



Building Community with Compassion, Service, Diversity, and Spirit

We express compassion through caring, love and support for others.

We serve by promoting our principles and purposes through leadership, giving and action.

We are inspired by diversity to accept, respect and celebrate differences and interdependence.

We grow in spirit through our religious experiences, inquiry, education, reflection and transformation.

Minister's Musings

On This Site...

I am a chronic reader of plaques and signs in historical or scenic places. Often I will go to great lengths to hunt them down and get an idea of exactly what took place that warranted a brass marker.

Alas, the information on them often escapes my recall, so I have taken to carrying a note book to jog my memory.

Several years ago I was attending a wedding in Waynesburg, Ohio and had the opportunity to explore some of the countryside. I had spotted a large boulder at the crest of a hill with a shiny new plaque attached. Intrigued and armed with my notebook I clawed and slopped my way through the brush and mud to the boulder, panting and sweating I reached for my notebook and scribbled the date, the place and looked up to be greeted by one of the nicest plaques I had ever seen which read ... " ON THIS SITE ... NOTHING HAPPENED."

I started to laugh, and wondered how many others had done the same. I felt pretty foolish *but that was one marker I never forgot. It is inevitable that we all find ourselves pursuing a*

goal that at one time or another leads to a dead end, a wish not fulfilled, a dream unrealized or just a wrong path.

Fortunately that is not the case here at First UU! So much has happened as we celebrated our 150th Birthday, sponsored concerts and events that have enriched our lives, celebrated in worship and song and gathered to bid farewell to loved ones in very personal ways.

Last weekend, at a District Assembly workshop, it was suggested that each congregation find a three word theme to express who we are. What comes to me is the phrase "Making A Joyful Noise..." one that resounds throughout our walls and beyond into our community... as on this site, something always happens! May it continue to be joyful, heartfelt and upward moving.

My grateful thanks goes out to all who have supported this church, in so many ways and in their doing, brought the joy of belonging to this Society back into our lives.

*Sincerely, and with much appreciation,
Holly*

Editors Note:

The Newsletter will take a vacation from June until Early August. If you have information for the newsletter, please submit it to the office by May 21 for the JUNE newsletter.

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SUNDAY MORNINGS AT FIRST UU

SERVICES START AT 10:30 AM

- May 2** Dan Berggren leads the service called "Apple Seeds": The Words of Pete Seeger. Berggren weaves together the songs and ideas of the folksinger Seeger, who is known the world over as a humanitarian, has inspired countless others along the paths of freedom, community, and self-expression with his songs of peace and justice.
- May 9** The Mothers Day service will be conducted by the Youth Group and members of the congregation as a tribute to mothers everywhere...
- May 16** The Pillars of Islam part 1 –Rev. Holly Baylies
- May 23** The Pillars of Islam part 2 –Rev. Holly Baylies

These two sermons will explore the origins of Islam, its relationship to Christianity, its principles and its evolution. Any faith has the potential to become destructive, and Islam is no different. As extremists and zealots wield their power and distort its message, we tend to lose the beauty of a faith that is embraced by 1/3 of the world's population.

- May 30** Memorial Day service of remembrance, led by the Worship Committee.

Holly's sermons are available. Please email her at firstuurev@twcny.rr.com to request a copy.

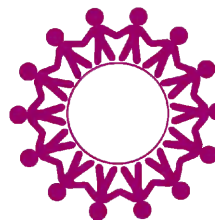


Minister's Weekly Schedule

(Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 8:00 am - 2:00 pm)

- Monday:** Holly's sacred day off!
- Tuesday:** AM Staff meeting and available for appointments, meetings
- Wednesday:** Church Office and appointments, meetings
- Thursday:** Sermon Prep at home
- Friday:** Church Office and appointments, meetings
- Saturday:** Office at home

*To schedule an appointment with Holly:
e-mail: firstuurev@twcny.rr.com or revholly1@aol.com
Office phone: 446-5940
For emergencies: Holly's cell phone is 617-548-5113*



THE CARING TEAM NEEDS YOUR INPUT

First UU is a compassionate community of people who reach out to each other in time of need. The Caring Team serves as a conduit for information about those among us who are sick, shut-in, or in need of a kind word of consolation or encouragement. Please contact Diane Case, Nancy Clausen, or Rev. Holly Baylies so that the Caring



CANDLES

You may have noticed the candles on the table in the back of the sanctuary. As you come into the sanctuary, before the service begins, please feel free to light a candle for a silent joy or concern that you would prefer not to share in words.

President's Report

It's spring, and it's snowing while I write this column. This is a good time to think about Plants Plus, our garden festival and plant sale on Friday, May 21 and Saturday, May 22. You have all heard that we need you to donate cuttings and seedlings for the sale. The Friday night festival will feature Carol Bradford, the gardening columnist for the Post-Standard, a display by our organic farmer, Dick DeGraff, who supplies most of the food for the Community Supported Agriculture, and a silent auction. Half a dozen or more of us have worked for months to put this major event together. The most important thing you can do is come to the festival and sale!

Before that, on Mother's Day, the Youth Group will present the service, which will honor our mothers. I hear that this service will be a bit different from the ordinary tribute to Mom. Come find out on May 9.

The spring work party will occur on May 16. We do a lot of work outdoors at this one, so bring your yard tools.

The formal church year is nearly over. The most important thing we can all do before the end of the year is to inform ourselves about the new budget and new officers. Please be sure to attend an informational meeting before you vote. Now that the annual canvass is finished, the Board is building a proposed budget for 2010-11. Two or more forums on that budget will be offered before you, the congregation, vote on it at the annual meeting. The Nominating Committee is recruiting candidates for Board seats and a new Treasurer, also for your approval at the annual meeting on Sunday, June 6.

Also in June, on the 19th, is the annual Gay Pride Parade. First UU would like a large contingent to participate this year. Put this date on your calendars.

Then we'll have the RE Appreciation Sunday, to recognize our hardworking teachers – all volunteers – on June 20. Our annual picnic is the following week, June 27. We won't have a service that day so we can devote the time to fun and good eating.

Susan King, President

Are you looking for a good book or an entertaining movie from Amazon?

amazon.com

Start your search from the FUUSS Homepage and Amazon.com will provide a donation of 10% of your purchase back to First UU!

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|-----------|---|---|--|
| 1 (Sat) | 7:30 pm | Dan Berggren Concert (S) | <p>Key:</p> <p>B=Betts Room ER= East Room (room at the end of the RE Wing hall) FH=Fellowship Hall K=Kitchen L=Library (room behind sanctuary) MR=Music Room N=Narthex P=Parlor S=Sanctuary TR=Teen Room</p> <hr/> <p>Deadline for submissions for next issue: Friday, May 21, for the issue that will cover events from June 30, to August 15, 2010, at firstuu@twcny.rr.com, or in the office.</p> |
| 2 (Sun) | 10:30 am 12:15 pm 3:00 pm | Worship/Dan Berggren (S) Chalice Circle (P) Martha Grener Concert (S) | |
| 4 (Tues) | 7:00 pm 7:00 pm | RE Committee Meeting (P) Worship Service Committee Meeting | |
| 5 (Wed) | 7:00 pm | Young Adults (P) | |
| 6 (Thur) | 7:00 pm | Folk Dancers (FH) | |
| 9 (Sun) | 10:30 am | Worship (S) | |
| 10 (Mon) | 7:00 pm | Chalice Circle (P) | |
| 11 (Tues) | 6:30 pm 7:00 pm | Finance Committee Meeting (L) Membership Committee Meeting (P) | |
| 12 (Wed) | 1:15 pm 7:00 pm | Chalice Circle (P) Young Adults (P) | |
| 13 (Thur) | 7:00 pm | Folk Dancers (FH) | |
| 16 (Sun) | 10:30 am 12:00 pm 12:15 pm 6:30 pm | Worship (S) B&G Work Party and lunch Chalice Circle (P) JrProArt (S) | |
| 17 (Mon) | 7:00 pm | Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting (P) | |
| 19 (Wed) | 7:00 pm 6:00 pm | Young Adults (P) Garden Party Set Up | |
| 20 (Thur) | 7:00 pm | Folk Dancers (FH) | |
| 21 (Fri) | | PLANT PLUS FUND RAISER (FH, K) | |
| 22 (Sat) | | PLANT PLUS FUND RAISER (FH, K) | |
| 23 (Sun) | 10:30 am | Worship (S) | |
| 24 (Mon) | 7:00 pm | Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting (P) | |
| 25 (Tues) | 7:00 pm 7:00 pm | PFLAG (P) Trust Committee Meeting (TR) | |
| 26 (Wed) | 1:30 pm 7:00 pm 6:00 pm | Chalice Circle (P) Young Adults (P) Rental (FH) | |
| 27 (Thur) | 7:00 pm | Folk Dancers (FH) | |
| 30 (Sun) | 10:30 am | Worship (S) | |

Women's Spring Salad Luncheon

Women of First Universalist, May Memorial and their friends are invited to the May Memorial Social Hall on Saturday, May 22 for the annual Women's Salad Luncheon. Gathering will begin at 11:30 A.M. with lunch beginning at 12:00. Francis Parks is this year's speaker. Bring a salad or dessert to share. RSVP to Alexa Carter garlex@aol.com or Vicky Schipper victoria@twcny.rr.com if you can, but don't hesitate to just drop in if your schedule opens unexpectedly on May 22. See you there.

Marge Hill will exhibit paintings at May Memorial gallery May 6 to May 26

Marge Hill paints a variety of subjects in watercolor or acrylic, including floral, city-scapes, and the human form. After collecting art for many years, she found creativity and personal expression when she began painting around 10 years ago.

Meet the artist at a reception May 16, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

The Gallery is located at the May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society at 3800 E. Genesee Street, Syracuse. All are welcome. During the week call (315) 476-8920 for viewing access.

UUUSE YOUR HEAD: RATIONAL RELIGION FOR THE NEXT GENERATION



Youth Religious Education News

We're Already Here Reflections on AR/AO/Multicultural workshops. Sonja Lamicela, DRE

As a denomination, we UUs have a vision of being an inclusive community filled with Spiritual, Ethnic, and Identity Diversity. This is often referred to as Creating the "Beloved Community." And while it is a transformative concept, because many of us still view our faith as "predominately white, upper middle class and well educated" the truth is, we already have much of this diversity among us, but often fail to recognize it. Our language still needs to change to reflect this. And I believe that when it does, the people in our community that already embody this diversity will emerge into leadership feeling celebrated.

I know it has been an eye-opening experience for me going to workshops on anti-racism, anti-oppression and multiculturalism. It has forced me to look at the stereotypes, however well meaning, that I have placed on people. Not all black people like drums, some Christians aren't literalists, and all white people are not upper middle class. Yes, we all know this intellectually when we stop to think about it, but sometimes we take shortcuts. Sometime we worry about how we will get "them" to like "us". Or we get one person that we can point at and say "see we have an 'insert minority faith, ethnicity or identity here' in our community, we're diverse." And sometimes, even with the best of intentions we still make gross generalizations about "them." We also need to examine the elements of "white culture", a term that, while helpful in illuminating the blindness that whites often have toward their own cultural norms, I find every bit as limiting and oversimplified as any other stereotype.

To be truly inclusive we need to speak and prepare lessons as if everyone we want to welcome is in the conversation with us. Not "out there" and away from us, safe from our ignorance. I have witnessed conversations where transgendered people were regarded as mentally ill by the speaker when they were unaware that they were speaking to a very sane transgendered person who "passes." Gross generalizations have been made about African Americans which fail to acknowledge the diversity of black experience. It is easy to forget that someone is half Asian and call them white. Or that the seldom seen partner of a white woman is her Cuban husband, and that her children are bi-racial. How often do we assume that someone is gay or straight because of their partner, only to be surprised after years of knowing them that they are bi-sexual?

Mental Illness and other "hidden" disabilities carry a stigma that many in our congregation still struggle with. There are people who contribute a great deal to our society who struggle daily with Depression, Anxiety, Alcoholism, Bi-Polar Disorder, ADD, Asperger's Syndrome, the list goes on. We need to be mindful that these labels do not render people useless or dangerous to our community. And being "homeless" is a condition that especially in this economy has a myriad of causes; there are members of our congregation who have lived through extended periods without homes. And in my travels for UUA trainings I have met a profoundly grounded and wise transgendered minister. And when people share their experiences with me, the recurring theme is that unknowingly flippant comments may fall on the ears of people we love in very painful ways.

The goal here is not to expand our ever-increasing repertoire of labels. The Rev. Robert Latham, the keynote speaker at DA this past week put it well. I can only paraphrase here. "We can change laws to make it legal for blacks and whites to eat at the same lunch counter. But we need to change attitudes for it to be irrelevant what color someone is to eat at the counter." When we truly honor and accept the diversity that we already have. When we lift it up and cherish and celebrate it. Our Congregation will grow as people share what a safe haven we have become.





The Church Mouse



Thank you for your help!

- Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Trudy Tedford who passed away on April 7. Holly officiated at her Memorial Service which was held at First UU on April 16.
- Warm thoughts for a speedy recovery go out to Joyce Homan who is having her knee repaired at Crouse, at this writing.
- Many thanks to Rebecca and Fred Karpoff and the members of the Choir for their wonderful contribution to the Earth Day Music Sunday. It was so well received and enjoyed by everyone.
- Thank UU's to all who attended First UU's 150th birthday celebration and responded with greatly needed and greatly appreciated gifts for the church.
- Last week Carolyn Coit took a bad fall and fractured her eye orbit. She is home recovering and would welcome cards and calls. We look forward to seeing Carolyn and John back in their pew!
- Get well wishes also go out to Fred Lyman who had a knee replacement last week. Fred is recovering at home and hopefully he will be back in true form very soon.
- Jean Kaley has a new address: The Syracuse Home, 7740 Meigs Rd. Room 510, Baldwinsville, NY 13027-9793

Usher & Greeters: for April
Mary McLatchie, Susan King, Jim D'Aloisio, Tanya Gesek, Paul de Lima, Margi Nasemann, Peggy Flanders, Tim Rice, Keith Bertrand, Jerry Clausen, (March) MaryGail Perkins, Liz Kalish, Randy Irish



Flowers for April

- To those who sponsored Easter/Spring flowers
- Betsy Spaulding
- Maria Brown

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!!

- Dawn Kline and Kristal Karash signed our Membership book and joined the church on April 25th.
- Let us also welcome Shelly Johnson who joined us on March 21.

Please take a moment at coffee hour to get to know and to congratulate our new members.

Look for their photos and bios on the membership wall.

SUMMER SERVICES ARE ALMOST UPON US

Do you have a sermon in you? Would you be willing to provide music for some Sundays? We welcome new ideas and new ways of approaching the spiritual journeys we share!

There will be no service at First UU on July 4th.

There are nine other Sundays to plan.

Please contact Worship Services

Committee members:



Peggy Flanders, 488-8077 (pegflanders@twcny.rr.com) or Jerry Trexler





At the worship service on April 18th First UU launched a Social Justice Outreach Project to support the Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism (CWD). CWD is a program of InterFaith Works of CNY (IFW). IFW brings together a diverse array of faith traditions in our community, with the belief that engagement among these different faith groups will lead to understanding, friendships and a collaborative strength to address community issues.

CWD is the longest-running dialogue program on ending racism in the United States. CWD utilizes a form of deliberative democracy, the study circle, to help adults and youth of diverse backgrounds breakdown misconception about race and ethnicity, and to work towards complementary action throughout our community to end racial inequity. CWD also host events, the biggest being the Annual Duck Race to End Racism, that bring together the diverse populations of our community to celebrate and dedicate ourselves to ending racism.

One of our actions for this project is selling tickets for the Duck Race to End Racism (June 12). The Duck Race to End Racism is a major fund raiser for CWD that is held each year at the Inner Harbor, where Onondaga Creek feed into Onondaga Lake. It is an event that also brings together thousands of children and adults from a wide range of racial and ethnic groups for a day of music, games, food and fun for the whole family.

Tickets cost \$5.00. This includes adoption of a numbered duck in the community duck race. If your duck wins the race, you win the 1st prize of a \$1,000 shopping spree at Carousel Mall. Last year there were over 9,000 ducks in the race so the competition is stiff, but the odds of winning \$1,000 are much better than they are with a lottery ticket!

Non-profit organizations that sell at least 40 tickets become Level 1 Non-profit partners. Level 1 Non-profit partners receive 1/2 of the proceeds of the tickets they sell and are entered into the "Power Paddling" drawing for a chance to win \$1,000. The organization that sells the most tickets also receives a \$250 award. Our goal at First UU is to sell at least 200 tickets. All that is required for us to reach this goal is for every member to buy or sell two tickets. If every member does this we will raise over \$500 for first UU, over \$500 for CWD, and receive significant community exposure. **THAT'S A LOT OF BANG FOR YOUR BUCK!**

DONATIONS FOR EASTERN FARM WORKERS

PLEASE BRING GENTLY USED, CLEAN CLOTHES IN ALL SIZES TO THE BIN IN THE LOWER ENTRY.

FOLD THE CLOTHES OR HANG ON HANGARS.

HOUSEHOLD GOOD, LINENS AND SMALL APPLIANCES ARE ALSO WELCOME. ALL ITEMS MUST BE CLEAN AND IN WORKING ORDER.

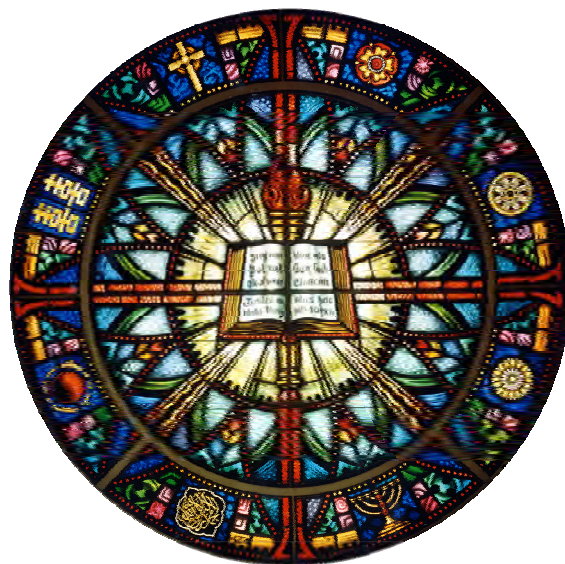
YOUR HELP NEEDED !!!!



Bring your gardening implements and favorite cleaning tools to church on Sunday, May 16th. That's the day set aside to spruce up the building and grounds. We'll be sweeping, raking, clipping and dusting, polishing and airing out. We'll start working right after lunch that will be served by the youth group.

Who said, "The more the merrier"? It wasn't Shakespeare. Whoever it was, was right. Come and join the crew for an easy afternoon of work and camaraderie.

P.S - This is a great way to have fun and conversation while enjoying the fellowship of others at First UU!





PLANTS PLUS!



Invitations have been sent to the congregation by mail. When you receive your invitation please consider being a patron of the event. Your contribution will benefit the general fund. Together we can strengthen our financial situation here at home, which will allow us to widen our focus by supporting the larger community with contributions and volunteers.

We will be at the church to receive your perennials at the following times.

May 18, 5:00 – 7:00 / May 19, 11:00 – 1:00 / May 20, 9:00 – 5:00

The annuals will be purchased from Watson Garden Center in Lafayette, N.Y.

Rev. Holly will be the M.C. for the party on Friday evening. She will be introducing the MYSTERY RAFFLER. Bring a friend to enjoy the items in the silent auction such as, a Japanese Gardening Knife, a bronze sun dial, 3 hours of gardening, original paintings, framed photos, herb baskets, and the famous beer barrel.

THE FOOD WILL BE DELICIOUS, THE MUSIC WILL DELIGHT, THE AUCTION WILL SURPRISE YOU, THE RAFFLE MYSTERY WILL BE SOLVED AND WE HAVE A WONDERFUL SPEAKER.



Spring is Coming!

Fresh food! Local food! Organic food! Good food! All summer long!

Now is the best time to plan to eat well and help both a local farmer and our earth when the summer harvest begins. The Green Sanctuary will once again sponsor a pod at our church for CSA-CNY weekly pick-up. Information is available at www.csacny.org and click "Join." You can pick up a yellow flier including a registration form in Fellowship Hall. Let's eat well!



NEWSLETTER NEWS

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**{ We're on the Web!
www.firstuusy.org }**