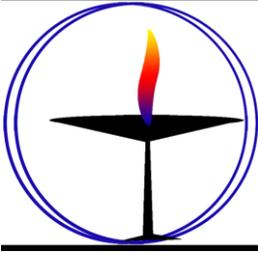


The UU Church of Buffalo



Gather – Inspire – Transform

October 2015 Newsletter

695 Elmwood Ave ∪ Buffalo, NY 14222

716-885-2136 - www.BuffaloUU.org



Yours in Faith...

Rev. Joan Montagnes

This month our worship theme will be “Blessings”

- What is a blessing?
- What are our blessings?
- How are we blessed?
- Who and what blesses us?
- How do we bless others?

We will also kick off our Operating Fund Drive in October. After all, generosity is our grateful response to Life’s many blessings.

We give because our life has been changed in deeply meaningful ways. We give because we see the world is transformed for the better. Our church does both.

The ministries of our congregation touch the hearts and minds of our members, friends and the wider community. We might even dare to say that we save lives.

Let’s count our blessings just from the last year:

- 52 Worship Services to uplift the spirit and stimulate the intellect
- Creative, safe and fun Faith Development Programming for 94 children and youth (and counting!)
- 42 Sundays of beautiful Choral Music
- Regular care for our elegant Church Buildings and Grounds
- 1,600 bed-nights for homeless children and their families through our Family Promise Ministry
- Salaries for 11 hardworking Staff Members who serve your congregation with devotion
- Weaving profound connections among 42 people in 7 Covenant Groups
- Tuning and maintenance for our magnificent Organ, our elegant Harpsichord and several Pianos
- Serving 2,600 Hot Lunches to hungry people in Lafayette square through our Food not Bombs Ministry

October Blessing

All summer,
in the concrete, gritty city,
Nature lay smelly dog heavy on our chests,
panting, pleading sad-eyed
for liberating release
to something more than worn out
postage stamps of green along the street.

Now early autumn is bounding free
through tall grasses and flying leaves;
blowing spirits this way and that
to sniff in the cool shadows,
dig up old bones,
and receive all the treats of the season
with tail-wagging expectation.

This October may you
escape the confines of air conditioned rooms
to worship Nature's change of clothes.
Draw in great drafts of reviving air,
find time and space to romp and play,
fall again in love with ochre and burgundy,
and honor this thinnest of seasons.

In October, remember this:
our time is short.

May you dive into joy,
appreciate everything in freshness
unencumbered by leash, collar or harness;
for in one more breath,
the wheel turns once again toward death
and exuberant life, falls quiet by the hearth
waiting for a night of exhausted sleep
under a blanket of white.

- All kinds of joyous Community Building Events including 6 Third Friday Pot-Lucks, 4 Souper Sundays, and one delicious Ice Cream Social
- Several Adult Faith Development Courses, Music with Michael, Book Groups, Folk Dancing, Knitting Circles, and much, much more!



Our cup overflows with blessings given and received! And to sweeten the pot, I have written you an extra blessing, just for October (see sidebar).

How fortunate we are to be able to respond to the bounty through generous pledging. Only through our shared generosity will we be able to support and grow our ministry to each other and the world. Only by daring to give of ourselves will we be blessed and transformed by the world of which we dream. Please join me in becoming a Fair Share Contributor to our church this year. A new era is beginning and we can all be part of it!

Joys and Sorrows

Our deepest sympathies with Hans Reif and Cindy Havey and their families. Hans' wife and Cindy's mother, Thelma Reif passed away on Wednesday September 16th. We will celebrate her life with a memorial service on Sunday, October 11th, at 2:00 p.m.

We hold Michael Shanahan and his family in our hearts. Michael's mother, Shirley McCoy suffered a stroke last month.

We congratulate our Alto Soloist, Monica Huntz, as she begins her new job as a music teacher in the Buffalo Public Schools.

Pulpit Previews

Worship Theme: Blessings

October is a wonderful month of color, harvest, tricks and treats. How could we possibly count all our blessings? Perhaps we can't, but we can become more aware and more happy and grateful for them.

October 4 *Keeping A Promise*

Five years ago our congregation made a commitment to help families who are homeless. Through the Family Promise program we house up to three families at our church for one week, four times a year. At today's service you will hear how this work has not only changed the lives of those families but has changed the lives of church members who have worked with them. Working in community to create a more just and compassionate world is a path to personal transformation that aligns with our Unitarian Universalist values.

October 11 *The Space Between Us*

Something very special happens when a blessing is offered and accepted. The air becomes powerfully alive and possibilities abound. Transformation occurs.

October 18 *Bless this Home*

Our building was recently listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. Our church home is pretty special. And so is your home, or wherever you hang your hat. Let us be awake to all that shelter's us.

October 25 *You Are the New Day*

It's Stewardship Kick-Off Sunday! Our church makes real, positive differences in people's lives and in our community. Every day is ours to grow into the church of our dreams! Gather! Be inspired! Transform the world! And let's not forget to have a whole lot of fun!

Off and Running ***Barbara Kloberdanz***



Yes, it really has begun and doesn't it feel good. We had an amazing Ingathering. Many people and lots of fun along with our worship. Renewing our connections over ice cream and with music. What could be better?

Then, next on the agenda, we had a successful Pot Luck followed by a day long workshop led by our UUA "agent" (as she described herself) Renee Ruchotzke. It was hard work but I think those of us who participated left with a great feeling of accomplishment and seeing a good path to our future. Now we know that we need to find ways to fulfill our dreams.

Before all that, Tom Yots got a wonderful article in Buffalo Rising which informed the world that we have this terrific minister and that UUCB has been placed on the list of National Historic Places. Thanks so much Tom and Bill Parke for shepherding us

through to this great result.

I know that there is a lot of material that you all receive in our notices – the e-blast, the announcements in our Order of Service, and in these newsletters. I know that it must feel overwhelming at times. But I really urge you to go past what might be your usual comfort zones – and in the spirit of my headline – if we are all to be off and running, you might want to see if there is something new that you hadn't noticed before: A committee that you might be interested in; an activity that sounds like fun; something that you have a question about. Please feel free to ask and make the connections. If you try something and decide it is not for you that's OK. Really – then try something else. Nobody can say we don't have lots of opportunities.

Speaking of opportunities - Our Congregational Meeting is on October 4th after service. There will be lunch available. So, see you there. Yes, you. You are all important. Come, participate, learn, connect. Then we truly will be Off and Running.

UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION NEWS

September 27, David Whalen an advocate for people with disabilities spoke after service. After he spoke, David moderated a talk back with the audience. The purpose of the talk back was so the Ministry Team could determine the major issues affecting people with disabilities in Buffalo. From this information, the team will determine a social justice issue that we can work on.

Also, you have probably found in the pews a tri-fold pamphlet titled Access and Inclusion Etiquette. This pamphlet is intended to guide you on how to interact with people with disabilities. The most important point in the pamphlet is

***REMEMBER, WE ALL COME TO UUCB ON A
SPIRITUAL JOURNEY.
WE ALL ARE SEEKING ACCEPTANCE FOR
WHO WE ARE.***

Ear Plugs are available at the Welcome Table for people who have difficulty with loud noises or background noise. The ear plugs do not tune out the main speaker or choir; they just enable the person to concentrate on the primary speaker. The ear plugs can be used in the Sanctuary or Parish Hall.



Feasting in Faith

Fall is a time of both new beginnings, and harvest. Our Faith Development program is growing again. We have multiple transformational offerings for adults as well for our kids. You can still register for all of these. The registration forms on our website (www.buffalouu.org) We are blessed with many ways to celebrate the harvest (both literal and figurative) and break bread with one another!



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On October 11 we will have our first Souper Sunday of the year. Our 5th and 6th graders will be serving soup immediately following the Sunday service. Our Parish Hall is transformed into a dining hall, and for a goodwill honor-system sliding-scale donation of \$3-5/bowl our children will serve up one of three delicious homemade soups accompanied by some nice bread. This is a great time to sit down and talk with someone new and take the time to get to know them. Our Souper Sunday team blesses us with one meat, one vegetarian, and one vegan soup. We try to be inclusive of all food allergies. All soups are labeled and at least one will be gluten free.

Our first “Third Friday Pot-Luck” of the year is on October 16 starting at 5:30. This event is a great “happening” in the sense that you never know what will happen. It is an open forum in which people come to share their talents, projects, music and games. Anyone can attend. Responsibility for coordinating the event is passed around. If you’re interested in contributing to the entertainment or festivities for October, please contact Meghann French, (meghannfrench@me.com.) If you’re interested in hosting one of the future months, please contact Kristina Church (kristinachurch@hotmail.com) who coordinates the overall program.

On October 16-18, our Youth Group will travel to Unirondack Camp in the Adirondack Mountains for a work (and play) weekend. For \$15/person plus 3-4 hours of service and a donation toward gas, youth will get a mini-camp experience and the satisfaction of blessing one of the most transformational places for youth in the St. Lawrence District. It’s a great way for kids to find out what Unirondack is like, meet other UUs, and a great early opportunity for our youth to bond with one another and get the year off to a great start. Please let Sonja know at lifespan@buffalouu.org if you will participate or you need more information.

If the Parish Hall didn’t already look enough like Hogwarts during Souper Sunday, just wait for the Halloween Pot Luck and Haunted Basement on October 24 at 5:30. Our Youth group takes over our basement and transforms it into a fun house and there’s also the annual favorite visit from Doctor Nerdy (pronounced ner-day) with his Frankenstein comedy routine. For the first few passes though the fun house we keep the lights on for the tender tots. When the lights go out, we raise the fear factor to indulge the kids who like a good scream. In the parish hall we share food, play games, and dance and have a costume parade. At the end of the night, we clean up together and the Youth group enjoys a well-earned social overnight.

Lastly, we will kick off our Stewardship Drive on October 25. More details are elsewhere in the newsletter. Please give generously to sow the seeds of blessing for an even greater harvest of community at this time next year.

**FAITH DEVELOPMENT
DATES TO REMEMBER
OCTOBER 11 – SOUPER SUNDAY
OCTOBER 16 – THIRD FRIDAY
POTLUCK
OCTOBER 16-18 YOUTH GROUP
TRIP
OCTOBER 24- HALLOWEEN
POTLUCK
OCTOBER 25- STEWARDSHIP**



Sharing the October 2015 Plate with Family promise of WNY



In keeping with our mission to create a more just and compassionate world, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo shares our weekly collection plate with a local agency, living out our generosity in the Buffalo community. The October share-the-plate recipient is Family Promise of Western New York. The mission of Family Promise of WNY is to unite religious and other organizations in responding to the needs of homeless families in our

community. Uniting hearts and hands, the network provides a way for homeless families to receive temporary shelter, meals and assistance while seeking their own independence.

Host and support congregations such as UUCB provide services such as cooking and serving meals, playing with children, helping with homework and just being there for families showing them compassion, respect, and sharing a sense of community. Family Promise also provides a professional Case Manager to help families link to needed services to find housing, jobs and benefits. Family promise continues to support families after they find housing for as long as needed after they find housing. Family Promise also provides a network van that transports guest families to a day center where they can receive mail, catch the school bus and get ready for work. The day center provides laundry facilities, shower, kitchen, phone and internet for families to seek out employment, housing, day care and other benefits to get started on the path toward self-sufficiency.



During 2014 Family Promise of WNY welcomed 17 Families (28 adults and 40 children) into their Emergency Shelter Program. More than 1,600 bed nights and more than 5,000 meals were provided with the help of volunteers who dedicated over 8,000 hours of compassionate service to families.

In the Share-the-Plate program, the church donates half the unrestricted donations made during each Sunday's offertory to a designated charity or organization identified by the Social Justice Task Force under policies formulated by the Board of Trustees. Recipients of the UUCB Share-the-Plate program must be either a 501(c)3 or 501(c)4 non-profit organization, and they must do work that is consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles. Any member of the congregation may nominate a recipient organization through the UUCB Social Justice Task Force.

Pledge payments may still be placed in the collection plate, either in a donation envelope or clearly marked "pledge" in the memo line. All undesignated cash goes to Share the Plate. If you wish to donate to Share the Plate by check, or with cash in an envelope, please note "Share the Plate" or just "Share" in the memo line or on the envelope. Envelopes are available from the ushers.

Ongoing efforts by the Social Justice Task force are the collection of non-perishable food donations for the Network of Religious Communities as well as recycling of old cell phones and printer cartridges. Donations can be left in the baskets at both entrances to the sanctuary. The next meeting of the Social Justice Task Force will be October 18th at 12:00 PM in the Church Library.

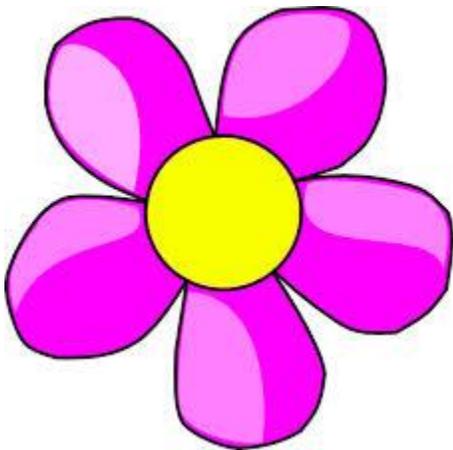
2016 Stewardship News: It's a New Day

You can feel the excitement and energy around the church these days and Stewardship is part of that energy. Stewardship offers each of us a chance to express our gratitude and demonstrate our commitment to our church and to our UU values. Giving allows us to minister effectively to each other and to the larger community. And giving in the service of others feels good!



We will be asking everyone to contribute their fair share to our 2016 budget but we want to make giving as FUN as possible. We will be kicking off the all-church giving campaign on October 25 with a chili lunch after service. You are all invited to enjoy pleasant conversation, see and hear about all the great things happening, and enjoy a yummy bowl of chili, prepared by Chef Jeff Lowry and friends. You can pick up your pledge card and learn more about the UUA Fair Share giving guidelines, which help us on our path to generosity.

We are looking for people to serve as Visiting Stewards – ambassadors of the church who meet with other church members and friends to talk about our shared commitment to UUCB. Contact Phil Nicolai (philipnicolai99@gmail.com) if you are interested. Brief trainings are scheduled for Oct. 14th at 7:30 PM or Oct. 18th after service. And if you want to help in other ways (e.g., for the kick-off on Oct. 25th) we can use people for a variety of tasks. Contact Phil or Maria Testa (mariatesta@roadrunner.com).



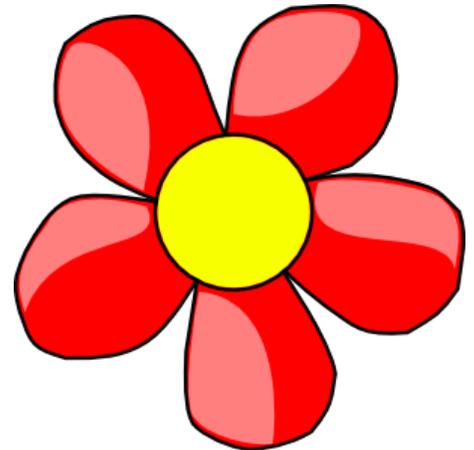
Pulpit Flower Ministry

October Schedule:

October, 11th.- John Prisaznuk

October, 18th.- John Segmen

October, 25th.- Phil Nicolai



Open flower dates are now available for the 2015-16 program year. Please consider reserving a Sunday date to commemorate something that is special to you. The cost is just \$35.00 and you may choose your personal text dedication for the OSS. After the service, you may choose to take the lovely flowers home with you, or possibly donate them to a local hospital. If you would like more information, please see us at the flower table after Sunday service, email us at pulpitflowers@buffalouu.org or call us at 885-2136 ex.4. The following dates are available in this calendar year: 10/4, 11/1, 11/22, 11/29, 12/6.

Training for Covenant Group Facilitators

Training for new covenant group facilitators has been scheduled for two Saturdays – November 7 and 14 – from 9:00 AM to noon. Participation in both training sessions is required.

Covenant groups are small, supportive sharing groups of six to ten people who make a promise to one another to build trust, listen deeply, share openly, and care for one another in the highs and lows of our individual lives. Ideally, each group will have two trained facilitators, who are also members of the group.

Because covenant groups are not therapy, support or problem solving groups, the facilitator's role is unique. Facilitators are responsible for preparing and facilitating sessions, as well as being alert to situations which may warrant pastoral care. Good listening abilities, a mature stable personality, warmth and compassion are prerequisites.

The congregation places special trust in its covenant group leadership, and the group members allow the facilitator to become a part of their lives on the basis of that trust. Therefore, training and support for each facilitator is essential.

Even if you are not ready to take on the role of facilitator at this time, we encourage you to consider the training. This will strengthen your participation in your current covenant group, and benefit your other relationships as well.

If you would like more information, or would like to register for the training, please contact our Facilitator trainer, Liz Parke, at eparke@me.com.



The Women's Society Welcomes Mr. Errol Daniels

"Cuba, On the Move" will be the title of Errol Daniels power point presentation at our program on Thursday October 15. He is an expert on Cuba and on Cuban-American relations and is also a documentary photographer who has just returned from his 16th visit to the island nation in the last 15 years.

The fee for the lunch is \$15. You can make a reservation at Josettepc50@gmail.com or in the Parish Hall on Sundays, October 4 and 11. Payment can be made at that time or if you wish to mail in your check make it payable to the U.U.C.B. and in the memo box write: Women's Society Program. Send it to the church office at 695 Elmwood Avenue Buffalo, 14222. Payment must be received in the office no later than Friday October 9. If you make a reservation on the final Sunday before the event, then payment is due in person. Once the catering order is called in on Monday morning, no further reservations or payment can be accepted. The only exception being if you made a reservation, but wish to pay at the door, then the fee will be \$17 and NOT \$15. Staying only for the talk is free.

Appetizers and beverages will start at 11. Our speaker will begin at 11:30 and the lunch will be served at 12:30.

Kindly check in at the tables by the garden entrance. This will assist us in giving an accurate head count to our caterer.



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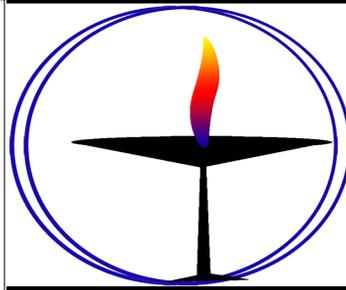
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Happening at the UUCB

UUCB Yarnbusters

This “Not for Knitters Only” group continues to meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month throughout the summer from 6:30ish to 8ish in The Women’s Lounge. For October, we will be gathering on the 13th and 27th. Can’t make it at 6:30? No problem. This is not a meeting, drop in when you can. So whether you knit, crochet or cross stitch give us a try. This is an open group, church membership not required, so please forward to any friends or family that may be interested.



Lap Robes/Blankets for Veterans

Wanted!: knitted, crocheted, or stitched donations of lap “robes” to be donated to patients at the VA Hospital by Veteran’s Day. The project deadline of November 8 is fast approaching. No yarn? We have you covered. A generous donation to this project has been made of several skeins of yarn. They’re large skeins - 1 skein = 1 knitted blanket. For more information on this or the “knitting” group; email, Sharon Walker, at sharonw447@gmail.com.



Women's Society Membership

It is not too late to become a member of the Women's Society of the U.U.C.B. Membership for a year is just \$15. The revenue generated from the membership fees allows us to do so very many good deeds for our beloved church. You can join on the first two Sundays of the month in the Parish Hall or at one of our programs or just mail in a check to the church and write membership in the memo line. Check out the Women's Society table for our exciting raffle. You may be a winner just by joining! Do consider joining and thank you for your support.

The Greater Buffalo Memorial Society

The Greater Buffalo Memorial Society, Inc./Funeral Consumers Alliance will hold its Annual meeting of the membership Sunday October 25, 2015 at 2:30 pm at the Center For Inquiry-Transnational, 1310 Sweethome Road, Amherst, NY 14228. Dr. Stephen E. Wear, Professor of Medicine of State University at Buffalo School of Medicine will speak on "End of Life Care Directives". UU Church members who are interested in membership in the Memorial Society are cordially invited to attend. A reservation is necessary, please call 837-8636. As space is limited.

Beyond the Hedge Denomination and Interfaith Connections

It's not too late!

**CERG/St. Lawrence District
Fall Leadership Day: "Draw
the Circle Wide"**

Saturday, October 3, 2015,
10am – 4pm; First UU Society
of Syracuse, 109 Waring Rd,
Syracuse, NY

2 Keynotes!

Rev. Dr. Hope Johnson, Central East Region

Staff: Focusing on how to help our congregations faithfully engage with today's civil rights conversations and the #BlackLivesMatter movement." AND

Barry Finkelstein, Stewardship Consultant: “

Barry will share ways to invite people with different levels of commitment to financially support the institutions that change lives.”

Several Workshops! Along with small group sessions with the keynote presenters.



Connect with your other “inner” “U” - Registration Now Open!

2015 New York State Convention of Universalists Annual Meeting

October 23–24 at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta, NY

Keynote

**Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed, Historian, Meadville
Lombard Theological School Affiliated Staff:** “Dr.

Martin Luther King delivered the keynote address at the 1956 NSCU Annual Meeting. His topic was the Montgomery bus boycott. Using that as a springboard, this talk we can learn, and gain, from Universalism's engagement with African Americans.”

Fee:

\$25 pre-register

[<https://www.formdesk.com/u/forms/NYSCU>], \$30 at the door

Students may attend at no charge; \$5 fee for lunch

Save the Date!

General Assembly 2016

June 22-26, Columbus, OH, Greater Columbus
Convention Center, 400 N High St, Columbus, OH
43215

The theme for GA 2016 will be *Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect*. The faith world is increasingly multifaith. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. The labels – Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, theist and non-theist – no longer define who or what we love, or how spirit moves in our lives. General Assembly 2016 in Columbus Ohio will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides us, but connects us to an interdependent future that works for all.

It's not too early to plan and Columbus is only a few hours' drive. Be a part of this truly inspiring event.

Food Pantry

We are asking for donations of pasta and sauce through the month of October. You can bring them to our program and place the items in a bag marked Women's Society. Then place them in the red storage bin that will be on a table. You can also bring your items to the church kitchen any time. The red bin will be stored in there.