



Services in the Meeting House

Sunday, September 2 Bread and Roses: A Meditation

10:00a

Rev. James Ishmael Ford

James will explore the themes of labor and rest, of dignity and struggle, of bread and roses.

Note: Worship services return to the regular-year starting time: 10:30a.

Sunday, September 8 This Is Water: A Multigenerational Gathering

10:30a

Cathy Seggel, DRE & Rev. James Ishmael Ford

As we gather together – many returning, a number for the first time – we celebrate through co-mingling water and telling stories and singing. Bring a little water to pour into our communal basin, and one word (okay, or two) that shares its meaning. And if you forget, don't worry; we'll have our trademarked metaphorical water and lots of it . . .

Our Community Collection will be for McAuley House, a meal site serving up to 300 people each day along with many other support services. The population served is mostly homeless.

Childcare for infants–three-year-olds will be open on the 2nd floor of the Parish House.

Sunday, September 15 Looking Both Ways

10:30a

Rev. James Ishmael Ford

We're a few days away from Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. James loves the double aspect of the Jewish New Year. It reminds him of the ancient Roman celebration of the new year with the doors of Janus, the god who looks to the past and the future. As we launch into our new church year, he has some thought to share.

First day of Sunday school.

Grades K and older begin in the Meeting House for the first portion of the service.

Origins and Play Circle /Pre-K (infants–four years) meet in classrooms on the 2nd floor, Parish House.

Sunday, September 22 Making Peace

10:30a

Rev. James Ishmael Ford

James finds himself thinking about the International Day of Peace and, with that, matters of war and peace and what it has to do for us. He finds it touches on our hearts as well as our actions.

Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel.

Our annual Ice Cream Social follows service,

so please plan on staying! (see p. 7)



Sunday, September 29 On Spiritual Practices

10:30a

Rev. James Ishmael Ford

James reflects on the nature of spiritual practices, what they are, what they are not, and why we might want to take one up. After the service, there will be a sample Chalice Circle, one of the most popular spiritual practices within contemporary Unitarian Universalism (see p. 8).

Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel.



We are a Welcoming Congregation

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Staff

- Rev. James Ishmael Ford, Minister
- Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, Community Minister
- Rev. Gene Dyszlewski, 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
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The Lay Ministry and Care Crew

The Lay Ministry and Care Crew help those in the congregation in need of calls, cards, visits, rides to the doctor's office, emergency babysitting, emergency elderly companionship, or meal delivery.

The on-call Lay Minister for September is George Beshers. Referrals or calls to the church will be passed on to George, who will call upon Care Crew Volunteers.

Lay Ministry Team: Margaret Balch-Gonzalez, Andy Barrett, George Beshers, Kate Menard, Rick Richards

Deacons' Corner

Hello everyone, and welcome back! This is a special year for First Unitarian: the UUA General Assembly (GA) will be held in Providence in June 2014. The Deacons have agreed to assist in the Bed & Breakfast fundraiser which is part of GA. It is hoped that those in our congregation who have an extra room will rent it out during GA, with the proceeds being donated to the church. We will match up the renters and rentees.

Along with this, we should have our regular Deacon work, making our calls to members and friends, assisting in communions, ushering, and greeting. We also hope to continue our other projects which we began last year with Membership and Lay Ministry, including a medical equipment swap and job directory.

We want to thank David Bridgehouse and Russell Gifford, our departing Deacons, and welcome Mary Speare and Tom Getz, our newest Deacons.

The Deacons: David Spemulli and Jacqui Nye, Senior Deacons; Gerry Spemulli, Ruth Arellana Steve McCloy, Shirley DiMatteo, Keith Brown, Claire Rosenbaum, Tom Getz, Mary Speare



WHEEL OF LIFE

Condolences to:

John Wilhelm, whose mother, Hope, passed away in June.

Martha Rice Sanders and family on the death of Martha's father, Robert Edward Sanders (86), on July 3 in New Mexico.

Congratulations to:

Mary and Kevin Hughes on the marriage of their son, Nathaniel, to Carissa Toms on June 22. Nate grew up in this church.

Kate Menard and Eric Robinson, who were married on August 7 by Rev. James Ford.



Monkey Mind

For me, the summer pretty much began with my wife, Jan, flying off to Paris to deliver a paper: her first and – as research librarian at Perkins School for the Blind, not primarily an academic institution – probably her only opportunity to be paid to go somewhere and talk about stuff she knows inside out. The conference was in the neighborhood of the Eiffel Tower, so the views were astonishing, but the food, mostly aimed at tourists, not so much.

For her the high point was a trip out to Louis Braille's home.

The day after she flew off, I also climbed on an airplane, heading to Burbank, California, renting a car, driving up to Fresno, turning right, and going about a third of the way toward Yosemite to a rural Zen center where I was to give two workshops on aspects of ministry aimed at young(er) Zen priests. It was an astonishingly lovely place, like dry and dusty of Fresno, and I had a good time telling the youngsters what's what.

After that, Jan flew from Paris out to California, where we met and spent two weeks visiting family and generally hanging out in the vicinity of Los Angeles, which has become our annual family thing.

I didn't get as much writing done over the Summer as I'd hoped, but I did do some outlining for my next book. Otherwise, the big thing to report is that Jan got me a Fitbit for my birthday. Fitbit is one of the new generation of health-monitoring devices, worn like a wristwatch, which monitors my activities, as best I can tell, through very sophisticated tracking of movement. It tells me how many steps I've walked, how many calories I've burned, and what my sleep patterns look like. I have to enter my food consumption manually, but everything else is taken care of by robots.

I can report that I still haven't gotten control of cutting back on calorie intake, but I have and in a major way upped my physical activities – currently taking more than 5,000 steps a day. The stupid robot wants me to 10,000, but I'm astonished I've achieved this, and feel I can not only maintain, but increase over time.

So, I'm feeling pretty good.

Which we all hope is what we get out of a little time off. And I'm acutely aware we don't all get those times off. I sincerely hope most of us have been able to get away a little, and even if not, have had an opportunity to enjoy the weather and maybe even see the beach.

We humans seem to work best when we allow ourselves, or when our life situation allows us, to take that break.

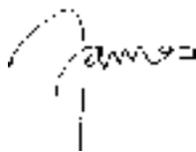
To breathe. To see the world from a different perspective, even the slightest bit different than that from the rut we have been in.

I know now I'm super ready to get back to work.

The theme of our 2014 General Assembly, our denomination's annual convention – which, if you've forgotten will be here in Providence next June – is Love Reaches Out. Not a bad theme for our church year, either?

So, having taken that breath, let's recall the mysteries of love, the currents of love, and as individuals and as community, let's reach out.

Fondest,



Rev. James Ishmael Ford, Minister
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9:00a-12:00p. Appointments are recommended.
min@firstunitarianprov.org



Spiritual Pathways

What I Picked Up This Summer

I find summer a fleeting delight. It seems short, counting from mid-July to mid-August, a slightly quieter time in my work. Not as long as official summer, from June 21 to September 22. Either way, the longer days are my favorite.

In June, I picked strawberries, tastier than any grocery store variety. Then, off to Louisville, KY for the UUA General Assembly with several Providence church leaders. There, I connected with colleagues, gleaned information about excellence in shared ministry, and soaked up the message of renewing our covenant to our faith.

Next, I collaborated with Amy Webb on our annual First Unitarian Resource Book, a process that allows me to gather plans from all of our congregation's ministries.

Then, on to the lifespan religious education conference on Star Island. The theme was Innovation in LRE: Creativity, Collaboration, and Imagination, with Mark Hicks, director of the Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard Theological School. I served as the resource staffer, hosting daily porch chats with UU leaders. I experienced a week of Making Art of Our Vision: Collaborative Expressions in Poetry and Music with UU musician/composer Jim Scott.

Blueberry season happens in mid-July, with picking that is physically easier than June's juicy bounty on the ground. I was fortunate to pick "bluebies" four times. They were gobbled up by my family, including 16-month-old Fisher, who ate them until the bowl was empty. My last plucking was in the pouring rain, alone in my farmer friend's patch.

Now, I am back in the church office with our staff team, preparing for a year of possibilities. Volunteer teachers, Coming of Age mentors, and parents will be oriented; teacher teams supported; classrooms, curriculum, and supplies readied; worship services created; and curriculum fine-tuned. I am looking forward to welcoming new families and greeting everyone in September. There are opportunities waiting for everyone in our shared ministries of social justice, stewardship, community life, and faith development for children, youth, and adults.

This month, I will be picking delicious raspberries.

Please contact me to discuss our programming and your ideas and questions.

Take good care. I am happy we will be together soon,

Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education
401.421.7970
dre@firstunitarianprov.org

UUA General Assembly 2014 – Love Reaches Out

In Providence: June 25–29, 2014

The 2014 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations is taking place here in Providence next June. We are very happy for the unique opportunity to help host this multigenerational, multicultural UU community of up to 10,000 people in our home city! There will be many ways to support and participate. Please stay tuned to church publications and social media and uua.org/ga for updates throughout the year.

Contact Rev. James Ford or Cathy Seggel. We are excited and ready to serve!

Announcing the 2013-14 UUA "Common Read"

"Sustainability is about contributing to a society that everybody benefits from. . . . What is a sustainable restaurant? It's one in which as the restaurant grows, the people grow with it." (from *Behind the Kitchen Door* by Saru Jayaraman). Jayaraman's book reveals how restaurant workers live on some of the lowest wages in America and how poor working conditions – discriminatory labor practices and unsanitary kitchens – affect the meals that arrive at our restaurant tables.

A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. The UUA Common Read can build community in our congregations and the UUA by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for meaningful conversation. A discussion guide will be available by October 1. Interested? Contact Cathy Seggel.

Spiritual Pathways Religious Education Program

Registration for the 2013-14 Church Year

Annual enrollment for our religious education program for children and youth begins on Homecoming Sunday, September 8, in the Atrium before and after the worship service. Families can register in person or download the registration form from the church website (firstunitarianprov.org) and mail or email (dre@firstunitarianprov.org) it to the church office.

Please note: Families must register each year.

Schedule of Opening Events

Sunday, September 8

9:45a – Registration for Sunday School begins in the Atrium

10:30a – Homecoming/Water Communion: A Multigenerational Worship Service

Childcare for infants to three-year-olds open on the second floor of the Parish House

11:30a – Registration for Sunday School continues during Coffee Hour in the Atrium

Tuesday, September 10

6:30p – Teacher Orientation

in the Parish House Atrium and classrooms

Sunday, September 15

10:30a – First Sunday School Session

Grades K and older begin in the Meeting House for the first portion of the service, leaving with teachers for classes.

Nursery/Toddler and Pre-K begin in classrooms

Sunday, September 22

9:45a – Youth Music Ensemble (YMe)

Opening session in the Parish House Auditorium

First Unitarian Resource Book for 2013-2014

Copies of our annual *Resource Book* have been mailed to all member households. The guide includes information about our staff, membership, programming for children, youth, and adults, and opportunities to connect and participate, and much more. It also includes a calendar of events planned for the coming year.

The *Resource Book* (with post-publication corrections!) is also available on the church website (www.firstunitarianprov.org).BB

Balancing the Budget

The development of a balanced budget is not an easy task. Over the past several years, First Unitarian has ended the fiscal year with small deficits. This year it appears that the fiscal year ended on June 30 with a small (approx. \$1,000) surplus. This still has to be confirmed when our auditor completes their review within the next few weeks. If we do have a final positive balance, it will have been due to higher than budgeted non pledge donations, pledges from new members, bookstore receipts, Sunday cash collections, and well managed operating expenses.

On the negative side, completed pledges were 91.3% of the total pledged and we had no fund raising (\$5,000 budgeted) activities. In the past, the Budget Committee has used 95% as the anticipated rate for completed pledges for budgeting purposes. This year (2013-14) the anticipated rate for completed pledges has been set at 93%. It is important to recognize that pledges are the life blood of our church.

If anyone feels that, because of changing life conditions, illness, changes in family situations, loss of employment, etc, they are unable to complete their pledges the treasurer or the office should be notified. If we know what to expect we can adjust our expenditures.

I look forward to serving as Treasurer this year.
 – Graham Nye

New Computers in the Office

It's been more than a decade since the church office computer system has been fully upgraded. Over the summer, new computers were installed and the operating system brought up to date (it was still the 2003 version!). New software has also been uploaded, and after a shorter-than-anticipated break-in period, the office is back in full swing.



Sight Lines

Serving as President of First Unitarian Church of Providence for 2013/14 is an honor and challenge. I undertake the responsibilities of President of the Prudential Committee, the governing body of the church, willingly and in the knowledge that others have served with distinction.

Some background: My wife, Susan, and I began attending First Unitarian in 1994. After a few years, we opted for a period away from church. We returned in 2004 and became active members.

Professionally, I have engaged in architectural design, planning, preservation, and development. We lived in New York City for twenty years before returning to Rhode Island in 1988. I have worked on housing projects in Westerly, Lincoln, Cumberland, West Warwick, and Bristol. I am the president of Mosaico CDC, a nonprofit corporation, which is in the 25-year long process of rehabilitating the landmark 950,000 square foot Kaiser Mill complex in Bristol.

Each year First Unitarian faces several challenges, but with good planning, teamwork, and broad support the church has fared well. This year not only do we face ongoing needs of funding for operations and administration as well as carrying out our diverse ministries, but we must plan for major events in 2014, 2016 and 2020. We need to determine what capital improvements to pursue.

In June of 2014 the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) will hold their General Assembly in Providence. Between 7,000 and 9,000 members from congregations around the country are expected. In 2016 the church celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Meeting House. In 2020 the congregation is 300 years old.

Some major issues: How can we make much-needed, long-deferred capital improvements to mark these important dates? Window repair is a modest beginning. How do our facilities participate in and provide the base for our ministries to each other and to the community? What is the right balance between stewarding investments in our historic facilities by generations of members and meeting our normal ministerial mission? I have no pat answers. The congregation needs to participate in the process of planning, prioritizing, and determining the extent of our resources and commitment. None of this is easy. I invite your input.

Please contact me with ideas, questions, suggestions, etc. We need your engagement. I may be reached at the email address below.

Respectfully yours,

Merritt K. Meyer
 President, Prudential Committee
 pres@firstunitarianprov.org

Meeting House Window Restoration Is Partially Complete

If you were at the church during the summer months, you will have noticed the extensive work being done to repair the windows in the Meeting House. The last time the windows had any attention was in 1996, and the repairs had become essential. Most of the multipane vents in the windows did not close, letting in cold air in winter, and a number of panes were cracked. The broken panes have been replaced with matching glass. All the vents have been restored to working order except those in the upper portion of the windows flanking the pulpit, which are now permanently closed.

Last year, we received a grant of \$50,000 from the Champlin Foundations to partially fund this work and an additional \$6,000 gift from a generous parishioner. Unfortunately, the amount needed for full restoration was about double that amount, so the job has been only partially completed. The repairs were done to the windows facing the parking lot and on the pulpit wall. If you are interested in contributing to the completion of this important project, please contact Posey Kooris or Treasurer Graham Nye through the office (admin@firstunitarianprov.org).

Stewardship

Introducing the New Initiatives Fund

In June, the Prudential Committee approved a proposal for a New Initiatives Fund to be established from monies received from unrestricted gifts/bequests (such as planned giving bequests) and from any unrestricted reserves the church may acquire.

The New Initiatives Fund is intended to seed newly identified programmatic initiatives that would serve a new function or a need-based expansion or change. The funds would be limited to supporting a specific church program(s) and could not be used for general operations of the church or for building maintenance. The fund would provide a maximum of three years of support for any particular initiative, and a plan for acquiring ongoing funding (if applicable) would need to be included in a request for funding.

The PruComm determined that unrestricted gifts/bequests will be allocated 70/30 to the Consolidated Endowment Fund and the New Initiatives Fund until the new fund reaches \$500,000; thereafter, only gifts specifically directed to the New Initiatives Fund by the donor will be allocated there. No withdrawals can be made until the fund reaches \$50,000. The PruComm also set limits on maximum withdrawals and on a minimum market value the fund must maintain. The Treasurer is charged with keeping accurate records of the value of each bequest and reporting the status of the fund to the Prudential and Finance committees annually.

Once the fund has sufficient monies to consider withdrawals, proposals for the use of the fund will be made to the Finance Committee, which will review them and make recommendations to the Prudential Committee for a final decision.

Although the fund currently holds no monies, the hope is that members and friends of the congregation will be encouraged to consider making gifts to the new fund, including planned giving in their will.

Fall Fundraisers

Shred Your Sensitive Documents

Saturday, October 5, 10:00a-1:00p

Church parking lot (rain or shine).

Here's a great opportunity to clean up your office and support the church at the same time!

Northeast Record Retention has an on-site shredding service. They deliver locked bins to be filled with everything you want to have shredded. The entire process can be observed by the customer. The shredded material is then recycled. The company provides a certificate of destruction that meets FACTA and HIPAA compliance.



The cost to you is just \$6 per box, \$10 for two boxes, \$5 for each additional box. Once we reach \$700, the rest goes to the church.

Contact: Melissa Guillet (melissaguillet@yahoo.com)

Be Part of the First-Ever UU EnSEEKlopedia Show!

Saturday, October 26

Based on the popular "Encyclopedia Shows," the First Unitarian EnSEEKlopedia Show is part variety show, part game show, part panel of experts – all tied together with running gags and a central theme.

There will be a silent auction, a cake walk, performers/experts, a cookbook, and more!

Please join us October 26 as we show off the "local flavor" of our wonderful congregation. We need you as part of that "flavor"!

Contact: Melissa Guillet (melissaguillet@yahoo.com)

Appreciation for Gifts and Bequests

From time to time, the church receives special contributions from members and friends who want to ensure the ongoing vibrancy of First Unitarian. Such gifts are often the result of planned giving, by which a member earmarks monies for the church in his or her will.

First Unitarian gratefully acknowledges the benefactors whose estate gifts to the church show their love of this congregation. In the past year, a generous bequest was received from the estate of **Joan O'Connor**, who had been a member of the congregation since 1965 and was active in the Women's Alliance for many years.

If you are considering leaving a bequest to the First Unitarian Church in your estate planning, you will find helpful information on our church website (www.firstunitarianprov.org/getinvolved/giving.shtml).

UUA Fair Share

First Unitarian is one of the more than 1,000 UU congregations that have covenanted to support one another of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Together we can do what no one congregation can do alone. UUA national programs include:

Ministry and Professional Leadership: Providing counsel, leadership, and resources for ministers and other religious professionals.

Publishing: Deepening and spreading our faith and values through publications such as *UU World*.

Lifespan Faith Development: Creating lifespan curricula, worship materials, and other resources to nurture UU identity, spiritual growth, and communities of justice and love.

Advocacy and Witness: Promoting social justice values in the wider world through media advocacy, public education, partnerships with other organizations, and enabling local congregations who are engaged in local social justice efforts.

To support these programs, each congregation is asked to contribute its "fair share," which is currently \$60/member (we have 478 members). First Unitarian's full fair share for the 2013-14 is \$28,680. Our goal is to uphold our covenant with our fellow congregations in the UUA; however, our approved budget covers only 73% (\$21,023) of the total fair share to the UUA.

The 2013-14 budget does fully fund our fair share (\$9,082) for the Ballou Channing District to support local programs and services.

The Women's Alliance

September Is Membership Month

Since 1882, the Women's Alliance has been an association of dues-paying members whose purposes are to support the First Unitarian Church and its denomination; serve the community, local and at large; and provide friendship, support, and spiritual and cultural stimuli for its members. Monthly meetings from October through June feature a variety of speakers and a catered luncheon.

The Women's Alliance conducts fundraisers throughout the year, makes a financial contribution to the church, and contributes to local charities with an emphasis on women's issues. In addition to hosting teas at several local nursing homes, this year the Alliance is partnering with Tockwotton in a garden project to engage its Memory Unit residents in gardening and to share plants and flowers from our gardens.

Membership in the Alliance is open to anyone interested in our goals and programs. Come by the Alliance table in the Atrium during Coffee Hour to learn more or to pick up a membership packet.

Alliance Programs Begin in October

Monday, October 7

Business Meeting: 10:30a

Program: 11:00a followed by lunch (\$9)

Topic: Demonstration of Woodcut Technique

Artist: Jules, Heron Pond Studio

Jules is a nationally recognized artist creating mono prints, woodcuts and lino prints. Her work has been shown in juried shows from Washington, DC to New Hampshire. Recently, Jules has been working on wood sculptures, creating several woodland installations.

Heron Pond Studio was established 30 years ago as a refuge for producing Jules's own work and for sharing her skills with other artists.

Sunday Alliance Coffee Sales

By popular demand, the Women's Alliance Coffee Sale is back. The Alliance purchases gourmet coffees locally from New Harvest Coffee Roasters in Pawtucket, RI. Because of its close proximity to the church, New Harvest delivers free their freshly roasted coffee a few days before church. The Alliance only sells organic coffees. The selections are regular and decaf, both ground and beans. Proceeds go to support the Alliance's charitable donations.

Coffee is on sale every Sunday in the Atrium at the Women's Alliance table.



Community Life

Welcome Back All-Parish Supper

Friday, September 13, 2013

Everyone, young and old and in between, is welcome at these monthly gatherings of members and friends of the congregation.

5:45p Social Hour: Bring hors d'oeuvres to share and/or wine for your own party if you wish.

6:15p Potluck Dinner: Please bring a dish to share that serves at least eight people. You can bring a main dish, a vegetable, a salad, or a dessert.

7:45p Program in the Auditorium: "Reflections on the Summer 2013."

The after-dinner program will include a brief overview of what's been happening at our church and future plans from Merritt Meyer, President of the congregation. Also a report from Jacqui Nye and other delegates to the UUA General Assembly which was held in Louisville this past June. The main speaker will be our minister Rev. James Ford who will provide reflections on our congregational life and the events of the summer. Please join us to renew old friendships and make new ones.

Reservations for the dinner are strongly requested. You can fill out the tear-off form in the Sunday Meeting House Times and put it in the collection plate, see Jim Estey at Coffee Hour, or call the church office in advance (401.421.7970). Childcare for infants and children to age 10 will be available for parents that request in advance; call Jim Estey (401.351.1748) to sign up.

Saturday Social Supper

September 7 starting at 5:30p

The September Social Supper will take place at the home of Ruth Arellana.

For reservations and menu planning contact Shirley DiMatteo at (shelly-dimatteo@verizon.net or 861.1537) to indicate number of people and what you would like to bring.

The October 5 Social Supper will be co-hosted by Dee Reynolds and Jane Hale at the new home of Dee Reynolds.

Our Coffee Hour Co-op Needs You!

Our Coffee Hour is a cooperative effort organized by the Women's Alliance with donations from our congregation of baked goods, brownies, cookies, fruit, cheese and crackers, sandwiches, coffee cake and more. These donations can be made at home or bought at a store. Each Sunday we need eight people bringing donations that serve 24 each.

Sign-ups are preferred in order to plan for each Sunday. Sign up in the first parlor during Coffee Hour and go home with a reminder so you won't forget. We need lots of sign-ups this September, the start our new church.

October All-Parish Supper

Friday, October 18

Our after-dinner program will feature a talk and discussion on "Gun Violence and Gun Control in America." Our speaker will be Professor Gregg Carter, chairman of the Social Science Department at Bryant University. He will consider such questions as: How violent are we? Would stricter gun control laws effectively reduce violence? And why has this become such a difficult public issue? Please plan to join us.



Find Us on Facebook!

First Unitarian's Facebook page is loaded with updates, useful links, photos, and more! Type "First Unitarian Providence" in the search box and check it out!

The Atrium Bookstore

The Atrium Bookstore is open each Sunday at Coffee Hour. You'll find a broad selection of books of interest to churchgoers. Subjects include religious liberalism, daily meditations, and social activism. There also are books for children. Among the wide range of authors are poet Mary Oliver, Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh, and writers from the First Unitarian Church including the latest book by our minister, James Ford, *If You're Lucky, Your Heart Will Break*. Profits go to supplement the church's annual operating budget.

Art in the Atrium

In September we will resume our exhibits with a collective show on the theme of Peace in collaboration with Ginny Fox of the Peace Flag Project, and in conjunction with other events planned in Providence for the September Month of Peace.

For more information about exhibiting please contact: Chiara van Erp (romano-vanerp-design@cox.net)

HATS OFF TO...

Our Coffee Hour Providers last June:

Mary Frappier, Ruth Lincoln, Anne Connor, Tony Allen, Gail Brule, Kelly O'Connor, Suzanne Craig, Nori Duncan, Cathy Orloff, Nancy Dooley, Carey TerraNova, Whitney Donovan, Michael Cappelli, Bob Schacht, and all of you who brought something in to surprise us.

Jaime Durango, Colin Sutherland, Nancy Weiss-Fried, and Gerry Boone for weeding and mulching the gardens around the church over the summer.



Community Life

Welcome Back Ice Cream Social!

Sunday, September 22 after Coffee Hour (12-2ish)

It is that time of year again! Come to our Ice Cream Social to celebrate the start of the new church year, enjoy some music, eat some ice cream, say hi to some old friends and meet some new ones on

the front lawns. Bring a picnic or buy a hot dog as a pre-ice cream lunch.

Invite a friend! We'll see you there!

Sponsored by the Religious Education and Membership Committees



Welcome, Newcomers!

If you are new to the First Unitarian community, I look forward to welcoming you as we begin a new church year. Our Newcomers' Café is open every Sunday in the Paneled Parlor beyond the fireplace in the Parish House. Please come by and say hello. I'll be happy to answer any questions and introduce you to others in our community. Be sure to come to our annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, September 22 after Coffee Hour for a chance to get to know folks in a relaxed and friendly setting. I look forward to meeting you!

– Jennifer Nardone, Membership Coordinator

Newcomers' Café

Every Sunday during Coffee Hour

Held in the elegant and intimate Paneled Parlor, the Café is hosted by a rotating cast of church members and offers coffee, goodies, and fellowship. If you're new to the church, this is a great place to meet people in a less daunting setting than the regular Coffee Hour. If you've been around for a while, this is a great place to help new folks get acclimated.

To sign on as a café host, contact: Jennifer Nardone, Membership Coordinator (mem@firstunitarianprov.org)

Path to Membership Class

Saturday, October 19, 9:00a – 12:30p

The Path to Membership class is for anyone who is interested in membership in the church or who just wants to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and First Unitarian. This session will be led by our minister, Rev. James Ford, and the Membership Coordinator, Jenn Nardone. A light lunch will be served. If you have questions, please come by the Newcomers' Café or email Jenn.

Registration is required. Registration forms are in the Newcomers' Café and on the Membership Board in the Parish House hallway. Or call the church office (401.421.7970). Please register by Monday, October 14. Childcare will be provided if requested by Monday, October 14.

Contact: Jennifer Nardone, Membership Coordinator (mem@firstunitarianprov.org)

Take a Tour of Our Historic Meeting House

The History Committee has prepared a self-guided tour to the architectural gem that is our Meeting House. The guide describes the architectural and historical significance of many features of the interior space, including the pulpit, the arched windows, the many varieties of columns, and the magnificent central chandelier.

The text was prepared by our resident architectural historian, R. Owen Jones, and was designed by Janet Downing Taylor, with editorial support from Susan Fisher. We received helpful comments on earlier drafts from Suzanne Craig, Steve Ahlquist, and Merritt Meyer.

Copies of the guide are available at the back of the Meeting House and on the Welcome Table in the Parish House hallway.

Enjoy the tour!



Spiritual Development

Chalice Circles: A UU Spiritual Practice

Chalice Circle Sampler & Sign-up, Sunday, September 29, 12:00p

Facilitators Meeting: Sunday September 15, 12:00p in the Haynes Room

Our Small Group Ministry program, known as Chalice Circles, fulfills the need for intimacy and spiritual growth of members in our large faith community.

Small groups of eight to ten people enhance connections and provide an avenue for religious growth and spiritual meaning. This year, there will also be a parents group with childcare. Most groups meet twice a month for two hours in the Parish House or in a member's home. Group members are asked to commit to eight or ten sessions. Each group is led by a trained facilitator.

On Sunday, September 29, there will be opportunities to experience a brief Chalice Circle sampler after church and to sign up for the fall groups.

Steering Committee: Jean Lawlor, chair, Dianne Mailloux and Marilyn Eanet

Registrar: Janet Downing Taylor

Why R We Here?

Bi-weekly, from mid-September to November, starting September 17 at 7:00p

We come to First Unitarian by many paths. We might be new to Providence or been raised in another religious tradition. All of us have our own stories. This class/discussion group will look at the baggage we bring to our religious/spiritual practice and the principles that bind us together. In the spring, we will discuss spiritual growth and building a caring community.

Contact: George Beshers (gbeshers@gmail.com)

The Spiritual Review: A Monthly Book Discussion Group

2nd Thursday of the month, starting September 12, 6:00-8:00p

This book discussion group offers a welcoming, dynamic space for discussion, reflection, and dialogue with others interested in spiritual thought. Historically significant writings (Rumi, Swami Vivekananda) will be considered, as well as a rich array of offerings by contemporary spiritual thinkers (Pema Chodron, Thomas Merton, Tara Brach).

Members will collectively choose monthly selections. The facilitator will provide three key questions for each book, and members will be asked to bring pivotal questions to share concerning core concepts and themes.

Registration required. Contact: Kevin DeJesus (kevinm.dejesus@gmail.com)

Flowers for Sunday Services

Flowers at the pulpit are donated by members and friends in honor or memory of a loved one and donors are acknowledged in the order of service. Whether the flowers are a florist arrangement or picked from a garden, people always comment on how they brighten the pulpit. Jacqui Nye will be glad to explain how to donate. Your flower offering will be greatly appreciated.

Contact: Jacqui Nye (funjac@hotmail.com)

A Successful Summer Program

This summer's services featured a wide variety of interesting speakers and beautiful music.

Thanks to Kenneth Miller, Rev. Catie Scudera, Jim Barfoot, Jacqui Nye, Maia Bailey, Pam Steager, Erica Napolitano, Kate Menard, Steve Ahlquist, Jim Edwards and Lisa Sampson for their stimulating talks; and . . .

to Lynda Gulley, Claire Rosenbaum, Neil Bartholomew, Diana Cole, Emma Corbin, Neil Bartholomew, the First Unitarian Community Band, the First Unitarian Youth Group, Gray Matter Trio, Lynda Gulley, An Hoeyberghs, Janice Okoomian, StrongHouse Quintet, and Katherine Wilhelm for the wonderful music.

Janet Downing Taylor and Robert Owen Jones took to the floor for "Let It Be a Dance" during the July 28 service.



Benevolent Street Zendo: An Ongoing Zen Meditation Group

Every Monday at 7:00p

Benevolent Street Zendo is a member community of the Boundless Way Zen Sangha, an interfaith Zen community that maintains close ties with the Soto Zen Buddhist Association and the American Zen Teachers Association.

Everyone is welcome. Brief instruction available at 6:45p.

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

Innate Wisdom and Compassion Meditation

Every Wednesday at 7:00p

This drop-in group offers guided meditations of wisdom, love and compassion. These practices are adapted from Tibetan Buddhism 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, and in our service, and social action.

No previous meditation experience required. You can visit our website for a preview of the practices with Benefactors (foundationforactivecompassion.org/audios-videos-texts)

Contact: Ken Bent (kenbent@cox.net)

UUMen

Sunday, September 8 at 7:00p

Topic for September: Homecoming"

What was your summer like? What new things did you do? Learn? Figure out about yourself?

UUMen welcomes men of all ages and stages in life. We help each other to deal with the issues of being male in our culture. We meet to confront gender injustice; homophobia; racism; loneliness; and distrust between men, against women and children, themselves, and the Earth. We enjoy occasional Saturday breakfasts and other social events. All are welcome to join us.

Facilitator: Steve McCloy (401.244.5321)

Reimagining Religion

Tuesdays, September 10 & 24, 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.

Leader: Tom Hall (twh2nd@aol.com)

First Unitarian's Food Share Pantry

Volunteer at Our Food Pantry

Distribution Day: Monday, September 16

The biggest social justice program at First Unitarian is the Food Share Pantry. It takes many volunteers to keep the program 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 Day:

Set-up: 2:00p–3:00p

Shopping with clients: 3:00p–5:00p

Restock, recycle, and clean up: 5:00p–6:00p.

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

The Pantry Is Open to All

You probably know that volunteers at First Unitarian run a very well attended food pantry. But did you know that members of the congregation who are in need are also welcome to take part and receive food? You do not have to be receiving government help or otherwise demonstrate need. Just come to the church after 2:30p on the third Monday of the month and fill out a brief registration form.

Log Your Community Service Hours with the Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry is an opportunity to use your employer-paid volunteer/community service time from your job. We can fill out any necessary paperwork for you. This also goes for high school or college youth who need community service hours.

Your Recycled Magazines = Food for the Food Pantry

Here's how it works: donate your high-interest magazines for others to purchase for just 50 cents to \$1. Popular categories: science, gardening, kids' magazines, handyman, *Geographics*, cars, yoga, fishing, cooking, craft, foreign affairs, current events (no weeklies), and personal improvement, just to name a few. No catalogs, please. Last year this program earned close to \$370. for our Food Pantry.



Social Justice

Month of Peace in Rhode Island

September will celebrate the Month of Peace in Rhode Island along with the Peace Flag Project (PFP), part of First Unitarian's Social Justice Ministry. In 2004, PFP began celebrating the UN International Day of Peace (9/21), a day for the people of the world to focus on peace and to come together in peaceful celebrations, suspending conflict and discord. It is a day for ordinary people, not public officials or diplomats or academics, to join together for a day of harmony.

"Here in Rhode Island, we have expanded the Peace Day to Peace Month to give more attention to the organizations, events and people who work for the public good throughout the year. One day just isn't enough," says Ginny Fox, who founded PFP. "Peace is a big idea, and it needs to be celebrated in many different ways."

Our Peace Month calendar includes special peace events or civic events that are reflective of a peaceful world. Here at First Unitarian, we will be hosting an exhibit of Peace Art as well as a Communisong concert with Holly Near (see below).



For more information, contact PFP (info@thepeaceflagproject.org) or visit the website (www.thepeaceflagproject.org). We hope to see you at lots of our events!

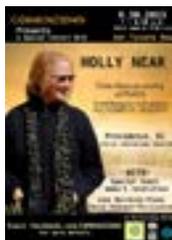
Communisong: A Concert with Holly Near with special guest emma's revolution

Monday, September 30, 7:00p–8:30p (doors open at 6:30p)

First Unitarian Church Meeting house

Come share an evening of peace in continuing our walk against all forms of violence. Communisong – in partnership with the RI Peace Flag Project and the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence – presents this special Holly Near concert with special guest emma's revolution, John Bucchino (piano), and David Rokeach (percussion).

Communisong believes that music is a deeply powerful source for positive change. With that in mind, we seek to bring together people from different cultures, generations, genders, and musical experience in order to learn and enjoy making communal music. Communisong seeks to provide a fun, positive, safe, inclusive, flexible, non-judgmental atmosphere in which we can build community, convert differences to harmony and raise a joyful noise that celebrates the human condition.



Holly Near's new album, *Peace Becomes You*, builds on 40 creative years and 30 recordings. Respected around the world for her music and activism, her joy and passion inspire people to join in her celebration of the human spirit. Her music fully engages listeners in the world around them. Holly has made a career speaking to anyone in the world who believes in peace, justice, and feminism, a wonderful spectrum of humanity.

Tickets are \$20 and are available at <http://tinyurl.com/hollynear>.

For more information, visit www.communisong.net



Knitting for a Better World

Every Tuesday from 7:00-9:00p

Come join fellow knitters for a casual evening of knitting and conversation. Work on your own project or join in one of our many group efforts: hats, socks, mittens, scarves and more for local groups in need of warm clothing.

Beginners are always welcome. We have plenty of yarn and needles to get you started.

Contact: Kathy Ahlquist (katherine.ahlquist@gmail.com)

Neighborhood Social Justice

*Monthly meeting, Sunday, September 8
12:15p in the Haynes Room*

Anyone wishing to become a part of this committee, which is dedicated to helping those outside of our church that are in need, please attend. This is an excellent opportunity to help others.

One of the projects of the Neighborhood Social Justice Committee is the Mobile Loaves & Fishes catering truck. Donations and volunteers are always needed (see below).

Mobile Loaves & Fishes Truck

Thursday, September 19, 3:00p

On the third Thursday of each month, we sponsor the Mobile Loaves & Fishes catering truck. Over 100 men, women, and children are directly fed from the van each month. We also provide them with clothing that they so desperately need. Please help us keep this mission going.

Sign-up sheets are available at the NSJC table on Sundays during Coffee Hour. Come by to see how you can help us feed the homeless. Please help us keep this mission going.

Habitat for Humanity

Work Day, Saturday, September 21

First Unitarian's Habitat Work Group volunteers once a month with the Providence chapter of Habitat for Humanity RI, which usually has several houses under construction. Volunteers of all skill levels are welcome; the only requirements are a willingness and ability to do physical work and a minimum age of 16. Our work day is the third Saturday each month. Sign-up is required as space on each month's crew is limited.

Contact: Peter Van Erp (401.351.4881 or petervanerp@cox.net)

Standing on the Side of Love



Marriage Equality has come to Rhode Island! The SSL committee is grateful to all First Unitarian members and friends who stood on the side of love during the long struggle for this important human right! Thank you to all who wrote to their representatives, knocked on doors, made phone calls, and testified at the State House.

There is still a lot of justice work to be done in Rhode Island -- the Standing on the Side of Love committee will keep you informed of our activities and ways you can participate.



Social Justice

The Girl Effect: A New Task Force

First meeting Sunday, October 6 at 12:15p

The Girl Effect is a new group at our church that will concentrate on raising funds to contribute directly to girls' education. We will work with the Girl Effect, a non-profit group founded on the principle that "girls are the most

powerful force for change on the planet." When given a chance, women and girls can lift themselves out of poverty, and their villages along with them, thus multiplying the impact. This new group has developed from the Village Bank Task Force and has many of the same goals.

Our main fundraising event will be the Holiday sale in December (selling handicrafts from less-developed countries, thereby benefiting the workers as well).

More information at www.girleffect.org

Contacts: Marilyn Eanet (meanet@cox.net), Martha Manno (Mmanno7@comcast.net) & Polly Walker (polly41walker@gmail.com)

Transylvania Partner Church Update

Our partner church in Szentegyhaza, Romania has been working hard on getting their dream of a new church to come true. The existing church is very small and could fit into the footprint of the first floor of our new Parish House addition. There is no room for community meetings or religious training. This is a long-range project that may take ten years to complete.

When a group from First Unitarian last visited in April 2012, we were shown a couple of sites where land was available in the town. According to Rev. Szabolcs Kelemen, the town has agreed to provide land that can be used just north of the existing church/minister building. The transfer of the land was slated to happen this summer.

An architect has been hired, and their church has raised 75% of the cost of this service. The town will issue building permits when they have the remaining 25%. First Unitarian has raised money through the plate collection and the sale of "construction bricks." The funds collected here, if transferred now, should just about put them over their first phase of construction, which is land purchase and engineering plans.

Rev. Kelemen also mentioned that their congregation will be celebrating their twentieth anniversary as a congregation on September 29, 2013. More information will come on that topic at a later date.

Legislative Advocacy: Organizing a Letter-Writing Campaign

A three-part series with Rev. Gene Dyszlewski

Part 1: Examining the Letter Advocacy Process and Messaging the Difficult Legislator

Thursday, October 3, 7:00p

During the Marriage Equality campaign, members of First Unitarian were in the forefront of advocacy, including letter writing, phone banking, and personal meetings with legislators. Many of us were faced with the challenge of having to communicate with a socially conservative legislator. In most cases we did quite well, and the campaign was a success.

We will be facing the same people in the Rhode Island legislature in 2014. Let's change the world again.

Save the dates for the remaining sessions:

Part 2: Thursday, November 7 – Communicating with the Center Right

Part 3: Thursday, February 6 – Taking Action: Implementing a Faith Based Campaign

Contact: Rev. Gene Dyszlewski (edyszlewski@cox.net)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday Service 10:00a	2 LABOR DAY Church Office Closed Zendo 7:00p	3 Lay Ministry 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	4 Prudential Committee 6:30p Meditation 7:00p	5	6	7 Saturday Social Supper (R. Arellana)
8 Sunday Service 10:30a at 12:00p Neighborhood SJ History Committee UU Men 7:00p	9 Zendo 7:00p	10 Teacher Orientation 6:00p Worship Committee 7:00p Reimagining Religion 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	11 Meditation 7:00p	12 Deacons 5:30p Spiritual Review 6:00p Standing on the Side of Love 7:00p	13 All-Parish Supper 5:45p Program 7:45p	14
15 Sunday Service Sunday School opens 10:30a at 12:15p Membership Chalice Circle Facilitators	16 Food Pantry 2:00-6:00p Zendo 7:00p	17 Why R We Here? 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	18 Meditation 7:00p	19 Mobile Loaves & Fishes 3:30p	20	21 Habitat Work Day
22 Sunday Service 10:30a at 12:00p Ice Cream Social	23 Zendo 7:00p	24 Reimagining Religion 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	25 Meditation 7:00p	26	27	28 Leadership Retreat
29 Sunday Service 10:30a at 12:00p COA Parent Orientation Chalice Circle Sampler	30 Holly Near/ emma's revolution Concert 7:00p Zendo 7:00p					