

The UU Church of Buffalo



Gather

Inspire

Transform

November 2017 Newsletter

695 Elmwood Ave . Buffalo, NY 14222

716-885-2136 www.buffalouu.org



Faith Matters: What does it mean to be People of Abundance? Rev. Joan Montagnes

The question is not whether we are a people of abundance. I have no doubt about that.

The question is, "What does it mean to be a people of abundance?"

We are a people with friendships galore, talents to beat the band, heaps of energy, buckets of love, acres of intelligence, voluminous interests, and we are a pretty darned interesting bunch to boot. We are most definitely a people of abundance. But, what does that mean? What is the relevance, in the great story of all things, of us being a people of abundance?

We are given such a short time between birth and death to contribute to the world. We are also given a remarkable privilege and opportunity of using our lives to bring about the age of mutual respect. Shall we pledge to one another that we not squander our time or opportunity? Shall we commit to being a people of abundance and join with others and yet still others to build a community of abundance able to make substantial change through the transformative power of love?



Last year we joined sixty-six other abundant congregations in VOICE-Buffalo, a faith-based social justice, community organizing network. We joined because we believed that together our voices in public decision-making would be more powerful in our collective abundance. Our vision would become wider and our strength would be the strength of many. **At this time, VOICE has three main task forces:**

1. Criminal justice

- Working to reduce the number of people incarcerated by diverting some people to mental health and substance abuse treatment and by offering restorative justice practices

2. Disabilities rights

- Ensure fair access to necessary services such as transportation rights, self-advocacy and human rights for people with disabilities

3. Buffalo immigrant and refugee leadership team

- Focusing on Buffalo primary education by providing restorative justice practices, sensitizing teachers, expanding access to community schools, and nurturing parent leadership

On Sunday, November 5, after worship, you will have the opportunity to learn more about VOICE and these three task forces, and you will have the opportunity to join the task forces in creating the world of which we dream.

If we are to live as people of abundance in this Thanksgiving season, we need to not only rejoice in all the blessings of our lives, we need to share abundantly with others to overcome all fear, all hatred, all greed, and all oppression. Let's reach out in abundance and be the change we want to see.

Yours in faith and affection, Joan



Joys and Sorrows



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Alicia Campbell. Alicia was the daughter-in-law of both Paulette Notaro and Beck Brown. Alicia passed away on October 9 after a six-year battle with cancer. She was a young mother and wife and will be missed terribly.

We keep Kaitlyn Steinberg in our hearts. Kaitlyn is living in the hospital and has been for some weeks. We wish her stability and health.

Felicitations go to Sissy and Paul Tremblay who were married on October 7. Sissy is the daughter of Eileen Katz.

We send healing thoughts to Carol Condon who had knee replacement surgery on October 5.





Pulpit Previews

What does it mean to be a People of Abundance? November Worship Schedule 2017



Nov. 5 "A Little Help from our Friends" Rev. Joan Montagnes

We are blessed with an abundance of allies in our social justice work. Without them, we would be spinning our wheels in the mud of history. Remember, we do not have to believe alike to change the world for the better together.

Saturday, Nov. 11 "Veteran's Day Service" 11:00 am Rev. Joan Montagnes

A short service to honor our veterans. We set aside time to publicly thank and bless our siblings who served in the military, whatever their role and wherever their service took them. All are welcome.

Nov. 12 "Start with Abundance" Rev. Joan Montagnes

A service of music and words for meditation upon a value which is so often forgotten in these disturbing days. When we remember our abundance, we remember our ability to love with power.

Nov. 19 "Grace and Gratitude" Rev. Joan Montagnes

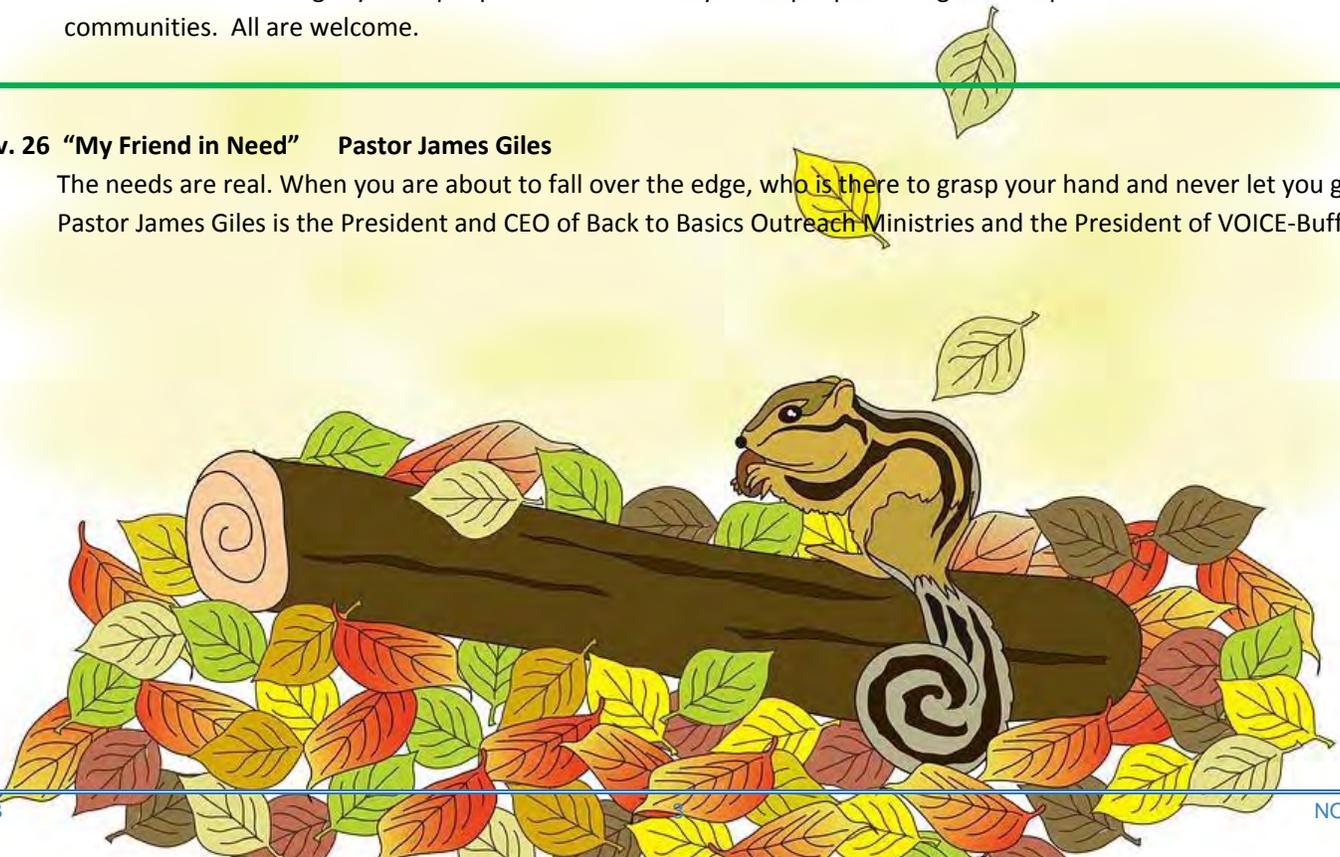
Our annual Thanksgiving worship service. Come and break bread (literally)! There is always room at the welcome table! And there is always more than enough delicious nourishment for the soul.

Monday, Nov. 20 "Transgender Vigil of Remembrance" 7:00 pm Rev. Joan Montagnes

A short, safe evening service to grieve those murdered and honor the precious dead. A service to respect the inherent worth and dignity of all people and look to a day when people of all gender expressions are safe in all our communities. All are welcome.

Nov. 26 "My Friend in Need" Pastor James Giles

The needs are real. When you are about to fall over the edge, who is there to grasp your hand and never let you go? Pastor James Giles is the President and CEO of Back to Basics Outreach Ministries and the President of VOICE-Buffalo.





Religious Education and Faith Development Activities

Sarah Martin, Director of Religious Education

Children's Religious Education

As we head into our month of Abundance in November, I find myself overwhelmingly grateful for our incredible, expanding attendance numbers each week. We now have more children and youth attending religious education regularly on Sunday mornings than we had registered in the entire program when I began. I know that an uneasy and sometimes outright hostile political climate has contributed to our swelling numbers, and I hope that all our new families find an abundance of the care and support that they seek in our program!

Our annual Advent Spiral will be held on a SATURDAY this year due to scheduling conflicts with Sundays in December.

Saturday, December 2, join us in the Parish Hall for this beautiful, contemplative ritual to welcome in the Advent season. As always, we will hold two Advent spirals: **One at 5:00 pm geared toward families with young children**, and **one at 7:00 pm**. Folks of all ages are welcome at both spirals.

For more information about the Advent Spiral, or if you have an interest in helping to set up/take down the event, please email Sarah Martin at lifespan@buffalouu.org.

Adult Faith Development

To register for any of our Adult Faith Development classes, click the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/etWwmHI9zrXFK9Bv2> or stop by the Religious Education Table on Sunday Mornings.

Understanding and Managing Dementia-Related Behaviors

**Wednesday, November 8, 7-8:30 pm, Alliance Room
Free of Charge**

We welcome the Alzheimer's Association to our building for this highly informative class.

Pathways to Membership

**Saturday, November 4, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon,
Alliance Room
Free of Charge**

Instructors: Julie Taylor and Shaun Doyle

Learn about how you can become a member of the UUCB and meet some of the key people who make our church so special. This class is required in order to become a UUCB member.



November 2017 Music Notes

Daniel Bassin, Music Director



Part of what I find so compelling about the *Soul Matters* monthly worship themes stems from how adaptable they are to our everyday life – our life outside of our Sunday services and direct engagements with our church community. And, of course, these themes function brilliantly when used as a lens through which we can view and reimagine things closest at hand. Last month, I wrote about the *courage* that goes into lifting up our voices and sharing our musical gifts, and now, this November we can truly celebrate the *Abundance* we enjoy in our Music Program.

We begin the month Sunday, November 5, with a special guest who will be sharing his unique, and inspiringly-varied musical gifts with our Choir and congregation, alike. **Canadian vocalist, trumpeter, and ethnomusicologist, Alexander Glenfield** is also a leading expert in Tuvan throat singing, where special vocal techniques highlight overtones to create the effect of multiple musical lines. (He was originally scheduled to join us last month). His compelling musicality and original musical voice will be featured in some solo pieces and a new collaborative work he's created for our Choir.

Saturday morning, November 11, at 11:00 am, is our annual brief but poignant Veterans Day service.

And that November 11 evening our acting Soprano Soloist, Jessie Downs, will bring her group, the *Sotto Voce Vocal Collective*, back to our church for another unforgettable performance, "*In barren lands, I linger bitter*" – featuring new pieces for vocal ensemble focused on storytelling and the poetic textures of various languages.

The Sunday service on November 12, *Start with Abundance*, will feature beloved choral works, instrumental meditations, and solo song.

Our third Sunday service of the month on November 19 will be our annual Thanksgiving service, featuring Aaron Copland's choral anthem, "*The Promise of Living*" from his opera, *The Tender Land*.

Then, we end the month with special guest preacher Rev. James Giles. The November 29 service takes place during a 'bye-week' for our Choir, as they take time to enjoy the holiday, and also as we turn our focus towards December Music Sunday – please mark your calendars now for the service on Sunday, December 10, featuring Part IV of J.S. Bach's "*Christmas Oratorio*".



Stewardship News

Living Our Values

Every day we make choices that, in a small way, contribute to making the world a better place: buying organic produce, recycling, helping out a neighbor, volunteering. These acts involve living our values – not just preaching them – and are a key part of Unitarian Universalism.

Contributing financially to our beloved church and its important ministries is also a way of living your values. Making a pledge of support tells the community - and yourself - that you value this place and all the great things we do here – educating children in liberal religion, housing homeless families, supporting each other in times of need, providing stimulating and inspiring worship services, being welcoming and accessible to all - the list goes on.

Please look into your heart, and think about what this church means to you and the community. Use the Fair Share guidelines (on your pledge card) to help you determine what your contribution should be. Your pledge of financial support for 2018 – no matter how big or small – gives us the power to take our values from promise and possibility to actually creating the world we want to live in.



WPA poster, WWII

Stewardship: A Message of Abundance from the Minister

I am the luckiest minister in the world! Why? Because I get to serve a congregation I love, in an exciting community, at a time in history that calls us to be our best selves.

I am enormously grateful to you for creating a soul-filled church that, when we put our hearts into it, can heal the wounded and bring justice to a broken and hurting world. You are a blessing and you remind me that I am not alone. You fill me with an abundance of blessings.

Generosity is our grateful response to life's many blessings. That's why every year I give an abundant gift for the Stewardship of our church. I make a pledge that makes me stretch.

This year I am going to stretch even further because our liberal religious voice has become more important than ever. In these days of increasing fear, we need to make our message of transformative justice and love loud and clear. Let's live our values loud and proud, and recommit to building the beloved community.

Yours in faith and affection, Joan

Covenant Group Program News

We will soon be expanding our Covenant Group Ministry, with the addition of new members to our current groups and the start of new groups in early 2018.

At the heart of UUCB's Covenant Group Ministry is our commitment to strengthen the culture of our church as one in which we listen to each other, respect each other, and trust each other. We explore topics that ask us to reflect deeply, ever broadening our awareness of our own spirituality and our connection to others.

Led by trained co-facilitators, monthly Covenant Groups create an opportunity to develop relationships, explore our personal values and beliefs, and support and

strengthen our community – one small group at a time. It is our time to talk about what really matters to us.



Our groups provide a way for us to welcome newcomers, help them make connections, and encourage their spiritual explorations in a supportive sacred setting. We are dedicated to the mission that our Covenant Group Ministry creates an open door that lets people, new and old alike, find a place where they can really feel at home.

Covenant groups are for both church members, as well as those who are considering whether this may become your church home. If you are interested in being contacted by a CG ministry member, learning more about our Covenant Group Ministry, or being considered for one of our current or future group openings, please email us at covenantgroups@buffalouu.org.

Universal Access and Inclusion Ministry

The Universal Access and Inclusion Ministry continues to be active. We are supporting the church's Social Action activities regarding voting.

On Sunday, November 5, at 12:00 noon, Sophia Roberts will provide a workshop about issues related to voting access for individuals with disabilities. This workshop will talk about some of the legal requirements regarding access to the polls. She will also talk about the use of the **Ballot Marking Machine**. This machine allows individuals who cannot mark the typical paper ballot because of motor difficulties, vision difficulties, difficulty with reading print or any other issues related to disability.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9xMVocU9FI>

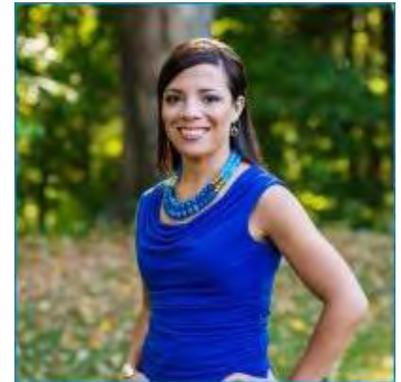
We are looking for individuals to evaluate Polling Places for their accessibility and to request the use of the Ballot Marking Machines. One does not have to identify or even have a disability in order to use this machine. If there are issues that prevent or impede voting by anyone, these issues can be reported to the Board of Elections, who by law are required to respond to any issues. This is a great way to continue the Voter Registration activities we carried out in October. It allows us to affirm the value of every person and every vote.



Women's Society Luncheon November 16

"Kids Escaping Drugs" is this month's program at the UUCB Women's Society Luncheon on November 16 at 11:30 am in the Parish Hall.

The Women's Society presents Jessica Hutchings, from Kids Escaping Drugs and its sister organization, Renaissance Addiction Services, Inc., located in West Seneca. Kids Escaping Drugs serves Western N.Y. youth and their families suffering from alcohol and drug dependency/addiction. Kids Escaping Drugs also provides educational programs, such as this one, for school programs and community groups.



Refreshments will be available from 11:00 – 11:30 am (\$3)

Ms. Hutchings will speak at 11:30 am.

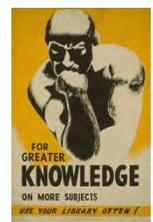
A catered luncheon will be served at 12:30 pm. UUCB Women's Society - \$15. Non-members - \$20. For the talk alone, the cost is \$5 for non-members and no reservations are necessary.

Lunch reservations may be paid for after the church service on November 5 and November 12 or by mailing a check to: Church Office, Unitarian-Universalist Church of Buffalo, [695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222](http://www.uucb.org). Write "Women's Society Nov. luncheon" on the check's memo line. The check must be received in the church office by noon on Friday, November 10.

Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item for the Food Pantry and ramen noodle packages for the Prison Project. Receptacles for these donations will be on a table in the Parish Hall during the talk and luncheon.

Women's Society Used Book Sale

UUCB's annual book sale will be held the weekends of April 28 and 29, and May 5 and 6, 2018. **We are now collecting your books**, i.e. hardbound and softcover books of all topics, children's books, art books (but no reference books, or puzzle and games books, please). If you have any questions, contact Joyce Bol at joukjebol@gmail.com.



Savory Words Reading Group

Meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm at UUCB.

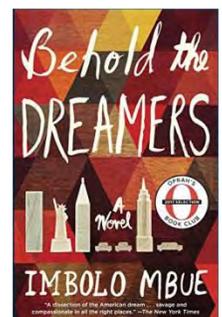
Contact John Marohn for more info: johntmarohn@yahoo.com

The books are chosen by consensus, and everyone is encouraged to bring a snack to share. Here is a list of dates and the books the group will be discussing for the next three months:

Tuesday, November 7 – "Behold the Dreamers" by Imbolo Mbue

Tuesday, December 5 – **"Third Plate"** by Dan Barber

Tuesday, January 2, 2018 – **"The Sellout"** by Paul Beatty



Pathways to Membership

Pathways to Membership: Learn about how you can become a member of the UUCB and meet some of the key people who make our church so special. This class is required in order to become a UUCB member.

Saturday, November 4, 10 am - 12 pm, Alliance Room

Free of Charge

Instructors: Julie Taylor and Shaun Doyle



Understanding and Managing Dementia Related Behaviors

Understanding and Managing Dementia Related Behaviors: We are pleased to bring the wonderful folks from the Alzheimer's Association into our building to provide this highly informative class.

Wednesday, November 8, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm, Alliance Room

Free of Charge



UUCB Book Group Meeting November 27 at 3:00 pm

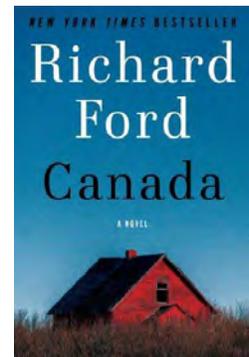
At our November meeting, we will be discussing "Canada" by Richard Ford. Newcomers who have read the book are always welcome to join us. Everyone who plans to come needs to tell our host-of-the-month, Ellen (ellenmoomaw@gmail.com) so that she may plan for seating and refreshments.

Looking ahead: No meeting in December

January 29 at 7:00 pm – **"One Hundred Years of Solitude"**

by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

February 26 at 7:00 pm – **"The End of Your Life Book Club"** by Will Schwalbe



Racial Justice Ministry Team (RJMT)

The Racial Justice Ministry Team meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm at the church. Our next meeting is November 8. Everyone is invited to participate.

Our RJMT facilitator, Jean Ott, may be reached at universalistgal@gmail.com.



JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

PART 4

CANTATA 36

CANTATA 124



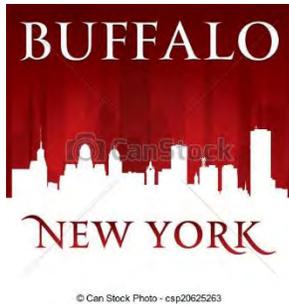
Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

Holiday Music Sunday Service

December 10, 2017

10:30 am

695 Elmwood Ave. @ W. Ferry



THE NEW YORK STATE OF MIND THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING THE EMPIRE STATE

MICHAEL HARRIS, INSTRUCTOR

13 New York Ideas that Changed America!

Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

695 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo, New York

13 Sessions

Wednesdays – 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

September 6 – December 13

\$75 for Course or \$10 per Session

Phone: 885-2136 email: office@buffalouu.org



Niagara Falls, Chautauqua Institution, the Roycroft Movement,
and more!!



Hertel Ave. mural turned memorial to Gord Downie, lead singer of The Tragically Hip, who succumbed to brain cancer October 17.

He dedicated his fame and the last of his energy to bringing awareness to the issues faced by Canada's indigenous people and was honored by the Canadian Assembly of First Nations with the Lakota spirit name *Wicapi Omani*, "Man who walks among the stars".

We gather in loving community ~ inspiring one another ~ to transform ourselves to create a more just and compassionate world

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A chalice alit since 1831

A sanctuary on the National Registry of Historic Places