

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
WEEKLY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

November 23-November 30, 2017



Worship Services This Weekend

Sunday, November 26, 2017, 10:00am

“Surrendering to the Shadow”

Rev. Dr. Lynn Acquafondata, preaching

Ahlia Kitwana, worship associate

The plate collection will help support our church.

Gratitudes, Joys and Sorrows

Our Susan B. Anthony Lounge has an upgrade! Now in place are four new loveseats and two arm chairs, made possible by gifts from **Karen Evans** and her sister **Alayne Evans**. Members of the Aesthetics Committee, **Betty Evans, Kay Jacobstein, Megan Meyer**, and **Susan Schwardt**, searched for and chose the designs and colors for the pieces. The committee members also each made a donation to complete the purchase. These furnishings replace those that had been in the space since our church building opened. The new seating design continues that of the simple Danish pieces that remain. So, have a seat in the Susan B. Anthony Lounge, you won't want to leave! A heartfelt thanks to all who made this possible!

First Unitarian sends its condolences to the family of **Rev. Robert N. West**, Senior Minister here at our church from 1963 to 1969 who died this past September; he was 88 years old. Cards can be sent to the family through the Church Office – please mark them “attention Laurie.”

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

Happening This Week

The annual **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service** is at our church this year on **Thursday, November 23, 10:00am**. Please join our Muslim, Jewish, Catholic and Protestant siblings for a joyful celebration of gratitude. Rev. Dr. Marlowe Washington will offer the sermon, and our First Unitarian Choir will be singing. This is not to be missed. In case you didn't know, this is a tradition that originated with our congregation, Temple B'rith Kodesh and First Universalist in 1874. If needed, overflow parking will be available at Temple Beth El across the street from our church.

Come, come whoever you are and celebrate Thanksgiving together! Surrender your holiday stress and join in a **Holiday Thanksgiving Meal** for all ages at our church this **Thursday, November 23, 1:00pm**. Bring your favorite potluck side dish to share, and RSVP to Fritz Lange at fflange13@gmail.com. We always have more than enough desserts, so bring beverages, veggies or other side dishes. No need to cook, pick something up. Please bring your own table service.

Bookstore Open This Sunday: There is only one service this **Sunday, November 26, 10:00am**. For our book shopping convenience, the bookstore will be open after the service. There is both fiction and non-fiction in a variety of genres. As always, there are new titles and, especially convenient for this time of year, there is a nice selection of children's books. So stop by after the service, chat with the volunteers and other congregants, and pick up that book you know you want but just haven't yet got around to buying. Cash and checks are gladly accepted.

Now showing in the Williams Gallery: “The Sweet, Simple Things” - works by artist and church member Laura Wilder. Laura's work has won many awards and prestigious commissions, and is on exhibit at more than a dozen shows per year, in many galleries and shops nationwide. Thematically, her art explores what her distant cousin, Laura Ingalls Wilder, called “the sweet, simple things of life,” especially the beautiful light effects in nature. Laura is especially happy to be exhibiting at our church, which has been her spiritual home since 1964.

Calls to Action

Donations are needed for the upcoming School #22 Holiday Store. Do you have any small items that you no longer use but would make a great gift for someone else? Help fill School #22's Holiday Store with small gifts that the students can purchase for their family members. Donations of jewelry, small games, balls, toys, hand creams, tools, handbags, scarves, blankets, etc. would all make great gifts for the Holiday Store. Please drop donations off in the labeled box in the Workroom by **Sunday, December 10**.

The Brighton Food Cupboard has served some of us. At least two people have commented in church that they have needed a food cupboard in leaner days, maybe others still do, so keep that in mind when shopping for food or toiletries. If you prefer, put a check to The Brighton Cupboard in a labeled envelope in the collection basket. 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!

November 2017

- Thursday, November 23: Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at First Unitarian Church at 10:00am
- Sunday, November 26: ONE Worship Service at 10:00am

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.

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

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.

Interim Conversation: Rev. Joel invites all interested members and friends to an Interim Conversation on **December 10, 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 contact Sue at srcalnek@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**.

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, contact fellow youth group alumni Tyler Dewey at tylerwilliamdewey@gmail.com or Hazel Moellering at hamoellering@gmail.com.

Another Green Tip from Our Environmental Climate Task Force: With the cold weather we are experiencing, we are spending more time indoors; it's important to keep our indoor air free of pollutants to maintain respiratory health. One easy way to do this is to take care of cleaning and changing our furnace filters. Here are some tips: For a central air system, use a filter rated MERV 10 or higher; clean air filters monthly or replace regularly. For portable air filters, choose one with a high efficiency or a HEPA filter. Check the California Air Resources Board's list of certified air cleaners. For other easy home care tips, see Environmental Working Group's Home Guide at www.ewg.org/healthyhomeguide/. Reduce, Reuse, Re-Purpose, Recycle.