



Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

In the freedom of truth, and the spirit of Love, We unite for the worship of the Holy,
And for the service of humanity

April 2012

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Margret's Musings – *Goals and Coals*

At the heart of every vibrant congregation lies a glowing coal that fires the shared commitment of its members. It is that glowing coal, the shared purpose and commitment, that people feel when church life is at its best for them. From our stories we come to know more clearly the nature of that glowing coal, and from our dreams of church as we hope it can be, we create a shared vision of the church we build together in love and commitment.

A Unitarian Universalist church is an intentional organization, started by people who had a compelling reason to create something new, and sustained by successive generations. The interim time provides an opportunity to reconnect with the glowing coal at the center of congregational commitment, and to rekindle the vitality of the church. The Board of Trustees and other leaders gathered last fall to set goals for the work we would do together during the interim time. Consistent with the priorities identified in the church's 2011 Long Range Plan, the Board adopted three goals for revitalization in the interim time. My work as your intentional interim minister is guided by those goals, which are:

- Clarify the mission, values, identity, image of the church
- Create a governance structure and process that works (that is relational and flows)
- Educate the congregation on covenantal relationship and stewardship

Volunteer teams in each of these areas have been working steadily since the beginning of the year. The Appreciative Inquiry Leadership Team has created a process of sharing and collecting your stories that serves two of the goals in this time. The first is to strengthen the connections to each other and the sense of everyone's part in the ongoing history and unfolding future of the church. The second is to draw from the experiences and themes in your stories, and to engage you in creating new and compelling mission and vision statements for the church, putting into words your core commitments and your legacy for future generations.

There are so many opportunities to be involved, and every voice is important here. I am loving your stories, and it is good to be here. See you at church!

In faith and love,

Rev. Margret

Religious Education News Spotlight on Youth and Volunteers.

By Sonja Lamicela, DRE

In the next two months you will see a lot from the UUCB Jr and Sr. High Youth.



On April 15 you will see the trailer for the documentary on Social Justice that our 7th graders have been producing. They have been working with their teachers Jackie James-Creedon and Ken Mernitz and consultant Mollie Chesman to interview many of our social justice activists in the UUCB community.

On April 22 our 8th graders will present their Credos in the coming of age (COA) ceremony. They have worked all year with teachers Ashera Buhite and Jack Kavanaugh to develop their first personal faith statements as they begin their lifelong quests for truth and meaning.

On May 6, the Youth Group will present the worship service and share their stories of growth and belonging in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo. They will be working with their Advisors Kristin Rose, Joe Ott, Kathleen McGriff-Powers and Paul Zanolli.

These youth have been wonderfully engaged and we have been so blessed by many wonderful and committed teachers this year in the UUCB RE program. Many of these teachers come every week through the year to provide consistent continuity for their classes. Others come once or twice per month to provide support and allow the primary teachers to get a Sunday off. Some drop in once in a while to help when they can. They are all important. Without them we would not be able to offer the opportunities for Faith Development that is so important to our children and families.

Nursery Volunteers: Ann Rivera, Andrea Brock, Susan Frawley, Merry Constantino, Becca Montijo, Susan and Marie Andersen-Strait, Kristina Church, Michael Shanahan and more

Pre-K: Eileen Katz, Lucy Sloan, Sara Higgins-Anderson, Jennifer Mattimore

K/1: Steven Rao, Laura Hill Rao, Liz Long and Sara Metcalf, Jesse Goldberg, Ashera Buhite

2/3: Jesse Goldberg, Cara Reznick, Marika Frankenstein, Daniel Schell, Stephen Steck

4: Shawn Sweet, Aimee Neri, Rebecca Humphrey

5/6: Morgan Lord, Georgia Pooley, Rebecca Yots, Kirsten Anderson, Stephanie Cole, Nicholas Lamicela, Tosca Miserendiono, Paul Zanolli, Ann Rivera, Angel Rivera

7: Jackie James-Creedon, Ken Mernitz, Liz Parke, Cindy Havey, Mollie Chesman, Matt Creedon and more

8: Ashera Buhite, Jack Kavanaugh, Bill Parke

Youth: Kathleen McGriff-Powers, Joe Ott, Kristin Rose, Paul Zanolli, Kelly Masters, Jean Ott and Maria Testa and several others who helped for the youth con.

If you see these people, please be sure to thank them for their time and energy! If there is anyone I missed. Please be sure to let me know so that I can thank them as well.

Remember to connect to our Facebook Page: Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo and join one of our Facebook Groups: UUCB RE (for religious education news and events), UUCB 20s and 30s, Buffalo Unitarian Universalist Youth Group, and Buffalo UU Interim Period Discussion Group.

Talking Points from the Board

Eight months and counting since Rev. Margret graced our sanctuary. She hit the ground running and we haven't stopped running with her yet!

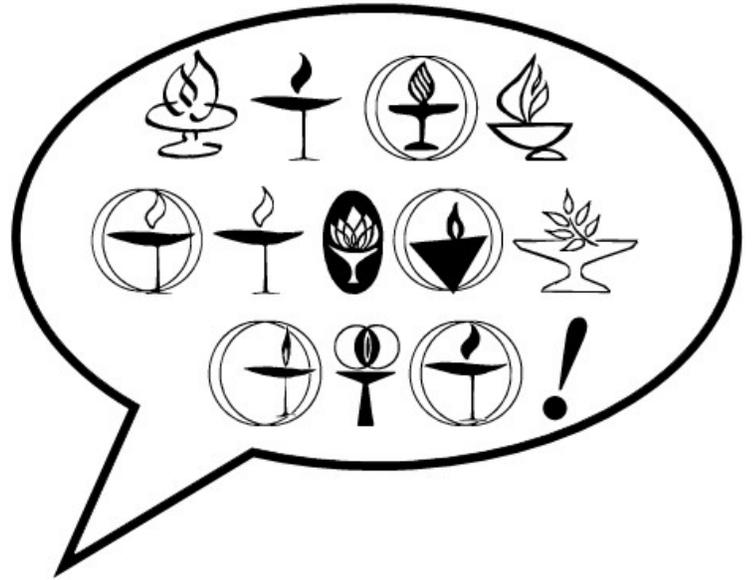
We have:

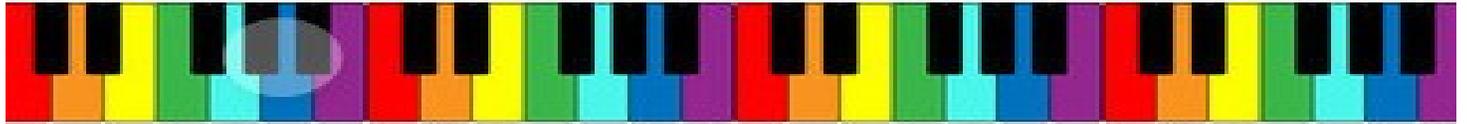
- With the help of our Treasurer, Stephanie Cole (or "Cole" as she likes to be called) begun an extensive review of our Finance, Investment and Audit processes and policies. Within this area, three *OPEN* (to all interested members) Working Groups have been formed.
 - Finance Working Group to review, for one thing, our budgeting process and financial policies to propose some ways to make them more coherent and workable.
 - Endowment Working Group that will focus on best ways to make the endowment work for us into the future.
 - Audit Working Group to review our audit policies and practices

Contact Stephanie Cole if you want to get involved!

- A group working with the Appreciative Inquiry Process has been getting ready to introduce you to a process that will help us express a vision and mission that will take us into the future.
- The Website Team, working with the Tech Committee, is ready and received Board approval to launch our new church website. You will have had a chance to see it by the time you read this newsletter.
- The Board has just formed Policy Working Group to help us develop, clarify and publish policies on all the things you need to know how we do.
- A Governance Study Group that is trying to gain and understanding of how we make decisions and see them carried out, and learning better ways to organize our structure and process when we find, as we do, that it is flawed.
- A group of about 30 people from our congregation is being joined by members from 4 other Western New York congregations for a 5-session Healthy Congregations workshop.
- We will be sending some members to the "Harvest the Power" trainer's workshop ... "Harvest the Power provides leadership skill development that goes hand-in-hand with faith development. The program helps lay leaders grow in spirit as they grow as leaders." The people we send will become trainers in OUR community helping develop these skills in OUR congregational leadership.

As a last note, I want to thank ALL those of you who have participated in these activities for making our congregation work better, and for those who haven't yet joined our ranks, DO, we'll all be the better for it!





Music Notes

The *Root Children* presentation that our youngest RE children and our wonderful Kathleen Powers presented, on March 18th was so beautiful. I'll never forget watching those children, decked out in bright colors, running joyfully down the aisles and still remembering to listen to Rev. Margret's words so they could respond. Thank you to the stage crew, teachers, RE Committee Members, parents, Sonja and especially our precious children.

The choir and I are anxiously waiting for Spring Music Sunday on April 1, so that we can share with you the beautiful music we've been learning. Last week we had the rehearsal that I always wait for and sometimes even wonder if it will ever arrive. It's kind of like a miracle rehearsal and it's usually preceded by the rehearsal from you know where! We'd had the rehearsal from YKW the preceding week, so I was hoping that the MR was on its way. Thankfully it was! The miracle is that somehow the music is sung close to perfectly -- lovely balance and blend of voices, almost all of the correct notes, most of the entrances at the correct times, and most importantly the respect and love for the music and text that comes with the confidence one feels when a total understanding of the whole has been achieved. This may sound a little crazy, but that really is what happens. Bring on the orchestra!

Easter comes along right on the heels of Music Sunday. I think about Hallelujahs of all kinds, songs about Spring and rebirth, flowers, even a song about a sweet Spring rain once in awhile, when I'm planning Easter music. It's a challenge for we UU musicians to find just the right songs for our congregations, but that is what makes it so exciting to begin that search. We share ideas with one another, thanks to our active listserve and it isn't long before we've found the perfect music for our congregations. What a joy it has been to be part of our UU Church and its music program for such a long time.

All of us in the choir loft wish you all a happy Easter season with all of its balmy days, green grass, brightly colored flowers and even the vegetable plants showing us what they can do. Much love to all of you from all of us in the choir loft and thank you for your support that allows us to bring our music to you every week.

Barb

April 1, 2012 is Music Sunday!

Fern Hill

Music: John Corigliano Poem: Dylan Thomas
The Choir and Strings, Piano and Harp Monica Stankewicz, Mezzo Soprano

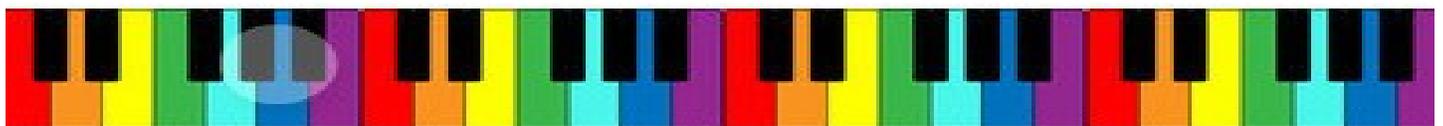
Knoxville: 1915

Music: Samuel Barber Poem: James Agee
Jennifer Mernitz, Soprano Emily Boyce, Piano

Vocalise

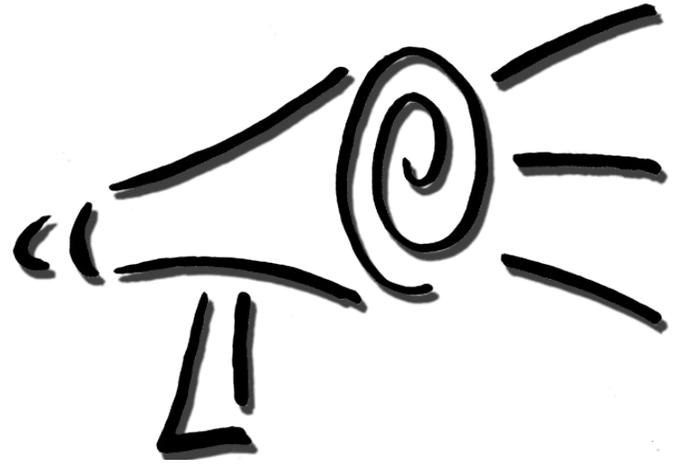
Ralph Vaughan Williams
Paula McGirr, Soprano John Fullam, Clarinet

The music is all gorgeous and you'll even be making a bit of gorgeous music yourselves as we sing the hymn, Earth is our Homeland, set to the famous theme from Brahms First Symphony, with an elegant text about music in all of its possibilities. We haven't done a Music Sunday program like this in a very long time. All of the texts are in English and written by more contemporary poets like Dylan Thomas and James Agee. One of the pieces doesn't have a text at all; it's beautiful music meant to be sung on an 'Ah' like a vocal warm up. Please plan to join us on Sunday, April 1, at 10:45 am – and do bring a friend along too!



Social Justice Task Force News
Submitted by Ellen Moomaw

Social Justice Sunday at UUCB will be April 15. Margret will preach on "A Justice-Seeking People" at 11 am and at 1 pm an Interfaith Impact New York State Forum on "Immigration: Focus Buffalo," coordinated by Barbara Klobberdanz, will happen in our Parish Hall. Please plan to attend church that day!!



Saturday, April 21st from 9 - Noon is Earth Day Clean up of waterways in our area, sponsored by Riverkeepers.

We will help at Squaw Island, located off of Niagara St.

Wear appropriate clothing for the weather, water, sunscreen favorite work gloves and a hat. There are no rest room facilities. Riverkeepers provides bags, gloves bottled water and snacks. At noon a picnic lunch (location to be announced) is provided. Fun for the whole family!

The St. Lawrence District Assembly will be held on April 27 and 28 in Rochester, NY. Deadline to register is 4/14. Go online or see Ellen Moomaw for more info.

Registration for UU General Assembly in June is now open. Go online at www.uua.org for more information.

A fundraiser to help with expenses for those attending General Assembly will be held in our sanctuary on June 10 , at 7 pm! The very talented John Marohn will present a classical concert. Please save the date.

The first Family Promise Volunteer Conference was held March 3rd. Much information, including presentations on Erie Co. Department of Social Services and Empathetic Communication, was available.

Continuing our association with Vive la Casa, four people repainted a portion of their sick bay for four and a half hours March 10th. SJTF also made a \$100 contribution towards the paint. We continue to collect clothing for Vive la Casa. Leave items in the Community Room, and thanks!

We also continue to collect extra calendars for School 18, old cell phones and spent computer ink cartridges. Leave all in the Community Room.

Habitat for Humanity Info - Some members of UUCB help on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Contact Dave at dlock@conleycaseworks.com for more information. There will be a Women Build this year! More information to follow, but building will begin in May.

Next SJTF meeting: Sunday, May 6th. (A change in schedule because of Easter and Mother's Day)





Michelle Buhite's Ordination



“Love when you can. Do the work that is yours to do.
Be the person that is yours to be at any given time.”
(Forrest Church, The Cathedral of the World)

It was almost exactly a year ago that I wrote a UUCB newsletter article using the Forrest Church quote above. At the time, we were all a little anxious... Joel had announced his resignation, I was working out my second year internship plans, and you were getting ready for interim ministry with Margret.

We discovered that the only time we can love is right now, that we each had very specific work that only we could do, and that we would need to be completely present to all of the joy and tears and ‘unsettledness’ if we were to find the deep wells of strength in and among us. You taught me so much about being a minister and engaging heads, hearts, and hands in shared ministry.

Now it’s time to celebrate!

I hope each and every one of you will celebrate with me the culmination of one journey and the beginning of another as the members of the UU Church of Buffalo and the members of the UU Congregation of Jamestown join together to ordain me into the Unitarian Universalist ministry.

When: Saturday, May 12, 2012 at 11:00 am
Where: Here at UUCB, naturally!

The choir will sing... folks from my home church in Jamestown will make the trek... respected colleagues, friends, and mentors will travel from far-flung places to take part in this rich tradition... and I would love all of my dear friends here at UUCB to take part. Please mark your calendars and plan to celebrate with me.

The Doctrine of Discovery

The legal justification for the colonization of the Americas and the subordination of aboriginal people—is a narrative unfamiliar to many Americans. Yet the Doctrine is so deeply embedded in American and Western culture that it hides in plain sight.

And though it is hard to hear that a policy of manifest destiny and Christian and white supremacy has determined United States history and development, we must strive to listen, because the Doctrine of Discovery is key to understanding and reconstructing many of today’s public debates, particularly debates about immigration.

The UUA Board calls us to open our minds, hearts, and spirits to the implications and the potential of a new, truer story of how this continent was settled and our nation formed. In May we will offer this class to grapple with the Doctrine of Discovery and the UUA Board Report and Resolution.

Three one-hour sessions define the issue, contextualize it with native voices, and guide a plan of

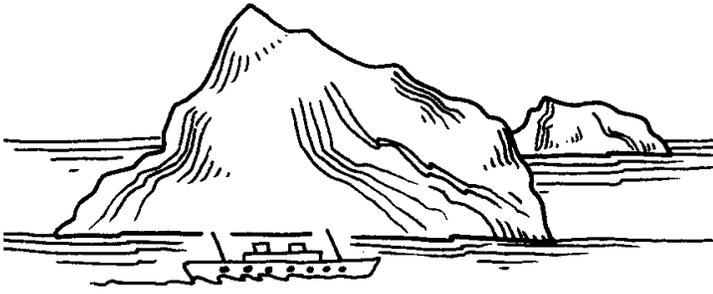
action. In short, the sessions ask: What? So what? and Now what? The class will be led by Rev. Margret and Jean Ott on three Tuesdays, May 22, 29 and June 5, 7 to 8:00 pm. Please register with Sonja Jensen at dre@buffalouu.org to join this class.

Passover Seder

Friday April 13 at 6:30pm

Come gather in community to share a meal and experience the retelling of the Jewish Passover Story. This is an all-ages event to honor our fourth Source: Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves. Morgan Lord, Jesse Goldberg and Ann Rivera will be hosting this event.

Please RSVP to register for the event. This is a cooperative meal. Everyone will need to bring part of the traditional meal. We will provide recipes if you don't already know how to make them



An Invitation to Commemorate an Event That Shook the World

It was an event that shook the world and some say helped end an era, and our church architect Edward Austin Kent was at its center. As a result, church members and friends are invited to a free, commemorative event set up for our church community on April 15, 2012, to mark the 100th anniversary to the day of the sinking of the Titanic and honor the memory of Mr. Kent.

Mr. Kent served as architect of our building at 695 Elmwood at its design in 1904 and was a member of the prominent Kent family in our church. He was also a hero during the Titanic catastrophe in 1912 before he perished in the sea with the sinking of the ship. To honor his memory, a commemorative event has been planned by an ad hoc Commemorative Committee working with the Church Historian and Minister. You are invited to join us for an evening program, to start promptly at 5:00pm on April 15, 2012 with a church tour to show the architecture and artifacts of Edward Austin Kent and his family in our church. Once comfortably seated in the Sanctuary, you can then enjoy a brief lecture on Mr. Kent's life and death and their enduring meaning to us as UUs. At 5:30 we will show the 1997 film Titanic in the Sanctuary. Parent caution: As a very dramatic, 3 hr, 15 min movie, this is for adults and audiences best suited to a PG-13 rating. For everyone's enjoyment, although we will have light snacks for consumption in the Parish Hall as a treat, please remember to have an early dinner before arrival if you are attending the entire evening's event. Upon completion of the movie we will sing a small selection of songs sung during the actual voyage/sinking or inspired by the disaster. By 9:00 or shortly thereafter, the event will conclude.

This is a free event for our church community, however donations will be accepted. Contact Bill Parke or Rev. Margret for more information on the April 15 event

through the Church Office, and look in your Order of Service and in UUCB eBlasts for updates in the weeks to come.

Program:

5:00 Pre-Movie Church Tour

5:15 Brief Lecture on Mr. Kent's life and death, and their enduring meaning to us as UUs

5:30 Movie

8:45 Songs

9:00 Goodnight

Bill Parke, Church Historian, for the Commemorative Committee

Women's Society News

You are invited to come to the Women's Society meeting on April 19 when we welcome Beverly Foit-Albert. Beverly (aka Bonnie) is an architect and has re-habbed many of the historic buildings of Chautauqua to better use, and more sound construction. Bonnie has a terrific power-point presentation of her work and it's fascinating.....please do come to the meeting to see it.

We meet at 11 for hospitality and conversation, 11:30 for the speaker, and 12:30 for lunch. You are welcome to attend the talk (it's free), but if you'd like to stay for lunch, please make a reservation. It costs \$11. Sign up in the Parish Hall.

Our Women's Society, et al. will be driving to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario on Thursday, May 10th to see "Ragtime", the Tony Award winning, sweeping musical saga of turn-of-the-century America.

We will meet at the Festival Theatre---carpool if you can. Please plan to arrive a bit early. Be sure to bring a passport, or an enhanced driver's license, or your birth certificate with a photo id.

11:30 Pre-show Chat presented by Festival staff

12:30 Lunch-purchase in Theatre or in town.

2:00 "Ragtime"-Festival Theatre Tickets will be distributed after Sunday service.

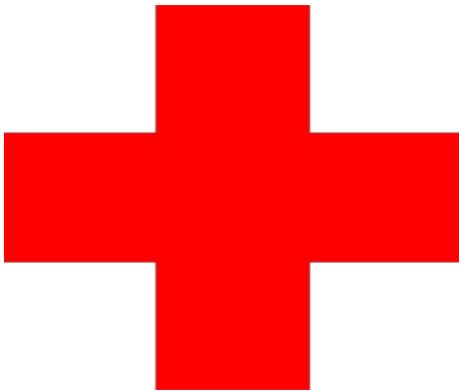
Martha Malkiewicz and her amazing committee have completed their extensive research with a purchase recommendations for the church pew cushions. This would involve a local company from Lancaster, NY. It was by far the better choice to re-use the original horsehair stuffing, so we are simply re-covering the cushions with a fabric that will cover both sides of the cushion so it can be turned over. They will be "piped" and buttoned to keep the cover from shifting. (Modern fillings are expected to last only 10 years and

our original horsehair is in great shape after, who knows??, about 60 years??)

The Women's Society is funding this whole project and it's expected to cost approximately \$30,000, so we thank you for all the help and support of the bake sales and book sales and membership dues for lo, these many years. What a wonderful gift to the congregation! We will have several (3) samples of a good size from which to choose. We hope to have them available at the April meeting, so we can vote on one to grace our sanctuary.

Volunteer Sunday is April 29

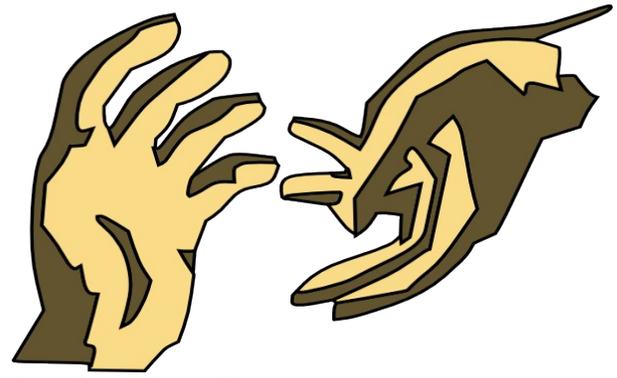
We have many "angels" at UUCB, who generously contribute their time and talents in so many ways -- in the classrooms, in the gardens, in the choir, in committees -- making a difference in all our lives! We'll be celebrating all our volunteers on Sunday, April 29, with a special service and an enhanced coffee hour. If you can help with a contribution of sweet or savory finger foods (such as cheese & crackers, tea sandwiches, fruit trays, cookies, tea breads) please sign up at the Celebrations table in the Parish Hall after church beginning April 1st. Or, contact Cathy Pietrzak at 875-4905 or cap449@roadrunner.com.



Red Cross Adult and Child CPR/First Aid and AED Training

Saturday April 28 from 9am to 4:30pm.

To be good Samaritans we need to be prepared. Being able to quickly recognize a medical emergency and respond appropriately in the first few minutes can make the difference between life and death. This class is appropriate for middle school aged youth through adults. Let's be prepared to make a difference. Fee: We were able to negotiate a reduced rate for the training of \$70/person. If you have Independent Health insurance the price is \$60, and if you have BCBS Aqua the course is free.



Multiculturalism Class

A second three-session course on Multiculturalism will be offered on three consecutive Mondays in May: May 7, 14, and 21 between 1 and 3 pm in the Alliance Room. The course will include a movie, "Sin Nombre," with follow up discussions about the movie's themes as they relate to the current humanitarian issues of migrant workers. If you are interested in signing up for the course, please contact John Marohn at johntmarohn@yahoo.com (885-4541) or RE Director, Sonja Jensen, at <sonjajensen@buffalouu.org>

First Tuesday Discussion Group

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 7:30 pm in the Alliance Room. All are welcome.

Our topic this time will be: How important is organized religion?

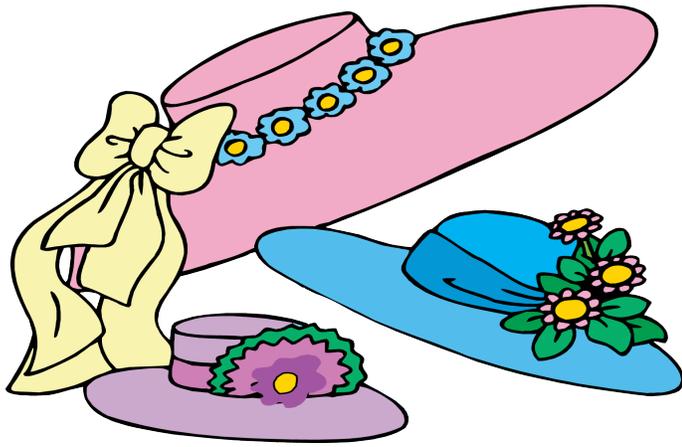
In case of uncertainty about possible weather related cancellation, call Abel Fink, 626-9216, or Don Shedd, 884-0012.

Normal entry is via the garden entrance. If you find the garden entrance door locked, go to the Elmwood entrance and ring the bell there. That bell can be heard in the Alliance Room. Someone will come down and let you in. E-mail at donshedd@roadrunner.com

Notes From The Gardener

This month's newsletter contains the order form for the Plant Sale. Orders will be taken Sundays in the Parish Hall on April 29, May 6, & 13, or can be turned into the church office at any time. The plants will be available for pickup May 25, 26, & 27 and will be paid for when they are picked up. The deadline for orders is May 13. The proceeds of the plant sale benefit the church and also pay for all the plants that are added to the church garden.

Last month's newsletter contained an order form for hanging baskets. The order deadline for baskets is March 27.



a center which provides counseling and helps them to find permanent housing. We are providing a safe place to stay overnight and evening meals. It is a great experience to interact with the families and with each other as we grow in our congregation. Our next scheduled week is Friday June 8th through Friday June 15th. We need people who are willing to stay overnight, prepare dinners, and on the weekend do lunch. Look for us in the Parish Hall in May and in the meantime, if you have any questions we can be

Easter Bonnets

On Easter Sunday the children will decorate eggs and bonnets. We'll supply the eggs and may have a few hats on hand for folks who didn't get the memo. Children, bring your own hats to decorate for the Elmwood Village Bonnet parade which leaves from our church at 12:30! Please bring along any items that may be recycled for decorating the bonnets. Parents will need to accompany their children on the parade route if you join us. We'll color the eggs the old fashioned way with onion skins, etc.

Immigration: Focus Buffalo

Do you know the difference between a Refugee and an Immigrant? Do you know how people obtain Refugee Status and are directed to come to Buffalo? And who does the directing? Do you know about the various agencies existing in Buffalo to serve the refugee community and what services they offer? Do you know what ethnic groups are currently arriving here and anything about their cultures.

You haven't heard anything yet!! We also have an agency in Buffalo that provides safety for people seeking asylum. Do you know how long they are having to wait to have their cases heard in Immigration Court?

Come and learn all about these issues on Sunday April 15 at 1:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

Family Promise

A round of applause and many thanks to those who helped host two families for our Family Promise week in March.

Many hands make light work, so we would love to encourage more of you to participate.

Family Promise is a program for homeless families which allows them to stay together as a family. There is



reached at familypromise@buffalouu.org.

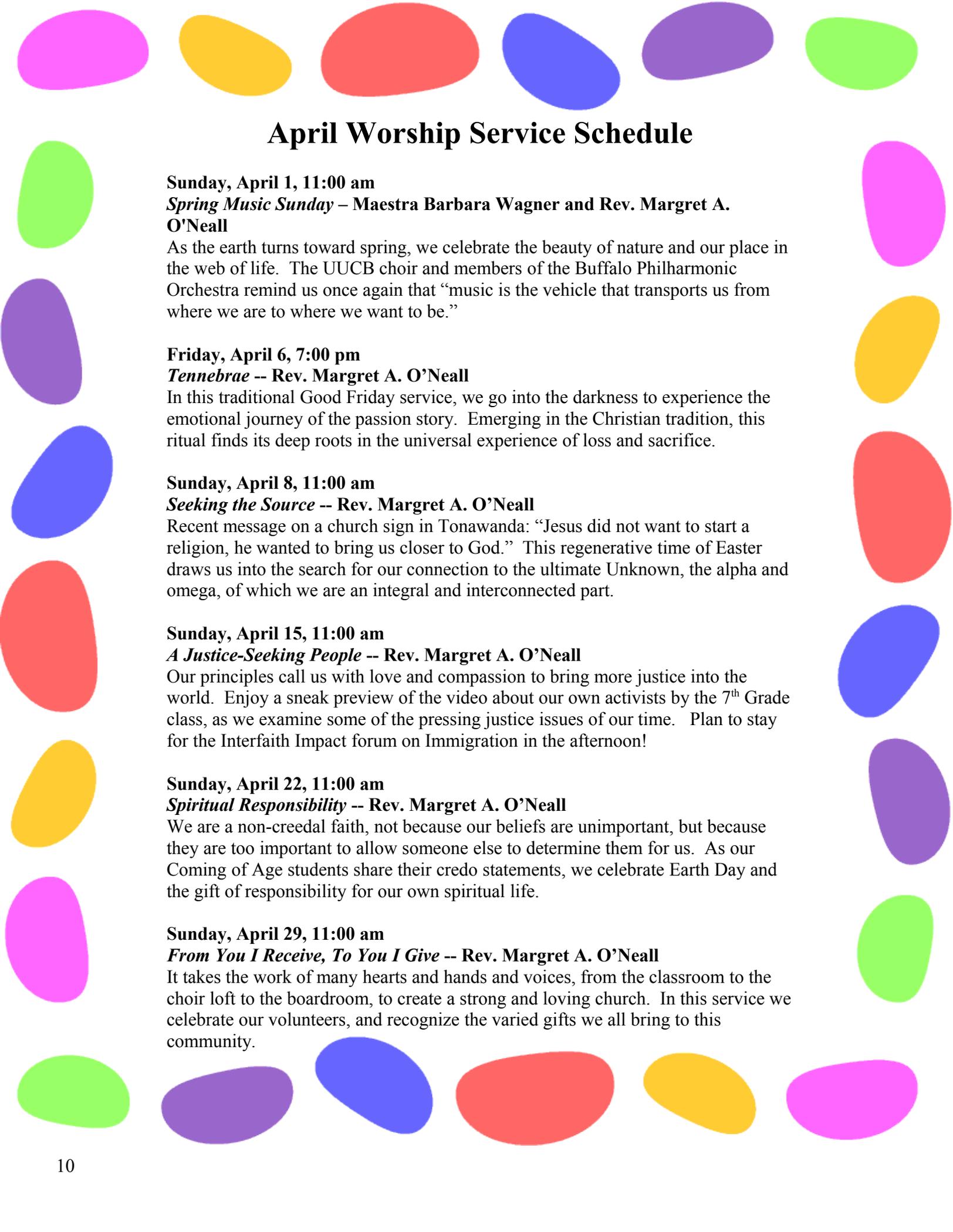
Pulpit Flower Ministry

The term "ministry" for pulpit flowers was initiated by Joe Malkiewicz to describe the loving dedications that enrich our lives. They offer a collective history of much that is meaningful to our church community. You may still participate by reserving and making a dedication for one of the dates that are still available. The cost is \$35.00 and the flowers are yours to keep or you may donate them to a charity. Stop by the pulpit flower table in the parish hall, email noralynnr@hotmail.com, or phone 886-9122.

April Pulpit Flower Schedule

- April 1-Music Sunday (no pulpit flowers)
- April 8-Easter Sunday (no pulpit flowers)
- April 15-Valerie Andersen
- April 22-Linda Lover and Olga Ruiz
- April 29-Kathy Kubala





April Worship Service Schedule

Sunday, April 1, 11:00 am

***Spring Music Sunday* – Maestra Barbara Wagner and Rev. Margret A. O’Neill**

As the earth turns toward spring, we celebrate the beauty of nature and our place in the web of life. The UUCB choir and members of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra remind us once again that “music is the vehicle that transports us from where we are to where we want to be.”

Friday, April 6, 7:00 pm

***Tenebrae* -- Rev. Margret A. O’Neill**

In this traditional Good Friday service, we go into the darkness to experience the emotional journey of the passion story. Emerging in the Christian tradition, this ritual finds its deep roots in the universal experience of loss and sacrifice.

Sunday, April 8, 11:00 am

***Seeking the Source* -- Rev. Margret A. O’Neill**

Recent message on a church sign in Tonawanda: “Jesus did not want to start a religion, he wanted to bring us closer to God.” This regenerative time of Easter draws us into the search for our connection to the ultimate Unknown, the alpha and omega, of which we are an integral and interconnected part.

Sunday, April 15, 11:00 am

***A Justice-Seeking People* -- Rev. Margret A. O’Neill**

Our principles call us with love and compassion to bring more justice into the world. Enjoy a sneak preview of the video about our own activists by the 7th Grade class, as we examine some of the pressing justice issues of our time. Plan to stay for the Interfaith Impact forum on Immigration in the afternoon!

Sunday, April 22, 11:00 am

***Spiritual Responsibility* -- Rev. Margret A. O’Neill**

We are a non-creedal faith, not because our beliefs are unimportant, but because they are too important to allow someone else to determine them for us. As our Coming of Age students share their credo statements, we celebrate Earth Day and the gift of responsibility for our own spiritual life.

Sunday, April 29, 11:00 am

***From You I Receive, To You I Give* -- Rev. Margret A. O’Neill**

It takes the work of many hearts and hands and voices, from the classroom to the choir loft to the boardroom, to create a strong and loving church. In this service we celebrate our volunteers, and recognize the varied gifts we all bring to this community.