

JANUARY 24, 1829

About five weeks hence in digging under the cellar of the Universalist church now building in this village (Utica) a spring of inflammable gas was discovered issuing from the earth. It appears to be pure carburetted hydrogen...We always supposed that the Universalist church when completed would be a place whence moral light would emanate to the inhabitants of the village; but we little thought till the spring was discovered that it would be a place of both moral and natural light. One thing in particular worthy of notice in this light that it is not only brilliant but perfectly pure without the least smell of brimstone. This is the very place to look for a new and pure light above all others.

(This was the building for the First Universalist Society of Utica, which had to sell the church to pay debts in 1845 and revived as the Central Universalist Society in 1848.)

(from THE EVANGELICAL MAGAZINE AND GOSPEL
ADVOCATE)

In 1887, the debt of the Church of the Reconciliation (Utica) was \$1500, but extensive repairs were needed immediately. The north wall was damaged when a new building foundation was excavated on that side and the commercial district had come up to the very doors. The only greenery was the ivy on the walls and the tree in the tower.

At the first of a series of meetings, a proposal was made that the building be demolished and a new one built with shops on the ground floor and auditorium and Sunday School rooms on the second floor. A lively discussion followed and members of the parish gave approval for the change by a two to one vote.

Within a month, another meeting was held and the vote was reversed and the trustees given approval to proceed with repairs.

But then, a motion was made to sell the church to pay off the debts was made and carried by such a large majority that the clerk was forced to call the attention of the chair to the fact that more people voted than were members of the society.

The final result was that repairs were made, the chapel was redecorated and the building was wired for electricity. Three incandescent lights were installed.

(Minutes of the Church of the Reconciliation)

Benjamin A. Fox	J. H. Reed, Jr.
Samuel B. McKinley	J. H. Reed
J. P. Frisbie	Emma J. Reed
Clara Frisbie	Sarah J. Reed
S. F. Merry	M. Louis Scotland
J. A. Crane	Julia B. Burt

To the Trustees of the Church of the Reconciliation - of Utica N. Y. -

We the undersigned feeling a deep interest in the welfare of the church with which we are connected, and deploring the want of unity which for sufficient reasons has arisen in our midst, respectfully ask that a change of Pastors may be effected at the earliest possible date - Several of us having already relinquished our pews, and others designing to do the same, unless such change is made, we have after prayerful consideration deemed that this step was necessary to enhance the best interests of the society -

March 1863 - W. D. Alexander
 Wortho Alexander
 James Lombard

J. K. Rose
Sarah Rose
Mrs. H. Gilmore
Mrs. C. L. Grove
H. B. Hart

Mrs. B. A. Newland
J. Newland
Mrs. A. S. Pond
Mrs. M. A. Lombard
Mrs. M. J. Williams
Caroline Grove
Mary Key
Mrs. Harriet Key
Mrs. Francis M. Brown

Mrs. Calving White
Lucretia Spru
Delia A. Ramsdell
E. Munson
Mrs. E. Munson
P. Lombard
Sara Munson
A. Adams

I am in favor of a change
of clergymen as soon as the
same can be brought about

De Witt C. Grove

Grace Spinner
Mrs. Laura Adams
Mrs. M. L. Weston

J. C. P. Kelly
E. L. Munson

E. C. Newland
S. L. Gilmore
Lillian Rose
Vivian Gilmore

H. S. Nichols
S. B. Nichols

W. C. Walker

SERMON.....The Reverend Arnold F. Westwood
Minister, First Unitarian Church of Fairfield County
Westport, Connecticut

"Revolt From Dualism"

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 311

*BENEDICTION.....The Reverend Herbert E. Hudson, IV

ORGAN POSTLUDE.....Mrs. Mair Jones Owens

"Grand Chorus"DUBOIS



The Women's Society cordially invites you to a reception in the Parish House immediately following the service. At the reception greetings will be brought from the Reverend Howard B. Gilman representing the Unitarian and Universalist churches of New York, and from the Reverend Harold R. Fray representing the community



Ministers participating in the processional include Ray H. Kiely and Carl Cooper of the First Presbyterian Church, Elliot D. Waldman of the Temple Emanu-El, Kenneth E. Roach of the Bethesda Congregational Church, and William T. Vandever, Jr., of the Tabernacle Baptist Church—all of Utica. Unitarian Universalist ministers include Wm. Lorne Beebe of Utica, John C. Fuller and Ellsworth C. Reamon of Syracuse, Maurice Cobb of Dolgeville, Warren B. Lovejoy of Central Square, Frank Robertson of Barneveld, Stanley C. Stall of Herkimer, and Albert C. Niles of Canton.



Ushers for the service are: Mr. Howard Baldwin, Mr. Spencer Prindle, Mr. Alvin Schneider, Mr. John Ludemann, Mr. William Kellogg.

THE SERVICE OF

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

OF

HERBERT E. HUDSON, IV

AS MINISTER OF

THE CHURCH OF THE RECONCILIATION

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN

UTICA, NEW YORK



Sunday evening, the eighteenth of February

nineteen hundred and sixty-two

at eight o'clock

ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN PRELUDE.....Mrs. Mair Jones Owens

"Fantaisie"DUBOIS

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"BACH

"Scherzoso in A minor"RHEINBERGER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"I Walk the Unfrequented Road"

I walk the unfrequented road
With open eye and ear;
I watch afield the farmer load
The bounty of the year.
I filch the fruit of no man's toil—
No trespasser am I,
And yet I reap from every soil
And from the unmeasured sky.
I gather where I did not sow,
And bind the mystic sheaf,
The amber air, the river's flow,
The rustle of the leaf.
A beauty spring-time never knew
Haunts all the quiet ways,
And sweeter shines the landscape through
Its veil of autumn haze.
I face the hills, the streams, the wood,
And feel with all akin;
My heart expands; their fortitude
And peace and joy flow in.—AMEN.

*INVOCATION.....Dr. Ralph N. Schmidt

Chairman, Department of Speech
Utica College of Syracuse University

CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

The Reverend John S. MacPhee
Executive Minister
Mid-West Unitarian Universalist Conference

*Congregation Standing

*ACT OF ORDINATION AND OF INSTALLATION

Mr. Raymond E. Humann
Moderator

The Moderator: We have come together to ordain Herbert Hudson to the ministry of religion and to install him as minister of this church.

In ordination, the church formally recognizes the commitment of the individual to the ministry as a life work. In installation, the church formally recognizes the relationship between the minister and the congregation, a relationship established by mutual consent and sustained by mutual trust.

In recognition of this commitment and this relationship, the congregation of the church will now join in the act of ordination and installation.

The Congregation: We, the members of The Church of the Reconciliation of Utica, New York, do hereby ordain you, Herbert Hudson, to the ministry of religion and install you as minister of our church. We offer you a free and untrammelled pulpit, even as we are a free people. We pledge you our support, that together we may fulfill the promise of this church.

The Minister: I take up the ministry to which you have called me with gratitude and devotion. I will do my best to speak the truth in love, endeavoring to give myself freely in understanding and affection.

MEDITATION.....The Reverend Hunter S. Leggitt
Minister, Chapin Memorial Universalist Church
Oneonta, New York

ANTHEM.....Mrs. Elsa Girvan, Alto

"The Beatitudes"ALBERT HAY MALOTTE

CHARGE TO THE MINISTER AND THE RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP FROM THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

The Reverend John W. Brigham
Associate Director, Department of Ministry
Unitarian Universalist Association

WE WOULD BE BUILDING

Finlandia

L. Griswold and L.R.Y. Hymn

Jean Sibelius

We would be building; temples still undone
We would be architects of noble cast;
Shaping our lives 'round truths still being won,
While holding close the best from ages past;
Foundation stones that come from o'er the world
Our church's strength, both now and evermore.
Our entrance way forever widening,
Our windows clear, for nature's life to see;
May all our hearthstones ever hear the ring
Of voices clear, determined to be free.
Our joyful song we raise for all to hear
In consecration of our new born home.
We would be one in building for tomorrow
A nobler world than we have known today;
We would be one in searching for that meaning
Which binds our hearts and points us on our way.
As one we pledge ourselves to greater service
With love and justice strive to make us free.

ALL ARE ARCHITECTS

H.W. Longfellow

P. De Corbeil

All are architects of fate, Working in these walls of time;
Some with massive deed and great, Some with ornaments of rhyme.
Nothing useless is, or low; Each thing in its place is best;
And what seems but idle show, Strengthens and supports the rest.
For the structure that we raise, Time is with materials filled;
Our todays and yesterdays, Are the blocks with which we build.
Build today, then, strong and sure, With a firm and ample base;
And ascending and secure, Shall tomorrow find its place.

FOLLOW THE GLEAM

U.Y.F. Hymn

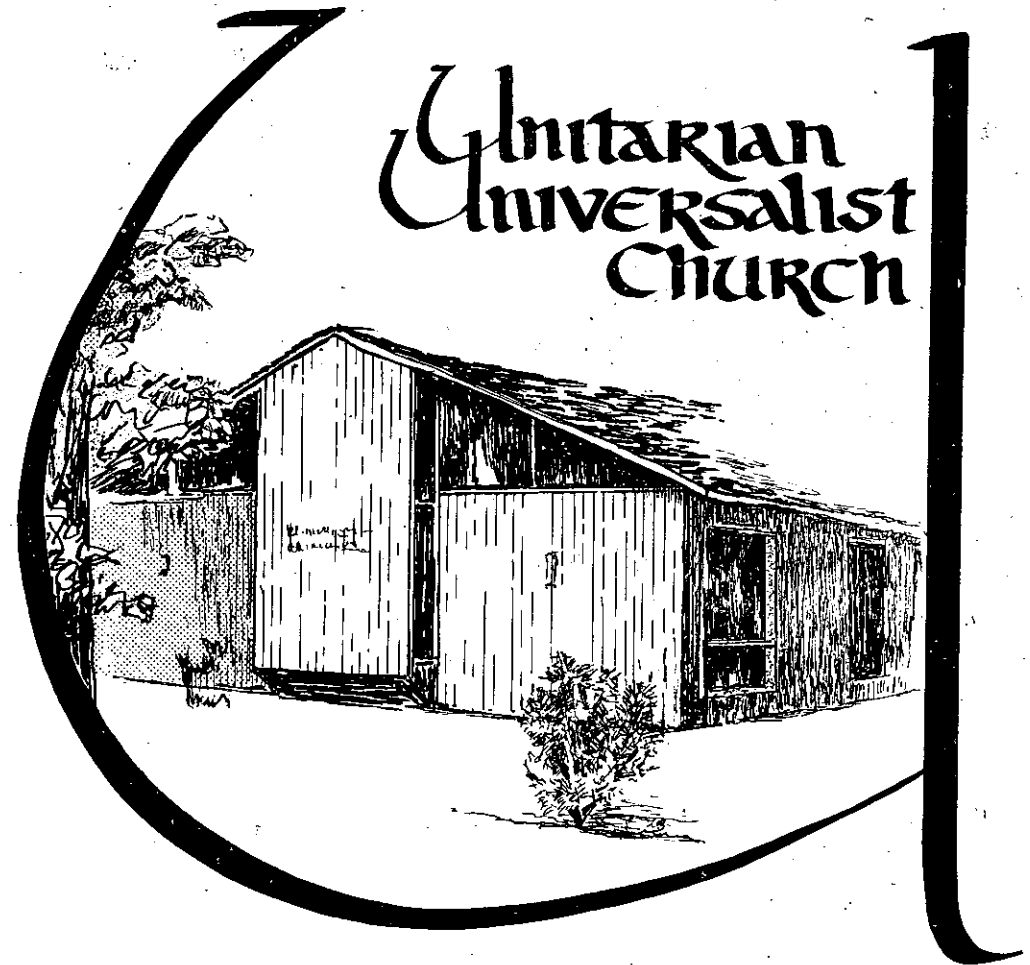
H. H. Miller
Adapted

S. H. Douglas

To the knights in the days of old
Keeping watch on the mountain height,
Came a vision of holy grail
And a voice through the waiting night.
Follow, follow, follow the gleam,
Banners unfurled o'er all the world,
Follow, follow, follow the gleam
Of the chalice that is the truth.
And we who built this church
And lighted our flame with love,
In the consecrate silence know
That the challenge still holds today.
Follow, follow, follow the gleam
Standards of worth o'er all the earth,
Follow, follow, follow the gleam
Of the light that shall bring the dawn.

Dedication

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH



*Sunday evening, the twenty fourth of September
nineteen hundred and seventy-eight
seven o'clock
Utica, New York*

Dedication Service

COMING TOGETHER - *creating our space in infinite time*

PRELUDE Peggy Spencer-Behrendt
Pianist

WELCOME Eleanor Dodge Hassett
Moderator

OPENING WORDS The Rev. Timothy Hume Behrendt
Minister

*HYMN "*We Would Be Building*"

DEFINING THE POSSIBLE - *the product of our dreams*

READING "*This House*" by Kenneth Patton

DEDICATORY ADDRESS The Rev. Dr. Paul N. Carnes
President
The Unitarian Universalist Association

*HYMN "*All Are Architects*"

DEDICATING THE FUTURE - *from the clay of the past
and the creative energy of the present, we mold the future*

A BUILDING FOR ALL SEASONS by Sally Carman

BUILDING SPIRIT Dennis Wilcox

I am the spirit of this building.
The timber, concrete, the lath and nails,
All are a part of me.
But only a skeleton form you see,
For I am more than these -
I am the memory of seasons past -
The structure of strong and daring hearts
Upon which the present and the future stand.
For foundations are built of stone
And mortared with human determination.

*Congregation Standing

UNISON READING "*Dreams*" by A. C. Niles

A man can dream!
Think what this means —
Dream and plan and through the thoughts
project a hope —
New avenues for kindness
blessed with pleasure,
blessed with love.

Nor should we fear if dreams remain but
pictures in our minds for days — for years.
Some dreams are much too precious for
reality's sharp focus; Until —
there is no other way to live
but make the dream

An act,
A picture,
Book, or
Dainty scroll of wood.

When the architect becomes the carpenter
Then full circle swings the dream
to blessed heights;
For love then flows into each
hidden arch,
or corner beam.
It may dip gently in a graceful
curve to ease severity of strength.

Oh, but that I had the art of
Dreaming dreams which rest not
only in my inner thoughts;
But had the deftness, too,
To make more dreams come true!

DEDICATION

*Dr. Carnes will light the flaming chalice to symbolize the
melding of our flame with the many flames of churches
across the continent.*

May The Flame of Truth Shine Forever.

*HYMN "*Follow the Gleam*"

CLOSING WORDS The Rev. Dr. Ralph N. Schmidt
Minister-at-Large

CHORAL RESPONSE "*We Honor This Day*" The Choir

POSTLUDE

FOUNDATION

Spencer Prindle

There were many years we measured in patching plaster,
Stoking a hungry furnace, sealing an aging roof,
Nurturing all souls who entered,
Still keeping our faith alive.
There were many who came before me,
Lighting the flame back in eighteen hundred and twenty-five.
We owe a measureless debt to all of these,
For they worked and grieved and strived
To build the strong foundation
Which keeps our spirit free and alive.

BUILDING SPIRIT

Dennis Wilcox

Built upon this strength,
I am alive and free.
And I rejoice to be -
Encircling you with armlike walls -
Not to keep souls out -
But rather to draw all in -
To give warmth and comfort to troubled hearts,
Sustenance to eager minds.
Light and fire to human conscience,
And succor to all that is wondrous, indefinable,
Attune to that tremulous oneness of being.
These circling walls need you,
For you are the pillar and the strength,
The lattice of our being.

WALLS

Doris Swarthout

Yes, we provide the place,
A definable space
That makes all things evolve.
Without our walls that separate floor and ceiling,
Without our pillars that hold apart the beginning and the end,
There would be no living space,
No place to stand, breathe deep, and dream
Of all the possibilities.
We are the ones responsible
For all that happens here.
We can mold a future bright and aware,
One in touch with those needs
All human beings share.

BUILDING SPIRIT

Dennis Wilcox

Ah yes, this is a place of dreams and ideals
And a proud heritage as well.
Some of my dreams have found shape here -
Calling for peace, caring for children,
Crying for freedom for all.
I have not always settled easily upon the community bench
But have sometimes stood upon it
To declare my beliefs in strident tones.

ROOF

Bruce Becker

You speak of the past.
We will live in the here and now -
Dedicating ourselves to continuing that heritage -
Sheltering those in need,
Seeking the flame of truth,
Calming the troubled spirits,
And worshipping the wonder of existence.
For we are the roof and the rafters,
Protecting all beneath from the elements.
We are a refuge from life's ravaging storms,
A barrier 'gainst winds that seek to quench the flame
Reflecting the warmth which rises and swirls, enveloping all.
Always striving for the highest value in life.

BUILDING SPIRIT

Dennis Wilcox

You have the idealism of youth,
Which is part of the infinite plan.
You will need your youth and your vigor
To weather the violent storms,
For they will surely come.
Together we must protect and nurture
Our most beautiful, fragile and gentle ones -
Our windows to the world -
The children.
They embody our future promise,
The sun that shines through them
Can light up the world.

WINDOWS

Susan Carman

I have a dream.
I see a building standing here,
Many years from now,
Strong and proud,
Full of warm and happy memories,
Sad ones, too - 'cause life is not always fair.
An open door for all who need a place to meet,
A hot-cup of coffee or tea,
A conversation to share
About all that was, and is, and ought to be.
Children learning and laughing,
Accepted as they are, becoming the best they can be.

ALL

Together we are the future.
Built on a foundation of stone,
Surrounded with walls of love,
Sheltered by a roof of strength,
With windows to a world of beauty,
We will make this a special place
To worship the infinite good.

MEDITATION

*We will meditate on our dreams for the future
and offer them on silent winds of promise*

Organizing the Church of Our Father.

Last evening a meeting of the parish of the Universalist Mission of East Utica took place at the pleasant church which was built over a year ago on Bacon street. The preaching was done there until a short time ago by Pastor Rounds, of the Universalist Church on Seneca street, and until Rev. Mr. Saline was duly installed as pastor. The new pastor is doing very successful work, and gaining an excellent attendance at the meetings. Last evening there was quite a general attendance of the members of the congregation. John G. Jones was elected Chairman and Horace F. Barnes Secretary of the meeting. Chairman Jones stated the meeting had been called to elect Trustees and organize a parish. The following persons were elected Trustees of the Society: John Morgan, Marcus D. Balch, Thomas Mellor, August Schof, Harry R. Illingworth, Mary P. Underwood. The following resolution was passed: Resolved, That this organization shall be known as the second Universalist Church of the city of Utica, under the name of the Church of Our Father. The Secretary was directed to file a copy of the minutes with the County Clerk.

Utica Daily Observer, Utica NY, Tue. 27 Aug 1889

Transcribed on 28 Aug 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

*Utica Unitarian Universalist
Church*



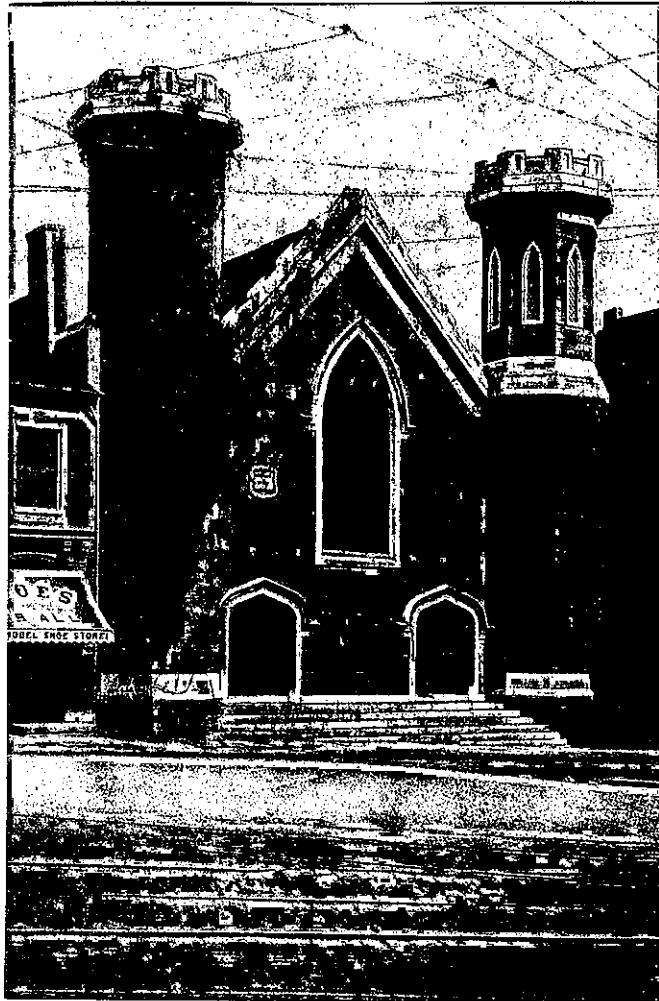
Church built: 1978

Members: 100

Established: 1825



**FORMER FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
UTICA, ONEIDA COUNTY, NY
PHOTO 1909**



**FORMER CENTRAL UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
CHURCH OF THE RECONCILIATION
UTICA, ONEIDA COUNTY, NY**