



Venture Vol. 59, No. 6 November 2017

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

Sunday Services in November

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

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

November 5 - A Radical Reformation

Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, Minister
Beth Atkinson, Worship Associate
Greg Herriges, Greek bouzouki and guitar
Connie Schuelka, piano

REMINDER:

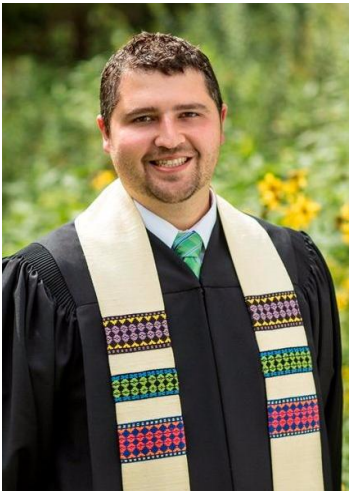
Daylight Saving Time Ends at 2 am Nov. 5 - Set your Clocks back one hour

November 12

Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, Minister
Ann Hutton, Worship Associate
Walden Hill Vocal Ensemble, Joe Mish, Director
Connie Schuelka, piano

November 19 - Thanksgiving / Inter-Generational

Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, Minister
Amy Nelson, Worship Associate
Walden Hill Vocal Ensemble, Walden Hill Children's Ensemble, Joe Mish, Director
Connie Schuelka, piano
Family Promise, November Shared Plate Recipient



Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer

November 26

Greg Wimmer, Worship Leader
Connie Schuelka, keyboards

Monthly Themes for the 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.

November	Grace
December	Simplicity
January	Revelation
February	Courage
March	Mortality
April	Creativity
May	Humility
June-August	Sabbath

From the Minister

Theme for November: Grace

Gives me a day too beautiful, I had thought,

*to stay indoors,
& yet
washing my dishes
straightening my shelves
finally throwing out
the wilted onions
shrunken garlic
cloves
I discover
I am happy to be inside looking out.
This, I think, is wealth.
Just this choosing
of how a beautiful day is spent.*

- **Grace**, by Alice Walker

It seems to be all a matter of perspective. An attunement of the heart, a posture of the spirit - how to notice and to name and experience the world. It seems, more often than not, even with broken hearts or in the midst of pain or sorrow or suffering - some light, some beauty, some moment of realization happens.

Perhaps it is a remembering of people who love you and care for you.
Perhaps it is a noticing of how the sun hits the trees, or the bite of the cold wind reminds you - you are alive.

Perhaps it is a recollection of favorite places, and moments, and you can feel as if you are there again.
Perhaps it is a recalling of
all those who worked and lived and loved
to create for you the life that you live now -
in ways you know and in ways you could never know.

Maybe, more often than not, it is when you least expect it - the bird soaring or the child's laughter or the smell of food that warms your heart - and you realize, even for a fraction of a second - that it is all grace - all unearned beauty.

Not that you don't deserve it,
not that it isn't intended to be enjoyed,
not that it isn't lovely and wonderful and something to be savored -
but grace
is the realization
that you did nothing to create the beauty,
you didn't earn the love,
you couldn't make the memory, the story, the place -
you just had to be there -
to notice
to breathe
to experience
the wonder and beauty of the day, the life, the world
breathe it in - this gift - and let it give you life.

In this month of gratitude and giving thanks,
may you rest in the grace of the ordinary, simple, every-day miracles -
that are there, ready for you to notice.

In gratitude,
Luke



Fall 2017 Pathway to Membership

Join us as we explore how wonderful being a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Rochester can be!

Welcome to First Unitarian Universalist of Rochester:

A Class for Newcomers!

Sunday, November 5th

12:15 pm - Lunch in Commons

12:45 - 3:30 pm Class in Sanctuary

If you have been visiting First Unitarian Universalist Church and would like to explore more about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation, we invite you to join us for this enlightening time of discussion. You will meet others who are exploring our church as their spiritual home and together we will have an opportunity to share our religious journey. We will explore the principles, mission and vision of this church, as well as historical and contemporary Unitarian Universalism.

We will view a video on the rich history of the First UU Church in Rochester, MN and you will become acquainted with the programs and ministries of the congregation, explore the deeper meanings and

expectations of membership and shared ministry and find out if our spiritual home is the right fit to be YOURS!

If you would like to attend, either sign up on the clipboard on the Guest Table or contact Melissa Egger, Coordinator of Congregational Life, at 282-5209 or congregationlife@uurochmn.org.
With at least one week advance request, childcare will be provided.



It Takes a Village...to Install a Minister!

The Installation Service on Sunday afternoon inspired and energized us. **Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer** invited eight ministers to share words and song, and a dozen other ministers donned robes and processed. The choir sang, and musicians fiddled and drummed. **Rev. Fritz Hudson** and **Rev. David Kraemer** attended the service, and **Rev. Dr. Carol Hepokoski** and **Rev. Dillman Baker Sorrells** sent letters of congratulations. The service looked back at our prairie roots and turned our gaze to our future and our commitment to support each other and our Mission.



In addition to the installation ceremony, we hosted ministers and out-of-town guests, provided childcare (thanks to DRE **Joyce Rood** and **Jadyn Shumaker**, Childcare Coordinator), valet parking, greeters and ushers, overflow seating, and of course a celebratory reception. All of these activities were planned by the Installation Committee who coordinated over 70 volunteers! Thank you all: many of our visitors and members said they were impressed by your efforts.

Installation Committee members were **Robin Taylor** (Search Committee), **Randy Crawford** (Board of Directors), **Barb Foss**, **Margo Stich**, **Jamie Crawford**, **Eric Egger**, **Jean Hanson**, and **Sue Wheeler**.

Robin has bestowed the following awards on committee members:

The Project Manager Quadruple Gold Star Award - goes to **Barb Foss** for her skills in managing the flow of the event and dividing the tasks of Installation into digestible little bites that could be parceled out to the congregation and the Installation Committee via SignUp Genius. That work almost overshadowed the tremendous work Barb did in helping to shape the menu, prepare some of the food, and keep the costs down.

The Emily Post Award - goes to **Sue Wheeler**, who fought hard for her vision of paper invitations and made them happen!

The Hostess with the Most-est Award - goes to **Jean Hanson** for handling the Hospitality Suite in the Children's Chapel with grace and aplomb. Visiting ministers and Luke's family heaped on the praise.

The Valet of the Entryway Award - goes to **Randy Crawford**. He and his team of eager valets convinced not one single person to relinquish their keys and park a car for them, but they were ready and able, if asked!

The Designing Woman Award - goes to **Jamie Crawford** for her fabulous flowers and decorations, keeping a whole garden of mums alive until the big day, and her help designing and preparing the

delicious menu.

The Martha Stewart Award - goes to **Margo Stich**, whose knowledge of recipes and connections with restaurants all over town proved invaluable in exploring and fine-tuning menu choices at rock bottom prices. Her ability to whip up 100 More Meatballs in Minutes is probably worthy of its own separate award!

The Iron Man Award - goes to **Eric Egger** for spending his Saturday night ironing banners (on the Sanctuary floor); even taking a hot iron and a hymnal to finesse the final wrinkles AFTER they had been re-hung! He did a fine job as chair Chair and battling other committee members in various Turf Wars as well!

Other thanks go to:

Caterer Extraordinaire - Nicci Sylvester (church member and owner of Tonic restaurant) catered some of the refreshments and did so at cost. Nicci brought the leftover, unopened food to the Ronald McDonald House. Thank you, Nicci!

Fantastic Photographers: Angie Joyce, Ron Chrisope, Jennifer Harveland (and perhaps others who were capturing the fun).

We are grateful for our talented, creative and energetic village. Thank you for your part in making Rev. Luke's installation a day to remember as we begin our shared ministry together.

Beacon of Justice Award



The Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA) Beacon of Justice Award honors a congregation that has made significant efforts to embody our Unitarian Universalist values through justice-making within its own walls and in deep partnership with movements for justice in the community. This year's Beacon of Justice Award goes to the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Rochester!

First Church has a long history of being an important progressive religious voice in southeastern Minnesota, grounded in a commitment to service, education, witness, advocacy, and community organizing. From being recognized by eqUUal Access for their work to confront ableism and accessibility issues, to their Racial Justice Task Force's advocacy for equity in education, healthcare, and housing in the Rochester Area, a commitment to justice and liberation are at the center of the living, beating heart of First Church's practice of our faith.

In the past year, the church has engaged again in its intentional process of discernment regarding major congregational decisions about justice issues. Through careful learning, reflection, and relationship building--balanced with real-time, on the ground engagement with local religious and secular partners--the congregation just recently passed a resolution affirming a deep commitment to combatting racism and xenophobia and showing up to support immigrant and refugee communities. First Unitarian Universalist Church of Rochester is now a Sanctuary Supporting congregation, and the Board is authorized to take steps to implement a process of becoming a Sanctuary hosting congregation.

While Sanctuary status has been a part of their process, as it has been for many of our UU congregations, the members of First Church have also been clear that the need for providing sanctuary is actually an unfortunate byproduct of much larger systemic issues that must be addressed. Rooted in that understanding, First Church has entered into deep partnerships with the local Quaker, Congregationalist, and Catholic communities in their area; together, leveraging their liberal voice in a largely conservative area, these people of faith are drawing media attention and changing the public conversation around race and immigration. And as their reputation has grown, First Church has also become not just a main voice, but a physical hub for organizing and collaborative work, hosting many public meetings and providing space for several organizations representing frontline communities organizing for justice.

Please join me in honoring this remarkable congregation.

Rev. Ashley Horan, Executive Director
The Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance

Affirming Our Commitment to the Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities



Proud to be an
AIM Certified Congregation
2017-2020

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Rochester, MN has received national recognition for achievements in welcoming, embracing, and integrating people with disabilities and their families into their congregation, and for disability-related social justice activities in the Rochester community. First Unitarian Universalist Church of Rochester, MN attained certification through the Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry (AIM) Program, which enables Unitarian Universalist congregations to be formally recognized for their commitment and progress.

Few religious communities in the United States offer programs specifically designed to promote greater welcoming and inclusion of people with disabilities and their families. First Unitarian Church of Rochester, MN has participated in pioneering efforts as a pilot congregation of the AIM Program

to develop this unique program. It is only the fourth congregation in the country to receive the distinction of having attained AIM certification.

Some highlights of accomplishments during the program include:

- Updated Accessibility Report by Southeastern Minnesota Center for Independent Living (SEMCIL)
- Electronic openers on bathrooms and additional doors around the Church.
- Improved awareness within the congregation re: accessibility both within our building and beyond our walls
- Two worship services: one on Autism and one as part of our 150th anniversary celebration.
- Two UU book club selections in 2015 and 2016 around disability related themes.
- Updated web page.
- Provided workshops at Chalice Camp and in RE for children around disability topics

For detailed accessibility information about First Unitarian Church's building please visit our website: <https://uurochmn.org/social-justice/people-with-disabilities/>

First Unitarian Universalist Church will be honored during the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist denomination in Kansas City, MO in June, 2018. AIM Certification will be formally presented during a ceremony at General Assembly.

A Message from Lisa Presley, Congregational Life Consultant MidAmerica Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association

We have been notified that First Church UU in Rochester has completed all the steps and has been awarded certification through the Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry program. We know that this status is not easy to achieve, and what underlies it is a deep commitment by the congregation to making itself as accessible as possible.



For too many years, our congregations have struggled without overcoming issues of accessibility-buildings that did not have ramps or appropriate entrance ways or restrooms, type that was miniscule and illegible for those with visual concerns, no amplification or hearing loops to help out, structures that supported a lack of neurodiversity, and so on. This certification means that you've decided to step away from "business as usual" to make it "business wide open." Thank you for all you do to make everyone feel welcome in the congregation.

Please do pass along our congratulations and appreciations to the Board, the team that led this project, and to the congregation for your deep commitment to welcome and inclusion.

First Unitarian Universalist Church 7th Annual Mike Podulke



Service Auction



Saturday, November 11, 2017

*Join us for an evening for Fun, Fundraising and Fellowship!
Brought to you by your Finance Committee and all the donors!*

Refreshments (appetizers, assorted beverages including wine, soda/pop, water) are available!

Silent Auction is 5:30-7 pm
Fixed Price Events 5:30 - 6:30 pm
Live Auction - 7:15 pm

The Live Auction will be emceed by Stephanie Podulke, Jim Frost, Laurel Podulke, & Darin Smith, with the assistance of Auctioneer, John Kruesel.

The Service Auction provides a portion of our income for the year that supports the church budget. In past years, we have raised \$3,000-4,000 for a non-profit selected by our Social Justice Council. This year, you will have several opportunities during the live auction to support the Community Dental Health Clinics.

Raffle tickets will still be on sale between services on **Sunday, November 5th!**
Raffle tickets cost \$1-\$15.

Winners will be drawn at the Live Auction on November 11 (you need not be present to win).

Win 4 nights at McLaughlin's cabin in northern Wisconsin
A personal 8x10 inch caricature by Greg Wimmer
\$100 Visa gift card
Restaurant gift cards

Childcare is available and can be arranged by contacting [Joyce Rood](#) by Nov. 5th.

Donation Forms

Due no later than Nov. 5th and are available near the lobby display or [here](#).
Please email the information to [Sue Wheeler](#).

Delivering Donations:

- * Tables will be set up in the Commons alcove area for your items, beginning Sunday, Nov. 5.
- * Bring donations **during office hours: 9 am-noon, Mon.-Thurs., Nov. 6-9**
- * Deliver items **Friday, Nov. 10 after 9 am and before noon** (with exception of perishable items - you can bring those by 5:30 pm on Sat. Nov. 11)

We appreciate your generous and creative donations, events and gatherings & look forward to coming together on November 11th!

The Finance Committee can use your assistance the night of the Auction.

Please go to: [UU Auction Volunteers](#) to sign up.

Shared Plate Recipient - Sunday, November 19

Our Social Justice Council has chosen **Family Promise** as the recipient of our November Shared Plate. We share one-half of our collected plate with the organization.

Through the generosity of an anonymous member of our congregation, that half will be matched.



Most of you are probably familiar with this non-profit that has been providing a community response to poverty and homelessness 365 days a year in the Greater Rochester area since 2001. Their mission: "Helping homeless and low income families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response."

Homelessness is still very much a concern in our community and with DMC on the horizon working on a plan to provide affordable housing is even more critical. Family Promise delivers HOPE to the families it serves. About 40 members of our congregation volunteer four times a year to host families with children at Good Shepherd Lutheran church.

Family Promise provides much more than food and temporary housing. There is a Family Stabilization Counselor who works with the families daily to network with community resources to help the parents gain employment, housing, health care, and stability. They continue to follow the families for up to 24 months, helping them sustain their independence through case management and a variety of classes. Families that work with the Follow-Along program have a 75% success rate for remaining stable. Besides the Day Center at 811-7th St NW, Family Promise now manages 5 transitional houses for families leaving the network, as well as 9 apartments. All of this is accomplished with just a small paid staff and lots of volunteers.

As one of the congregations participating in the Family Promise network of faith communities, we are asked to provide financial support as well as volunteer hours, so the Social Justice Council has selected Family Promise Rochester to be the recipient of our shared plate on Sunday, November 19. Karen LaFee, the Director, will be with us that day to share more about their work. If you write a check, please make it to First UU Church, with Family Promise indicated in the memo line.

Dear Congregation of the First UU Church,

Last year, in early April of 2016, I told you about my ambitious Eagle Scout project for Community Food Response (CFR). This project, which had an estimated cost of \$1,500 dollars, consisted of creating three industrial red oak benches. When I asked the Congregation if you would be willing to help donate to my project, you showed me more generosity and kindness than I ever could have expected. With the money you donated, and the generous donations given to me from local stores including Nigon Woodworks, Vetsch Hardwoods, and Struve's Paint, I was able to not only pay for my entire project, but also donate a check of over \$200 dollars to CFR.

This project not only taught me advanced carpentry techniques, but I also learned important values such as planning and being flexible. Most importantly, your donations further showed me the immense kindness that lies within our Congregation. Without your help my project would have been impossible, and I sincerely thank you all for helping me positively contribute to Rochester.

Thank you for your help and kindness,
Evan Maraganore

Social Justice

Family Literacy Caring Connection

Rochester Family Literacy (FLCC) is a program at **Hawthorne School** that provides parent, adult and early childhood education for low income families with children under Kindergarten age. FLCC is a convenient way for UUs to donate slightly-used (clean) or new items directly to families in need.

If you wish to make a donation, please bring it to church by Sunday, November 12th, and place it in the FLCC collection box located in the courtyard exit.

Specific needs:

Boys' snow pants for a 1-year-old, a 2-year-old, a 4-year-old, a 5-year-old, a 6-year-old, & a 7- year-old
Girls' snow pants for a 1-½-year-old, (three) 3-year-olds, a 4-year-old, & (two) 7-year-olds
Girls' boots for a 1-year-old, a 3-½-year-old, a 4-year-old, & a 7-year-old
Boys' boots for a 1 one-year-old, a 2-year-old, (two) 4-year-olds, (two) 6-year-olds, & a 7-year-old

General needs: (for children sizes Infant through Preschool):

Many, many warm pairs of snow mittens for preschool (ages 5 and under)
Children's in-season clothing
Winter Outerwear

Please do not place anything in the FLCC box that has not been listed.
If you have any questions, please contact [Jodi Edmonson](#). Thank you for your generosity.

Hawthorne Helps: "Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations"

For more information about helping with Hawthorne Helps, contact coordinators Sandy MacLaughlin or Sandy Ramage.

T - To UU Volunteers and Supporters,
H - Hawthorne Helps
A - Acknowledges
N - Necessities Shared &
K - Kindness
S - Shown to HEC Students

Blue Barrel Fall 2017 collection: Body Wash, Band-aids, Deodorant & Toothpaste



Dear Friends,
Thank you for your generous gift of \$724.27 to **Saturday Noon Meals** from your August Shared Plate. Your gift will help us purchase meat and fresh fruit which are rarely available from Channel One. For your continuing support, not just with this gift, but with your willing volunteers, thank you!
- Peace, Linda, SNM Coordinator

Our September Shared Plate raised \$1,214 for **Hawthorne Helps**, and will provide 3 months of Hawthorne Helps Mini-Store inventory. Thank you!

A big THANK YOU to our UU volunteers who helped **Family Promise** with the hosting of 16 people (9 children & 7 adults) September 3-9. It was a crazy week requiring us to be flexible, but we got the job done. We know it is difficult to squeeze another activity into your already busy lives but seems the least we can do when we are so blessed to have homes where we can sleep in our own beds, cook the meals we want and come and go as we please. This is indeed one way we can live our UU values. Another is to work for more affordable housing in Rochester.

Happening at First UU

Next Meetings:

Board of Directors
Wednesday, November 15 / 7:00 pm / Conference Room

Program Council
Wednesday, November 1 / 7:15 pm / Commons

Save these Dates!

Friday-Saturday, December 1-2
Handcrafted Bazaar

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
December	Monday, November 20



Care Coordinators

October 29-November 11 Paula Horner & Beth Plaetzer
November 12-25 Sue Nielsen
November 26-December 9 Linda Thompson

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

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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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