

# FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH WEEKLY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

February 1-February 8, 2018



## **Upcoming Worship Services**

**Sunday, February 4, 2018 at 9:30am & 11:15am**

Led by our Youth Group

Our plate collection will help support [Reconnect Rochester](#).

## **Gratitudes, Joys and Sorrows**

Our condolences to Mara and Jule Sanchez on the passing of Mara's mother, Mary Ann Pawlikowski, 88, who passed peacefully with all the family around her. Any cards, thoughts, love or faith wishes should be sent to Mara Sanchez at 2695 Chili Ave, Rochester, NY 14624.

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

## **February Worship Theme**

***As UUs, how do we find spiritual connection through our Soul?***

In her poem *Maybe*, Mary Oliver tells us... "Nobody knows what the soul is, it comes and goes like the wind over water."

As Unitarian Universalists, we sometimes struggle with this word, Soul. We try to define it, and understand its purpose in our lives. Yet here in our church, we often use it. Soul Matters is the core of our Adult Spiritual Development program, and the Soul Assembly is the name of our Saturday worship. On some level, we have decided it's important and necessary for our spiritual life.

Parker Palmer, in *The Hidden Wholeness*, tells us that even if we cannot know what the soul is, we can name the functions of the soul just as we can name the functions of the wind.

- The soul wants to keep us rooted in the ground of our own being, resisting the tendency of other faculties, like the intellect and the ego, to uproot us from who we are.
- The soul wants to keep us connected to the community in which we find life, for it understands that relationships are necessary if we are to thrive.
- The soul wants to tell us the truth about ourselves, our world, and the relation between the two, whether that truth is easy or hard to hear.
- The soul wants to give us life and wants us to pass that gift along, to become life-givers in a world that deals too much death.

This month our worship theme asks us, "How do we find spiritual connection through our Soul?" Together we will explore its place and meaning in our individual and collective lives. We will learn together how to care for it, how it becomes broken or harmed, and how it is mended. May our journey bring the warmth your soul needs in these cold winter days.

In faith,  
Rev. Tina

## **Minister's Column by Rev. Joel Miller**

Three weeks ago, the movie *The Post* was released. It retells part of the story of a secret government analysis of the Vietnam War that was copied and leaked to American newspapers. Only two of those papers risked publishing parts of those documents: The New York Times and The Washington Post.

It was risky because the administration of President Nixon was willing to use the powers of government to prevent the publication of this analysis -- now called "the Pentagon Papers." Nixon's administration used groundless criminal prosecutions and injunctions as a way of bullying the Times and the Post into not publishing excerpts of the Pentagon Papers. But what was vital about the Pentagon Papers was their revelation that the government has consistently lied to the people of the United States about the purpose, pursuits, and outcomes of the Vietnam War.

But there's a chapter to the story that "The Post" and many other histories don't mention: it was, finally, our own Unitarian Universalist Association that printed the Pentagon Papers in their entirety. It was a huge risk on the part of our national association, the UUA. And the President of the UUA at that time, Bob West, had only been in office for a year, having been the Senior Minister here at First Unitarian Church of Rochester.

Our Unitarian Universalist forebears have a proud place in the story of the Pentagon Papers. I urge you all to read more about it on the Harvard Square website: [The Pentagon Papers and the Unitarian Universalist Association: How the UUA Was Almost Destroyed by the Decision to Publish](#). There were many Unitarian Universalists who served their country well by revealing the truth about the Vietnam War – a good story to remember in these difficult times.

## **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/>.

**Thinking about Membership?** Join us for UU201 **after worship services this Sunday, February 4.** UU201 offers the information you need to discern whether you are ready to make the commitment of membership and what joining involves. We will meet in Room 209. No sign-up needed. Kids are welcome. If you can't make it this weekend, UU201 will be offered again Sunday, March 4. Contact Shannan Foos at [membership@rochesterunitarian.org](mailto:membership@rochesterunitarian.org) with questions.

**Muffins, Muffins galore will be available this Sunday, February 4,** in the Susan B. Anthony Lounge. With every purchase, you will be supporting our UU/Schools Partnership with Schools #22 and #15, and enriching children's lives. For more information, contact Cass Doyle at [cassdoyle@yahoo.com](mailto:cassdoyle@yahoo.com).

**Last call** to see artwork, sent to us from Honduran students, **after services this Sunday, February 4,** in Gilbert Hall. For questions, contact Carol Thiel at [capejo@localnet.com](mailto:capejo@localnet.com).

**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?" 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](mailto:gmount@frontiernet.net).

**Food Donation Rules Reminders:** The food cart at church was full last Sunday! Great news! The Food Cupboard requests that food or non-food items be in *standard* sizes, not bulk or large containers, and not glass containers, please. For questions or more information, contact Alison Wilder at [awilder@frontiernet.net](mailto:awilder@frontiernet.net) or 585-342-2459.

**From our Environmental Task Force:** There is a strong Executive Budget for the Environment with one exception. We are pleased to see funding for fixing our parks, building the Empire State Trail, finally finishing River Park, combating algal blooms in our waterways, and remediating the Grumman contamination in Bethpage. **What's left out is a solution to single-use bag waste.** We hope that Governor Cuomo will include a plan to either institute a ban on plastic bags and a fee on paper bags on both in his 30 Day Amendments or through a program bill. And we can let him know this is what's important for NYS. Learn more here: <http://nylcv.org/>. REUSE REDUCE RE-PURPOSE RECYCLE

## **Calls to Action and Other News**

**Roof Communication Team Report:** As of the last Roof Progress Meeting on December 21, 2017, the roof project is substantially complete. The outstanding items for completion are summarized in the accompanying punch list. Because we have not reached Project Final Completion, this is hopefully the next to last report of the Roof Communication Team. A final report will be made sometime after March 31, 2018. All work on the roof is complete except for some caulk removal and Garland provided seam repairs.

The persistent leak in the choir room remains unresolved. The last wind driven rain in the fall caused limited leaking. A 4-5 inch snowfall and melt in mid-December seems not to have caused leaking. Also, there have been some problems with the windows in the Choir Room clerestories. Virginia Searl, of BERO Architecture, believes that the ongoing leaks are probably related to these window problems and not to the roof replacement. This area will be monitored over the next several months to determine whether the cause has been discovered and removed. It is suspected that the incomplete sheet metal work in this area may have been one of the causes earlier. All the sheet metal work is now complete. A hose test should be performed when the weather permits to determine and verify resolution.

Spring Sheet Metal & Roofing will provide a record set of drawings identifying changes to the work or project from the original drawings and specifications. They will also provide a binder with copies of all proposal requests, submittals and the submittal log. Bero Architecture will provide a CD with digital files of the original drawings and specifications.

The Punch List (below) includes items of work to be completed or corrected prior to Final Completion of the Project. The correction work will take place no later than March 31, 2018.

### **I. GENERAL:**

- A. Carefully walk the building perimeter to 20 feet (+/-) away from building walls. Pick up and properly dispose of all construction debris, including material wrappers or binding, sheet metal trimmings, roofing nails, etc. Take added care in the Nursery School Playground, areas immediately adjacent to the playground, and lower lawn areas where nursery school children play outside the playground. The church custodian will assist in the identification of any areas in question.
- B. Roll lawn areas at the west side of the building to level lift tracks.
- C. Remove all construction debris from roofs: membrane trimmings, sheet metal scrape, etc. Roof areas are to be left free of all construction waste.
- D. Clear all drain body of accumulated plant debris.
- E. Check outside corners of cap flashings and reseal where necessary.

### **II. ROOFS:**

- A. Elevator Addition
  - 1. Remove nail in south parapet cap. Provide cap flashing patch.
- B. Chimney Tower
  - 1. Provide fastener at counterflashing at chimney base, east side. Fasteners to be located in mortar joints only.
- C. Access Ladders
  - 1. Fasten existing ladders to Sanctuary walls, four locations at scupper access points.
- D. Roof Drains
  - 1. Cut ring bolts to allow drain strainers to seat properly.
- E. Caulk at roof/wall connections
  - 1. Complete change order work.

### III. SITE:

#### A. Staging area

1. Repair depression in the parking lot pavement where the lift sat to hoist materials to the roof.

IV. **FINAL COMPLETION:** Prior to Final Completion and Certificate of Final Payment, the following must be satisfied by the Contractor:

- A. Completion of all Punch List items.
- B. A certificate evidencing that insurance required by the Contract Documents to remain in force after final payment is currently in effect and will not be canceled or allowed to expire until at least 30 days' prior written notice has been given to the Owner.
- C. "Written affidavit that all payrolls, bills for materials and equipment, and other indebtedness connected with the work for which the Owner or his property might in any way be responsible, have been paid or otherwise satisfied." (AIA Document G706).
- D. Written consent of Surety to Final Payment. (AIA Document G707)

**All are welcome** to Literature and Visual Arts (LAVA) group's discussion of *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel Brown on **Friday, February 9, 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](mailto:wrfugate@frontiernet.net).

**Discover the Fun of our Soulful Community:** Join Intergenerational Game Day at our church on **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](mailto: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 2018 held on Saturday, January 20, 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](mailto:gpudup@gmail.com).

**When UUs Reading Non-Fiction** next meets on **Wednesday, February 14, 7:00-8:30pm**, the 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](mailto:auperry066@gmail.com) or 585-244-4013 with questions.

**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/](http://rochesterunitarian.org/grants/). Additional questions may be directed to Mary Palmer at [mmkp120@gmail.com](mailto:mmkp120@gmail.com) or by calling 585-242-0522.

**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 \$15,666 back to our greater community. On January 7, \$835.87 was collected for The Children's Agenda. On January 13 and 14, \$1,057.20 was collected for our church. On January 21, \$885.12 was collected for Flower City Habitat Women Build. On January 28, \$833.50 was collected for our church.