

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

WEEKLY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

March 8-March 15, 2018



Upcoming Worship Services

Saturday, March 10 at 7:00pm

Soul Assembly with Orange Sky

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

"Loving and Leaving"

Rev. Tina Simson, preaching

Joe Simson, worship associate

Plate collection will help support [our church](#).

Reminder: Daylight Savings Time starts this weekend! Be sure to turn your clocks ahead 1 hour when you go to bed Saturday night.

Gratitudes, Joys and Sorrows

Thank you for your generosity! Two weekends a month our plate collection goes 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 \$17,902 back to our greater community! On February 4, \$780.15 was collected for Reconnect Rochester. On February 10 and 11, \$706.07 was collected for our church. On February 18, \$1,455.66 was collected for Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism. On February 25, \$749.07 was collected for our church.

Wow! Two Grocery Carts Full This Weekend! 177.5 pounds for two weeks of donations! Thanks to all who made a difference. Just a reminder that the Food Cupboard asks that we not donate food in glass containers to prevent breakage (and a mess). For more information, contact Alison Wilder at 585-342-2450 or awilder@frontiernet.net.

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 next meeting of Aging Gratefully is this 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 current Williams Gallery Art Exhibit this **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/.

Bagels This Sunday! If you missed seeing bagels last week, you can get your favorite this **Sunday, March 11** before and after services, while supplies last.

UU 101: Introduction to Unitarian Universalism and First Unitarian Church: If you are new to our church, please join us after either service this **Sunday, March 11**, for UU101 - a 45-minute class which offers an introduction to Unitarian Universalism, UU history, and ways to get connected here at our church. No need for prior registration, just join us after the service at the literature rack. Children are welcome! For more information, contact Shannan Foos at membership@rochesterunitarian.org.

Our church bookstore will be open this Sunday, March 11, 10:00am-1:00pm. Although we sold out last week of *It's Even Worse than You Think - What the Trump Administration is Doing to America* by David Cay Johnston, we now have more in stock. Also featured are *You Say to Brick: The Story of Louis Kahn* by Wendy Lesser, Robert Reich's new book *The Common Good*, and *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward. As always, we offer a selection of fiction and non-fiction titles, covering a variety of topics, as well as an expanded selection of children's books. Stop in and browse, chat with the bookstore volunteers and other congregants, and find a book you'll love to read. We offer discounts of at least 20% off list price on all our books and, as always, your purchases support our church.

Bring your ukulele this Sunday, March 11, 1:00–3:00pm for an informal session of music making. The group plays an eclectic variety of tunes, some of which are selected from *The Daily Ukulele* by Liz and Jim Beloff. Contact Dave Teegarden at beakertee@aol.com for more information.

Interfaith Impact of NYS, in conjunction with our Social Justice Council, is sponsoring a legislative briefing this **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 the group mailing list and receive readings related to group 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.

Other News & Reminders

News from the Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee continues to assemble the Search Committee for our next senior minister. Some have asked, "Why present a slate instead of individual members

for the vote?" That's an important question. As the Nominating Committee has undertaken this process, we have followed the recommended procedures of the Unitarian Universalist Association. In following them, we have taken great care to consider the recommended interests, abilities, and skills needed to serve on a search committee. By presenting the congregation with a slate of nominees, we are able to put forward a balanced cross section of the congregation. Ideally, a slate is a representative group of members who will have the interests of the entire congregation at heart. While not every subgroup in the church will find one of their own on the team, the slate can be mindful of each facet of the congregation as they approach their work. Consider that voting for individuals does not ensure a well-balanced group. In the coming weeks, biographies of the Search Committee members will be displayed in the lobby for perusal. An opportunity to meet the slate will be offered soon, details to follow. Please remember to save the date, **April 15, 2018**, to attend the congregational meeting.

First Unitarian Pancake Breakfast Next Sunday, March 18: Come join the fun as we welcome spring in our Equinox Intergenerational Worship Service, and enjoy a community pancake breakfast! To help out with flipping, serving, etc, sign up here: <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2234548/false#/invitation>.

Next Sunday, March 18, after both services, Jenna Bernardi will offer brief Tarot readings in exchange for a donation to the Grace Fund. This is a chance to 'Listen to Your Life.' Sign up that day at her table in the Williams Gallery for your appointment.

Free Family Concert to Benefit Environmental Charities: Saturday, March 24, at 5:30pm. This concert will be performed by church member Erin Denney-Koelsch on oboe, including family & friends who will perform works by Ravel, Poulenc, Chopin, Nielsen, Schumann, Albinoni, and others. Voluntary donations support the Sierra Club and Natural Resources Defense Council.

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.

Mother's Day Plant Sale: Mark your calendar for **Sunday, May 13** for this annual rite of spring at our church. Members and friends dig up and bring plants they have spread to sell to others, and our church benefits. If you like to grow seeds, please bring some seedlings to the sale, too. More details will come in future newsletters, or contact Nancy Koch at 585-662-5537 or nkoch@rochester.rr.com, or Alison Wilder at 585-342-2459 or awilder@frontiernet.net.

This Week's Green Tip from the Environmental Task Force: A new Columbia University study found numerous pill particulates in New York river waters. They enter through municipal sewer systems and are harmful to marine organisms. Human bodies do not fully metabolize medications, and when we excrete excess pill particulates or flush them down the toilet, they enter our bodies of water through sewer filters not equipped to remove such small particles. Over the long term, we are likely to find damage to land animals, including humans. New York State piloted a two-year study of our sewer filtration systems. The New York League of Conservation Voters supports a bill which would require drug manufacturers to operate a drug take-back program to safely dispose of unused medications. Meanwhile, consider taking your unused medications to your local police station where they will be safely disposed of. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Re-purpose!