



Venture Vol. 58, No. 11 - April 2017

Our Mission: To be a compassionate, welcoming community that nurtures spiritual growth and practices justice.

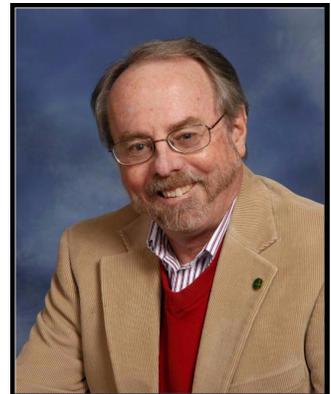
A Month of Sundays

Services & Religious Education for Children & Youth at 9:00 and 11:00 am
Childcare available during services for babies and toddlers
(6 months+ to 3 years old)

April 2 - Whose Am I?

To know oneself - to answer the question "Who am I" - requires that we recognize and affirm our binding relationships. We must ask: To whom do I belong? By whom am I possessed? To whom must I answer? For individualists, these are NOT easy questions.

Rev. Fritz Hudson, Worship Leader
Mark Brutinel, Worship Associate
Terrill-McDonough Jazz Duo, Musicians
Connie Schuelka, piano



Rev. Fritz Hudson

April 9 - What Do Atheists Believe?

What can we say about the context of life, and about living well, without God?

Rev. Fritz Hudson & DRE Joyce Rood, Worship Leaders
Walden Hill Children's Choir, Joe Mish, conductor
Connie Schuelka, organ/piano

April 16 - Little Deaths, Little Resurrections

It is said we die little deaths throughout our lives. Are we not also born repeatedly in many small ways as well? How do we conceive these little lives in love? How do we nurture them to maturity?

Rev. Fritz Hudson, Worship Leader
Walden Hill Vocal Ensemble
Joe Mish, conductor
Connie Schuelka, organ/piano

April 23 - Earth Teach Me

To respect our interdependence with all existence, we must first become earth's student.

Rev. Fritz Hudson & DRE Joyce Rood, Worship Leaders
Jane Foote, guitar & vocals

April 30 - Minister Candidate Sunday

Anne Black-Sinak, Worship Associate
David Townsend, clarinet; **Allen Bishop**, oboe; **John Vettel**, viola; **Joe Mish**, cello/bass
Connie Schuelka, piano

This Sweet Moment

(April 2017)

*Now is that sweet unwritten moment
when all things are possible, are just begun.*

*The little tree has not quite leafed.
The mate is not yet chosen.*

These lines, by Donald Culross Peattie, are aroused by this time of year, any year. Yet they hold a special poignancy just now, don't they - for First UU and for your oh-SO-soon-to-be-announced candidate for Minister. As we move toward Candidating Week, you are now, each of you, called into the choosing-circle. You're asked to test your trust in one another - your openness to giving yourselves into a not-easily-predicted partnership, to live a larger life whose shape is uncomfortably beyond control.

You - each of you *and* your candidate - are called to see your possibilities as you can. And then, you called to say your "Yes" or your "No," as you must.

Peattie says, in this time,

*It is good enough just to sit still
and hold your palm out to the sunlight,
like a leaf,
and turn it over slowly, wondering:
What is light?
What is flesh?
What is it to be alive?*

I commend these questions to you as well - as openers for your coming sacred conversations.



email: revhudson@uurochmg.org
phone: 402-617-3055

Ministerial Transition Workshop

Saturday, April 8 - 10 am to noon

Join the Transition Team and Rev. Fritz Hudson for a two-hour workshop entitled "**A Fresh Start for Shared Ministry**". Refreshments will be provided.

As the time approaches to call our new minister, the Transition Team invites everyone to join together to explore the broad scope of ministry and how we can best share ministry in both the areas in which our new minister excels and the areas that are more challenging. What is most important to you and how can you help that go well?

Shared Plate Recipient - Sunday, April 16

Our Social Justice Council has chosen **Camp One Heartland** as the recipient of the April Shared Plate.

We share one-half of our collected plate with the recipient chosen by our Social Justice Council. Through the generosity of an anonymous member of our congregation, that half is matched.

One Heartland runs several camp programs for youth affected by serious illness or socially isolating conditions. Camp Heartland serves youth ages 7-15 infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Camp focuses on building a positive community and provides a safe and stigma-free place for its participants to express their true identities. Camp activities include canoeing, fishing, arts and crafts, scavenger hunts and talent shows. Education sessions on topics relevant to the HIV/AIDS community are also provided.



At Camp Heartland, the stigma stops. You can say as much or as little as you want about how HIV/AIDS impacts your life and no one will judge you. And there's a sense of relief that comes with experiencing complete acceptance. This is a home away from home where you can be yourself, share your story or blend into a group-whatever works for you.

Social Justice

Our Shared Plate

Up to once a month, the Social Justice Council (SJC) selects a charitable organization in the community to be the recipient of our Shared Plate. As stated in our church policies, the goals for selecting the recipient are:

1. To provide the congregation with information about and an opportunity for donation to a charitable organization that has been designated by the SJC as being one that promotes our principles and values in the community, the nation, or the world.
2. To provide such an opportunity without negatively impacting the offering insofar as it is an integral part of the operating budget.

The offering collected on the designated Sunday is evenly split between the organization and the church. All checks should be made payable to the church and the church then sends a check to the organization. The past few years, we have been very fortunate to have an anonymous donor from our congregation generously match the recipient's share, allowing us to double our contribution.



Many thanks go to our anonymous donor! For example, if someone puts \$20 in the plate, \$10 goes to the church, \$10 goes to the organization with a \$10 match from our anonymous donor, making it a contribution of \$20 to the organization.

Anyone is welcome to contact the Social Justice Council to propose an organization. The guidelines used to guide the SJC selections are laid out on the church website under

'Policies and Procedures' and then 'Finance', or you can contact me.

Julie Gilkinson
Chair, Social Justice Council

National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms (NCPFC) Event - May 5, 2017 ***Islamophobia and the War on Terror***

Although Americans are as likely to be killed by their furniture as by a Muslim terrorist, the irrational fear of Muslims is rising to unprecedented levels. In addition to an increasing number of hate crimes, there are an increasing number of Muslims who are being deprived of their constitutionally-guaranteed civil liberties. Many are pre-emptively prosecuted for crimes they haven't committed and sentenced to exceedingly long prison terms under very harsh conditions. Given the recent election results, it is more crucial than ever to educate people about the detrimental effects of structural Islamophobia on the civil rights of Muslims – and all Americans.



Representatives of NCPFC will be here to talk about this situation on Friday, May 5. Speakers include Attorney Kathy Manley, NCPFC legal director, who will talk about the abuses taking place in our criminal justice system. Other speakers will include family members of political prisoners, including the director of NCPFC Prisoner and Family Committee, Mariam Abu Ali, who will talk about the targeting and incarceration of her brother.

Hawthorne Helps

\$5.00 gift cards from the Dollar Tree, bandaids (any brand), lotion and/or shaving cream will be gratefully received in the **Hawthorne Helps Blue Barrel during April and May.**

With the gift cards, UU Shoppers will be able to purchase (made in the USA or Canada) child or adult bandaids (any brand), Cocoa butter lotion, as well as small cans of Barbasol shaving cream for distribution.

Sharing your own favorite brands is another most generous option and gives the students a choice.

Did you know that Hawthorne Helps serves over 400 shoppers monthly? That translates into over 800 items times 12 for a total of at least 9,600 items annually.

The aptly-named Dollar Tree sells all the above for \$1.00 each. A \$1.00 item is, in fact, the most expensive ever stocked, with the exception of those donated in the Blue Barrel or collected by other Faith and community members. Thank UUs for continuing to share the love!



IHN-Family Promise



Spring is soon upon us and so is our IHN-Family Promise week: **April 30th - May 7th**. We have a new host church - Good Shepherd Lutheran. The Congregational Church, UCC has decided they can no longer serve as host church, but will furnish some volunteers. St. Pius X Catholic Church continues to be a Buddy church with us.

We are excited to be a buddy with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and have them as our host church. They will provide their facility but no volunteers for this first week. They have not been involved with IHN-Family Promise for some time and wish to see how this week goes. For this reason, we may ask our faithful volunteers for extra assistance. If you know when you are available during that week to provide a meal, drive Am or Pm, host evening or overnight, please call or email me. We will all be new to Good Shepherd facility so orientation will be given before you volunteer.

If you are in need of renewing your training(need every three years) it can be done online. Go to Family Promise Rochester.org. Hit volunteer tab and follow directions. You may also call Karen La Fee, Director of Rochester Family Promise to arrange training (281-3122).

"Our entire community is stronger when the most vulnerable among us are offered a chance to thrive" - Family Promise

By giving of your generous time you are offering that chance.

Phyllis Beery, UU Coordinator for the week of April 30-May
289-1297, plbeery@gmail.com



UU Ethnic Lunch Group

The curtain has officially dropped on our 2016-17 gastronomical adventure. Our local ethnic food scene this season included Pakistani, Italian, Chinese, Indian and Asian Fusion. Restaurant owners welcomed us in and graciously shared their personal stories and culture with us. We are indeed blessed to live in such a diverse community. Breaking bread together with other UUs creates a special bond. Please consider joining us for Food & Fellowship at the November 2017 kick off. All are welcome. Sandy & John MacLaughlin

UU Moviegoers

Our 2016-17 season closes out with a bang. Amazing films await you at Marcus Wehrenberg Theater, site of the April 21-27 Rochester International Film Fest. Consider this your informal invitation to opening night where you will undoubtedly meet up with those UUs who left the Clara Barton Rummage Sale Friends & Family event just a bit early.



Before heading out to a film during the Festival, consider posting your plan on the church Facebook page to include other UUs. We are indeed a welcoming church community where Fellowship opportunities abound. See you at the movies, John and Sandy MacLaughlin

Pathway to Membership

Sunday Visitor Chats...

April 16, 2017 / 10:10 - 10:45 am

Meet in the Hearth Room, at the top of the stairs to the Commons



If you're new to Unitarian Universalism, we invite you to attend our Sunday Visitor Chat, a brief, casual orientation to Unitarian Universalism and First Unitarian Universalist Church. We will show a 10 minute video introduction to Unitarian Universalism, through the words, music and stories of UUs throughout the country. After that we will answer some of your questions and provide an introduction to our church. Childcare is available in the Nursery, if you wish. You are also welcome to bring your children into the class with you. No sign up is needed, just join us after the service!

All-Church Spring Rummage Sale

Sponsored by the Clara Barton Guild

Saturday, April 22, 8 am-1 pm, Bag Sale, noon-1 pm

Clean out your closets, your basements, your garages! Set aside your gently used rummage sale donations and **bring them to the church Wednesday-Friday, April 19-21.**

We need your help! All church members and friends are invited to **sign up to work** a shift or more during **April 19-22.**

- Wednesday & Thursday: 9 am-noon; 1-4 pm; 6:30-8 pm
- Friday: 9 am-noon; 1-4 pm; Presale 6:30-8:30 pm
- Saturday (the big sale!): 7:30-10 am; 10 am-1 pm; Cleanup 1-3 pm

Sign up on the Rummage Sale board in the church lobby or click on the following link: [Clara Barton Rummage Sale Volunteering](#). You will be helping to raise money for Clara Barton projects while catching up with UU friends and meeting new ones.

Proceeds from this sale will go toward worthy causes such as beverages for the coffee hour, scholarships for congregants to attend workshops and retreats, Hawthorne Helps, Church projects that enhance the worship experience, and community organizations that improve the lives of women, children, and families.

Don't Forget! Exclusive Private Sale for Members and Friends, Friday evening, April 21, 6:30-8:30 pm. The whole family is invited to browse. Refreshments will be served!



Happening at First UU

Information about activities, events, classes and more is in our **Weekly eNews**, on the [HAPPENING AT FIRST UU](#) page on our website, and is available on Sunday morning.

(Click on either the link or the image to see details for these opportunities.)



Next Meetings:

Board of Directors

Wednesday, April 19 / 7:00 pm / Conference Room

Program Council

Wednesday, April 5 / 7:15 pm / Commons

Upcoming Newsletters

Issue	Due Date
April	Monday, April 17
May	Monday, May 22



Care Coordinators

April 1	Vikki Wolff
April 2-15	Linda Thompson
April 16-29	Paula Horner & Beth Plaetzer

Our Staff

Rev. Fritz Hudson	Interim Minister
Jody Tharp	Congregational Co-Administrator
Connie Schuelka	Congregational Co-Administrator
Joyce Rood	Director of Religious Education
Melissa Egglar	Congregational Life Coordinator
Joe Mish & Connie Schuelka	Co-Directors of Music
Jaydn Shumaker	Childcare Coordinator
Tom Rud	Custodian
Rev. Dillman Baker Sorrells	Minister Emerita

Office Hours

by appointment
Monday thru Friday: 9 am-3 pm
Monday, Wednesday-Friday
9 am - 3 pm
Sunday mornings, by
appointment
Wednesday, by appointment
by appointment
Sunday mornings

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through church office

Our Board Officers

Jerry Katzmann, President
Gail Bishop, Vice-President
Ann Hutton, Secretary
Rob Harveland, Treasurer

Members at Large

Charyssa Cobb
Randy Crawford
Angela Davey
Eric Egglar
Greg Turosak

Search Committee

Mary Amundsen
Aleta Borrud
Judy Jensen
Amy Nelson
Dave Siljenberg
Robin Taylor
George Thompson

First Unitarian Universalist Church / (507) 282-5209 / office@uurochmn.org
Office Hours / 9 am - 3 pm Monday through Friday

Prefer Not to Receive the Venture?

If you do not want to receive our monthly newsletter, the Venture, by DO want to remain on the church mailing list, please send an email to administration@uurochmn.org.

Caution: Clicking "SafeUnsubscribe" below puts your name on a DO NOT MAIL list for ALL Constant Contact communications from the Church.