

news @ first . u . providence

SUMMER SERVICES: NOURISHING THE SPIRIT

We come to First Unitarian seeking nourishment for our spiritual lives. From that spiritual renewal we draw energy and purpose to build lives of meaning and commitment. The theme for this summer's services -- Nourishing the Spirit -- invites our member and guest speakers to reflect on and share what nourishes them spiritually. Each talk will be complemented by special music performed by talented musicians in our congregation.

These lay-led summer services, planned and hosted by the Worship Committee, give us an opportunity to know one another better in a more informal setting and to better appreciate the amazing talents and rich experiences of members of our church family.

SUMMER PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN: A well-planned and -supervised program for children from infancy through age 10 is provided each Sunday during the service in the Parish House. There are two sections: one for infants to age 3, and a separate program of stories, activities, and snacks for children 4 through 10. If there are more than the anticipated number of children on a given Sunday, parents may be asked to help with one or both of these programs.

SUMMER HOSPITALITY: Welcoming newcomers is an important part of the congregational life of our church. It sets a friendly tone and helps to create the overall atmosphere newcomers experience when they visit our community for the first time. Our summer Fellowship Hour is an opportunity for everyone to greet our many visitors. You do not have to know all the answers; just be friendly and say hello to someone you do not know. You never know who you may meet! A Welcome Table at the Fellowship Hour will have UU pamphlets and our guest registry where newcomers can sign up for a reusable name tag and ask to be placed on our mailing list.

Sunday, June 17 A Father's Day Service: Parenting as a Spiritual Practice
10:00a **Jim Estey**

We will remember and honor our fathers. We will also reflect on what it means to be a parent, and how parenting is both a challenging and a nourishing experience.

Jim Estey is a professor of history at Bryant University and is the father of five children. He taught Sunday School for more than 25 years here at First Unitarian.

Sunday, June 24 Creative Paths to Healing and Growth
10:00a **Carol Drewes**

Creativity is a powerful tool for healing and spiritual insight. Carol will draw from drama, song, and quilting to tell her own story and elicit your reflections and inspiration. Bring your breath and wear your favorite self-expressive item of clothing.

Carol Drewes joined First Unitarian in 2006; this is her fourth UU community in 20 years. Her 16-year-old daughter, Nova, has completed the total UU RE curriculum and is an active member of our youth group. Carol serves on the Stewardship Committee and as a Worship Associate and has taught RE in three congregations. She works as Assistant Director of Individual Giving at Trinity Repertory.

Sunday, July 1 Katmandu -- Beyond the Visit
10:00a **Janet Bralove**

Janet went to Nepal to teach, but, as always, the teacher learned the most. This service addresses those whose religious quest is to make the world a better place, but who don't always know how to do this. In Mary Oliver's words, "I don't want to end up simply having visited this world."

Janet Bralove met her husband, Jim Estey, raised her children, and found many friends at First Unitarian, which has been her larger family for 30 years. She has been teaching for 40 years, with students ranging from adult professionals to babies and toddlers. She describes herself as the kind of person who stays put, sending others out into the world; but this spring she accepted an invitation to work at a preschool for street children in Katmandu, Nepal.

The Monthly Newsletter for
The First Unitarian Church of Providence
Corner of Benefit and Benevolent Streets
Providence, Rhode Island

SUMMER 2012

Summer Services
begin at 10:00a

Program for Young Children
during the service

Fellowship Hour
follows the service
(outdoors, weather permitting)



**We are a
Welcoming Congregation**

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S T A F F

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Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, Community Minister
Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education
Frederick Jodry, Music Director
Posey Kooris, Administrator
Walter O. Sotelo, Administrative Assistant
Jenn Nardone, Membership Coordinator
Jaime Durango, Building Manager
Paul Webber, Evening Security
John Forde, Evening Security
Pedro Vasquez, Sunday Building Manager

N E W S L E T T E R

Posey Kooris, Managing Editor

Susan Fisher, Editor

Original Design by Carol Pentleton

Deadline for the September newsletter
is August 15.

SUMMER AT FIRST UNITARIAN

Summer Office Hours

The church office will be open from 9:00a to 4:00p from June 11 to September 4. The office will be closed for holidays on July 4, August 13, and September 3 and for vacation the weeks of July 23 and 30, reopening on Monday, August 6.

Ministry Services from mid-June to early August

Nearby ministers will be on call for emergencies during the summer. Speak with staff in the church office for names and contact numbers.

In case of emergency during the office vacation break (July 23 to August 3, reopening on August 6), a message will be left on the answering machine regarding contact information.

SOCIAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Knitting for a Better World

Every Tuesday at 7:00p

Join other knitters in the congregation for an evening of knitting/crocheting and conversation. Bring your own project or work on our group project. Beginners are always welcome!

Contact: Julie Meyers (kelmey@cox.net)

Our Food Share Pantry

Distribution: Mondays, July 16 and August 20

Our biggest social justice program takes a lot of volunteers to keep it going! Volunteer with your van or truck to transport food from the RI Food Bank to the church, or volunteer for a shift on Distribution Days:

Set-up: 2:00p-3:00p

Shopping with our clients: 3:00p-5:00p

Restock, recycle, and clean-up: 5:00-6:00p

Contacts: Martha Manno (Mmanno7@comcast.net), Amy Webb (amy.webb7@verizon.net), or Nori Duncan (nori.duncan@gmail.com)

Mobile Loaves & Fishes

Thursdays, July 19 and August 16 at 3:30p

The Neighborhood Social Justice Committee will continue to sponsor the Mobile Loaves & Fishes catering truck on third Thursday of each month.

Volunteers are needed at 3:30p to make sandwiches and stock the truck and at 4:30p when the truck will leave the church to ride into the city to feed the homeless.

Donations of food and clothing will be accepted throughout the summer. Let us not forget the homeless as we take time for relaxing and possible travel.

Contact: Joe Salvatore (joesuu@gmail.com)

Sunday, July 8

Hunger

10:00a

Keith Brown

Earlier this year, the third-grade class at First Unitarian were told the Buddhist parable of the hungry dog. When Chloe, our third-grader, told us the parable, it got me thinking about food in children's literature today. In particular, what might all those Hogwarts feasts -- and the stark differences between meals in the Capitol and the Districts in *The Hunger Games* -- tell us about Unitarian Universalist principles?

Keith Brown joined First Unitarian along with his wife, Shelley Stephenson, in 2003, shortly after the birth of their daughter, Chloe. Aside from 2005-06, when the family attended the Unitarian Society of New Haven, he has consistently participated in the life of the First Unitarian community. Keith is a member of the research faculty at the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University. He lives in Edgewood with Shelley, Chloe, and Leo, who joined the family from Taiwan in 2011.

Sunday, July 15

Nourishing Real Freedom:

Roger Williams and the First Amendment

10:00a

John McNiff

Roger Williams came to what is now Rhode Island and set up a community that would make no laws about religion. Here, church and state would be separate. That very idea led to a revolutionary way of looking at the world, disrupting the very foundations of government and leading to levels of freedom unthought of before.

John McNiff was born and brought up in Rhode Island, went away, and came back. This state has so much to offer. He received a BA from Rhode Island College (history and anthropology) and an MA from Binghamton University (anthropology). He spent ten years working as an archaeologist in New England, England, and Mexico. He has spent the last 16 years as a Park Ranger for the National Park Service at the Roger Williams National Memorial right here in Providence.

Sunday, July 22

Is There a Pirate Heaven?

10:00a

Casey Dorman

Join First Unitarian's very own pirate, Casey Dorman, for a discussion about pirates, their place in the universe, and what they might expect in the afterlife.

Casey Dorman has run the Pirates of the New England Coast for the past seven years. He works and lives on board the tall ship Formidable in Rockport, MA for half the year. During the off-season, he visits schools, libraries, and historic sites to educate the public about pirates and privateers during the Golden Age of Piracy.

Sunday, July 29

Authenticity and Living Whole Lives

10:00a

Dawn Fortune

We often miss the mark when it comes to integrating all aspects of our lives into a complete package of life. Authenticity and vulnerability are keys to bringing it all together. Come join this exploration of holistic living.

Dawn Fortune is a Unitarian Universalist seminarian at Andover Newton Theological School. Born and raised Irish Catholic, she became a UU in the early 1990s and was active in a number of churches in Maine. After a year at the Bangor Theological Seminary, she transferred to ANTS to pursue more urban ministry opportunities. A longtime activist in GLBTQIA and progressive political causes, Dawn is keenly interested in issues of social, sexual, and economic justice. She recently completed a year as a student minister at the UU Church of Haverhill, MA, and is presently working as a carpentry contractor and estate groundskeeper.



A Summer Afternoon of Culinary Delights

Saturdays, July 14 or August 11

Back by popular demand! Sharpen your taste buds for an *al fresco* gourmet dinner hosted by Herb and Nancy Weiss-Fried. Proceeds will go toward new kitchen cabinetry at the church. Previous dinners have paid for the beautiful Atrium garden, a new refrigerator, kitchen faucet, and more.

There's a choice of dates (July 14 or August 11 at 3:00p), but space is limited -- so make your reservation early through the church office (401.421.7970 or admin@firstunitarianprov.org).

Cost: \$55/person. Payment to the church must be made in advance.

Sunday, August 5 The Power of Communal Singing

10:00a

Beth Armstrong

Beth Armstrong has been singing in or directing choral groups -- some experienced and sophisticated, some amateur and raw, and some with kids in school, not to mention a church choir -- since she was in college some 125 years ago. She has witnessed the power in the singing. She has been spreading the Gospel of Singing her entire adult life and doesn't plan to quit anytime soon. It is her religious practice and her livelihood. Come and be recruited into her "church."

Beth Armstrong, who has been an active member of several UU churches since the early 1970s, is a choral director and piano and voice instructor. She directs the Greater Tiverton Community Chorus, the Chorus of East Providence, Voices of Hope, and the Summer Chorus. She sings in the First Unitarian choir and is a former member of both the RI Civic Chorale and the Providence Singers. She is beginning a three-year term as a member of the Prudential Committee here at First Unitarian.

Sunday, August 12 How Old Are You Really?

10:00a

Rev. Dave Johnson

This isn't about being perpetually 39. Experts say that all of us have an age when we feel most at home with ourselves, most together, most complete, most centered. For some it is very young, for some very old, for some it resonates to experience, maturity, spiritual wholeness. OK, how old are you -- really?

Dave Johnson is the newly chosen Interim Minister in the Church of the Presidents (UU) in Quincy, MA. A Midwest native, he has served in the UU ministry for almost 50 years, four settled ministries and six interims. He has taught UU history (at Meadville Lombard, Andover Newton and Harvard Divinity schools) and written several books on the subject. He is best known for his three chalice-lighting books, his To, Love, Honor and Shave Twice a Week (wedding) book, and for the "Singing, Shouting, Celebrating" programs with Rev. Gene Navias. And he's notorious for his Boston driving book.

Sunday, August 19 Ethical Eating and the Interconnected Web of Life: How Eating Locally Helps Us Build Community and Live Sustainably

10:00a

Melissa Guillet

Master Gardener Melissa Guillet is passionate about reducing our carbon footprint while taking greater steps to reconnect with the earth and each other. Get ready to get your hands dirty, navigate a farmer's market, meet your neighbors, plant a row for a food pantry, buy free-trade, and make better choices at the supermarket, all to sustain yourself, nourish your community, and feed the soul.

Melissa Guillet has attended First Unitarian for five years and found warmth and acceptance here. She has made friends from many different backgrounds, found people to celebrate the Wiccan holidays with, been able to discuss politics without getting hurt, mentored youth, assisted with the Food Share Pantry, participated in the community band, and shared food and companionship with many. She only wishes she had found this place sooner.

Sunday, August 26 The Interdependent Web of Existence

10:00a

Peter Van Erp

Our seventh UU principle calls us to "affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part." For nearly two millennia, Europeans relied on Christianity as the underpinning of that web. In this church, we no longer rely primarily on Christianity. I plan to speak of how I have sought to rebuild the web, in action and in thought.

Peter Van Erp joined First Unitarian nearly 20 years ago. A graduate of RISD, he is an architect with an office in Providence. He, his wife, Chiara Romano, and their daughter, Marilyn, attend church regularly. Chiara curates the Atrium Art Gallery and Peter coordinates our Habitat for Humanity program. He has been an enthusiastic volunteer and Board member for WaterFire for 12 years.

Sunday, September 2 Bread and Roses

10:00a

Rev. James Ishmael Ford

Our minister, James Ford, returns to the pulpit for this final summer service. He will reflect on the nature of the social contract and its spiritual components: how we need bread, but also we need those roses. This Labor Day weekend service will be a celebration of labor and human dignity.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Benevolent Street Zendo: An Ongoing Zen Meditation Group

Every Monday at 7:00p

We are a member community of the Boundless Way Zen Sangha (www.boundlesswayzen.org), an interfaith Zen community, maintaining close connections with the Soto Zen Buddhist Association and the American Zen Teachers Association. (All three of its senior teachers, including our minister, James Ford, are also Unitarian Universalists). Everyone is welcome. Brief instruction will be available to those who come at 6:45p.

Leaders: Jan Seymour-Ford and James Ford (benevolentstreetzen@gmail.com)

Reimagining Religion

Second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00p

Reimagining Religion is an ongoing attempt to employ the best recent scholarship in coming to grips with issues raised by radically new developments in the study of religion and thereby achieving a fuller appreciation of what religious literacy entails in the twenty-first century. Registration not required.

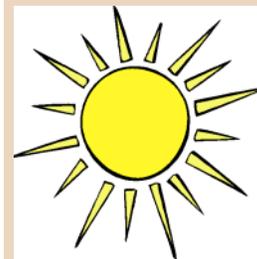
Contact: Tom Hall (401.647.2925 or tw2nd@aol.com)

Natural Wisdom and Compassion Meditation

Every Wednesday at 7:00p

These guided meditations of love and wisdom from Tibetan Buddhism have been adapted into new forms that can touch the hearts and minds of people from all backgrounds and faiths, to help each of us bring out the best in ourselves within our relationships, service and social action.

Contact: Ken Bent (kenbent@cox.net)



Homecoming Sunday September 9 at 10:30a

Our new church year will open with our traditional Water Communion ceremony. Remember to collect a sample of water in a small container from your summertime activities or travels.