



Venture Vol 58, No. 9 - February 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)

February 5 - Jihad: Faith's Struggle

Islam preaches jihad: struggle. Is the struggle political, cultural or spiritual? Are we its opponents or its partners?

Rev. Fritz Hudson, Worship Leader
Mark Brutinel, Worship Associate
Walden Hill Vocal Ensemble, Joe Mish, Conductor
Connie Schuelka, piano



Rev. Fritz Hudson

February 12 - The Means to Meaning

Albert Camus wrote, "I continue to believe that this world has no ultimate meaning. But ... something in it has a meaning . . . (P)eople cannot always make history have a meaning, (yet) they can always act so that their own lives have one."

Rev. Fritz Hudson, Worship Leader
Jeff LarsonKeller, Worship Associate
Walden Hill Children's Choir, Joe Mish, conductor
Connie Schuelka, organ/piano

February 19 - Up With Which We Will Not Put

Our liberal faith once claimed tolerance as among its core identity values. What are the limits to this value?

Rev. Fritz Hudson, Worship Leader
Rose Mish, violin

February 26 - oUUr Kindling: A Sermon in Song

Composer Elizabeth Alexander created the UU cantata "Kindling," which she subtitles "Small Reflections on a Limitless Faith." In six choral sections, she opens our faith's sources (Transcendent Wonder, Prophetic Challenges, Teachings of Religion, Science and Nature) to be heard, felt and drawn upon in a most personal way.

Joe Mish & Fritz Hudson, Worship Leaders
Walden Hill Vocal Ensemble
Connie Schuelka, organ/piano

What One Generation Owes

(February 2017)

*Despair is perhaps my greatest enemy.
The older I get the more complicated my view of life becomes.*

These words may be among the most precious gifts life has brought me - if I may say so humbly. They're a gift *from* me *to* me - an entry I made in my high school journal, dated February 22, 1967 (a half-century ago!). That time, my adolescence, was privileged and quite pleasant in my memory. But this record of my thoughts then commands me: "Rub the rose-tint from your retro-spectacles! Growing up (as also has been said of growing old) is 'Not for the faint of heart.'"

My words come back to me as I reflect on the three video "Zoom-Talks" I had last week with parents in 28 of our church's 63 child-rearing-households. Our parents know the complications of their children's lives better than anyone. They shared much on how our church is helping unsnarl those complications and on how we could help more. (Thank you Board members **Gail Bishop, Greg Turosak, Randy Crawford, Ann Hutton, Rob Harveland** for your very good notes from those talks!)

My words come back as well as I think of

- our 4th-6th graders staying among us an extra hour each Sunday now for the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program on relationship-and-sexuality formation, and
- our Walden Hill Youth (WHY) spending Sundays afternoons now planning the Regional Youth Conference (YouthCon) we will host at this month's end.

(Thank you OWL Leaders **Natasha Vermilyea & Kate Thompson-Jewell**, and WHY guides **Erika Beetcher & Ramona Barr** for shepherding these sessions!)

Unitarian Universalism, I know, can help youth cope with and transcend the despair and complications that challenge the quest for one's self. Those 50 years ago I wrote to myself, "*More and more, I come to realize that I find the solutions to my problems and help, when I need it, in other people. It makes me want to understand people all the more.*" It's precisely such understanding which our faith helps our youth to develop.

As psychologist Erik Erikson charges us: "*One generation owes the next the strength by which it can come to face ultimate concerns in its own way.*"



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Shared Plate Recipient - Sunday, February 19

Our Social Justice Council has chosen the **Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA)** as the recipient of the February Shared Plate.

Your donation to the shared plate will be matched through the generosity of an anonymous member of our congregation.



I am pleased to acknowledge and thank you for your gift of **\$747** in December 2016 to Community Food Response. Your contribution will be used to further the work of our program: rescuing prepared good from providers in the community and distributing it to needy families. Please accept our thanks and that of the many people in the community who we serve.

- Kari Dunn, CFR Site Coordinator



On behalf of all of our patients, staff, Board of Directors and Advisory Council, thank you for your generosity. We had an incredible year - and we couldn't have done it without your support of **\$884.90**. Because of you, we reached high-risk families in need of dental care and one-on-one education; we provided intervention and urgent referrals for students through our school-based program, provided culturally-sensitive, community-based training for the future leaders in the dental and medical field, and so much more! Thank you for welcoming us with such warmth and loving kindness and for your faithful support to the Community.

- Vacharee Peterson, DDS, CEO, Community Dental Care

Pathway to Membership

Sunday Visitor Chats...

February 19, 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!

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.)



Upcoming Newsletters

Issue	Due Date
March	Monday, February 20
April	Monday, March 20



Care Coordinators

January 22-February 4	Maggie O'Connell Nolte
February 5-18	Julie Gilkinson
February 19-March 4	Ronice Donovan

Our Staff

Rev. Fritz Hudson	Interim Minister
Joyce Rood	Director of Religious Education
Sarah Rothwell	Coordinator of Congregational Life
Jody Tharp	Co-Congregational Administrator
Connie Schuelka	Co-Congregational Administrator

Office Hours

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

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Joe Mish & Connie Schuelka Co-Directors of Music
Beth Curtin Childcare Coordinator
Tom Rud Custodian
Rev. Dillman Baker Sorrells Minister Emerita

by appointment
Sunday mornings

music@uurochmn.org
childcare@uurochmn.org
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 Egler
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.