"

Rev. Tina Simson, preaching

Thom Snell, worship associate

The plate collection will help support Connect & Breathe

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

Gratitudes, Joys and Sorrows

A special WOW and thank you for the huge collection of donations for School #22's **Student Holiday Store**. No elves needed when you are part of our congregation. We'll continue collecting donations of gift wrap, gift boxes, tissue and bubble wrap to protect fragile purchases. If you have any items that you would like to donate to the sale, they would be greatly appreciated as well! Jewelry, small games, balls, toys, hand creams, tools, handbags, scarves, blankets, etc. would all make great gifts for the Student Holiday Store!

Thank you for your generosity! Two weekends a month our plate collections go to a community organization outside our church. On the other weekends, the collection goes directly to support our church budget. This fiscal church year, we have already donated \$12,790 back to our greater community. On November 5, \$931.76 was collected for our church. On November 12, \$963.47 was collected for Susan B. Anthony House. On November 19, \$929.36 was collected for Flower City Habitat for Humanity - Women Build. On November 26, \$543.50 was collected for our church (including \$88.50 collected at last week's Thanksgiving dinner). At the Interfaith Thanksgiving service last week, \$2,791.22 was collected for the IBERO- Maria Fund and the Burma Task Force- Burma Muslims (50% each); each organization will receive \$1,395.61.

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

December Worship Theme: Enough

This month for our worship theme we ask, ***As Unitarian Universalists, how do we find spiritual connection in Enough?***

At first, we may find the answer in the well-worn maxim, "we must live simply, so that others may simply live." However, it's not so easy. There are so many dimensions of the concept enough that affect the way we live, how we see ourselves and others, and what we are called to do and be in our world. Does continual striving for more separate us from our deepest self? Will spiritual connection come when we allow ourselves to stop striving and rest in knowing that we are good enough, that we have done enough and that we indeed have enough? When the world is in a frightening state, ecologically, socially, and politically, can we ever do enough? Is it irresponsible to stop and rest?

This month we will explore the implication of consumerism and our perception of scarcity and abundance. We will consider what it means and feels like to truly have enough. We will wrestle with the experience of being enough for ourselves and for others. And we will examine how and when we individually and collectively say, "Enough is enough." Come to worship and to Soul Matters to explore this theme and find a sense of enough, in this season of holy days.

In faith,
Rev. Tina

Happening This Week

Next up at **Café Veritas** is Michael Braunfeld this **Saturday, December 2, 7:30pm**. For more information or to purchase tickets, go to www.cafeveritas.org.

The **Environmental Task Force** will be selling T-shirts **after services this Sunday, December 3**. The price is \$12 for sizes small through x-large and \$14 for 2x-large. We'll also bring the remaining buttons and "Good-bye Plastic" items for a few greener holiday gift choices.

News from the Nominating Committee: Have we heard your voice? There is still time! Recommend up to three people for the Search Committee for our next senior minister. Consider the names of people in your circles that are trustworthy, good team members and have the well-being of the entire congregation in mind. Your recommendations will help us assemble a strong, diverse search team. Stop by the Nominating Committee table **after services this Sunday, December 3**, to talk with us, or email your recommendations to: nominating@rochesterunitarian.org.

Uke Jam: Please join us for an informal session of music making this **Sunday, December 3, 1:00-3:00pm**. We play an eclectic mix of tunes, some selected from The Daily Ukulele (the yellow book). Email Dave Teegarden at beakertee@aol.com for more information.

The First Wednesday Book Group next meets on **Wednesday, December 6, 11:15am** to discuss the nonfiction book *Bellevue: Three Centuries of Medicine and Mayhem at America's Most Storied Hospital* by David Oshinsky. All are welcome. For questions, contact Joyce Henzel at joycehenzel@gmail.com.

Upcoming Art Show in the Williams Gallery: Beginning Wednesday, December 6, birds will be flying on the walls of the Williams Gallery in "Nature's Beauty," a photography exhibit by Joseph Woody, a self-taught wildlife and scenic photographer. His 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 extend to many four-legged creatures, especially bears, deer, foxes 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. You are invited to meet the artist at the opening reception on **Thursday, December 7, 6:00-8:00pm**. This exhibit runs through Monday, January 15, 2018.

Calls to Action

Hospitality Greeters Needed: Help open our doors to new friends and deeper connections. Hospitality volunteers work in a team environment with a limited time commitment required. Visit the welcome table on Sundays for more information, or email Fritz Lange at fflange13@gmail.com.

The Brighton Food Cupboard prepares Christmas baskets. We can once again bring stuffing and cranberry sauce to the church food collection basket in the Lobby to help those in need celebrate with a

Christmas meal. Other food and toiletries are always accepted, except please, no glass jars. 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

- Sunday, December 3: Worship Services at 9:30am & 11:15am
- 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.

Literature And Visual Arts (LAVA): All are welcome to a discussion of *The Underground Railroad*, the Pulitzer-Prize-winning novel by Colson Whitehead, on **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/.

Interim Conversation: Rev. Joel invites all interested members and friends to an Interim Conversation on **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 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**.

Uknitarians will have knitting circles on **Saturday, 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. As always, we 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.

Youth Group alumni are invited to come back and enjoy a good old Youth Group together for a **Youth Group Alumni Reunion Potluck** 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. Can't wait to see you again! 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: Thanksgiving has come and gone, and it's the time of year when folks start buying Christmas trees. What's the best option if you're thinking green? The best choice is a live, potted, locally-grown tree. Do this if you have somewhere to plant it after the holidays, or you can find someone who will plant it for you elsewhere. The next best choice is a live, locally-grown tree that is from a sustainable, well-managed source. The tree can be used for mulch afterward, or turned into wood chips. Another option is an artificial tree, but many of these are made from harmful plastics that can't be easily recycled. Reuse, recycle, repurpose and plant a tree!