

April 11
“WOULD YOU BELIEVE?”
The Rev. Ruppert Lovely
Easter Sunday!

I will begin my remarks for this Easter service with the usual (for Unitarian Universalists) caveat concerning literalism. Then I will explore with you what I have found to be of power and truth found in this “resurrection” narrative.
— The Rev. Ruppert Lovely

April 18
“GOLFING WITH MONKEYS”
The Rev. Scott Alexander
River Road Unitarian Church,
Bethesda, Maryland

Unless you know the story of the monkeys of Calcutta, India, this sermon title will make no sense to you. I’m not going to give away the point of this wonderful story (you’ll have to be with us to hear that), but it does have to do with how you and I can successfully adapt to unpredictable and unwanted events in our lives, and thereby find our way to greater joy, contentment, and purpose.
— The Rev. Scott Alexander

Scott Alexander has been the senior minister of the River Road Unitarian Church in Bethesda, MD since 1998. In 1988 he joined the staff of the Church of the Larger Fellowship, a “church without walls” for almost 3,000 isolated Unitarian Universalists around the world. In 1989 he was also appointed director of the UUA’s Office of Lesbian and Gay Concerns.

April 25
“UNTO THE SEVENTH GENERATION”
The Rev. Nina Grey
First Unitarian Church,
Chicago, Illinois

We are used to thinking of material things, including the earth, as possessions, as either yours or mine or someone else’s. Land which doesn’t “belong” to a specified person usually “belongs” to the town, the city, the county, state or federal government. Chief Seattle, however, said that “the earth does not belong to us. We belong to the earth.” This is a different paradigm, suggesting that we don’t own the elements of life, rather they are on loan to us. This Sunday, a few days after Earth Day, we will reflect on our relationship to the “earth” and what that relationship means.
— The Rev. Nina Grey

Nina Grey is the senior minister of First Unitarian Church in Chicago, and is actively involved in its Social Justice Council, supporting criminal justice work and anti-racism. She has played an active role in emergency housing and interfaith work.

May 2
“CONFESSION OF SIN;
ASSURANCE OF PARDON”
The Rev. John Tolley
Meadville Lombard
Theological School

These old words from protestant liturgy are not much used in Unitarian Universalist circles any more. And yet the humility inherent in the act of confession can lead us to wisdom when it comes to living authentically in our new world order characterized by religious strife and terrorism. How do we step into our world with integrity? We will explore some answers.

— The Rev. John Tolley

John W. Tolley is currently Dean of Students, Associate Dean for the Modified Residency Program, and Assistant Professor of Arts in Ministry at Meadville Lombard Theological School, our Unitarian Universalist graduate program affiliated with the University of Chicago.

May 9
“A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST HERSTORY”
Mark Ward

When the story of liberal religion is told it usually has a rather one-sided feeling to it: its figures are nearly all men. On this Mother’s Day, a celebration begun at the urging of one prominent Unitarian woman, we will make an attempt to correct the record.

— Mark Ward

May 16
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUNDAY
Intergenerational Sunday

May 23
“LOVE’S INSISTENT POWER”
The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt
Fourth Universalist Society,
New York, New York

The historic message of Universalism is one of endless love, but all too many people envision love as “sentimental and anemic,” in Martin Luther King’s cautionary words. I will preach on the possibilities inherent in a power-filled Universalist love.

— The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt

The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt is minister of the Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York, a 165-year old Unitarian Universalist congregation on the upper west side of Manhattan. The Rev. Ms. McNatt is a former editor of the *New York Times Book Review* and is the author of three books, including her memoir, *Unafraid of the Dark*. She is also the author of the UUA pamphlet, “The Faith of a Theist: There Must be a God Somewhere.”

May 30
“YOUNG MINDS AND BODIES SERVING”
(A Memorial Day Reflection)
The Rev. Ruppert Lovely

It has been my custom to observe Memorial Day since very early in my ministry. My approach to this holiday tends to be reflective rather than declarative. I will reflect on the cost of mortal combat and the promise that paradoxically can be the cause of conflict, and the hope of it ending all future conflict.
— The Rev. Ruppert Lovely

June 6
FLOWER COMMUNION SUNDAY
Drew returns home from his sabbatical!

LEADERS IN LIBERAL RELIGIOUS THOUGHT

A SPECIAL SATURDAY SERIES

February 28 Forrest Church
A special lecture

April 17 Scott Alexander
A spirituality workshop

May 22 Rosemary Bray McNatt
A writing workshop

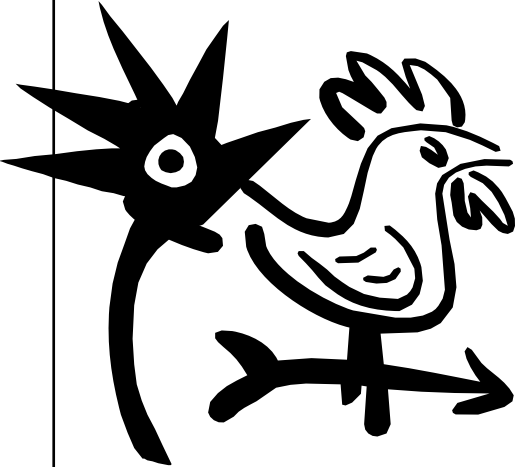
THE SABBATICAL COMMITTEE:

Joy B., Chair,
Jean J., Drew Kennedy,
Pat M., Kate M.,
Anne N., Miriam R.,
Melinda V.

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee

First Unitarian Society of
Milwaukee

SERMON SCHEDULE



January—May, 2004

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www.uumilwaukee.org

A Unitarian Universalist
Congregation

SABBATICAL SUNDAYS — SUNDAY SERMON SCHEDULE

The Sabbatical Committee is pleased to present the Sermon Schedule for January 11 through May 30, the time when our minister, Drew Kennedy, will be on sabbatical. Our guest ministers represent a dynamic diversity of Unitarian Universalist thought, and will offer us an opportunity to expand our horizons, introduce new thoughts, and keep our spirits soaring!

January 11
“FIRST THINGS FIRST”
Mark Ward



Mark Ward

This sabbatical period at First Church comes at an auspicious time in the history of our association, a time when the Unitarian Universalist Association president is challenging us to elaborate a “vocabulary of reverence” and its Commission on Appraisal is working to articulate the core beliefs of our movement, our “first things.” The start of a new year seems like a good time to reflect on what our “first things” as Unitarian Universalists might be and what they call us to do.

— Mark Ward

Mark Ward is a third year student at Meadville Lombard Theological School. For 25 years his career in journalism has included editorial and science writing for the *Milwaukee Journal* and the *Journal Sentinel*.

Mark will be with us once a month during Drew’s sabbatical.

January 18
“BY WHAT AUTHORITY?”
The Rev. Ruppert Lovely
(Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday)



The Rev. Ruppert Lovely

This sermon is in part a tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. and also a reflection on our continuing efforts to realize his and our dream of “one” America with freedom and equality for all its people.

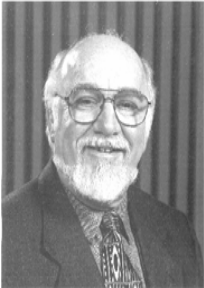
— The Rev. Ruppert Lovely

The Rev. Ruppert Lovely recently completed 35 years of service to the Countryside Unitarian Universalist Church in Palatine, IL. He then immediately left for a two year interim ministry at The First Unitarian Church of St. Louis. He plans to retire in Milwaukee. He currently serves on the executive committee of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association of the U.S.

Ruppert will be with us once a month during Drew’s sabbatical.

January 25
“THE UNCOMMON DENOMINATION”

The Rev. Dave Weissbard
Unitarian Universalist Church,
Rockford, Illinois



The Rev. Dave Weissbard

Some Unitarian Universalist leaders speak of ours becoming a mega-church. Others point out that some of the things we say and do mitigate against growth. Can we have our cake and eat it too? The Unitarian Universalist Association developed an ad campaign based on our being “The Uncommon Denomination.” What are the implications of living our principles?

— The Rev. Dave Weissbard

Dave Weissbard is senior minister of the Rockford, IL, Unitarian Universalist Church. In Rockford since 1980, he has been the producer of FUSION, a weekly half-hour television program, for 22 years. He is president of the Northern Illinois Chapter of the ACLU, and has been active within the UUA, nationally and in the Central Midwest District.

February 1
“HAD I NOT BELIEVED IT, I NEVER WOULD HAVE SEEN IT!”

The Rev. Victoria Safford
White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church, St. Paul, Minnesota



The Rev. Victoria Safford

How do we come to know what we know? Why do we believe things we believe? A meditation on knowledge and wisdom and faith for Unitarian Universalists.

— The Rev. Victoria Safford

Victoria Safford is minister of White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church near St. Paul, MN. She is the winner of numerous sermon awards, and a collection of her meditations will be published this year by Skinner House.

February 8
“WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS”
Mark Ward

Forty years have passed since the evening of February 9, 1964 when Ed Sullivan introduced The Beatles to America, an event that transformed the musical culture of this country and many of us as well. Today’s reflections gather around the odyssey that their music carried us on and how it could still inform our theological thinking.

— Mark Ward

February 15
“THE BONDS OF LOVE...”
The Rev. Ruppert Lovely

I will avail myself of the Valentine’s Day theme of professing affectional love to explore a religious or spiritual meaning of love. They do differ albeit not, happily, necessarily to the exclusion of one another.

— The Rev. Ruppert Lovely

February 22
“LIVING THE JOURNEY”
Mark Ward

People of good will hoping to reach out across the many divisions of race and culture in our lives often find themselves tongue-tied and confused. Yet, few tasks are more important to the future of us all. For today, some thoughts about where we might begin this journey.

— Mark Ward

February 29
“WITNESSING”
The Rev. Forrest Church,
All Souls Unitarian Church,
New York City

Evangelical Christians know what they’re doing when they witness to their faith. Do we?

— The Rev. Forrest Church

Forrest Church is currently serving his twenty-fifth year as senior minister of All Souls Unitarian Church in Manhattan, and is one of the key voices for liberal religious thought in the country. He is the author or editor of 20 books, including *Restoring Faith: America’s Religious Leaders Answer Terror with Hope*.



The Rev. Dr. Forrest Church

March 7
“A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST VIEW OF JESUS”
The Rev. Roger Bertschhausen,
Fox Valley Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship

The questions I will consider in this sermon are: Who was Jesus? What does he mean to me in my spiritual journey? Do I find more meaning in the historical or the mythological Jesus?

— The Rev. Roger Bertschhausen

Roger Bertschhausen has been the minister of the Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Appleton since 1990.



The Rev. Roger Bertschhausen

During this time, the membership has quadrupled and the fellowship has moved into a new building. Currently he chairs Toward Community: Unity in Diversity, a regional organization he helped found ten years ago.

March 14
“SO MUCH MORE”
The Rev. Terry Sweetser
Senior Advisor
to UUA President Bill Sinkford



The Rev. Terry Sweetser

We often say, “Things aren’t what they seem,” and conclude the sentence with “they are so much less.” The teachings of both our Unitarian and Universalist forebears are exactly the opposite. In fact, to live the lives we wish we could, our faith challenges us to find fullness in the wonder of life. To celebrate your wonderful congregation: a service that urges us to imagine that things aren’t just what they seem, they are so much more!

— The Rev. Terry Sweetser

Terry Sweetser is a fifth generation Universalist, and has been a parish minister for 30 years. The Rev. Sweetser is currently Senior Adviser to UUA President Bill Sinkford, planning for the financial development of the denomination.

March 21
“TERRORISM: THE HIDDEN DANGER”
The Rev. Ruppert Lovely

There is much discourse in these times about terrorism and its threat to the established order. I will explore the external threat of terrorism and address as well the internal response to terrorism and how it might affect our liberty.

— The Rev. Ruppert Lovely

March 28
“THE FORCE THAT THROUGH THE GREEN FUSE DRIVES THE FLOWER”
Mark Ward

The world’s awakening with the first shoots of spring is a reminder of a vitality interwoven in the world that is available to us all.

— Mark Ward

April 4
YOUTH SERVICE
Presented by our High School Youth

Join us for a dynamic and fresh expression of what some of the finest young minds and hearts of today are thinking and feeling.