

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

WEEKLY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

September 28-October 5, 2017



Worship Service This Weekend

Sunday, October 1, 2017
Services at 9:30am and 11:15am
Rev. Tina Simson, preaching
"When Your Hair is Against the Dress Code"
Ahlia Kitwana, co-leading
Our plate collection will help support our church.

President's Column

From the President of the Congregation

Our congregation was touched last week by pain and tragedy—as you may already know, a young man tormented by a psychosis fatally injured himself at church in what his parents felt was a search for sanctuary from his terror. My wife asked me what a psychosis is, because I have worked with and known many people with psychosis or other symptoms of mental illness. The best short explanation I could give her is that it is the loss of an ability to tell the difference between what is real and what is imagined. If you have an active imagination, you can see how terrifying that could be.

After my initial shock and sadness in reaction to this tragedy, I took time to look at it through the lens of my role as President of our congregation. I thought back to our recent meeting of the Board of Trustees: specifically, our consideration of comments collected from our congregants during the Thrive Drive. They range from positive to negative — negative in the sense that people had experienced the pain of being treated badly here at church, which to me is totally unacceptable in any spiritual community. I (and I think my fellow board members) left that discussion with a strong sense of the importance and urgency of our work to build and nurture real community here.

This week's tragedy and pain are another reminder that we come to church to connect, to find strength and solace as part of our community. We find the comfort and safety to heal our wounds, and the opportunity to combine our gifts with others' to grow the strength we will need to build the Beloved Community here and in the world.

In Hope and Caring,

Tim Farnum
tim.farnum@gmail.com

Gratitudes, Joys and Sorrows

Thank you to the volunteers and diners who raised \$464 for our Backpack Food program at School #22 last Sunday, to support healthy weekend food for students in need!

Please hold the family of Matthew Denk, **Larry Denk, Maureen McDonald and Alison Denk**, in your hearts and prayers. Matthew died on Thursday, September 21, 2017. A memorial will be held at our church on **Saturday, October 7, at 10:00am**. Also, our heart goes out to **Brian Hurlburt**, Brian's beloved husband Jim Goff died Tuesday, September 26, after a long illness. A memorial will be held at our church in the future, once details are worked out.

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

Racial Justice Presentations

In association with the "Facing Racism" exhibit in the Williams Gallery, the Rochester community's Take it Down Planning Committee has two remaining opportunities to view the exhibit, hear about racism today, and learn about actions people can take locally to work toward racial justice. The roughly identical sessions will each be held at our church this **Thursday, September 28, 7:00-9:00pm**, and **Thursday, October 19, 7:00-9:00pm**.

Another Showing of *An Equal Right to Act*

FirstLight Players, our First Unitarian Drama Group, is offering a free performance of *An Equal Right to Act*, written by congregant Ira Srole, in conjunction with our church historians, Colleen Hurst and Bill Fugate. Those who attended this summer's premiere are still buzzing about this 18 member cast. Here is a second chance for congregants to see how our church was key in the famous second Women's Rights Convention of 1848 as we celebrate the Centennial of New York State Women's Suffrage of 1917. The event is this **Saturday, September 30, at 2:30pm**, and is hosted by the Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County (215 South Avenue, Rochester, 3rd floor auditorium).

UU101: Introduction to Unitarian Universalism and First Unitarian Church

If you are new to our church, please join us after either service this **Sunday, October 1**, 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.

First Wednesday Morning Book Discussion Group will discuss the book *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving on **Wednesday, October 4, 11:00am-12:30pm**. The author shares her struggle to understand racism and offers a fresh perspective on bias, stereotypes, manners, and tolerance. This discussion is the perfect springboard to Ms. Irving's appearance at our church on Sunday, October 8. All are welcome on a drop-in basis. For further information, contact Joyce Henzel at joycehenzel@gmail.com.

Calls to Action

Hospitality Leadership Team Now Forming

All church members and friends are invited to join our Hospitality Leadership Team now forming to serve our Sunday worship services. Any interested folks can arrive early for the 9:30am or 11:15am services, check in at the Welcome Table, and sign up to get involved with this new group of fellow radicals. Email replies are welcome to Fritz Lange at fflange13@gmail.com.

Take Action with the Environmental Task Force

The Environmental Task Force asks that you come to their table after services this weekend and sign a letter to Governor Cuomo about a proposed new natural-gas-fired power plant in Albany. We question the wisdom of a new plant using fossil fuels, and the justice of it sitting in a low income neighborhood. We are asking for a more in-depth environmental review, and consideration of renewable alternatives.

Social Justice Council Benefits Boutique

Are you a crafter of wood, fabric, pottery, jewelry, yarn, photos, paint, soaps, recycled items? Do you sell handmade items or earth friendly green products? Does your group sell a product that promotes social responsibility? We would love to have you join us! We're having our annual Social Justice Council Benefits Boutique, accompanied by a cafe of home-baked goods and soups, plus a new Gift Making Room for Youth on **Saturday, November 11 and Sunday, November 12**. We are looking for new crafters to sell their wares. Please consider joining our vendor team. For information, contact Jenny Cos at jennycos717@gmail.com or Andrea Porter at porter.aa@gmail.com.

Requests from Brighton Food Cupboard

A Brighton Food Cupboard representative tells us that while they are low on everything, they especially like cereal, soup, cooking oil, salad dressing, and condiments. Does that give you enough choices? Leave your donations in the basket in the Lobby. For questions, contact Alison Wilder at awilder@frontiernet.net or 585-342-2459.

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

Roof construction is underway, so until further notice, the south parking lot is unavailable for church use. Also note that the back door is to be used as an emergency exit only.

A Green Tip from Your Environmental Climate Task Force

According to National Geographic "the energy that goes into the production, harvest, transportation, and packaging of wasted food produces more than 3.3 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide." Some ideas to keep that amount down include shopping wisely; don't buy more than you need just because the price is great. Learn when food really goes bad; the "sell by" dates are often just manufacturer suggestions for peak quality. Consider buying the odd shaped or discolored looking fruits and vegetables that are perfectly fine; other people may not and they may go to waste. Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose and buy apples that are a bit funky looking, but taste great.

Kahn's Corner

Kahn's Corner today is a quote from Wendy Lesner's newly published book, *You Say To Brick: The Life of Louis Kahn*. She describes impressions of our church at the dedication: "...there were ample rewards for the people who found their way through the church's well-concealed front door and past the low-ceilinged entrance lobby. As they walked through a low, wide, open doorway to the right, they were greeted by their first sight of the astonishing Sanctuary." To be continued in the next Kahn's Corner.

Aging Gratefully is an open-ended discussion group open to anyone aged 60 and above which meets on the second Thursday of every month from 1:30-3:00pm in the Susan B. Anthony Lounge to discuss a topic related to aging. The next meeting is on **Thursday, October 12, 1:30-3:00pm** and the topic is "Ourselves as Parents."

Café Veritas

Lucy Kaplansky performs at Café Veritas on **Saturday, October 14, at 7:30pm**. For more information or for tickets, go to www.cafeveritas.org.