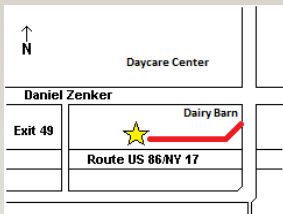


Welcome to the
Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Big Flats.

We are an intentionally
inclusive congregation,
welcoming all!

UU of Big Flats, NY
48 Hibbard Road Extension
Big Flats, NY 14814
<http://www.bigflatsuu.org/index.php>



UUFBF Chairs

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Jackie Wilson

Vice President
Rou Telford

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Jeni Paquette

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Sonia Vikin

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Programs
The Board!

Religious Education (RE) Chairs:
Carolyn Scapelliti
Janice Fitzpatrick

Newsletter
Chris Telford

Pianist
Barb Bonvelli

Historian
Jen Spicer



Formal Services are held
September through mid-June
Sunday mornings
10:30-11:30
with a casual coffee hour
following.

Informal Summer Services
are held mid-June through
the beginning of September.

No matter what time
of year...
Please join us!

January 2016 Uni-Verse



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Big Flats, NY



Service Schedule

January 3: *Storytelling with Stories of Hope, Kindness and Humanity* ~ with *Regi Carpenter* - *Regi* is an award-winning solo performance artist, short story writer and performance coach. She will share her TEDTalk, which includes stories that were presented at this year's Chemung River TEDx event held at the Corning Museum of Glass on Nov 7, 2015. ~ *Service Leader:* Jackie Wilson, UUFBF Pres.

January 10: *Unitarian Universalism and the Buddha. How are They Related?* ~ with member *Gage Smith* ~ *Service Leader:* Daryl Gardner

January 17: *James Baldwin's Precarious Love* ~ with member *Corey McCall* ~ In a talk entitled "In Search of a Majority" published in 1961, James Baldwin characterizes love in the following way: "Love does not begin and end the way we seem to think it does. Love is a battle, love is a war, love is growing up. No one in the world--in the entire world-- knows Americans better, or odd as this may sound, loves them more, than the American Negro." This Sunday, we will explore the legacy of African-American intellectual, novelist, and essayist James Baldwin and the American Civil Rights movement through this conception of love and see whether it still resonates with us today. ~ *Service Leader:* Corey McCall

January 24: *Islamaphobia 101* ~ with *Joel Stoker* ~ Joe is a professor of Philosophy and Religion at Elmira College. Islamophobia impacts more than just religious diversity and pluralism, but can be felt in the ways that people respond to contemporary issues like the Syrian humanitarian and refugee crises, Virginia high school students being asked to write the Shahadah, and the political rhetoric over the Islamic presence and influence in American and the west. Ultimately, this dynamic illustrates the constant battle religious minorities face and how fear-based beliefs and policies lead towards further oppression, segregation, and even greater atrocities. ~ *Service Leader:* Corey McCall

January 31: *The Platinum Rule* ~ with *Rev. Darcey Laine* ~ The Golden Rule reminds us to "Do Unto Others As you Would Have Them Do Unto You." But what if you and I don't want the same thing? How do we navigate the differences we encounter when the Golden Rule is not enough?

THE REVISIONARIES



Meaningful Movies - January 13, 2016
7 PM Beecher Hall, The Park Church
208 West Gray St., Elmira, NY 14901
Church phone: 733-9104

The Revisionaries – about ideology and public education’s textbooks

The Revisionaries showcases how public education has become the latest battleground in a new wave of cultural, religious and ideological clashes, with local Texas education board members advancing agendas of Creationism and other religious issues in public schools. This documentary highlights how their tactics have had the effect of rewriting key tenets of U.S. democracy and are affecting educational policies at the national level - for generations to come.

Rating: Unrated
Genre: Documentary, Special Interest
Directed By: Scott Thurman, Thurman Scott
Written By: Scott Thurman, Thurman Scott, Jawad Metni
Runtime: 1 hr. 33 min.



A Message from our Treasurer, Sonia...

Update on the 1st Sunday Special Collection:

Every year our Fellowship donates from 1st Sunday Special Collection of the month to 3 local charities. Money is equally divided; **50% to the designated charity** and 50% to fellowship's miscellaneous income account.

Months of Oct/Nov/Dec - designated to Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes. A check for \$83.00 sent to the PPSFL's office in Ithaca, NY.

Beginning in Jan, and including Feb & March: 50% of the collections are designated to – [Friends of the Chemung River Watershed](#)

“We are a not-for-profit corporation formed in December 2009 to preserve and promote the 45-mile-long Chemung River and its tributaries -- the Canisteo, Cohocton, Cowanesque and Tioga rivers.

“River Friends is a non-government organization that partners with municipalities to protect these waterways and use them to improve the quality of life, economy and natural environment of our communities.

“River Friends is an outgrowth of the former Chemung River Council that formed in 2007 to devise a master plan for development and use of our rivers and to encourage the public to better use and respect our waterways.

“We accomplished a lot in our first four years. We built picnic pavilions at five boat launches in Chemung and Steuben counties, installed a solar-power river weather station in Elmira, helped build a safe paddlers' passageway around a Chemung River dam in Elmira, built an emergency boat launch in West Elmira, developed a riverside community garden, removed more than 12 tons of trash from in and along the rivers, taught river ecology and river safety classes to hundreds of children and donated river rescue equipment to fire departments.”

~ Jim Pfiffer, Director of the Friends of the Chemung River Watershed, Inc.

Thank you ~ *Sonia Gilabert-Vikin*

Second Place East

Donation Reminder

January: Bath towel & washcloth

February: Pillow

Donations can be placed in the box at the front entrance of the Fellowship.

Here are a few stats from our work at *The Help for The Home Shop*, gathered when I last worked there on Dec. 17, 2015.

The Shop will be open Christmas eve day, and New Years eve day, 1:30 to 3:00 as usual, so end of the year figures may be higher.

During 2015, we have assisted 174 people, 94 adults and 80 children.

The total number of referrals, individuals or families referred, was 110.

Referrals came from 13 different agencies, including the homeless shelter, a domestic violence shelter, a program from the Bath VA, the newly-opened Grace House, and four churches.

At Christmas, gift cards will be provided to residents of the homeless shelter in Elmira, and residents of Grace House. While not high in cash value, the gift cards enable people to choose some item as a gift for themselves.

Our Fellowship has helped to keep the shelves stocked at The Shop, where basic supplies for the home are provided free of charge to people who are referred there. We have provided dish soap, shaving cream, pails, deodorant, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, spoons and spatulas, just in the past few months.

Our thanks to everyone who has helped keep the shop stocked and helping!

On behalf of Second Place East, Inc. and the Help for the Home Shop, *Thank you!* ~ *Marcia Allen*

Community Events and Happenings

Corning Winter Farmer's Mkt: 1st & 3rd Sat of the month thru March, Info Center by Centerway Square

Jan 18, Mon: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Jan 21, Thur, 6-8: 2300°, CMOG

Jan 22-23, Fri-Sat, Wine on Ice, Elmira

Who Stole Christmas? T'was the Unitarians

by Julie Brock, Ministerial Intern

A portion from the online article: "... Knowing that children were the key to keeping families indoors, the Unitarian-led culture began to focus on goodness and giving as a key element to the season. Charles Dickens, another Unitarian, wrote what might be considered the new Christmas gospel when he composed "A Christmas Carol," denouncing Scrooges everywhere. Children were encouraged to be "nice" in exchange for presents. Families who couldn't afford lush presents were made gifts by wealthy, often Unitarian families, and the children were told simply that Santa brought them."



~ For the whole article, visit <http://www.fusmadison.net/who-really-stole-christmas-twas-the-unitarians/>



Fellowship Hosting Schedule

Hosting is a service we provide one another. If you are unable to host on the day that you've been assigned, please make arrangements for someone else to take your place.

Date	Hosts
Jan 3	Maloney/Halm, Martin/Glenn
Jan 10	Vikin, Scopelliti
Jan 17	Paquette, Fitzpatrick
Jan 24	Potter, Wosinski
Jan 31	Allen, Telford, Wilson
Feb 7	McCall, Brenner, Spicer
Feb 14	Maloney/Halm, Martin/Glenn
Feb 21	Vikin, Scopelliti



CRAFT-N-CHAT

Bring your fave hobby or craft and enjoy some coffee and company, away from the hustle and bustle!

Wed 1/13, 11-2 @ the UUFBF

Want to include something in future newsletters?

Easy!

Email Chris (by the 15th of the month before) at ceemarie1971@twc.net



Join our Facebook Page!

Search for "Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Big Flats" and click 'LIKE'