

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

WEEKLY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

October 26-November 2, 2017



Worship Services This Weekend

Sunday, October 29, 2017 at 9:30am and 11:15am

"Masks"

Rev. Joel Miller, preaching

Suzy Farrell, Worship Associate

Our plate collection will help support Interfaith Impact of New York.

Gratitudes, Joys and Sorrows

Warm congratulations to our Religious Education staff member, **Emma (Kilmer) Hale**, who was married to Alexander Hale at Artisan Works last Saturday, October 21.

Heartfelt thanks to **Glenn and Nancy Koch** for refurbishing the credenza in the Sanctuary. They are responsible for what will no doubt be a beautiful restoration, which included extensive research on their part to ensure the credenza is refinished to honor its original historic design. We are truly grateful!

We are also thankful to **Steve Brown** for his woodworking artistry of a table in Room 224. Great job!

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

Now Showing in Williams Gallery: "The Sweet, Simple Things" - works by artist and church member Laura Wilder. All are invited to the opening reception this **Friday, October 27 at 6:00pm**. 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.

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 29**, 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 in the Lobby. Children are welcome! For more information, contact Shannan Foos at membership@rochesterunitarian.org.

Learn about Socially Responsible Investing this Sunday, October 29, at 12:30pm. The Social Justice Ministry and the Investments Committee jointly present "Socially Responsible Investing for Our Church and for Our Lives," a presentation on how our church is aligning our investments with our values, and how you can do the same. All are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Annie McQuilken at annie@foreverfinancial.com.

Our Environmental Task Force along with Pachamama Alliance are offering an extensive 4-session series to enable you to go more deeply into the solutions we need to pursue to bring down the global greenhouse gas concentration. It starts this **Sunday, October 29, 6:00pm** and continues on three additional Sundays, November 5, 12, and December 3, at our church. For more information, contact John Keevert at jkeev@frontiernet.net.

Meditation Classes with Jan Cook begin Wednesday, November 1 and run through Wednesday, December 20. Join a group of fellow practitioners to cultivate inner wisdom, clarity, and space to breathe. To register, or for more information, email Carolyn at livingandworking.info@gmail.com. To reach Jan directly, email janburkecook@gmail.com.

The First Wednesday Book Group will meet on **Wednesday, November 1 at 11:15am** in the Susan B. Anthony Lounge to discuss *Nobody's Fool* by Richard Russo. This slyly funny, moving novel is about a blue-collar town in Upstate NY (Bath), a classic American story of a triumphantly unlucky citizen. **Please note the time change to 11:15am** (to avoid parking congestion). Join us if this book interests you. Looking ahead to December 6, the book selection will be *Bellevue: Three Centuries of Medicine and Mayhem at America's Most Storied Hospital* by David Oshinsky. Contact Joyce Henzel at joycehenzel@gmail.com for questions.

Roc/ACTS Public Action Meeting and Potluck Supper will be held on Thursday, November 2. The Potluck Supper will be 5:00-6:00pm at our church in Room 110. The meeting will be at 6:30pm at the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church (304 Joseph Ave. 14605). A carpool/caravan is available at 6:00pm from our church to Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. Join with Roc/Acts Faith Community to add your voice for racial and economic justice: Police Accountability, Childcare Assistance and Wage Equity for Healthcare Workers. RSVP to Penny Quill at ptquill@gmail.com or Tom Perry at tom.perry164@gmail.com.

Calls to Action

Greater Good Vote Is Coming Soon! This Sunday, October 29, the children will be voting for the Greater Good recipient for 2017. Parents, please review the choices with your child so they are ready to vote next Sunday. For questions, please contact Sheila Schuh at sheilas@rochesterunitarian.org. Wondering what Greater Good is? Go to <http://rochesterunitarian.org/greater-good-project/>.

Advocacy to Support Monroe County Funding of Preventive Services

County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo recently announced steps that will be taken to address the crisis in Child Protective Services. For that we are grateful. However, funding for services that support families at risk has dropped by \$1.7 million since 2014. Please stop by the table in the Williams Gallery after services this **Sunday, October 29**, to sign a letter supporting reinstatement of this critical funding.

Call for Gilbert Spirit Fund Proposals: We have posted updated information about the Gilbert Spirit Fund and the new application form on the church website. Proposals are due by **Thursday, February 1, 2018** either in hard copy to church or by email as noted on the application form. Please help spread the word to non-profit organizations in our community with a focus on social justice and/or the arts. Contact the selection committee chair, Jane Tuttle, at janetuttle@bluefrog.com with any questions.

The Environmental Task Force plans to offer a seed library next year and they need your help to build a seed base. As you harvest this year, please save some seeds (vegetables, fruits, flowers), then dry them, put them in an envelope labelled with date & leave them in a box labelled "Seed Library" in the Workroom. Not a gardener? We accept purchased packets of your favorite foods or flowers. Here's a tip for seed saving: <http://www.almanac.com/content/how-save-vegetable-seeds-seed-saving-guide>. Thank you!

Benefits Boutique will be Saturday, November 11, 10:00am-4:30pm and Sunday, November 12, 10:00am-1:00pm. Mark your calendars to support the change we wish to see in the world. Purchase unique gifts, tasty soups and sweets while supporting our Social Justice efforts. Every vendor donates at least 20% of your purchases to our Social Justice groups. New this year, young people can make gifts to give, \$3 each or 2 for \$5.

As the holidays approach, check your calendar for Thanksgiving Day. Our Hospitality Team plans to host a festive Thanksgiving Day meal here at our church on **Thursday, November 23, 2:30pm**. All are invited to share a harvest fest of traditional favorites, complemented by home-spun specialty deserts. Folks interested in providing food offerings to share, or volunteering their time and hospitality, can email Fritz Lange at fflange13@gmail.com.

Brighton Food Cupboard staff is already gearing up to provide Thanksgiving baskets to those in need and ask that donors provide stuffing and cranberry sauce in the next two weeks. For questions, contact Alison Wilder at awilder@frontiernet.net or 585-342-2459.

Another Green Tip from Your Environmental Climate Task Force

It's been really warm lately, but cold air will get here eventually. This is a great time to check the air pressure in your tires. Cooler temperatures will lower tire pressure as air density increases, and that lowers fuel efficiency. So check your tires and make sure they're properly inflated. Remember to Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle.

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! 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.

The next meeting of the LAVA (Literature and Visual Arts) group is Friday, November 3, and the book under discussion is *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen. This is a Pulitzer-Prize-winning novel that is a savagely funny exploration of identity. The narrator is a half-French, half-Vietnamese army captain who comes to the U.S. after the fall of Saigon. In Los Angeles, he secretly works as a spy for his communist superiors in Vietnam. For more information, contact Bill Fugate at wrfugate@frontiernet.net or go to <http://www.frontiernet.net/~wrfugate/lava/>.

Starting Point is offered on Saturday, November 4! Have you attended UU101 and are ready to find your place at our church? Please join us for Starting Point, a 4-hour Saturday class that offers an opportunity to explore ways in which Unitarian Universalism can make a difference in your life and help you connect with others. Starting Point will be offered on **Saturday, November 4, 9:00am-2:00pm** in the Susan B. Anthony Lounge. Please register in advance by emailing Shannan Foos, Membership Coordinator, at membership@rochesterunitarian.org.

Currents Discussion Group is meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 12:15-1:45pm. Back in the early days of radio, TV, and no computers, it was possible to have a "national conversation" that allowed people of varying viewpoints to weigh in. Today, with so many sources competing for our attention, complex issues have been reduced to simplistic, polarizing talking points, and public response through polling, etc. is frequently ignored. Is there a way back? The topic of our next discussion is "Having Our Voices Heard: Moving from Polarization to Communication." We'll be discussing how to work from (small-d) democracy on the local level (including our own small group) to the national level of large groups and government. Drop-ins are welcome to join our discussion. If you wish to be on our mailing list and receive readings, please notify Gary at gpudup@gmail.com or Sue at srcalnek@aol.com.

UUs Reading Non-Fiction will be meeting again on **Wednesday, November 8, 7:00-8:30pm**, the day after Election Day. That may add an extra dimension to the discussion of our next book, *The Making of Donald Trump*, by investigative journalist and author David Cay Johnston. The book contains substantial biographical information as well as a view of Trump's ascendancy in business and influence from his earliest years. Drop-ins are welcome to join in the discussion. For questions, contact Audrey Perry at auperry066@gmail.com or 585-244-4013.

Aging Gratefully's next meeting is **Thursday, November 9, 1:30-3:00pm** in the Susan B. Anthony Lounge. This is a group open to anyone aged 60 and above which meets on the second Thursday of every month to discuss a topic chosen by the group. The, to discuss "Our Greatest Achievements: What are we most proud of?"

Join in the 55th Anniversary Celebration of our building on Friday, November 10, 7:00pm in the Williams Gallery, and for a conversation with our architect Louis Kahn, portrayed by Lew Ward-Baker. Marlin Potter, a project manager who worked with Louis Kahn, will share his memories. The celebration will be followed by cake and beverages. Extra cake will be offered to anyone wearing something from the late 50's or early 60's. This event is sponsored by the Kahn Building Appreciation Committee. For questions, email Nancy Koch at nkoch@rochester.rr.com.

Next Up at Café Veritas is John Gorka on **Saturday, November 11**, show starts at **7:30pm**. For more information or to purchase tickets, go to www.cafeveritas.org.