



*Venture* Vol. 59, No. 9      February 2018

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



*February Theme: Courage*

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

**Sunday, February 4 - *I Am Alive***

Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, Minister  
Jeff LarsonKeller, Worship Associate  
The D'Sievers Jazz Trio  
Connie Schuelka, keyboards

**Sunday, February 11 - *(Un)Break My Heart***

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

**Sunday, February 4 - *Mental Illness Journeys***

Disability Task Group, Worship Leaders  
Courtney Larson, Executive Director of NAMI SEMN, Guest Speaker  
Greg Wimmer, Worship Associate  
Laurie Helmers, keyboards

**Sunday, February 25 - *Songs of Courage and Hope***

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

**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.

|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| March       | Mortality  |
| April       | Creativity |
| May         | Humility   |
| June-August | Sabbath    |

## February: Courage

*"Courage doesn't always roar.  
Sometimes, courage is that quiet voice  
at the end of the day, saying,  
'I will try again tomorrow.'"*  
- Mary Anne Radmacher

It tends to be the hard-to-explain things -  
those moments, or people, or movements -  
hard to describe what was so powerful about it -  
hard to capture the depth of what it felt like -  
something where you find yourself saying, *you had to be there* -  
whatever it is,  
there are those times when your heart knows,  
whether it was something from within yourself  
or something you witnessed from someone else -  
where you find yourself whispering in wonder:  
*that took courage.*

Because courage is not some standardized virtue -  
something with clear definitions or easy to describe.

Like most things in life,  
at least most things that provide depth and meaning,  
courage is something that stakes its claim,  
makes its presence known,  
in a particular moment, a particular context,  
in different ways depending on the person, the place, the thing,  
that makes sense right there, right then.

Sometimes it takes courage to speak up in front of people -  
sometimes it takes courage to quiet down and pay attention to someone else.  
Sometimes it takes courage to help another person,  
sometimes it takes courage to take real care of yourself.

Courage might be bold or quiet,  
public or private,  
a once-in-a-lifetime moment  
or an everyday occurrence,  
like waking to the day.

Whatever it looks like, feels like, sounds like,  
courage, from the root *cordo*, or *core*, also meaning *heart*,  
courage comes from deep within a person  
to say the thing they were afraid to say  
or do the thing they were afraid to do  
to express  
whatever is at their core  
and the break through the fear or barriers or isolation or consequences,  
and share with the world, or with themselves,  
the core truth they need to share  
about themselves, about the world,  
in just the right way at just the right moment.

It takes courage to know what is at your core,  
and to find ways, each day,  
to *live by heart*.

- Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer

## Let's Talk



Signs made by our youth for the January 15th MLK March.

In the words of our Stewardship Team, **"It's getting better all the time"**. Our congregation is indeed getting better all the time. In the recent congregational letter, Stewardship Chair Jim Jensen and Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer affirmed our shared ministry of service and commitment, our belief in our mission, and our generous gifts of our time, talent and finances.

To see how your participation makes this happen, **we invite you to attend one of four informational Cottage Meetings**. You will learn about the budget priorities that keep our faith community flourishing, receive an update on the goals and leadership decisions of your Board of Directors, and a preview of the evaluative and quantitative questions of our shared ministries with each other, and with our minister.

Three of these Cottage Meeting gatherings are in-person meetings at church:

**Saturday, February 24 at 10 am**

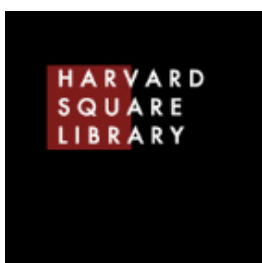
**Sunday, February 25 at 12:30**

**Wednesday, February 28 at 7 pm**

The 4th meeting is an **online meeting using ZOOM on Tuesday, February 27 at 7 pm**. The link for this meeting will be in *Weekly eNews* on **Thursday, February 22**. If you have not used ZOOM before, prior to the meeting you will need to download this free app on your computer or electronic device to be able to join the conversation. The link will take you to the free download.

Pledge cards will be available at the in-person meetings or on **Kickoff Sunday, March 4**, the start of our annual stewardship drive at church. We ask for equal generosity, not equal gifts. It is the work we do together as stewards of our church that fulfill our mission of welcome, inclusion, spiritual nourishment and the practice of justice.

## Denomination News



### UU Notable News - Harvard Square Library

Late January, 2018

The December of 2017 release of the blockbuster Stephen Spielberg movie "The Post" has everyone talking about the *Washington Post's* brave defiance of the Nixon administration with its decision to publish excerpts from the *Pentagon Papers*, the 7,000-page compilation of secret government documents pertaining to the war in Vietnam. But how many people know of the tremendous bravery demonstrated and risk assumed by the Unitarian Universalist Association, whose Beacon Press was the only publisher to print the complete *Pentagon Papers*?

Click here to read the whole story: [The Pentagon Papers and the Unitarian Universalist Association: How the UUA Was Almost Destroyed by the Decision to Publish](#)

### To Side With Love

**Rev. Helen McFadyen, Administrator  
Accessibility & Inclusion Ministry (AIM) Program**

Why should Unitarian Universalists celebrate the re-naming of our iconic justice campaign? Because it's who we are.



The process of changing the **Standing on the Side of Love** name to **Side with Love (SwL)** is a perfect example of our Unitarian Universalist theology - a non-static, living tradition that encourages questioning and examining truths, sees change as inevitable, and values the wisdom of lived experience.

Changing the message is going to require both strength and vulnerability: the vulnerability to examine past choices and their impact, and the strength to act on the surfacing reality... as well as our commitment to engage in the process.

At General Assembly 2017, Rev. Theresa Soto brought forward a Responsive Resolution asking for a

re-imagining of the name. Staff from the UUA worked on the name change in consultation with Rev. Soto, leaders from EquUal Access, and other stakeholders, which culminated in the January 11th announcement (<https://sidewithlove.org/>).

Be sure to watch the short video announcement from SwL campaign staff here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmuTIBvvSyY>

## February Shared Plate Recipient

Our Social Justice Council chooses an organization to be our Shared Plate recipient each month. We share one-half of our collected plate with the chosen organization and, *through the generosity of an anonymous member of our congregation, that half is matched*. If you wish to donate by check, please write it to First UU Church with the notation 'NAMI'.)

### Sunday, February 18 Shared Plate Recipient

**NAMI Southeast Minnesota** is a local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots organization dedicated to improving the lives of people affected by mental illness. Each year, NAMI SE MN reaches more than 2,000 people, from middle schoolers to older Americans, with peer-based support, education and advocacy. NAMI SE MN envisions a community where no one deals with mental illness in isolation and all have access to treatment and resources that support recovery.



## Winter 2018 Pathway to Membership

**Welcome to First Unitarian Universalist of Rochester: A Class for Newcomers**  
**Sunday, March 4 / 12:15 pm Lunch in the Commons / 12:45 -3:00 pm Class in the Sanctuary**

Join us as we explore how wonderful being a member of the First UU Church of Rochester can be! If you have been visiting and would like to explore more about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation, we invite you to join us for this 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 our church in Rochester, MN, 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.

To attend, a signup sheet is available on the Guest Table or contact **Melissa Egger, Coordinator of Congregational Life**, 282-5209 or [congregationlife@uurochmn.org](mailto:congregationlife@uurochmn.org). *With at least one week advance request, childcare will be provided.*



## New Discussion Group Forming

### Examining the Myths of Life Discussion Group

**What:** Based on the book, "What if THIS is Heaven?" by Anita Moorjani  
**When:** 3rd Thursdays each month, beginning Thursday, March 15 / 7 pm / Chapel  
**Facilitator:** Roxanne Schlasner

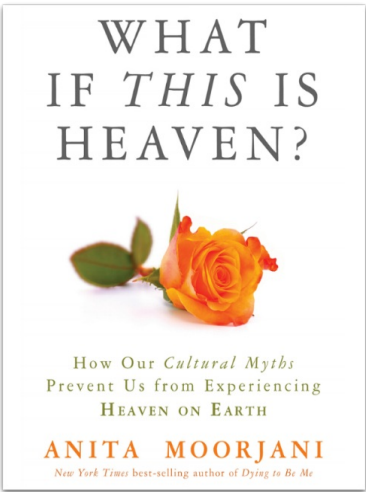
The book, "What if *This* is Heaven," explores how the cultural rules and beliefs are fear base and lead us away from our most inner true self, unconditional Love. Focusing on the importance to fit in with each other and finding problems to solutions outside of yourself, including are spirituality, leads us away from finding the most powerful truth of our self. By naming the belief that does not support our true self we can find a state of simplification when we turn inward to find the answers.



We will review one chapter at each gathering and discuss the questions in a circle format. The topics of discussion include the following Myths:

- You Get What You Deserve (Mar)
- Loving Yourself is Selfish (Apr)
- Real Love Means Anything Goes (May)
- I'm Not Okay, You're Not Okay (Jun)
- Health Care Cares for Our Health (Jul)
- It's Just a Coincidence (Aug)
- We Pay for Our Sins at Death (Sep)
- Spiritual People Don't Have Egos (Oct)
- Woman Are the Weaker Sex (Nov)
- We Must Always Be Positive (Dec)

Please visit with Roxanne in the Commons on Sundays, February 25 OR March 4 to register. The book will be available for pre-order at that time, or one can be provided for you.



Dear First UU Congregation,

**Thank you** for your support and for your generous donation of \$908 to Mission 21 [from our December 3rd Shared Plate]. Your financial support is extremely valuable in helping us to continue providing services to child victims of sex trafficking and their families in our state.



Mission 21 has big hopes for 2018. With enough funding, we would like to extend our services to include an at-risk support group and a survivor support group for young adults ages 18 to 24. We are appreciative of your support and the new beginning it brings to these resilient young survivors.

Stephanie Holt  
Founder and Executive Director - Mission 21

**Thank you** for your gift of the toys, pull ups, baby items and toys received on 12/13/2017. We are immensely grateful for people like you who make in-kind contributions and hope you know how impactful they can be.

Supporting women in their journey out of violence can take many forms...from providing safe shelter, to legal and general advocacy, to health and wellness services, to diapers and wipes. It is all important. It is all necessary. And, without the kindness and generosity of our community members, it would not be possible.

Suzie Christenson  
Executive Director, Women's Shelter, Inc.

Social Justice



**Loves** UUs for sharing time, talents, items and support. Generous people!

**Loves HEC students** - working hard to make a better life for themselves and their families.

**Loves our faith partners!** (Bethel, Christ United Methodist, 1st Presbyterian, Muslim CC, St. Luke's, Peace UCC & Congregational UCC).

Blue Barrel winter collection update:  
*Lotion, new adult winter caps, scarves & mittens/gloves wanted*

Social Justice Presentation

O n **February 18, 2018** (2:30-4:30 pm), our Social Justice Council and the SE MN Alliance of Peacemakers (SEMNAPE) 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.

IHN\* - Family Promise

**Thank you** to the volunteers that filled 57 volunteer spots during our hosting week, **January 21-28**. Yes, FIFTY-SEVEN ! This made a successful week by providing shelter, food and security to a mother and 12 year-old daughter for part of the week and a mother, father and four children ages 9,4,3, and 2. We survived a major storm and an ant invasion in the kitchen.



The majority of volunteers are UU's, but we did have several from UCC, St. Pius and Byron Lutheran. Still we need more volunteers as we host four times a year and the same volunteers are called each

time, many doing double duties, for example doing two overnights.

We need people to bring a meal, evening host, overnight host, drive the van, do laundry, set up and take down at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Training is required, but not difficult to do.  
If interested, contact one of the coordinators: Joyce Wood, Lynne Kirklin, Julie Gilkinson, Phyllis Beery  
\* Interfaith Hospitality Network

## Happening at First UU

### Next Meetings:

#### Board of Directors

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

#### Program Council

Wednesday, March 28 / 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

March

Monday, February 19

April

Monday, March 26



### Care Coordinators

|                       |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| January 21-February 3 | Shayna Johnson & Phyllis Beery |
| February 4-17         | Ann Lien & Robin Taylor        |
| February 18-March 3   | Ronice Donovan                 |

### 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          |

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.