

**FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH**  
**WEEKLY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER**

September 7-14, 2017



**Worship Service This Weekend**

**HOMECOMING SUNDAY: September 10, 2017**  
**Intergenerational Services at 9:30am and 11:15am**  
**Rev Joel Miller, preaching**  
**Rev. Tina Simson and Sheila Schuh, co-leading**

**September Worship Theme**

***As UUs, how can we build spiritual connection through our Radical Hospitality?***

*"Do not take advantage of strangers in your land; do not wrong them. They must be treated like any other citizen; love them as yourself, for remember that you too were foreigners in the land of Egypt."*  
Leviticus 19, v. 33 and 34 6 of The Hebrew Bible

Welcome home to another church year of exploring worship themes together. We begin this year with the practice of Radical Hospitality.

As humans, we have a built-in and often unconscious tribalism. It is natural for us to gather and connect to people who are like us. But this inherently excludes others. In order to break from this unconscious tendency, we need to recognize this in ourselves and in our church community. We need to challenge ourselves and others to pay attention to the ways we perpetuate this tendency, and we need to view radical hospitality as a spiritual practice and moral concern.

Radical hospitality calls us to step beyond the ordinary and extend ourselves to others in a way that breaks down the barriers between us. It calls us to connect on the level of the heart, where humility and openness direct our interaction. This is not an easy practice. It also calls us to examine our relationships with others, and even our relationship with ourselves.

What will it take? How can we change so significantly that, as a church community, we become that diverse and inclusive haven of connection so desperately needed in society today? How can we embrace the parts of ourselves that cause us shame or repulse? These are the questions we wrestle with this month, as we embrace our worship theme of Radical Hospitality.

This isn't social justice work, although that is often the outcome, this is internal work of the heart. It requires that we open our minds and our hearts and extend our hands in connection and solidarity to those who are not like us. From this we will be changed as individuals and as a church community.

Let's do this together.

In faith,  
Rev. Tina

**Gratitudes, Joys and Sorrows**

Many thanks to the K-5th graders who, on Sunday of Labor Day weekend, CHOSE to help sort out our Religious Education supply room!

We are also grateful to Meg Gillio, Ahlia Kitwana, Wayne Holt, and Karin Kacprzyński for spending a weekend of their summer to become Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education facilitators for our children and youth.

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**

### **Facing Racism – Opening Reception this Friday**

The newest exhibit in our Williams Gallery explores racism through historical photos of black people's experience in Rochester (courtesy of Monroe County's archives) and through the Take it Down exhibit from Rochester Museum and Science Center. Take it Down explains the controversial pickaninny-style farm scene panel that was once part of the Dentzel Carousel at Ontario Beach Park. Come to the opening reception this **Friday, September 8, 6:00-8:00pm**. The exhibit, coordinated by our Social Justice Council, closes October 23.

### **Homecoming Sunday!**

Homecoming is this **Sunday, September 10**, when we will have two Worship Services at **9:30am and 11:15am**. These intergenerational services will welcome us all back to church, and celebrate our collective journeys of the summer. Remember to bring a stone! Our summer spiritual exercise was to find a stone that represents a person, a sturdy rock to stand on, who stepped in to clear your path, to help remove obstacles and walk beside you, and be your "stepping stone."

**Bagels and Bagels!** Support our UU/Schools Partnership with Schools #22 and #15, and buy a fresh bagel this **Sunday, September 10** in the Susan B. Anthony Lounge.

**Bookstore Opens this Sunday.** Our dedicated staff of volunteers looks forward to serving you - the congregation - this church year. We always have new and unusual titles available and we offer at least a 20% discount off list price, which means prices are competitive with other outlets. And no waiting for a book to be delivered; you get to take it home with you! Stop in before or after services, chat with the volunteers and other congregants, and browse our offerings. You will always find something to enjoy.

### **Uke Jam**

Bring your ukulele and join our little group this **Sunday, September 10, 1:00-3:00pm** in the Williams Gallery for an informal session of music making. We play an eclectic variety of tunes, some of which will be selected from *The Daily Ukulele* by Liz and Jim Beloff. Contact Dave Teegarden at [beakertee@aol.com](mailto:beakertee@aol.com) for more information.

**The next meeting of our Board of Trustees** will be held on **Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30pm**. The Agenda is as follows:

### **Agenda Board of Trustees Meeting 9/12/2017 at 6:30pm in Gilbert Hall**

1. Establish a Quorum and Call Meeting to Order -- Tim Farnum
2. Centering — Rev. Joel Miller
3. Approval of August Board Minutes
4. Review of Board Retreat: Revision of Ends Statements
5. Minister's Report:
  - a. Interim Appraisal
  - b. Staffing Changes
  - c. Staff Treatment
  - d. Policy Conflict: 3.5.3
  - e. Proposed Property Maintenance and Improvement fund projects (parking lot, front doors, front walkway)
6. Grievance Procedure — Dave Burnet
7. ABD Summary of Comments — John Solberg
8. Election of Board Vice President — Tim Farnum

9. Appointment of Trustee to Nominating Committee — Tim Farnum
10. Treasurer's Report — Anne Perry
  - a. Microfinance Task Force Disbanded
  - b. Investment Committee
  - c. Financial Status for August, 2017
11. Supplemental Board Covenant — Tim Farnum
12. Other business
13. Adjourn

**Currents** discussion group resumes **Wednesday, September 13, at 12:15pm**. The topic will be "What Will a Post-Trump USA Look Like?" Readings related to our topic will be sent to those on our mailing list. If you would like to be added to the list, please contact Dave McLaughlin at [davebcctf@hotmail.com](mailto:davebcctf@hotmail.com).

**Aging Gratefully** is a discussion group open to anyone aged 60 and above which meets monthly to discuss a topic chosen by the group. Next meeting is **Thursday, September 14, 1:30-3:00pm** in the Susan B. Anthony Lounge, and the topic is "Our Parents." Bring pictures or other mementos if you wish.

### **Racial Justice Presentations**

In association with the "Facing Racism" exhibit in the Williams Gallery, the Rochester community's Take it Down Planning Committee has scheduled three 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 on **Thursdays, September 14, 7:00-9:00pm; September 28, 7:00-9:00pm; and October 19, 7:00-9:00pm**.

**A few spaces are left for Meditation Classes with Jan Cook**. Come explore the heart of mindfulness and compassion practices in fellowship with others committed to transforming our world from the inside out. Beginning Meditation is on **Wednesdays at 12:00pm**, Deepening Meditation is on **Wednesdays at 1:30pm**, and Ongoing Meditation is on **Thursday evenings at 6:45pm**. For more information and to register, contact Carolyn at [livingandworking.info@gmail.com](mailto:livingandworking.info@gmail.com) or you can reach Jan at 585-381-6757 or [janburkecook@gmail.com](mailto:janburkecook@gmail.com).

### **Calls to Action**

**Are you RE Curious?** Want to shine some light into the future of UUism? There are a multitude of ways to be part of educating our children and youth. Please call or text Sheila, our Director of Religious Education at 585-743-0425 to find a way for you.

### **Register Now for Religious Education!**

Please be sure your children or grandchildren are registered for Religious Education (6 months through 18yrs). For more information or to register, contact Sheila Schuh at [sheilas@rochesterunitarian.org](mailto:sheilas@rochesterunitarian.org).

**Brighton Food Cupboard** serves the needy in zip codes 14607, 14610, 14618, and 14620. Please help out with a donation when you come to church. If you put a can or box in your vehicle when you think of it, the item will be there when you show up for church or a meeting. For questions, contact Alison Wilder at [awilder@frontiernet.net](mailto: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.**

### **First Muse: Joys and Litanies - September 24 at 7:30pm**

First Muse Chamber Music opens the season **Sunday, September 24 at 7:30 pm** with inspiring works by Rochester-area composers Cary Ratcliff, David Liptak, and James Willey. Join us to experience the immediacy of this music as performed by Rebecca Gilbert, William Amsel, Cary Ratcliff, David Bruestle, and the Amenda Quartet. Twenty-five percent of ticket revenue will be donated to our Honduras Task Force! Tickets for this concert (\$15 general) and for the season (\$40 general) will be on sale after both services, **Sunday, September 10**. More information is available at [www.firstmuse.org](http://www.firstmuse.org).

### **New Soul Matters Group Starting**

Are you inspired by the Eastern philosophy? Are you curious how these wise sources might connect to our monthly worship themes? If so, you are in luck. A new Soul Matters Group will form this fall based on Stephen Mitchell's translations of *The Enlightened Heart*, an anthology of Eastern ancient poetry from a variety of traditions: Buddhism, Taoism, Sufism, Hindu, etc. Participants will need to acquire this small paperback to discuss the material within the context of our worship theme packet each month. Maximum group size is eight. Session begins with a brief opening meditation to quiet our minds. We will convene the first Wednesday of each month from 7:00-8:30pm starting October 4. Contact Kiva Wyandotte at [kivawyandotte@gmail.com](mailto:kivawyandotte@gmail.com) with questions or to register.

### **Waking Up White**

Our Social Justice Council is bringing to town Debby Irving, author of the 2014 award-winning book *Waking Up White*, to speak about her journey away from racial ignorance, confusion, and frustration and toward empowerment and action. Come hear her on **Sunday, October 8 at 7:00pm** at our church. Donations are encouraged to cover expenses and to support our social justice initiatives.

### **Tips from Your Environmental Climate Task Force**

As these cool days remind us that fall is at our doorstep, let's consider a few chores that benefit both our health and that of the environment. Avoid toxic cleaning products such as Triclosan, ammonia, and chlorine which cause skin irritation and possible hormone disruption when they contaminate our water system. Instead use the safe basics including white vinegar, baking soda, lemon juice and salt, and mild soap and water. Fall leaves are a great organic resource, so leave them on the ground, especially on garden areas. If you must remove them, get a good workout with the rake to avoid using gasoline powered blowers. Leave them by the curb if your town or city collects them, or use the large paper bags to contain them. Buy reliable air filters for your furnace. Use those with a finer filter size, such as a MERV score of 10. House plants, especially spider plants, put oxygen in the air and suck up carbon dioxide. Clean your refrigerator coils and behind your dryer around duct openings. And don't forget to keep outside gutters clear of leaves and debris to avoid overflow water that can damage the foundation of your house. Enjoy this beautiful time of the year! Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle.