

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
WEEKLY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

March 1-March 8, 2018



Upcoming Worship Services

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

"So that we will, together, shine"

Rev. Joel Miller, preaching

Suzy Farrell, worship associate

Our plate collection will help support Webster Comfort Care Home.

Gratitudes, Joys and Sorrows

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

March Worship Theme: Paradox

As UUs, how do we find spiritual connection through paradox?

I have two favorite quotes. The first is by Albert Einstein.

"There are only two ways to live your life.

One is as if nothing is a miracle.

The other is as if everything is a miracle."

The second quote, I see often on social media but I can't find who originated it. It simply says,

"Relax, nothing is under control!"

Both of these oddly bring me comfort. And I think that may be because, or perhaps why, I am a Unitarian Universalist.

Our faith calls us to explore the uncertainties of life and live into its contradictions. It calls us to be comfortable with ambiguity, so that we may grow and learn from our experiences and our relationships. It also calls us to tackle complex and often paradoxical social issues personally and as a religious community, so we can promote the common good and deepen our faith in humanity.

This month's worship theme is Paradox. Our question, ***As UUs, how do we find spiritual connection through paradox?***

Friends, some paradoxes are easier than others to wrestle with, and I suspect those will be different for each of us. Uncertainty can be extremely uncomfortable and challenging

As we worship together this month, and as we meet in our small groups, let's give one another space and support to dig deep into the paradoxes in which we live.

In faith,
Tina

Happening This Week

Last sessions for Our Road Ahead: If you have not yet had an opportunity to participate in one of these important conversations about our hopes and wishes for the future at our church, perhaps one of these final sessions will fit into your schedule:

Thursday, March 1: 1:00-3:30pm or 6:30-9:00pm

Friday, March 2: 2:00-4:30pm

Saturday, March 3: 1:00-3:30pm

Sunday, March 4: 10:30am-1:00pm or 1:00-3:30pm

Go to <http://rochesterunitarian.org/our-road-ahead/> to register, or if timing is an issue, please just come to a session. The Board hopes to hear all your voices.

Cafe Veritas presents Mustard's Retreat with Special Guest Libby Glover this **Saturday, March 3 at 7:30pm**. Da Vines opening. Doors open at 7:00pm. Tickets may be purchased in advance at www.cafeveritas.org or at the door with cash or credit card.

Thinking about Membership? Join us for UU201 after worship this **Sunday, March 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 have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Shannan Foos at membership@rochesterunitarian.org.

Used Book Table: We've had spring-like weather this week, but real Rochesterians know winter isn't gone yet. Take a few minutes to look over the books at the Used Book Table in the Susan B. Anthony Lounge on the first and third Sundays of the month. You might find a few good novels to enjoy by the fireside when the weather turns again.

First Wednesdays Book Club meets Wednesday, March 7 at 11:15am, to discuss *The Known World* by Edward P. Jones, a novel about black slave owners in pre-Civil War Virginia. This meeting was postponed from February 7 due to snow. Feel free to join the discussion. For more information, contact Joyce Henzel at joycehenzel@gmail.com.

The next meeting of Aging Gratefully is Thursday, March 8, at 1:00pm. The topic for discussion is "How Do We Say Goodbye to People and Places We Love?" Aging Gratefully is a discussion group open to anyone aged 60 and over that meets monthly, on the second Thursday of the month, to discuss a topic chosen by the group. Please note that the regular meeting time has changed and is now 1:00-2:30pm. For more information, contact Garry Mount at gmount@frontiernet.net.

Meet many of the artists from the Arena Art Group at the Opening Reception for the next Williams Gallery Art Exhibit on **Friday, March 9, 6:00–8:00pm**. These artists are enriching the Williams Gallery walls in their exhibit "Expanding Dimensions" with their own individual styles and expertise in their chosen mediums. The mission of the Arena Art Group, founded in 1951, is to further the understanding and appreciation of abstract art in all its varied forms. Just take a peek, and the diversity and quality of the artwork will draw you in. This exhibit runs through April 9, 2018.

***The Distance Between Us* by Reyna Grande** is this year's selection for the Rochester community's annual "Rochester Reads" book discussion. The Literature and Visual Arts (LAVA) Book Group will discuss this book on **Friday, March 9 at 7:00pm**, in the Susan B. Anthony Lounge. In this memoir, the author tells about spending much of her childhood in poverty in Mexico with her negligent grandmother after her parents slipped across the border to the U.S. Later, she crossed the border herself and became a successful writer. This special meeting is open to anyone in the Rochester community, so come and join us! For more information, go to the LAVA Book Group webpage at www.frontiernet.net/~wrfugate/lava/.

Calls to Action

This Week's Green Tip from the Environmental Task Force: With air temperatures starting to rise a little in March, consider adjusting energy use. March is a great month to turn the thermostat down, or on occasion leave it off completely to minimize cost while saving energy. Water heaters too! Warmer weather lets you turn down a water heater's temperature a bit. On those longer sunny days, consider opening the curtains and letting the light shine in to heat your home without using the furnace. Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose and open up the windows!

First Unitarian Auction: Planning for the fundraising auction is under way! We are looking for volunteers to help with the planning as well as the day of the event. If you are interested in helping at one of our church's main fundraisers, please contact Jackie Lange at JLange1015@gmail.com.

The UU/Schools Partnership is collecting the following items for School #15: Snow pants, girls and boys, sizes 5-7; tissues; disinfecting wipes such as Clorox or Seventh Generation. Donations can be dropped off in the Church Workroom, or contact Cassie Carbone at cassiecarbone@gmail.com to make other arrangements.

Rummage Sale needs you! The Annual UU Rummage Sale will be from **Sunday, June 10 to Sunday, June 17** this year. It's coming up fast. Although we are in need of many volunteers, we specifically need someone to run the Books section. It's not hard but requires a time commitment during the prep and sale. Contact Sandy Hollands at 585-703-2979 or sandy.hollands@gmail.com if interested.

If you see a 2-for-1 food or toiletry sale, consider buying two and bringing the second one to church for the Brighton Food Cupboard. Basics like canned meat or fish, pasta, spaghetti sauce, canned beans, and pudding mixes are some suggestions to look for. For more information, contact Alison Wilder at 585-342-2450 or awilder@frontiernet.net.

Other News & Reminders

News from the Nominating Committee: Our Nominating Committee continues working diligently to assemble the slate of nine members who will search for our next senior minister. Please save the date, **Sunday, April 15**, to attend the congregational meeting at which we will vote on the Search Committee slate. It is important that all members be present at the meeting, to vote and learn next steps in the process.

From Rev. Joel Miller: If you've used the elevator at church, you may have noticed the many pictures and plaques on the walls around the elevator doors. One picture, hung on a wall that directly faces the elevator doors, is a print from an old painting that features the founder of Transylvanian Unitarianism, Francis Dávid (1510–1579). Francis David is pictured arguing for religious tolerance at the 1568 Diet of Torda. It's an important event for us as Unitarians: As a result of this gathering, the laws of a nation were changed allowing people, for the first time in history, legally to practice Unitarianism. (There had been Unitarians before this, but since it had been a crime punishable by death, few were open about it). It's the 450th anniversary of this legal proclamation, known as the "Edict of Torda." You can read more about it on the UU World website: <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/450-edict-torda-landmark>.

Interfaith Impact of NYS, in conjunction with our Social Justice Council, is sponsoring a legislative briefing on **Sunday, March 11, at 2:00pm** entitled "A Better Prescription for Health Care in New York State." At this event, Carol Tegas, Executive Director of Finger Lakes Performing Provider System, will review the current state of health care in the Empire State. Harry Bronson, NYS Assemblyman for the 138th district, will assess the political situation of health care in the legislature. Rohith Palli, from the Rochester Campaign for New York Health, will make the case for single payer, universal health care. All are welcome, and invite your friends.

Currents discussion group will meet on Wednesday, March 14 from 12:15-1:45pm to discuss *The Common Good / Individual Liberty: Balancing the Two*. Issues such as gun rights, the environment, and immunizations will be considered. Drop-ins are welcome. Contact Gary Pudup at gpudup@gmail.com if you would like to be included on our mailing list and receive readings related to our topics.

UU's Reading Non-Fiction will next meet on Wednesday, March 14, 7:00-8:30pm. In her book *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right*, liberal sociologist Arlie Russell Hochschild shares the insights she gained while living among struggling bayou families. All are welcome to join the discussion. For questions, contact Audrey Perry at auperry066@gmail.com or 585-244-4013. On Wednesday, April 11, the group will discuss *Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel*, by Carl Safina.

Please save the date, Sunday, March 25, at 3:00pm in our Sanctuary, for an organ concert sponsored by the Ed Schell Crescendo Fund. This year the theme is "Words with Organ Friends: Organ Music from Many Eras Inspired by Human Language and Stories." Our own Zach Zwahlen will be joined by his organ friend, Caroline Robinson, to collaborate on this concert, which will include readings of stories and poems that go with the music. The concert will be free. Donations to the fund, which was created in honor of Ed Schell when he retired as our Minister of Music in 2012, will be accepted gratefully.