



Venture Vol. 59, No. 12 May 2018

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

May Theme: Humility



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 in the Commons following services.

**We change to single services at 10 am beginning
Sunday, May 27.**

We return to 2 services on Sunday, September 9.

Sunday, May 6 - *Murmuring Along: A Celebration of May Day & Community Woven Together*

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

Maypole Celebration at 10 am

Join us in the circle drive just outside the front entry to celebrate this annual rite of Spring.

Sunday, May 13 - *Every Old Scar Shows*

Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, Minister & Special Guest **Peter Mayer**
Greg Wimmer, Worship Associate

Rev. Luke and special guest Peter Mayer will offer a service on humility and connection. Peter will provide music, and both will offer reflections on our connection to realities larger than ourselves - mystery, wonder, the Big Bang and the natural world.

Musician and Minnesotan, Peter Mayer, began playing the guitar and writing songs when he was in high school. In college he studied theology and music, and then spent two years in seminary. In 1995, he quit his job as a church music director and started performing and writing music full-time including "Blue Boat Home" in our teal hymnal.

Sunday, May 20 - Youth-Led Service

Walden Hill Youth Group, Worship Leaders
Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, Worship Associate
Teresa Kallmes, viola
Connie Schuelka, keyboards

Sunday, May 27 - Memorial Day Weekend - Return to one service at 10 AM

Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, Minister
Beth Atkinson, Worship Associate
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 action, and help nurture lives of meaning and purpose.

May	Humility
June-August	Sabbath

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

May - Humility

*Submit to a daily practice.
Your loyalty to that is a ring on the door.
Keep knocking and the joy inside
will eventually open a window
and look out to see who's there.
- Rumi*

Two different people -
from different background, different perspectives,
different lives -
looked at the entrance to a house of worship.

One said,
*Wow, these over-sized doors -
they really like to make you feel puny, feel small,*

feel like, to them, you are nothing.

The other said,
*Wow, these over-sized doors -
they really make me remember it's not all about
me,
that these doors invite me into something larger
than my ego,
that I can bow down to something -
whether its God or Allah or the Great Spirit or
Mother Earth
or the Mystery of all things -
when I bow in prayer,
I am invited into something
that is larger than my imagining.*

Our monthly theme for May is *Humility*.
May is also when Muslims will observe Ramadan
this year,
in a practice of fasting and nightly feasting,
reminding them of the fragility, and sacredness, of
life.

I've always admired the deep devotion of Muslim prayer -
stopped 5 times, each day, in a posture of reverence and connection
to Allah, and to millions of others around the world,
making space in their day for breath and devotion.
I wonder, sometimes,
about how such a practice changes a person -
how such regular practices of reverence
orient the heart toward something larger than the ego,
toward something that nourishes the spirit -
several times a day.

Last year, as I was just a candidate for ministry here,
my 3-year-old daughter and I joined the annual ritual of the Maypole.

What struck me most
was that as we weaved our ribbons,
and we got closer together, more deeply woven -
the tallest among us needed to bow down the greatest.

The ribbons woven together in the dance of the Maypole
remind us that we are but one strand among many,
that we literally bow to each other and to the Spring,
in reverence,
and together,
we weave together
our individual colors and threads
and create something
that reaches in color and beauty
to the sky.

Perhaps that is the spiritual task for each of us,
to create space in the middle of our lives,
to pay attention to whatever it is
that calls us beyond the self -
and find something that is beautiful enough
to bow to.

Luke



Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, Minister

An Opportunity for Rochester UUs!

**General Assembly in Kansas City, Missouri
June 20-24, 2018**

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process.

Anyone may attend, and our congregation is certified to send 8 voting delegates. If you are a member and are planning to participate, please register and then contact the church office regarding delegate credentials (we currently have 5 assigned delegates).

Joining with the UUs of Missouri and UUs from around the country, we will worship, witness, learn and work together. We will leave General Assembly grounded in our faith, energized for justice and with resources to bring this work home to our congregations.

Julie and Jeff Larson Keller and **Rev. Luke Stevens Royer** would be happy to talk with you about their past GA experience and their plans for this year's GA.

Go to <http://uua.org/ga/> to find out everything you need to know about registration, housing, financial assistance, and the assembly schedule.



Social Justice

Hawthorne Helps

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Do you have space in a pot or plot for one more plant or one extra row? Hawthorne Education Center Students look forward to the sandwich-sized bags of herbs we share on our store days (basil, chives, cilantro, mints, parsley, rosemary, sage, thyme). Contact: [Sandy MacLaughlin](#)



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 Education Center students, 85% living at or below the poverty level. Interested in volunteering? Contacts: [Sandy MacLaughlin](#) or [Sandy Ramage](#)



Happening at First UU

Next Meetings:

Board of Directors

Wednesday, May 16/ 7:00 pm / Conference Room

Program Council

Wednesday, July 25 / 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
June	Monday, May 21
July	Monday, June 23



Care Coordinators

April 29-May 12	Ella VanLaningham
May 13-26	Maggie O'Connell Nolte & Kathy Lohr

Our Staff	Role	Office Hours	Contact
Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer	Minister	Tuesday-Thursday 9 am-3 pm Friday 9 am-noon	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 Egglar	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		custodian@uurochmn.org
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.



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