



**Venture Vol. 59, No. 8      January 2018**

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

## ***Sunday Services in January***

**Services & Religious Education for Children & Youth  
at 9:00 & 11:00 am**

Childcare available during services for babies and toddlers (6 months+ to 3 years old)  
Fellowship between services in the Commons

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### ***Sunday, January 7 - Angel of the Battlefield: Clara Barton***

**Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer**, Minister  
**Amy Nelson**, Worship Associate  
**John Vettel**, viola  
**Connie Schuelka**, piano

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### ***Sunday, January 14 - Lift Every Voice: Reflections on the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.***

**Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer**, Minister  
**Ann Hutton & George Thompson**, Worship Associates  
**Walden Hill Vocal Ensemble**, Joe Mish, Director  
**Connie Schuelka**, piano

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### ***Sunday, January 21 - Breaking the Binding Wide Open***

**Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer**, Minister  
**Beth Atkinson**, Worship Associate  
**Jane Foote**, guitar  
**Connie Schuelka**, piano  
**Project Legacy**, Shared Plate Recipient

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### ***Sunday, January 28 - This I Believe: Reflections from two church members on their own spirituality and religious journey.***

**Greg Wimmer**, Associate  
**Walden Hill Vocal Ensemble**, Joe Mish, Director  
**Connie Schuelka**, piano

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## Monthly Themes for the Church Year

Monthly themes provide a framework to guide the life of our church in worship, learning, and service. Through the themes, we draw on wisdom from several traditions, and engage religious language that is both traditional and contemporary. The themes expand spiritual vocabulary, clarify ethical action, and help nurture lives of meaning and purpose.

January	Revelation
February	Courage
March	Mortality
April	Creativity
May	Humility
June-August	Sabbath

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You can watch past sermons by clicking [here](#) or going to our **YouTube** channel.

### January: Revelation

*I wonder, sometimes,  
Lo, that word abideth ever;  
revelation is not sealed.  
answering now to our endeavor,  
truth and right are still revealed.  
That which came to ancient sages...  
written in the soul's deep pages  
shines today forever new.*

- Singing the Living Tradition, Hymn #189

*You learn something new every day -  
was something I heard growing up.*

It was used in a variety of ways,  
that made it somewhat difficult, as a child, to learn the nuances.  
Sometimes it seemed to be about what I was learning in algebra or geography class -  
sometimes it seemed to be about a new daily skill,  
like clearing the lint filter on the dryer;  
or which way to twist something to make it tight (rightly, tightly!);  
and sometimes, maybe most often,  
it was about learning more about a person, or an event, or a story,  
that you hadn't quite put together before -  
and all of the sudden -  
something new was revealed to help make sense of it all.

The old hymn that says *revelation is not sealed - truth and right are still revealed* -  
was a radical belief in its day - and perhaps it still is.  
That truth, and beauty, and hope, and what is right and what is wrong  
is not so simplistic, so clear, so basic  
that it can be written and bound and closed  
to be learned and memorized and finalized.

The reason we needed the teaching of *revelation not being sealed*  
was that often, the common, historic wisdom about right and wrong  
didn't match up with our lives and lived experience -  
with who was welcome and sacred,  
what was holy and should be protected,  
how social customs stifled our compassion as humanity.

Over and over again, century after century,  
people have taken old truths that still hold, and filtered out the ones that don't anymore,  
and busted open the binding of the closed book of truth

and found new truth, new inspiration, new revelation  
in poetry and art, in common labor and relationship,  
in movements for justice and the ability to find wonder in crayon set to paper.

There are moments -  
in the classroom, in our homes, in our relationships -  
there are moments in unexpected places -  
during a Netflix binge or buried on page 8 of the newspaper -  
where some new-found truth,  
something that makes us breathe or think or feel differently than before,  
when something new,  
or something that just seemed hidden before that we've known deep down,  
is revealed,  
helping us to make just a little more sense  
of this life, of this world - of ourselves.

- Luke

## *Happy New Year/Mid-Year*

2017 is past and 2018 unfolds before us. Happy New Year!

The Rochester UU Church calendar follows a different cycle: our Church year is now half done. Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer hit the ground running as this church year began. We've responded with good energy in the Sanctuary, in the RE wing, and in various Committees. The staff is working at a high level.

Our Shared Ministry seems to be a good fit. We sent the Search Committee off to find a good preacher, a pastor with good interpersonal skills, and a minister who was bright and creative. Done! The only surprise for the Board is how good Rev. Luke's administrative skills are in spite of being so early in his career.

At the end of Luke's first year in Rochester, we will conduct a 360-degree review of our Shared Ministry to assess the strengths and weaknesses, as well as hopes and aspirations of our members, leaders, staff, and Minister. In late February, we will be hosting Cottage Meetings which you can attend in person or online. These meetings will review the draft of next year's budget, but will also serve as a springboard to talk about how we're doing and where we want our church to be in the short- and long-term. The meetings will be hosted by the Stewardship Subcommittee, the Board, and Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer.

Happy Mid-Year!

Jerry Katzmann, President  
Gail Bishop, Vice President

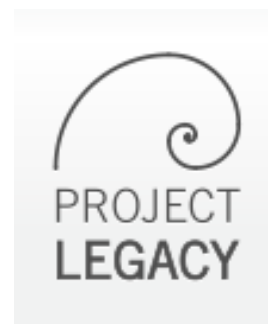
## *January Shared Plate Recipient*

Our Social Justice Council has chosen the following organization as recipient of our Shared Plate on Sunday, January 21. We share one-half of our collected plate with the organization. If you wish to donate by check, please write it to First UU Church with the notation 'Project Legacy'.)

**Project Legacy's Mission:** Provide hope, connections and support to youth of color ages 17-24 who are refugees, homeless, formerly gang-involved or recently incarcerated allowing them to transform their lives and become contributing members of our community. Youth are required to remain drug free and develop a positive plan for their future that includes education, career development and therapy to address past trauma.

Your contribution will go towards:

- Basic Needs (shelter, clothing, food)
- Health Costs (dentist visits, counseling, drug testing)



- College Preparation (ACT/SAT testing, campus visits, application fees)
- Post-Secondary Education (tuition scholarships, books, supplies)
- Travel Expenses (job interviews, school activities, cultural events)

## *Aging Gracefully - or Not? Elders Discussion Group*

**Wednesday, January 10 / 12 noon / Hearth Room**

Are you at least 70? A little younger? A little older? Are you beginning to think about or are you concerned about aging? What challenges do you face? What concerns do you have? Join us as we discuss the formation of a monthly Elders Discussion Group, at which we'll discuss topics that concern us.

Note that this group will NOT address specific challenges of aging or where to obtain assistance, which are amply dealt with by local organizations such as Elder Network. Rather, this group will focus on the thoughts, emotions, and feelings that we encounter as we realize we have--surprise!--become elders.

At the first meeting, we invite you to share topics relevant to aging that you'd like to talk about. Each topic will be written on a slip of paper, placed in a jar, and one will be drawn out at the next gathering.

This will be a free-flowing, drop-in discussion in the Hearth Room. Sign up is not required. Simply bring a sack lunch, a beverage, and engage in conversation with others who, like you, have embarked on a new adventure. For additional information, contact **Pat Calvert**, [pcalv@q.com](mailto:pcalv@q.com)



*Dear First UU Congregation,*

**Thank you** for your special gift of **\$6,140.00** received on December 20, 2017. Thank you so kindly for your compassion and love expressed to our patients in need. We will use the funding as for serving families in our Program to Improve Community Oral Health (PICOH), Minnesota Cavity Free Kids, and in providing mini-grants for those who are in desperate need for dental treatment and do not have any funding in Rochester. Thank you to the Social Justice Council for nominating **Community Dental Care** for this generous funding .



Community Dental Care

I feel very honored and privileged to have visited your church. The congregation's spirit is so welcoming and full of love. The music filling the church was inspiring. The congregation was welcoming and so kind. I am truly honored that you have chosen Community Dental Care to receive this generous gift to serve the Rochester community. Thank you so much.

Vacharee Peterson, DDS Chief Executive Officer  
Community Dental Care



**Thank you** so much for designating your generous donation of \$1,525.25 to **Family Promise Rochester** in November 2017. As you probably know, we are a non-profit organization, so these donations mean the world not only to the organization, but, of course, also to all the families we are able to continuously aid in our stabilization programs. Our vision is a nation in which every family has a home, a livelihood, and the chance to build a better future. Your donation is most appreciated.

Karen LaFee, Director  
Family Promise Rochester

**Thank you** for your generous gift of **\$1,210.06** in September 2017 in response to the hurricanes that hit the Southeastern US and the Caribbean, including Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Thanks to you and nearly 3,000 UUs plus more than 150 UU congregations around the country, we've received almost \$600,000 for disaster relief.

These funds are being distributed to local UU congregations to help them repair damage they incurred, and to provide financial assistance to their members, as well as support other local organizations on the ground doing important recovery work.

Half the money given in response to Hurricane Harvey will support at-risk populations-namely, immigrants, people with disabilities, and people of color in resource-poor communities-through grants made by the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)** to grassroots partner organizations. Donations to the UUA's Disaster Relief Fund are being used to assist recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, and any remaining funds will be used for future disasters impacting Unitarian Universalist congregations.



Your gift is already making a difference and benefiting people whose lives have been turned upside down. Thank you again for your generosity,

In faith,  
Mary Katherine Morn  
Director, Stewardship and Development, and Special Advisor to the President  
Unitarian Universalist Association

## *Social Justice*

### **Hawthorne Helps - Happy New Year & Happy Updates**

1. Hawthorne Helps 2nd Semester - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays
2. PM store time change: 1:30-4:30 pm
3. UU Handcrafted Bazaar cleared over \$1,000 for Hawthorne Helps
4. 200 Peace Tree & December Barrel items met half of December 19th store needs
5. 2017 = 3,998 shoppers & 7,996 items.
6. Blue Barrel winter collection update:

- \* Cough drop needs have been met. Thank you.
- \* Lotion, new adult winter caps, scarves & mittens/gloves wanted



### **International Peace and Human Rights**

Our Social Justice Council (SJC) is contemplating a new task group to bring additional activism to international problems. If you have thoughts about whether such a group should be formed, want to have input, believe you can contribute or simply want to be informed, email **Bill Rood** ([wjrood1@gmail.com](mailto:wjrood1@gmail.com)). Bill has been liaising with the Southeast Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers (SEMNAAP), which is sponsoring two upcoming events:

**On January 21, 2018** (2:00-4:00 pm), SEMNAAP is sponsoring a screening of "The Occupation of the American Mind" at the Rochester Public Library. This documentary exposes the pressure groups that create the dominant narrative of the Israeli occupation of Palestine, obscuring Israeli

human rights abuses. If you're confused by the fuss over Jerusalem, perhaps this film will lift the veil.

On **February 18, 2018** (2:30-4:30 pm), our SJC and SEMNAP will co-sponsor a presentation by **Michael Himlie** in the our sanctuary. Michael works with Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT), in Palestine & Israel. CPT is an interfaith organization working in conflict and war zones around the world. Through photos and stories, Michael will share his experiences in Palestine, what life under military occupation looks like, the beauties that prevail despite, and how we, as the silent majority, can help end the occupation.

## Social Justice Webinars



The UU MidAmerica Region is proud to announce a series of social justice webinars that are being done in collaboration with the Minnesota UU Justice Alliance. Executive Director **Rev. Ashley Horan** and Statewide Organizer **Pastor Danny Givens** will help all our congregations prepare themselves better for social justice work. These 75 minute webinars will be held monthly on second Tuesdays beginning January 9, and are open to all. Make sure to register for these webinars, as space is limited! Details of the webinars are below, and **each starts at 6:45 pm Central**.



[Breaking Down the Silos: An Assessment Model for Social Justice-Rooted Congregations - PART 1/2](#)

Tue Jan 09 @ 6:45 PM

[Breaking Down the Silos: An Assessment Model for Social Justice-Rooted Congregations - PART 2/2](#)

Tue Feb 13 @ 6:45 PM

[And Each Day We Mean One More: Organizing 101 for Congregational Justice Leaders](#)

Tue Mar 13 @ 6:45 PM

[From Charity to Solidarity: Developing Accountable Partnerships with Theological & Spiritual Humility](#)

Tue Apr 10 @ 6:45 PM

[Justice-Making as Faith Formation: Social Justice Ministry With Children & Youth](#)

Tue May 08 @ 6:45 PM

[A Strange Power to Spring in Us: Building Resiliency & Spiritual Grounding for Justice Makers](#)

Tue Jun 12 @ 6:45 PM

## Happening at First UU

### Next Meetings:

#### Board of Directors

Wednesday, January 17 / 7:00 pm / Conference Room

#### Program Council

Wednesday, January 24 / 7:15 pm / Commons

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 either on the [link](#) or on the [image](#) for information about what's going on at church.





## Upcoming Newsletters

Issue	Due Date
February	Monday, January 22
March	Monday, February 19



## Care Coordinators

December 24-January 4	Vikki Wolff
January 5-20	Jean Hanson
January 21-February 3	Shayna Johnson & Phyllis Beery

Our Staff	Role	Office Hours	Contact
Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer	Minister	Tuesday-Friday: 9 am-3 pm	<a href="mailto:revluke@uurochmn.org">revluke@uurochmn.org</a>
Jody Tharp	Congregational Co-Administrator	Monday thru Friday: 9 am-3 pm	<a href="mailto:office@uurochmn.org">office@uurochmn.org</a>
Connie Schuelka	Congregational Co-Administrator	Monday, Wednesday-Friday 9 am - 3 pm	<a href="mailto:administration@uurochmn.org">administration@uurochmn.org</a>
Joyce Rood	Director of Religious Education	Sunday mornings, by appointment	<a href="mailto:dre@uurochmn.org">dre@uurochmn.org</a>
Melissa Egglar	Congregational Life Coordinator	Wednesday, by appointment	<a href="mailto:congregationlife@uurochmn.org">congregationlife@uurochmn.org</a>
Joe Mish & Connie Schuelka	Co-Directors of Music	by appointment	<a href="mailto:music@uurochmn.org">music@uurochmn.org</a>
Derik Robertson	Youth Program Coordinator	by appointment	<a href="mailto:youthprogram@uurochmn.org">youthprogram@uurochmn.org</a>
Jadyn Shumaker	Childcare Coordinator	Sunday mornings	<a href="mailto:childcare@uurochmn.org">childcare@uurochmn.org</a>
Tom Rud	Custodian		through church office
Rev. Dillman Baker Sorrells	Minister Emerita		

## Our Board Officers      Members at Large

Jerry Katzmann, President	Charyssa Cobb
Gail Bishop, Vice-President	Randy Crawford
Ann Hutton, Secretary	Kate Thompson-Jewell
Garth Nelson, Treasurer	Greg Turosak
	Chris Wendt

First Unitarian Universalist Church / (507) 282-5209 / [office@uurochmn.org](mailto: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](mailto:administration@uurochmn.org).

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

First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1727 Walden Lane SW, Rochester, MN 55902

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