



January 20th - January 27th

Time, Death and the Space Between the Stars

Rev. Richard Gilbert

Aging definitely helps to clarify the mind. I've often preached on how we live; this sermon considers how we die. I'll discuss medical aid in dying legislation in New York in the broader context of the meaning of life and death. "The wonder is that it has happened at all."

Every month our congregation joins over 140 Unitarian Universalist Congregations in exploring a single spiritual theme. This month, we are asking:
"What does it mean to be People who are Finding Our Center?"

Our Current Masking Status

Our church is currently open for in-person services, and masks are optional.

FOR CURRENT COVID RECOMMENDATIONS PLEASE VISIT:

<https://buffalouu.org/frequently-asked-questions>

We also ask that if you display any symptoms of COVID-19, please join us virtually until your symptoms subside, regardless of a negative COVID-19 test.

Our VIRTUAL YouTube link is <http://live.buffalouu.org>. Sunday services start at 10:30am. Past services can also be found at the YouTube link.

In Case of Inclement Weather

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo's snow closure policy is that when SUNY Buffalo State College closes due to snow, UUCB closes. You can find information on snow closures for SUNY Buffalo State College at <https://suny.buffalostate.edu/>. Snow closures are typically listed in a red banner at the top of the website. This information is also available on SUNY Buffalo State College's facebook, twitter, and local news stations.

Territorial Acknowledgement, Art, and Re-Empowerment

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo acknowledges that the ground upon which we meet rests on the traditional territory of the Hodinöhsö:ni' people, original nations of this land who continue to call for justice and self-determination.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo - ORDER OF SERVICE - 1/22/2022

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude "Safe Passage" by Mary Grigolia, arr. Ellen Hansen-Ellis
UUCB Soloists

Welcome and Announcements

Cinara Marquis

Greet Your Neighbor

Call to Worship “Let Me Die Laughing” by Mark Morrison-Reed

Chalice Lighting

We gather in loving community,
Inspiring one another,
To transform ourselves
to create a more just and compassionate world

Hymn #1057 Go Lifted Up

Story for All Ages “The Tenth Good Thing About Barney” by Judith Viorist, Illustrated by Erik Blegvad

Hymn #413 Go Now in Peace

Offering

Musical Offering “Temporary” by John Bucchino
Helen Lowry – voice, Chris Sierzchula – piano

Reading “Anpao” by Jamake Highwater

Rev. Richard S. Gilbert

Pastoral Prayer

Musical Reflection “Diskana’s Lament” by Jessie Downs
Beth White – voice, Chris Sierzchula – piano

Sermon “Time, Death, and the Space Between the Stars”

Hymn #354 We Laugh, We Cry

Extinguishing the Chalice

As we extinguish the flame of this chalice,
may we carry its light with us into the world,
in the power of peace, faith, justice and love.

Benediction

Postlude “Poem Op. 32 No. 1” by Alexander Scriabin
Chris Sierzchula – piano

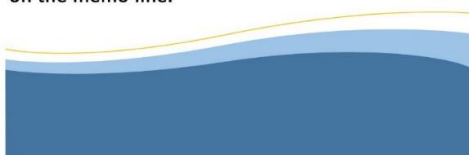


You can share an offering with the church through the following methods:

Donate via the church's Paypal account by going to www.buffalouu.org and clicking on the blue Donate! button.

OR

Send a check to the church by mail:
Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo
695 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222
Please write "Pledge" or "Share the Plate"
on the memo line.



The congregation is governed by an elected [Board of Trustees](#). To reach them, please email board@buffalouu.org or attend their meetings. (3rd Wed at 7pm in the Alliance Room or via Zoom - <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97736244745>)

Reverend Joan will be on vacation from January 10th-January 22nd.

Music Ministry

On Saturday January 21st at 2pm, we enter our second year of the Casual Concert series with a Sound Healing event led by Meagan Marcus, a Reiki Master and Sound Healer who will guide you through a journey of self-love and inner healing with her sacred instruments. Bringing a yoga mat or blanket is encouraged!

On Sunday January 22nd, the soloists and Chris will support visiting speaker Dick Gilbert's service about compassionate choices in dying. The service will open with "Safe Passage" by Mary Grigolia, sung by the UUCB Soloist Quartet. At the Offertory, Helen will sing "Temporary" by John Bucchino - a contemporary musical theatre song about the ever-changing seasons of life. As the Reflection, Beth White will share an aria about helping a loved one cross over, excerpted from Jessie Downs's recently premiered opera The Second Sight. Finally, Chris will share the meditative "Poem No. 1" by Alexander Scriabin.

Choir Notice

Do you enjoy singing? Are you looking for a supportive music-making community in which to share and grow your voice? Considered joining the UUCB Choir! If you are interested in learning more, please contact Jessie Downs - jdowns@buffalouu.org

January's Share the Plate Recipient: Clean Air Coalition

The Clean Air Coalition builds power by developing grassroots leaders who organize their communities to run and win environmental justice and public health campaigns in Western New York. They envision a world where our environment promotes health and equity and where systems place communities at the forefront of decision making. To learn more about their campaigns, please check out <https://www.cacwny.org/campaigns/>. Their monthly general meeting is Thursday, January 19th at 5:30PM at 371 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202 where they will be discussing their current and future work.

Nominations for Share the Plate

Share the Plate welcomes nominations for recipients for the 2023. Please send your ideas to Steve Wixson wixsonsg@gmail.com

Religious Education and Adult Faith Development News

If you are interested in participating or need more information about any of the Religious Education news in this E-Blast, please contact: jpond@buffalouu.org.

Donations for King Center Charter School

We're collecting donations of non-perishable food, personal and infant care items, and winter hats and gloves for our neighbors in the community of the King Center Charter School, who were without power for a prolonged time after the Christmas Blizzard and are still recovering from its effects. Please leave all donations in the marked bin in the main entrance.

AFTER THE STORM

KING CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

Collecting donations to support families after the Blizzard of 2022

We need help with:

- Non- perishable foods
- Personal Care Items
- Diapers and Wipes
- Winter hats and gloves for adults and children

Help us support a community in need, as we work to recover from the Blizzard of 2022.

www.kccs.org

More information :
 Tcoleman@kccs.org



Finding our Center Small Group Discussions

Join Rev. Joan and DRE Jess on Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30, in the Alliance Room starting on February 7 to join in the work of the Article II Commission in finding and exploring the center of our faith and our beliefs. There will be six sessions – 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14. To register, please email Jess at jpond@buffalouu.org.

Winter Congregational Meeting

The Board of Trustees for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo will hold its Winter Congregational Meeting following the Sunday Service, on January 22nd, in person and on Zoom. We will be voting for a replacement for John Petrocelli as well as filling a vacant Board seat. The Congregation will also vote to approve any new members of the Nominating Committee.

We will also vote to accept the Minutes for the previous Winter Congregational Meeting (January 2022) as well as the minutes from the Fall Congregational meeting (October 2022).

We will go over our Annual report and the Treasurer will give a financial report to the Congregation. The minutes as well as the Zoom link, will be available for review at our website www.buffalouu.org.

Pulpit Flowers Update

To remember a loved one or recognize the hard work and efforts of our UU family, flowers make a perfect tribute. Floral bouquets for the pulpit can be ordered for February 2023 through to December 2023. Please contact Sandra Bissontz at smp1127@yahoo.com to inquire or place your order. Cost is \$50 and the flowers are yours to take home after the service. If you choose not to take them, they will be given to Veteran's Hospital.

Come Join the Snow Ministry!

UUCB is in search of kind and fit volunteers to assist us with snow removal of our garden walkways and deicing this winter season. We do have a company that assists us with snow removal for the sidewalks and parking lot. However, our garden walkways need to be free of snow for those visiting our church. We have all the materials necessary for the job, we just need your help! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kaylan Ruiz, the office administrator at office@buffalouu.org or call 716-885-2136 ext 4.

Tuesday Morning Coffee Klatch



Reverend Joan hosts a Tuesday Morning Coffee Klatch each week from 10am-11am. Coffee and tea are available at the church. No program, no agenda, just a time to get together with good company.

New Course from Michael Harris for Winter 2023!

Glittering Prizes: a Most Excellent History of Awards; Michael Harris, instructor. Nobels, Pulitzers, Oscars and Tonys and more -- we'll see how they got started and how they've chosen the winners. 14 Zoom meetings: Jan. 11 to April 12, Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$75 for full course, or \$10 per session. Call UUCB Church Office at 716-885-2136 for more information.

Represent OUR Congregation this summer at the General Assembly

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. The dates are June 21 - 25, 2023 online or in-person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Our congregation can send up to 7 delegates. Please consider attending on-line or in person! Pittsburgh is an easy drive from Buffalo! More info from Rev. Joan or check UUA.org

Save the Date!!

20th Anniversary Covenant Group Ministry Pot-Luck

Sunday March 26th 5:00 – 8:00 PM Parish Hall

Just be a member or friend of the church, with a dish to pass, and you're in!

Fellowship and food aren't the only things that will be shared. We will answer all of your questions about Covenant Groups, like: What is a "covenant," anyway? And what on earth is "Deep Listening"?

At dinner you will have the opportunity to meet new people, including the facilitators of each group, and deepen relationships with old church friends. After dinner, we will experience a Covenant group session together. If you find it interesting and want more of the experience, we will gladly find a place for you.

To find out more about this event or Covenant Groups in general, stop by the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall or e-mail us at covenantgroups@buffalouu.org.

Hope to see you then!

Banned Book Club

Beginning January 18, the Banned Book Club will be discussing Alex Gino's YA novel *Melissa*. The group meets the first and third Wednesday of the month, from 7:00 – 8:30, in the Marge Gardiner Room. Other books we plan to discuss include George M. Johnson's *All Boys Aren't Blue*, Angie Thomas' *The Hate You Give* and Art Spiegelman's *Maus*. For more information, contact Jess Pond at jpond@buffalouu.org or Mary Lou Hill and Sharon Walker at uucbbbc@buffalouu.org

Buffalo Collage Club

Ready to play? Member and art educator Julie Carter is hosting the Buffalo Collage Club at our Church! Be ready to use varied materials and play with shapes, textures and colors to create a unique collage each month. Julie will provide guidance and a changing theme. No experience necessary. All you need is a playful attitude and she will direct the activity. Feel free to bring any materials you'd like to use or simply work with what is provided. This class is free of charge.

We are meeting at Church in the Parish Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 7- 8:30 pm. Next class will be on February 8th from 7- 8:30 pm. See you there!

WBFO Promotion

If you think promoting UUCB through spot announcements WBFO was a good idea, here's your chance to put your money where your opinions are. Mark your donations "WBFO Promotion" and all of WBFO's listening audience will hear what this church has to offer, thanks to your generosity.



We are excited to announce the launch of our milestone 5th Anniversary of the Western New York Refugee Film Festival! This season has a bit of everything: from an unlikely friendship between a Syrian Kurdish refugee and former member of the KKK, to a gay refugee from Uganda now living in Canada and grappling with his new-found freedom during the pandemic, to an Afghan filmmaker documenting on his cell phone the flight of his family on foot to Europe, and much more. Please see trailers and bookmark the schedule page here: www.wnyrff.org Our film festival is still virtual and FREE! If you are able to give, donations towards the vital work of Journey's End and to help us cover the costs of the festival are most welcome (suggested donation: \$100).

League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara Journey's End Refugee Services: Movie and Conversation Night



CO-SPONSORED BY
JOURNEY'S END
REFUGEE SERVICES
LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF BUFFALO-NIAGARA

**JOIN US FOR FILM
NIGHT**

WHEN? 6:30 P.M. ON JAN. 30, 2023
WHERE? TRI-MAIN CENTER, 2495 MAIN
ST, BUFFALO, NY 14214

**"I COME FROM AWAY: AN
IMMIGRANT IN MAINE"**

LEARN ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE OF
IMMIGRATION BY PEOPLE WHO ARE
REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

ADMISSION IS FREE BUT REGISTRATION
IS REQUIRED

Register
716-986-4898.
lwvbn@lwvbn.org

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Follow this link to register: <https://forms.gle/8mf5p79SYL2TC93b7>

Women's Society News

"No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in our Town"



Our Women's Society wishes to establish donating to Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) as a year-round activity of our UU Church. Just as there is always a need for food donations 365 days a year, there continues to be a year-round need for bedding and bunk beds for the children of the Greater Buffalo area. Please continue to donate new, twin-size cloth mattress pads, sheet sets, comforters, blankets, and pillows. A corral for your donations has been placed in the foyer at our Garden entrance. Thank you for your continuing support and generosity. The kids and their parents really appreciate your gifts



Family Promise News

Family Promise Update Family Promise is a unique homeless shelter for families, including men and teen boys, who are searching for permanent housing. The Center is located on the SS Columba-Brigid RC church campus, 75 Hickory St. at Clinton. Not only shelter, but connections to supportive services, assistance with apartment deposits, rebuilding confidence and hope mean that in the past year, FP was able to help 45 families, six families at a time with a 97 % success rate. There are many ways to help. For more information on volunteering, contact Jenn our Community Coordinator at: outreach@fpwny.org. Thank you. You will receive much more than you have given.

Buffalo Families Fund

Our community is coming together in powerful ways to help after the mass shooting on Buffalo's east side. We serve over 50 families in the immediate area of the attack and more than 500 families in surrounding areas. Some of our families are afraid to leave their homes or send their children to school.

We know we can help to bring stability with our work we need you to help meet their immediate basic needs and more.

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Here are some ways you can help:

- ★ Gift cards for food, medication, cleaning supplies from Tops, Wegmans, Save-a-lot, Aldi's Instacart or Amazon
- ★ Gift cards for fuel or Lyft or Uber
- ★ Gift cards can be dropped at 844 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY from 9 AM to 4 PM
- ★ Monetary donations to assist with added safety measures for homes can be made to
- ★ Child & Family Services' Buffalo Families Fund at cfsbny.org

With your support we will be here for the families as they try to get through each day and determine what they need to feel safer and more secure. Child & Family Services is here to help anyone who may need extra support during this difficult time.

Please call 716-842-2750 to talk to a counselor.



Donations Sought for Food Not Bombs

Buffalo Food Not Bombs is seeking donations of folding tables, bike carts, and food storage bins- if able to donate any of these, please [reach out to them through their Facebook page](#).



The Food Bank of WNY and Meals on Wheels for Western New York have joined forces to become FeedMore WNY! FeedMore WNY offers dignity, hope and a brighter future by providing nutritious food, friendship and skills training to its Western New

York neighbors in need. [FeedMore WNY](#).

Click on the flyers and links below to read more about other upcoming events in the community



Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst. UUCA is located at 6320 Main Street in Williamsville
[Read about their upcoming events and more in their newsletter](#)



[UUA News & Updates](#)

[UU World Blog](#)

DEADLINES FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE NEWSLETTER

Weekly Announcements

EBlast and Order of Service announcements should be sent to [**announcements@buffalouu.org**](mailto:announcements@buffalouu.org) by NOON on Wednesday.

Please send a 50 word/2-3 line version for the Order of Service.

EBlast and Order of Service Entries may be edited for clarity and space.

EBlast is sent out every Friday.

Monthly Newsletter

Please send any announcements for the newsletter to [**newsletter@buffalouu.org**](mailto:newsletter@buffalouu.org) by the 15th of the month.

Email any UUCB-related photos to [**office@buffalouu.org**](mailto:office@buffalouu.org) to be featured in future eBlasts!