



**Venture Vol. 59, No. 4**

**September 2017**

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

## ***Sunday Services in September***

### **Sunday, September 3 Services & Religious Education for Children & Youth at 10:00 am**

Fellowship follows service in the Commons at 11 am  
Childcare available during service for babies and toddlers (6 months+ to 3 years old)

### **September 3 - *Work That is Real***

**Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer**, Minister  
**Amy Nelson**, Worship Associate  
**Connie Schuelka**, organ

### **Sunday, September 10 We return to Services & Religious Education for Children & Youth at 9 am & 11 am**

Fellowship between services in the Commons 10-11 am  
Childcare available during services for babies and toddlers (6 months+ to 3 years old)

### **September 10 - *Living in the Water***

*This Sunday is our annual Water Communion service. Remember to bring water that is meaningful to you to share in the ceremony.*

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

### **September 17 - *A House of Possibility***

**Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer**, Minister  
**Linda Ortiz**, Worship Associate  
**Joe Mish**, bass; **Connie Schuelka**, keyboards

### **September 24 - *And the walls came tumbling' down***

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

## ***From the Minister***

There's something about a threshold that leads into a home. Something about the sturdiness of a space of entry - a place where souls can travel from one space to another. For a safe and loving and hopeful home, one needs a gracious threshold. A good

threshold is built sturdy, with care and intentionality - using good materials and hard work to make it safe enough, welcoming enough, strong enough, to hold the journey of each soul passing through.

Our church is a threshold - built by years of care and love and labor - built by generations of story and narrative and identity - built by this family of families who, in their gifts and in their imperfections, crafted a space to hold the largest questions of life and call us each to lives of service and meaning, always saying in new word and ideals, striving to say to each person entering, you are welcome here.

The original title of the first hymn in our hymnal is A Prayer for this House (you may know it as "May Nothing Evil Cross this Door").. It is a vision, a hope, not only for a church, but also for the threshold of each heart as we greet and welcome one another, both in the church, and beyond. In part, it blesses our space; and in part, it blesses each of us:



Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer

*Though these sheltering walls are thin,  
may they be strong to keep hate out  
and hold love in...  
'til every casual corner blooms  
into a shrine.*

I am thrilled to be beginning ministry with you this year. We have already had so many wonderful and deep conversations about what this church means to each of you, and to our shared life. Truly, this church is a spiritual home for so many of you. We have so much ahead of us - important conversations around justice and values, opportunities to engage spiritual practices and rituals, deepen relationships in small groups, find meaningful service in classrooms and in the community - so much possibility to nurture our spirits and practice justice.

This year, I invite you into a practice of reflection on monthly themes with me (see below). They will guide many parts of our life together, showing up in Sunday services, religious education, and small groups. Below are the themes for this year, as well as a brief introduction to their intention and hope. I look forward to the conversation this year, to hear what each theme has to teach us, and how our experience with them will help us deepen conversation and learn from each other.

On this threshold of a new year - filled with possibility, new faces and new ministries, new groups and classes and music and paint and coffee - may we, together, be strong enough to hold love in, and to let it out in our community. May we find a home here for our souls, and the souls of those we are yet to know. Let us enter these rooms, and the space we share together, with love and grace and commitment to its flourishing, until every casual corner blooms into a shrine.

In faith and gratitude,  
Luke

**Monthly Themes for this 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.

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

**Religious Education for Children & Youth**

**Notice of changes for the 2017-2018 School Year:**

- There will be **three classes during the 9 am service** this year instead of one. Explorers (potty-trained 3 year-olds-2nd grade), Pathfinders (3rd-5th grades), and Navigators (6th-8th grades). Please help us build this program for the early service.

- We are offering **Religious Recognition Awards** for Unitarian Universalist Scouts.
- We are also trying to build a **chimes choir** for children 6-13 years of age.
- **Youth Seekers class** (9th-12th grade) will meet at 10 am on Sundays instead of the announced 11 am time.
- There is a **youth-parent orientation meeting** to go over some of the changes to the youth program on **Sunday, September 17th, 10 am in the Chapel**.
- **WHY** is moving to every **Wednesday night** starting September 20 (details to be given at the youth-parent orientation meeting).

## Chalice Circles Signup Begins September 10th



In Chalice Circles, we look within ourselves and find stories drawn from the wellsprings of our own lives. We bring forth stories of individual victories and defeats, personal fears and disappointments, private insights and concerns. Each person speaks, others listen. Everyone speaks. Everyone is heard.

~ *"Being in a Chalice Circle is a wonderful way to connect with other members of the congregation. I appreciate the opportunity to think deeply about a subject, and hear other people's ideas which serves to shape and reshape my own thoughts."* ~ 2016/17 Chalice Circle Member

~ *"Do it! It's a great way opportunity to connect with others while growing your spirit!"* ~ 2016/17 Chalice Circle Member

~ *"It's a chance to hear the life experiences of others in ways that are uplifting, focused and enlightening."* ~ 2016/17 Chalice Circle Member

~ *"Being a Chalice Circle Facilitator has been an important part of my spiritual journey, and gifted me with deep thought and listening."* ~ 2016/17 Chalice Circle Facilitator

This small-group ministry is entering its 8th year at First Unitarian Universalist Church. Chalice Circles are led by trained facilitators who have experience with leading this time of deep listening. The circles are made up of 7-10 people, meet at a set time monthly for 2 hours, and offer you a time of deep, contemplative discussion on a variety of topics. Newcomers are welcome to join a Chalice Circle at any time throughout the year.

Learn more about this small group ministry by visiting the registration table in the Hearth Room and Commons on **September 10, 17 and 24** or register online: [2017-2018 Chalice Circle Registration](#)

Please call or email Melissa Egger, Congregational Life Coordinator, at 282-5209 or [congregationlife@uurochmn.org](mailto:congregationlife@uurochmn.org)

## Social Justice

### Immigration Rights and Sanctuary: Leading with Our Hearts

Former UUA President, Peter Morales, wrote about Sanctuary in the Spring 2017 issue of UU World. "Our congregations need to be places of safety. First, we must be a place of safety for one another....but the sanctuary we offer must go far beyond taking care of one another. Most of us are not among the most defenseless. I believe these times demand that we offer sanctuary to the most vulnerable. Dozens of our congregations have chosen to be 'sanctuary congregations.' I applaud them, but this is only the beginning. We cannot offer sanctuary to hundreds of thousands [of immigrants] by protecting a few families. We must join hands with other religious organizations to offer resistance." That is what the Racial Justice Task Group was called to do last spring. As one of our members said in March, we were leading with our hearts, not our heads. It was true.

Since then, we have immersed ourselves in researching what other faith communities have done. We have learned a lot about ICE and the laws surrounding undocumented people. We have also learned that many people in Rochester, especially those who work in restaurants and in hotels and who have lived here for many years and are part of our community, are undocumented. We have met with leaders of local Latino/Hispanic organizations that are helping people prepare for deportation. We now know that other faith communities have declared or are interested in declaring themselves sanctuary churches and we can join together to speak out and protest unjust immigration laws. We have talked to a Rochester immigration lawyer and received information from the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota. We have discovered that undocumented people in Rochester are living in fear of being deported.

The Racial Justice Task Group invites you to review the documents on First UU Church of Rochester's [Sanctuary web page](#), the information in the church library, and on our table in the Commons. Check out [First Unitarian Church of Des Moines'](#) sanctuary web pages, or Rev. Luke

Stevens-Royer's former church, [White Bear Unitarian Universalist](#).

ISAIAH representative Catalina Morales, who spoke at our church on July 30, says the meaning of sanctuary church differs for each community, and not all churches can logistically commit to the arrangement. It might mean offering shelter, clothing, and food; providing space and time for access to legal services; or accompanying immigrants to court hearings. Some churches might make strong public statements of support for the immigrant community. In our church, any action that requires a financial investment will be approved by the Board.

### **Have you submitted your online ballot for the proposed Congregational Resolution addressing Immigrant Rights and Sanctuary?**

The RJTG believes that speaking out as a faith community of love-whether it is to protest a law, an action, or a deportation-is a way to live our principles.

### **Hawthorne Helps: A homegrown UU Social Justice Outreach**

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

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

### ***Shared Plate Recipient – Sunday, September 17***

Our Social Justice Council has chosen **Hawthorne Helps** as the recipient of our September 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.*

### **Hawthorne Helps is Uniquely First UU and Uniquely Rochester**

Hawthorne Helps is a partnership between Rochester Public Schools' Hawthorne Education Center and our church, with support from local faith, service & business groups. In the 2nd year, UUs provided 35% of funding.

About 100 UUs (ages 3-80+) have volunteered time counting donations, giving tech and design support, writing financial requests, speaking, shopping, loading and unloading stock, organizing collections and staffing the store.



Hawthorne Education Center offers classes in ESL, Literacy, GED, High School Diploma, College Prep, Job Training and Citizenship to over 500 learners, ages 16 and older. 85%-90% live at or below the poverty level. Most are immigrants.

What does Hawthorne Helps do? Lives our Principles.

**Mission Statement:** Provide support that affirms personal dignity, welcomes newcomers to our community and encourages all students' success.

**Service:** Staff a free store, offering items with kindness, respect and a smile. Necessities like dish soap, hand soap, shampoo, toilet paper and toothpaste cannot be purchased with SNAP/Food Stamp cards. Since our startup in April 2015, 9,194 shopping exchanges have been made and over 18,388 items distributed.

Please consider a generous donation to a Uniquely First UU Social Justice Outreach - Hawthorne Helps.

### ***Happening at First UU***

#### **Next Meetings:**

##### **Program Council**

Wednesday, September 6 / 7:15 pm / Commons

##### **Board of Directors**

Wednesday, September 20 / 7:00 pm / Conference Room

#### **Save these Dates!**

##### **Sunday, October 15 - 4:30 pm**

Installation of Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer

##### **Saturday, November 11**

Annual Service Auction

##### **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
October	Monday, September 18
November	Monday, October 23



Care Coordinators

August 20-September 2	Jean Hanson
September 3-16	Robin Taylor
September 17-30	Ella VanLaningham

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

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)  
[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)  
Sent by [office@uurochmn.org](mailto:office@uurochmn.org) in collaboration with

