

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Venture Vol. 59, No. 10 March 2018

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



March Theme: Mortality

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

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

Sunday, March 4 - Water Through the Rock

Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, Minister
George Thompson, Worship Associate
Walden Hill Children's Choir, Joe Mish, Director
Connie Schuelka, organ & piano

Sunday, March 11

Pastor Danny Givens, Organizer for MN UU Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA)
Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, Minister, Worship Associate
Allen Bishop & Tom Hiniker, oboes; **Joe Mish**, cello; **Connie Schuelka**, harpsichord

Forum: *Spiritual Sustenance in Social Justice* with Pastor Danny Givens
Sunday, March 11 | 12:30-2:00 pm | Commons

Pastor Danny Givens, organizer for MUUSJA (MN Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance) will preach for our morning services, and offer a forum focusing on care for the soul and spiritual resilience in social justice work. No registration is required - all are welcome!

Sunday, March 18 - Just a Dusting

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

Sunday, March 25 - *Dear Lovely Death*

Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, Minister
Anne Black-Sinak, Worship Associate
Peter Mayer, guest musician
Connie Schuelka, keyboards

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 values, and help nurture lives of meaning and purpose.

March	Mortality
April	Creativity
May	Humility
June-August	Sabbath

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

March: Mortality

*"The new home of the Universalists of Rochester
was planned with a view of respecting beauty of the old Grace
Church...
every brick in its walls was loved by those who had, Sunday in and
Sunday out, worshipped within its portals."*

- Rochester Daily Bulletin, 1916

This church, and all that happens in it,
is in part a response to our mortality, this month's theme.
To be mortal is to be reminded of both our frailty -
of body, of mind, of spirit -
and our fragility.

I remember in movies growing up seeing a big box with the words
"fragile" across the top. In that context, it means something inside
is delicate, precious - to be tended to with care, and intention, and
the strength it takes to be gentle.

We are born into this world with the word fragile inscribed on our
hearts.

And, as much as our exterior grows or changes,
and our character and skills develop or shift,
there is something at our core that is always fragile -
to be tended to with care, with intention, with the strength it takes to
be gentle.

So, too, is our church - rooted in Grace, from its early days,
fragile.

And this month, as we consider its future and its health and vibrancy,
and we ask you to pledge your hearts to its health
and to support our important budget increases,
perhaps deep down, the question is more about its fragility -
and the care and intention that it has been cared with for generations.

Sure - it all costs money -
the paper towels and cleaning supplies,
the plowing of snow and mowing of grass,
the electricity, the heat,
It costs a little money



*Stained glass from First
Universalist Church*

for the crayons and paper,
the curriculum that sparks the mind of the child,
the books and poetry that invite us into deeper reflection
with other people, face to face, which is a rarity these days -
about who we are in the world and how our soul might heal.

It costs money
to keep the doors open
so that hearts might be open.
Because, deep down,
we know that the cost is too great,
if our doors are closed, or our foundation shaky -
the cost is too great for us not to exist
for the person who needs a blessing, a breath,
a reminder that they are fragile and beautiful
and this church is here to help tend to them with care, intention,
and the strength it takes to be gentle.

In gratitude,

Luke

Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, Minister

"Getting Better All the Time" **Stewardship 2018-19 Kickoff**

Fulfilling our mission: ***"to be a compassionate, welcoming community that nature's spiritual growth and practices justice,"*** requires the commitment of all of us for it is what we do together that makes the difference. We are here because committed individuals 150 years ago founded a church with strong connections to each other and to Rochester. Through their perseverance we are here. Through their financial gifts, several Universalist church buildings have graced this community bringing us to our current space. Through their love and belief in a just world we are here.

And so it continues. We are here and will continue into the future because of your generosity of time, talents and treasure, not equally gifted, but equal in the spirit with which these are given. We ask at this time of year to consider how you fulfill the mission of our congregation through your financial gifts in the form of an annual pledge. In case you missed the informational Cottage meetings, which covered budget priorities, Board visions and our plans for evaluation of our shared ministries, here are the highlights:



- Kick off Sunday was March 4. On **Sunday, March 11**, you can return your **pledge forms** if you picked them up at a Cottage Meeting - or you can pick up your pledge envelope on Sunday and return it that day or within the following week. Please contact **Jim Jensen, Stewardship Coordinator** if you wish to have a personal visit and one will be arranged.
- A pledge unit is either an individual or a family, a member or a friend of the church. The average pledge per unit is \$1,956 and pledges range from \$0 for those whose personal circumstances do not allow a financial commitment at this time, to \$17,000. For previous pledge units, your form will indicate what you have pledged over the last three church years. On the back of your form is a suggested giving guide based on income that is a useful tool to use when considering how support of your church family fits in with support of your own family.
- To be welcoming and compassionate for a growing church with over 350 members and to meet our needs, a half-time Office Assistant and additional staff hours for the Coordinator of Congregation Life will make it possible for us to make connections, be updated with what is happening, and ensure that daily church operations are effectively managed (approx. \$24,000). For our 8 staff members, we wish to give a 3% Cost of Living increase (approx. \$5,300). To nurture spiritual growth additional funds for Committees (\$12,500) will sustain the needs of our current and new programs for children, youth and adults, and to fulfill our practice of justice through ongoing sanctuary support.

- In your envelope is a brochure titled "Our Stewardship and Finances", which describes our annual operating budget, our special funds, and how you can support the church financially
- You will also find a letter from our Endowment committee with an opportunity to add to our existing endowment found through a matching grant. If you are of the age when increasing pledge may be difficult or impossible, we invite you to consider the church as part of your legacy giving.

Through **monthly Board letters**, we hope to keep congregants apprised of our decision making, setting and discernment on issues that impact congregational life. We welcome your comments concerns.

Follow this link to view the [Cottage Meeting PowerPoint](#). For other questions related to the presentation - Sanctuary, finalizing language on a Sex Offender Risk Reduction Policy, Bylaws revisions, and Board plans for a one-year evaluation of our minister and our shared ministries together - please feel free to connect with a member of the Board.

Board of Directors

Jerry Katzmann, President

Gail Bishop, Vice-President

Ann Hutton, Secretary

Garth Nelson, Treasurer

Charyssa Cobb, Randy Crawford, Kate Thompson-Jewell, Greg Turosak, Chris Wendt

Welcome to our Newest Members!



Kathy & Jo Schwartz

Kathy Schwartz

I feel the positive and warm embrace of the 1st UU Church and all it's p whenever I am involved with any activity here. I believe I am sharing my through hugs and handshakes, smiles and tears, whether in volunteer participating. First UU fulfills my desire to learn, to explore and to appreciate this new community. And, I expect everyone to participate in the Clara B sponsored Spring Rummage Sale on April 20 & 21st!!

Joe Schwartz

I am excited about joining the 1st UU Church and becoming a part of caring congregation. After so many years of living with strict doctrines, 1 provides me the opportunity to define my beliefs based on truth and meaning look forward to participating in the social justice and community-building goals of the church.

Molly McMillen:

I join this church with the comfort of knowing I won't be judged by what I believe or don't believe more importantly that I don't know what I believe. I am committed to social justice and helping others and have finally found a community where I believe I can make a real change. I am committed to this church and will support it wholeheartedly and humbly.



Earl & Penny Jacobsen

Penny Jacobsen

Attending church here during the past two years has been an up worship experience and I hope to become an active, contributing member. It's a pleasure to attend a church where I don't have to EDCROSS MY FINGERS during the service. I like being here where accept and literally believe what I'm hearing and singing.

Earl Jacobsen

To fulfill a need to belong.

To satisfy the need to serve.

To recognize that Jesus was a good man, teacher, leader, but without baggage of virgin birth, trinity, creeds and pledges to a doctrine that is no longer believable. To emphasize the worth of a person regardless of color of skin, sexual orientation or different beliefs.

Jay Smith



Jay Smith

I believe I've found a place where others walk the same path I've been in. During the "This I Believe" talks a few Sundays back, I heard one of the speakers say that she celebrated both the diversity of our faith traditions: the challenge to our thinking this awareness provides. She described the UU connection as finding her "Tribe", and I can relate to that. Open-minded seekers and thinkers; each of us unique in our own way - working together to make a positive difference in the world we live in. I want to be a part of it.



The Stevens-Royers

Luke & Jenna Stevens-Royer

Luke & Jenna Stevens-Royer, and daughters Luke and Clara, are so glad to be making a home here in Rochester, and a spiritual home for their family at First UU Church. Though thoroughly welcomed throughout this year, they are glad to become members by adding their names among generations of people who have created, and are still creating, this church.

UUA General Assembly

General Assembly (GA) [registration](#) and [housing reservations](#) are now open online! Join us for the 2018 General Assembly to be held **June 20-24 in Kansas City, MO**. GA is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through a democratic process. [Financial aid is available](#) if you apply by **March 31**.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Social Justice



Hawthorne Helps' Spring 2018 Blue Barrel Collection:

- Baby Wash/Shampoo
- Dish Soap
- Hand Pump Soap or
- \$5 Dollar Tree Gift Cards to buy Spring Cleaning items.

Thanks UUs for your continued generosity to Hawthorne Educ Center students, 85% living at or below the poverty level. Interest in volunteering? Contact Sandy MacLaughlin or Sandy Ramage

Happening at First UU

Next Meetings:

Board of Directors

Wednesday, March 21 / 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
April	Monday, March 19
May	Monday, April 23



Care Coordinators

March 4-17	Linda Thompson
March 18-31	Rhonda Lorenz

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 Egger	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

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.