

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

WEEKLY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

January 4-January 11, 2018



Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday, January 7, 2018
Services at 9:30am and 11:15am

"At Night You Can See the Stars"

Rev. Tina Simson, preaching
Sue Steepy, worship associate

Our Plate Collection will help support [The Children's Agenda](#)

Saturday, January 13, 2018 at 7:00pm

Soul Assembly with Orange Sky

Sunday, January 14 at 9:30am & 11:15am

"Words in the Web"

Rev. Joel Miller, preaching
Jill Poremba, worship associate
Plate collection will help support our church

Gratitudes, Joys and Sorrows

Please keep the family of **Fran Hollands** in your thoughts. Fran passed away last week after a short illness. A private memorial reception was held at the church, no further service is planned. Please hold **Ronna Abbot** in your hearts. She is currently home after receiving a terminal diagnosis last week. She welcomes calls, cards and visits. Please call first. Check the church directory for contact information.

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 \$13,945 back to our greater community, excluding the Greater Good fund. On December 3, \$763.05 was collected for Connect & Breathe. On December 10, \$18,638.05 was collected for the Greater Good fund. On December 16, \$416.58 was collected at the two Winter Solstice Services for our church. On December 24, \$1,350.77 was collected for our church's Minister's Discretionary Fund. On December 31, \$392 was collect for Work Division, Women's Compassion Fund.

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

January Worship Theme

As UUs, how do we find spiritual connection through exploring and owning our Shadow?

"Things are not getting worse. They are getting uncovered. We need to hold each other tight and continue to pull back the veil." I read this quote recently on a friend's Facebook page, and thought how relevant it is to our world today, and how hard it is to experience. This month, as we delve into the worship theme of Shadow, we will intentionally walk into the personal and collective corners of our soul. This is spiritual work; work that requires honest reflection and tenderness.

I think of the way archeologists work a dig. Carefully, gently removing the layers of dust, uncovering unknown objects, they do not judge. They simply observe with interest. That is our work as we sift through the shadows

in our lives, in our congregation, our denomination, and our world. There is no need for shame or blame in this work, only pure inquiry and respect. That is how we will use our shadow to make change.

We may find joy in uncovering a long-hidden gift; we may find sorrow in uncovering parts of ourselves that are not yet healed. We may find insight into who we are, and then more authentically walk toward who we want to be. Whatever we find, we will do this with deep respect and honor for this hard work of excavating.

In faith,
Rev. Tina

Happening This Week

Café Veritas brings together four local artists to blend their talents and love of music all on one stage this **Saturday, January 6**. Featured performers are Scott Regan, Cammy Enaharo, Steve Piper, and Madeleine McQueen. Show starts at **7:30pm**. For tickets, go to www.cafeveritas.org.

Bookstore News: We have a limited number of copies of *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry* edited by Mitra Rahnema, available this **Sunday, January 7 at 10:45am** in the Susan B. Anthony Lounge. First come, first served. The price is \$14 and we gladly accept payment by check (payable to First Unitarian Church) or cash.

The next meeting of the Black Lives Matter Task Force will be held on **Sunday, January 7, at 12:30pm** in Room 110. We will discuss a new name for the Task Force that better fits our current goals, work towards participating in a number of community projects, and appoint liaison folks for each of those projects. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Len Stein at drlstein@rochester.rr.com.

The next meeting of our Board of Trustees is Tuesday, January 9, at 6:30pm. The agenda is available on our church website, and posted on the bulletin board in the Lobby. The approved minutes for the Board of Trustees meeting in November, as well as the draft minutes for December, are also posted on our website and in the church Lobby.

Currents: When we meet again, we'll be following up on our last discussion regarding what unites us. We all agreed that we felt strongly about "Our Sacred Right to Vote." Most of us felt that we should devote more time to that issue. All are welcome to join us as we discuss this topic at our next meeting on **Wednesday, January 10, 12:15-1:45pm**. If you would like to be included on our mailing list and receive readings in advance of the meeting, please contact Sue at srcalnek@aol.com, Dave at davebccf@hotmail.com, or Gary at gpudup@gmail.com.

Five Reasons Why Meditation Could Be Your New Year's Resolution: You can be calmer, happier, healthier, and more focused, all while contributing to the greater good. Join Jan Cook and an inspiring learning circle to begin meditating, or deepen your practice. A six-week session begins **Wednesday, January 10**. To register, contact Carolyn at livingandworking.info@gmail.com. For questions, contact Jan directly at janburkecook@gmail.com.

UUs Reading Non-Fiction: In this era of exponentially more devastating weather events, we find it ever more impossible to ignore the implications for our present and future. Our next book, *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl* by Timothy Egan, is the story of a 10 year period in our nation's history that might have been preventable had appropriate measures been taken. All are welcome to join us as we discuss this book on **Wednesday, January 10, 7:00-8:30pm**. For questions, contact Audrey Perry at auperry@066@gmail.com or 585-244-4013.

Aging Gratefully is a discussion group open to anyone aged 60 and above, which meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month in the Susan B. Anthony Lounge to discuss a topic chosen by the group. The next meeting is **Thursday, January 11, 1:30-3:00pm**; we'll discuss the topic of "How We Engage to Make Our Community or the World Around Us a Better Place." For more information, contact Garry Mount at gmount@frontiernet.net.

Calls to Action

First UU Plate Committee: Our Plate Committee is preparing for the New Year and scheduling organizations to receive the generosity of our members. Please take a few moments to review the requirements and submit your requests. Information and submission forms can be found on our church website at <http://rochesterunitarian.org/giving-away-the-plate/>. For questions, contact Elaine Richane at 585-203-4712 or richanee@frontiernet.net.

All are invited to a presentation on Policy Governance. Policy Governance is being used by the Board of Trustees in its leadership role to guide the operations of our church so that we can realize our values and aspirations. Its framework is particularly important as we prepare for our search for a new Senior Minister. There are three presentation times: **Saturday, January 13, 6:00-7:00pm**, and two sessions on **Sunday, January 14, at 10:30am or 12:30pm**, each in Room 110. Mark your calendars!

Youth Group Sponsors Blood Drive: Youth Group will be sponsoring a blood drive on **Sunday, January 14, 9:00am-2:00pm** in the Williams Gallery. Look for posters around the church. Receive a \$5 Dunkin' Donuts gift card when you come to donate. Go to redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment or contact Suzy Farrell at suzmacefa@gmail.com or 585-747-6379.

Last Call for Gilbert Spirit Fund Proposals: Proposals for small grants to not-for-profit organizations concerned with social justice and/or the arts are due by **Thursday, February 1**, either by email or hard copy, as noted on the application form, which can be found on our church website at <http://rochesterunitarian.org/gilbert-spirit-fund/>. For questions, contact the Selection Committee Chair, Jane Tuttle, at janetuttle@bluefrog.com.

News from the Nominating Committee: Calling all members! The deadline to make recommendations for the Search Committee is approaching. Please give consideration for up to three members who are thoughtful, team oriented and represent a diversity of involvement across church life. Don't have names to recommend? No problem! We'd like to hear that as well. It helps us to know that our outreach efforts have touched all members. Recommendations will be accepted until **Sunday, January 21**, at table sessions after Sunday services or by email at nominating@rochesterunitarian.org.

For the Brighton Food Cupboard: Please consider bringing a food item that's good in bitter-cold weather such as soup, canned meat or fish, beans, rice or pasta. For questions or more information, contact Alison Wilder at awilder@frontiernet.net or 585-342-2459.

Other News and Reminders

A Green Tip from the Environmental Task Force: Many of us resolve to be faithful to our regular workouts as we move into the New Year. Here are some tips to be green about exercising. Exercise equipment can guzzle energy, especially in gyms where they run for long periods. The lovely new Imaginarium at I-Square in Irondequoit offers exercise bikes that generate energy as you pedal. You feed the power that the building uses and help keep costs down - how green is that?! Driving to the gym burns carbon (unless you have an all-electric vehicle) and pollutes the air, so why not run or walk outside on sunny and not-too-frigid days? You'll get an extra dose of vitamin D as an added benefit. And, don't forget to take a reusable water bottle with you, either stainless steel or hard (no BPA) plastic. Happy New Year! Reduce, Reuse, Re-Purpose, Recycle.

The Rummage Sale Committee urgently seeks storage space for donated items. Several members of our congregation are moving to smaller quarters and would like to contribute things to our church sale that they will no longer need. The committee needs part of a garage or storage area to hold these donations until the Rummage Sale in early June. Please contact Sandy Hollands by phone at 585-703-2979 or e-mail at sandy.hollands@gmail.com

Nature's Beauty - Now Showing in the Williams Gallery: Photographer Joe Woody is passionate about capturing images of wildlife and landscapes. 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**.