

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

WEEKLY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

November 16-November 23, 2017



Worship Services This Weekend

Saturday, November 18, 7:00pm

Soul Assembly
Orange Sky, with Meg Gehman
A musical and artistic journey into the theme of Surrender!

Sunday, November 19, 2017, 9:30am and 11:15am

"A Wild Gratitude"
Rev. Joel Miller, preaching
Shadia McAnally, worship associate
Our plate collection will help support **Flower City Habitat for Humanity - Women Build**

Gratitudes, Joys and Sorrows

Rev. Robert N. West, Senior Minister here at our church from 1963 to 1969, died this past September; he was 88 years old. Rev. West's ministry here included the chartering of two buses that took 150 people to march with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, Alabama in 1965. The 1968 addition to our current building (also designed by the architect Louis Kahn) was begun and completed during West's ministry. Rev. West left our church to become President of the Unitarian Universalist Association. He was a remarkable leader for our national association of congregations. The online version of the UU World magazine has an excellent article about Robert West's leadership in very difficult times at <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/robertwestobituary>. First Unitarian sends its condolences to Rev. West's family. 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.

News from the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is hard at work on your behalf. As you have likely read in Rev. Joel's updates to the congregation, one of our most important tasks this year is to identify a ministerial search team, to be approved by the congregation in June. We need your help! Please take a moment to consider and recommend up to three people that you feel would make excellent members of the ministerial search team. You can submit your recommendations by visiting one of our tabling sessions after services or by emailing us at nominating@rochesterunitarian.org. If we do not hear from you in person or via email, we will reach out to you by phone in the coming months. Whatever format you choose, make sure your voice is heard by recommending yourself or up to three other people. If you would like to volunteer some time to the cause, we will also need people to make outreach calls to members to help collect these important recommendations. To volunteer as a Caller, please email us at nominating@rochesterunitarian.org and let us know you are willing to assist.

Happening This Week

Surrender to your inner child and join in some community fun for **Intergenerational Game Day** at our church this **Saturday, November 18, 4:00-7:00pm** in the Williams Gallery. Participants are asked to bring a favorite, non-electronic game to play and share. Parents and guardians of children under age six are encouraged to bring age-appropriate games or toys to share. Pizza is at 5:00pm, and guests can feel free to bring snack foods to share with the group. Contact Fritz Lange with questions or suggestions at fflange13@gmail.com.

Come to Soul Assembly! Don't miss the next Soul Assembly service this **Saturday, November 18 at 7:00pm**, when local recording artist Meg Gehman joins Orange Sky on a musical and artistic journey into the theme of Surrender. Bring friends and family, get ready to sing and dance, and see why people have been saying, "This is amazing. I can't wait until the next one!" Bring a wooden spoon or two if you can - you'll find out why at the event! Refreshments and fellowship will follow the service.

This **Sunday, November 19, after both services**, Jenna Bernardi will offer brief **Tarot Readings** in exchange for a donation to the Grace Fund. Sign up that day at her table in the Williams Gallery for your appointment.

First Muse: British Buddies. Join us this **Sunday, November 19, at 7:30pm** for an evening of music by British composers featuring the vocal talents of tenor Anthony Dean Griffey (Met Opera) and instrumental talents of guitarist Lynn McGrath, pianist Kurt Galvan, and violist Melissa Matson in music of John Dowland, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Frank Bridge, and Benjamin Britten. Twenty-five percent of ticket revenue will be donated to our Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN) Task Force. Tickets for this concert (\$15 general) will be on sale at the concert and after both services this Sunday. More information is available at www.FirstMuse.org.

The annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service is at our church this year on **Thursday, November 23, at 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, our First Unitarian Choir and the Praise Team from the Historic Parsells Church will offer rousing music. 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.

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 on **Thursday, November 23, at 1:00pm**. Sign up this Sunday with the Hospitality Team to bring your favorite potluck side dish to share, or 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.

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**.

Food Cupboard Reminder: If we all followed the rule "Each One Bring One," our collection basket would overflow. Suggested foods are cereal, canned milk, canned fruit, vegetables or meats, or whatever you have to spare. 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

Saturday, November 18: Soul Assembly with Orange Sky at 7:00pm
Sunday, November 19: Worship Services at 9:30am & 11:15am
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.

The First Wednesday Book Group next meets on **Wednesday, December 6 at 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.

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.

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 davebcctf@hotmail.com.

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.