

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

WEEKLY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

October 5-October 12, 2017



Worship Service This Weekend

Sunday, October 8, 2017
Services at 9:30am and 11:15am

Rev. Joel Miller, preaching
"Theist and Humanist"

Otto and Anna Cuyler, co-leading

Our plate collection will help support IBERO- Puerto Rico Disaster Relief Fund

October Worship Theme

As UUs, how do we understand the spiritual challenge of Intersectionality?

Who are you?

I am a white man. I am a white cisgender man. I am queer.
I am transgender, and I am deaf.
I am young. I am a woman. I am a young woman. I am black.
I am Latinx. I am a college educated, professional male.
I am a woman, an old woman. I am poor. I am an old, poor white woman.
I am a Unitarian Universalist. I am white. I am liberal. I am depressed.

Each of us exists in the world with many intersecting identities. As we navigate our society, some of our identities elevate our status, others denigrate it. When many of our identities are disparaged by societal structures, we experience compounded bias and oppression. This is intersectionality.

Intersectionality is a term coined by American feminist, legal scholar, and civil rights advocate Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw.

From Wikipedia: "...intersectional identities usually are not addressed in normal social discourses and often come with their own set of oppression, domination, and discrimination. Laws and policies only address one aspect of the marginalized identity. The intersections of multiple oppressed identities are overlooked. Since these identities are ignored, there is a lack of resources needed to combat the discrimination, and the oppression is cyclically perpetuated. Intersectionality proposes that all aspects of one's identity need to be examined as simultaneously interacting with each other and affecting one's privilege and perception in society, and that these facets of identity cannot simply be observed separately."

As Unitarian Universalists, our first two principles call us to affirm and promote:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

We are a people of faith, guided by these principles. They are not a creed, but a moral compass that directs us in our relationships with one another and the world. These principles call us to understand our own privilege and how our various identities, and those of people in our community, fit into the structures of oppression. Our principles also call us to work to change those structures that perpetuate the oppression especially in our own lives, our church community and our religion.

This will be a challenging worship theme, one in which an open mind and an open heart are essential. We will do the spiritual work of unpacking our own privilege, our own biases, and our own oppressions. We need to engage our ability to listen deeply to one another. We need to be gentle with others and ourselves. And at the end of this work we will understand better how we, as a beloved community, promote justice, equity and compassion in ALL our human relations.

In Faith,
Rev. Tina

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 \$6,090 back to our greater community. On September 3, \$382.61 was collected for our church. On September 10, \$1,687.20 was collected for UUA/UUSC program to help victims of Harvey in Texas. On September 17, \$1,007.32 was collected for RAIHN. On September 24, \$883.53 was collected for School #22 Back Pack Program.

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.**

The memorial for **Jim Goff**, husband of **Brian Hurlburt**, will be held at our church on **Saturday, October 21, at 1:00pm.** We continue to hold Brian and Jim's sisters, Janice and Wendy, in our hearts.

Please hold the family of our member **Peter Cardegna** in your thoughts and prayers. Peter died this past weekend from a short but serious illness. His Celebration of Life will be held at the First Universalist Church on Clinton Avenue on **Saturday, October 21, at 2:00pm.** Rev Joel Miller and Rev. Michelle George-Yates will officiate. Peter and his children belonged to First Universalist when the children were growing up. *"To live in hearts that love is not to die."*

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

Soul Assembly: Join us for this new monthly celebration of music and arts, featuring our in-house band, Orange Sky, on **Saturday, October 7, 7:00pm.**

Bookstore Open This Sunday: Our church bookstore will be open this **Sunday, October 8, 10:00am-1:00pm.** We still have some copies of Debby Irving's *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* for sale for a discounted price of \$16 a copy. Debby will be speaking at our church the evening of October 8, so get a copy now while there is still time in advance of her engagement. Other in-stock titles relevant to the race issue are *White Trash* by Nancy Isenberg and *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the U.S.* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. All titles are at least a 20% discount off list price. We promise there is never any waiting for one of our books to be delivered; take it home with you and start enjoying it right away! Stop in before or after services, chat with the volunteers and other congregants, and browse our offerings. You can always find something you may enjoy reading. We gladly accept cash and checks.

Congregational Meeting: The Board of Trustees will hold a Special Meeting of the Congregation on **Sunday, October 8, at 1:00pm** in the Sanctuary, with the following agenda:

1. Establish a Quorum
2. Approve Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting
3. A motion to approve a change in policy to allow incidental minor changes to the bylaws
4. Receive Reports of Social Justice Task Forces
5. Vote on future Task Forces of the church

Facing Racism: Free and open to the public, a presentation by racial justice educator and author Debby Irving, who wrote *Waking up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, on **Sunday, October 8, 7:00pm** at our church, with a reception and book signing following the talk. The event is sponsored by The Community Foundation and First Unitarian Church of Rochester. Copies of Debby Irving's book will be available for sale. For more information, contact John Keevert at jkeev@frontiernet.net or 585-473-0295.

Aging Gratefully is an open-ended discussion group open to anyone aged 60 and above, which meets on the second Thursday of every month 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."

Calls to Action

Connect & Breathe is a talkline supporting those impacted by an abortion experience, and was founded right here at our church! We are actively recruiting volunteers in advance of the talkline training taking place in early January 2018. Go to [our website](#) for more information, or email Stephanie Ketterl (stephanieketterl@gmail.com) if you have questions.

Office Volunteers Needed! The Church Office is seeking additional volunteers to help with the Information Desk (Monday through Friday, 10:00am – 2:00pm), as well as other projects throughout the year. We have a wonderful core group who cover most shifts, but we could use a few more folks to fill in when others are unavailable. Complete training and support provided. If interested, contact Carol Anne Cleary, cacleary@rochesterunitarian.org.

Friend In Faith: Our church is seeking patient and caring individuals to act as a ‘friend’ to children with behavioral challenges who may need extra help staying focused or have special needs during the religious education session. These “Friends in Faith” may work one-on-one with children or with small groups of children. Occasionally, they may act as a substitute group assistant and help lead the religious education session. For more information, [click here](#). To apply to be a Friend In Faith, email Sheila Schuh at sheilas@rochesterunitarian.org.

Annual Report From The Food Cupboard: In the last twelve months, our church has contributed 2159 pounds of food and toiletries to the Brighton Food Cupboard on Idlewood Drive. Let's keep up the good work! Bring a box or can next time you come to church (please no glass jars). 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! 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.

Literature and Visual Arts (LAVA): All are welcome to a discussion of *Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel* by Carl Safina on **Friday, October 13, 7:00pm** in the Susan B. Anthony Lounge. This lively account by a respected scientist describes the surprisingly complex communities of elephants, wolves and orcas, and what that tells us about their thoughts and feelings. For more information: www.frontiernet.net/~wrfugate/lava/.

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.

FUUn Bunch: Each month, the FUUn Bunch meets for drinks and eats and good conversation. Mark your calendars for **Friday, October 27, 7:00pm** at Gigi's Italian Restaurant. RSVP Phil Hildreth at philhildreth@comcast.net. Please indicate who and how many, and he will reply with directions.

A Green Tip from Your Environmental Climate Task Force: This is the time that gardens and farmers' markets flourish with fresh produce - a fine time for preserving at home. You avoid BPA (Bisphenol A, relative to heart disease, brain function, asthma) found in plastic food packaging, including the lining of some canned foods. Preserving minimizes your environmental impact by purchasing and growing local food. You eliminate the carbon produced in long range transport (trucking, shipping and train travel). By eating locally you also eliminate processing facilities, manufacturing plants, and warehouses, all of which use energy and preservatives to keep the food edible. For more info, go to <http://nylcvf.org/citizens-toolkit/green-tip-save-summer-harvest/>. Reduce Reuse Repurpose Recycle!

