



Harriet Tubman's story to be featured at March 6 service

Michele Jones Galvin will speak about her famous ancestor, Harriet Tubman, at our 3/6 service. Michele is the great, great, great, grandniece of this courageous abolitionist, suffragist, and civil rights advocate, whose life reads like fantastic fiction, but begins with a cruel childhood.

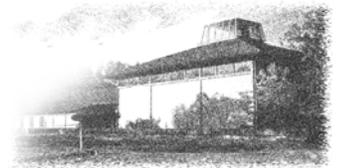
Born a slave in 1822 Maryland, Tubman was beaten by several masters. At six years old, she was told to take care of her master's baby. When the child awoke and cried, she was brutally whipped.

At 27, Tubman escaped to Philadelphia and became known as the Moses of her people. She led family and friends from the South to freedom through the Underground Railroad.

During the Civil War, she served as a cook, a nurse, and a scout/spy for the Union.

After the war, she purchased a home in Auburn, where she cared for her aging ex-slave parents, and lived the rest of her life.

Worship Service, 10:30 a.m. and Religious Education



March 6

Harriet Tubman

Michele Jones Galvin

Our speaker for the seventh in our "Change the World" series is Michele Jones Galvin, the great, great, great grandniece of Harriet Tubman, the famous abolitionist, humanitarian and conductor of the Underground Railroad during the Civil War. Jones Galvin is the co-author with her mother, Joyce Stokes Jones, of "Harriet Tubman, Moses of Her People". She will answer questions during Coffee Hour, and her book will be available for sale.

March 13

Stewardship Sunday

Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey and Stewardship Committee Members

This year's stewardship theme is "It's Up to Us!", and the future of May Memorial is, indeed, up to us. Join us this Sunday as we will share testimonials and the excitement about our upcoming campaign.

And be sure to stay for the "Kick-Off/Cook-Off" and complimentary lunch, immediately following this morning's service.

* *Daylight Savings Time begins – "spring forward"*

March 20

Daily Spiritual Practice

Spiritual Enrichment Group

Please join Spiritual Enrichment Group facilitator Alexa Carter and members of our congregation this Sunday as they share their individual spiritual practices.

* *First Day of Spring!*

March 27

Easter Sunday Service

Matt Meyer

Back by popular demand is UU Drummer Matt Meyer, who will be leading the intergenerational worship service this Easter Sunday.



CareRing News & Notes

Betsy Fuller, MMUUS' "First Lady", died on January 25th. Betsy's health has been failing for more than four years and she has only rarely been seen at church during this time. For newcomers who didn't know her, Betsy was the widow of our former minister **Rev. John Fuller**. Although she and her husband had moved out of state when his ministry at May ended, Betsy returned to Syracuse and May Memorial after he died. Betsy was devoted to young children and continued teaching them in our RE program and in a private school long into her retirement.

Betsy was an active member of the church and community and will be mourned by many. She leaves a sister, two sons, Peter and Christopher, a daughter, Ellen, and five grandchildren. **A memorial service celebrating her life will be held here at 11:00 am on March 26th.**

Nicole Underwood and son **Kingston** suffered the loss of Nicole's mother in January. They traveled out of town to attend her memorial service at the mother's UU church. Nicole reports that the church's members gave them the kind of comfort that we would expect of a UU church. We join them in offering sympathy to Nicole and Kingston.

After losing partial sight in one eye, **George Adams** recently had surgery to remove a benign growth behind the eye. The operation was much simpler and easier for him than he had been told to expect and he was home the same day. However, the operation did not restore his sight; more surgery is planned. Hang in there, George!



I am going to cover a subject this month that makes me a

little squirmy on the inside...money. The stewardship team recently met with the Board of Trustees, and I was impressed with the level of thought and care that they have put into this year's campaign. They have earned my admiration and thanks. I hope that all of their efforts pay off—pun intended.



So what am I doing talking about money if we have a perfectly good stewardship team to do that? Well, I come at the money conversation from a different perspective as the DRE. I am often asked two specific questions about the money side of things here at May. Does anyone else have the song "Money Money Money" running through their heads right now? I'm stalling here because I'm still feeling squirmy about talking money.

Okay, the two questions that I get asked most about money are: 1. *Why don't we charge a registration fee for RE?* And 2. *Why don't families pledge? Or, how can we get families to pledge (more)?*

So for my thoughts on number 1: I have so many thoughts on this one! But they all boil down to my belief that charging a fee for one segment of the congregation to participate in church life goes against our covenant. We covenant "to recognize that youth are an integral part of our community and welcome them in all facets of church life". Placing a financial requirement for participation could exclude some youth if they don't have the funds. And even if we had an exemption for those who had a financial need, there may be some who would prefer to seek out another church rather than ask for a fee waiver. We don't charge piecemeal for other aspects of church life; there isn't a pastoral care fee if you need to call the minister or pew reservation fees on Sunday mornings (*any more!*) We recognize the importance of serving our congregation and welcoming new people regardless of their diversity of income.

But I get it. There is a bottom line. We do need money to run things around here, RE included, and there are limited ways that we raise money. So that's where question 2 comes in. *How do we get families to pledge?* Unfortunately I don't have an easy answer on that one. Being part of a young family, I can share a few things with you about the challenges we face. I'm sure you all recognize that the world of finances isn't friendly to young families nowadays. Just take student loans into consideration. *Here's where I admit to you that I have been out of college for 15 years now and I still have some student loans. I wonder if my student loans will be paid off before my kids go to college?!*

And speaking personally, we also have expenses for housing, transportation, health, food (*so much food!*) for growing kids, clothes (*why are their pants all too short again!?*), piano lessons, sports fees, etc. etc. Everything has a cost. And it's true that unfortunately church often gets bumped down on the list of

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Move over Syracuse Stage! The MMUUS Talent Show is almost here!

We have a terrific show planned for you on **March 20th**, the actual Spring Equinox. So come and help us Bring in the Spring on exactly the right day. The show will be held in the Sanctuary at noon, following the coffee hour. Our performers are extraordinary, and you'll be sure to enjoy their talent. Here's who we've got lined up:

Of course, all of the amazing **Sceiford kids—Clara, Henry, Jasper**—will each play a piano solo. We have more piano, too, but this time from two big guys. Both our celebrated **Dick Weiskopf** and our phenomenal **Fred Fiske** will favor us with their very different styles.

Would you like to have some really good speakers on the program?

Then you came to the right place to hear our expert actor, **John Seavers**, give a reading, and our gifted writer, **Randy Archambault**, express one of her own poems.

How about more music – this time from vocalists? Just sit back and listen to two arias sung by our brilliant operatic soloist, **Linda Wolowitz**.

And, of course, you'll love a mother-daughter duet by our very creative **Larissa and Skylar Brenner**. And now, for something different – two dances by our newly famous **Barbara Kamerance**.

Who knew? She does everything from social justice to care of the environment. And now, it turns out she's artistic, too! Naturally, we can't end without applauding our masterly Master of Ceremonies, **Ken Pease**.

So, move over, Syracuse Stage because May Memorial is the one that's Bringing in the Spring. And, by the way, the Fuccillo boys told me this show is "Huge!"

~ Lynne Perry, Chair,
Music & Arts Committee

Greeting and Salutations Beloved Community!

It's nearly March 1st and I'm already thinking about planting a vegetable garden at my home near Cazenovia. I'm thrilled to put this winter behind me, and to start digging and planting—and even possibly building a tree house!

I feel as if we (May Memorial) are coming out of the wilderness—with the prospect of a new minister on the horizon, and a big fundraiser (Arts on Genesee) shaping up for June 18th and 19th. Like most of us, I'm tired of wandering in the wilderness—I want a minister! But then there is the fact that we learn our greatest lessons while journeying through the wilderness. I've learned that it can be really fun and even important to explore uncharted territory. Being without a minister has been scary at times—not knowing what is around the next corner. I take one issue at a time and do my best to meet the myriad of needs. But we don't learn or grow if we stay in the same place, so at times, we need to be open to new experiences and to have trust in where life takes us, rather than trying to force ourselves along a predetermined course.

Wandering in the wilderness has provided several lessons, primarily that we don't always have complete control over our lives. Sometimes practicing acceptance, instead of fighting against obstacles, teaches us what we actually can affect.

As Jon Kabat-Zinn said in his book *"Full Catastrophe Living"*:

"...acceptance does not mean that we have to like everything or that we have to take a passive attitude toward everything and abandon our principles and values. It does not mean that [we] are satisfied with things as they are or that we are resigned to tolerating things as they 'have to be.' It does not mean that we have to...give up on our desire to change and grow. Acceptance...simply means that we have come around to a willingness to see things as they actually are."

In practicing acceptance, and not expecting the world to revolve around us, we can discover the ways we can make a difference, and better invest our energy in accomplishing our goals.

See you on Sunday!

~ Mariah Ducey, President,
MMUUS Board of Trustees

2016 Stewardship Campaign

It's up to us to meet the matching fund challenge

Greetings from the Stewardship Committee — that's me, **Fred Fiske**, along with **Jane Fagerland and Stephanie Cross**. March is Canvass Month, and my co-chairs and I are offering a powerful incentive for giving: a matching fund challenge.

Thanks to strategic commitments from several members of the congregation, a special fund will double pledge increases of \$20 a month or more. Think about it: An additional \$240 a year will generate \$480. (And yes, \$500 would generate \$1K...)

Last summer, we were able to make up \$9000 of the budget deficit because two generous members of the congregation volunteered to match pledge increases. We were encouraged by the strong response, and want to build on that success this year. Remember: MMUUS gets the money if there are pledge increases of at least \$20 a month.

Consider this: More than half the members of our congregation are pledging at the low end of the official UUA guidelines for a "supporter" (\$1,600 a year or below). If even half of those enriched their pledges by \$240 next year, their combined increase of \$10K would allow May Memorial to harvest \$20K.

Times are tight for some of us, I know. Special thanks to those who made this stewardship challenge possible. Please consider meeting or passing the threshold of a \$20 a month increase in your pledge. Look at it this way: For the cost of a decent bottle of wine, a haircut, a fast-food meal for two, you can help sustain your church—and double your money!

~ Fred Fiske,
MMUUS Stewardship Committee



Rev. John Fuller

Reverend John Channing Fuller was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1921 and graduated from Williams College in 1943. He served in the United States Navy during World War II and graduated from Meadville Theological School in 1949. He became minister of the Unitarian Church in New London, Connecticut in 1951, and was minister of the Unitarian Church in Orlando, Florida in 1953. He became the ninth settled minister of May Memorial in 1961 and left a legacy of deep, meaningful sermons. He left us to become minister of the Unitarian Church in Scituate, Massachusetts in 1973 and died there in 1974. His widow, **Betsy Fuller**, just recently died on January 25, 2016.

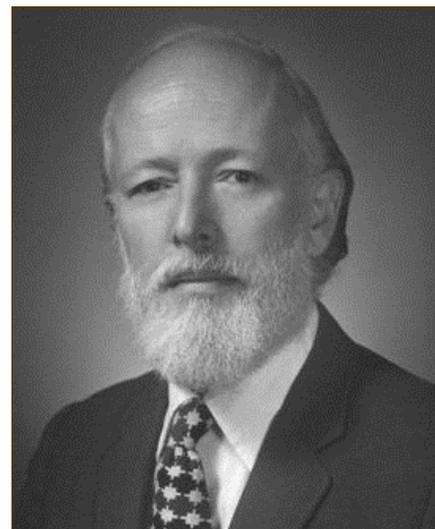
Rev. Fuller's sermons were one his legacies to us. First, let us consider his sermon, *"Why I Am a Unitarian."* His three reasons can be summarized as: (1) intellectual freedom; (2) emotional tolerance; and (3) a demand for dignity. Of course, it helped his credibility that one of the founders of Unitarianism, William Ellery Channing, was his grandfather's great-uncle. It also supported his perspective that he practiced what he preached with regards to the last point by personally marching from Selma to Montgomery during the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s.

Second, let us review his sermon, *"The Religion We Built It For."* This was how he commemorated the dedication of our church building at 3800 East Genesee Street. He pointed out that one of the significant components of this church was that it was not necessary, but rather it was desired. We were not desperate for a home, rather aspiring to be a better version of ourselves. He wrapped up that, *"A free people must create or die."*

Finally, let us remember his sermon, *"The Good Doctors: Calthrop, Applebee, and Argow."* It is with this sermon that Rev. Fuller truly realized his place within the history of MMUUS. He recounted the work of our 3rd, 4th, and 5th ministers with reverence for their astounding contributions. He seemed dwarfed by their productivity and prominence, yet I would argue Rev. Fuller fell in line with their greatness.

~ Jay Brenner,
Chair, History Committee

Please note: *Members of the History Committee will be contacting select MMUUS members to conduct oral history interviews in the coming months. We appreciate your participation as you are willing and able.*



"A free people must create or die."

~ **Rev. John Fuller**, from
'The Religion We Built It For'



Geothermal Energy Facts, Figures, and Good Fortune

Word has spread about the geothermal system used to heat, air condition, and heat the water for our home, as more and more people in our congregation ask me about geothermal energy as a top renewable. Geothermal energy has been given short shrift compared to solar energy, and this wonderful renewable needs to be in the forefront of consideration as an alternative to using fossil fuels.

Many mammals and some amphibians hibernate underground for warmth in the winter as well as going underground to escape summer heat. Based on this premise, the almost constant temperature of the earth that is between 50-55 degrees Fahrenheit provides energy that is converted into heated or cooled air by a geothermal heat pump. The source of the geothermal energy is collected by underground or underwater coils or loops. The coils contain liquid that is similar in content to anti-freeze. These coils are put into the ground at depths of between 10-25 feet for residential installation. The coils are guaranteed for 50 years. Geothermal heat pumps can be used everywhere in the world, and there is the good fortune that this part of New York State in which we live is the most conducive area in the state for geothermal energy.

To supply heat, the system pulls heat from the Earth, concentrates it, and distributes it through a forced air ducting system. To provide air conditioning, the process is reversed. The heat energy can also be used to heat water, and the water temperature can be set to suit your needs. Geothermal heat pumps can reduce your electricity usage 30%-60% compared to traditional heating and cooling systems because the electricity which powers the system is only used to collect, concentrate, and deliver heat, not to produce it.

There are five ways to install geothermal coils or loops on your property. For those building a home, the coils are typically put underneath the foundation before the foundation is put in. For those with a small yard or lot, the coils are stacked vertically. If one has the fortune of having an acre or more, horizontal installation of the coils or loops is done. Another installation is to run the coils parallel to one or more water wells. Lastly, if one has a pond on the property, the coils can be installed underneath the pond.

The amount of coils needed for a home is dependent on the size of your home, and this is the basis for your costs. If your home already has ducting, your costs are less than those having to have air ducts installed (*which we had to do*). Typically, geothermal systems cost 1/3 to 1/2 less compared to solar panels providing electricity for heating, cooling and water heating. Living in New York State means that the NYSERDA rebates covering geothermal installation take 30% directly off the cost. Your installer typically does all of the paperwork to apply for the NYSERDA rebates. In addition, the Residential

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("GoinGreen" continued)

Energy Credit for federal income tax takes additional money directly off of your income taxes, as this credit has just been extended for five years.

From personal experience, our system paid for itself within five years of installation, relative to what we were paying for propane. This coincides with what we were advised; if you are going to live in your home for at least five years, geothermal energy is the way to go. We have had HVAC specialists who asked to examine our system. They were either not familiar with geothermal systems or had negative thinking on renewable energy systems. In all the cases, they were very impressed with the system, especially in view of so-called energy efficient furnaces. Even with these furnaces, one still has fuel costs, and there is no furnace that is guaranteed for 50 years.

Our geothermal system has far exceeded our expectations. It is clean, efficient, and was definitely worth the cost. While many people have their thermostats set at between 60-68 degrees, we can set ours at a comfortable 72 degrees, with plenty of hot water and the cooling and dehumidification during the summer. I would recommend geothermal energy to everyone in reducing the carbon footprint and eliminating fossil fuel usage.

~ Barbara Kamerance,
Co-Chair, Green & Social Justice
Committee

A few words from Judy Antoine

The following is MMUUS member **Judy Antoine's**



account of this year's World Interfaith Harmony Event:

"On February 8th, I had the opportunity to participate in the 6th World Interfaith Harmony Event (sponsored by InterFaith Works and Women Transcending Boundaries) which was held at the Mosque of Jesus, son of Mary (Masjid Isa Ibn Maryam - Masjid Isa). This event is held every year around the world. There, more than 500 hundreds of us sitting on the beautiful carpet or some random chairs came to share our faith and learn with each other. We started with the Adhan, which is the Call for Prayer in the Islam Faith. The words and song rang deeply in this newly converted mosque where prayers have been shared with others of a different faith for over 100 years. As I looked around, I saw people of many different cultures, all gathered together. There were no divisions or boundaries. We had Muslims, Mormons, Sikhs, Jews, Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, and religions that I never knew existed, no less in Syracuse. Each came forward with a truth from their faith. At the end of the evening, one could hear the same message repeated: love thy neighbor as yourself.

There was a small group of us from MMUUS who attended the event this year. Hopefully in 2017, more of us can attend and participate. What do we want the city of Syracuse to know about us? And when the faith leaders gather to light a candle to open this gathering, I hope that we will have a UU leader there to announce our presence in this community. Let us be proud of who we are and share it with the world."



MUSIC AND THE ARTS

March 2016 Gallery Artist: Juanita Finn

Juanita Finn moved from Chicago to Syracuse in 1971 and was active in community and education affairs until 1978, when her young family relocated to Remsen, New York, where she currently lives and works.

Finn was instrumental in leading others to organize the Remsen Barn Festival of the Arts, a celebrated annual event that attracts thousands each year.

For the past few years, her *"Walking the Earth"* series has explored the expressionistic backgrounds that provided context for the larger figurative canvases for which Finn is primarily known. Many of the titles reference favorite lines from poetry by Native American writers.

Finn also paints exterior barn quilts and house paintings on boards. Echoing the barn quilts, her small *"accent"* paintings of traditional quilt patterns called Humility Squares.

Finn studied at Eastern Illinois University and the Art Institute of Chicago. In addition to being an award-winning painter, she is the author of *"Just One Tiny Baby: The Nativity as a Celebration of the Promise Born in Every Child"*.

Finn's work will be on display in May Memorial's Social Hall, beginning Sunday, February 28th until late March.



The Colgate Chamber Singers will be performing **at May Memorial at 7:30 pm on Friday, April 8th**. Attendees will be treated to a concert of sacred and secular a cappella music, which will include the music of Barber, Bruckner, Hogan, Palestrina, and others. This concert is free to the public.

Calendar *(continued from page 8)*

Monday, March 21st 6:30 pm	Spiritual Enrichment Group	Memorial Room
Tuesday, March 22nd 5:30 pm	Twisted Sisters	Memorial Room
Thursday, March 24th 1:30 pm 6:00 pm 7:30 pm	Bookenders Spiritual Enrichment Group Choir Rehearsal	Memorial Room Memorial Room Sanctuary
Saturday, March 26th 11:00 am	Betsy Fuller's Memorial Service and Reception	MMUUS
Sunday, March 27th 10:30 am 10:30 am 12:15 pm	*Happy Easter! Worship Service Teenz Spanophiles	Sanctuary First UU COA
Monday, March 28th 4:00 pm	Spiritual Enrichment Group	Memorial Room
Wednesday, March 30th 2:00 pm—4:00 pm	Compassion & Choices Meeting	MMUUS
Thursday, March 31st 7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Notes from R.E. *(continued from page 2)*

priorities—even though it has great value to us. I have a feeling many other young families are in a similar situation.

While one could look at the numbers on paper and see that there is this large segment of the congregation benefiting from our programs while not pulling their weight in pledges, I think we need to look at the picture in full color instead of just black and white. Those families are the future of the church—having so many young people speaks to the health and growth of our congregation! But they need a bit more support right now in the stage of life that they are in. We need to hold a space for them so that they feel welcome to participate fully and not stress so much about the giving. And hopefully when those student loans are finally paid off, and the kids are no longer scarfing down every morsel of food in sight, May Memorial will be bumped up that list of priorities for financial giving. Think of families as a long term investment.

That said, pledges are how the church makes its budget, much like how we families make our budgets at home based on our salaries. So, dear RE families, I know there are a gazillion expenses in your life right now, but it really is important for the church to have your support. If you haven't pledged before, please fill out a pledge form this year. Even if it's only the small fee you might pay if we had an RE registration fee, every little bit adds up and means that there will be fewer difficult budgetary choices to make. If you are a regular pledge giver, thank you for your support! Give joyfully what you can. We sustain the church together.

In Peace,
Stacy Sceiford, DRE

Community News

Compassion and Choices To Hold Meeting March 30

The Green and Social Justice Committee is sponsoring an informational meeting on **March 30th** about health care for those who are nearing the ends of their lives.

Compassion and Choices New York, a non-profit agency whose mission is to improve end-of-life care, will present Expanding Options: Allowing for Medical Aid to the Dying in New York State.

Corrine Carey, New York campaign director, will be the speaker; and a discussion will follow her presentation. There will be light refreshments at the end of the meeting, which **will be held from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at May Memorial.**

For more information, go to <http://www.compassionatecareny.org/organizational> or <http://compassionandchoices.org>.

You are invited to May Memorial UU Drum Circle

**April 10th/May 15th
12:00 pm / \$10/session**

What is a drum circle? There are many styles of drum circle facilitation. Sandra Sabene, from the Liverpool Art Center, offers a relaxing rhythmic interaction which offers drummers opportunities to express, explore and play with percussion. All levels are invited and beginners are warmly welcomed. Sandra offers a quick hand drum lesson in the beginning and then we all enjoy riding the waves of soothing rhythms and up-beat releases. Bring your own drum or reserve one.

Please RSVP to **Carroll Grant** at 882-4910 or cgrant6@twcnj.rr.com.

May Memorial is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Glenn Kime
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Phone ♦ 315.729.3734

Stacy Sceiford
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Email: dre@mmuus.org

Mariah Ducey
SOCIETY PRESIDENT
Email: president@mmuus.org

Brian R. Betz
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Phone ♦ 315.446.8920
Email: office@mmuus.org
Fax ♦ 315.446.4605
Office Hours: 9-5 Monday–Friday

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS
Email:
newsletter@mmuus.org

MMUUSletter is a publication of events and information at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society. To be included on our mailing list, please contact our office at 315.446.8920 or office@maymemorial.com.

The deadline for the first of the month newsletters is the 15th of the preceding month. The deadline for mid-month newsletters is the 5th of the month. Articles received after the deadline will be included in the next newsletter. To submit an article, please email it to newsletter@mmuus.org.

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society
3800 East Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY 13214

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TIME VALUE

Calendar

** Tai Chi Chih classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Social Hall at 3:00 pm **

Wednesday, March 2nd

3:00 pm Spiritual Enrichment Group Memorial Room

Thursday, March 3rd

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

Friday, March 4th

8:00 pm Folkus Concert: Vance Gilbert MMUUS

Saturday, March 5th - Sunday, March 6th

4:00 pm OWL Overnight MMUUS

Sunday, March 6th

10:30 am Worship Service Sanctuary
10:30 am Teenz First UU
1:00 pm Great Decisions Session I Memorial Room
7:00 pm Great Decisions Session II Memorial Room

Monday, March 7th

6:30 pm Spiritual Enrichment Group Memorial Room

Thursday, March 10th

6:00 pm Spiritual Enrichment Group Memorial Room
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

Sunday, March 13th

10:30 am Worship Service Sanctuary
10:30 am Teenz First UU
12:00 pm "Kick-Off/Cook-Off" Luncheon Social Hall
12:15 pm Spanophiles COA

Monday, March 14th

4:00 pm Spiritual Enrichment Group Memorial Room

Wednesday, March 16th

3:00 pm Spiritual Enrichment Group Memorial Room
5:30 pm Arts on Genesee Meeting Memorial Room
6:30 pm Men's Fellowship Discussion/Potluck Social Hall

Thursday, March 17th

7:30 pm ***Happy St. Patrick's Day!*** Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

Friday, March 18th

8:00 pm Folkus Concert: Magpie MMUUS

Sunday, March 20th

10:30 am ***First Day of Spring!*** Worship Service Sanctuary
10:30 am Teenz First UU
12:00 pm MMUUS Talent Show Sanctuary
12:15 pm Spanophiles COA
1:00 pm Great Decisions Session I Memorial Room
7:00 pm Great Decisions Session II Memorial Room

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