



Summer Services: Gathering the Spirit

Summer is often a time of dispersal and wandering, but at First Unitarian we continue gathering, inquiring, and discovering throughout the summer. The theme for this summer's services – Gathering the Spirit – invites us to join with our member and guest speakers to inquire into how we are bound together spiritually. Each insightful talk is complemented by special music performed by talented musicians, both guests and members of our congregation.

Our (mostly) 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.

This summer's services call us together to reflect on topics as varied as science, history, belief, youth, boredom, and our own sense of self-worth. Come gather with us!

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.

The Worship Committee: Neil Bartholomew and Joan Richards, Co-chairs;
Kathy Ahlquist, Lynda Gulley, Kate Katzberg

Sunday, June 16 **To Find God in All Things** 10:00a

Kenneth Miller

Does the evolutionary history and architecture of life deny a creator, as many seem to assume? Or is there room for the divine in the everyday workings of the living world?

Ken Miller is Professor of Biology at Brown University. An outspoken defender of the theory of evolution, he is the author of widely used biology textbooks and, in 2005, was the lead witness at the highly publicized Dover, Pennsylvania, trial on the teaching of intelligent design. He is a recipient of the Stephen Jay Gould Prize from the Society for the Study of Evolution.

Music by Claire Rosenbaum, Janice Okoomian, and Lynda Gulley

Sunday, June 23 **The Noonday Demon** 10:00a

Rev. Catie Scudera

Among the well-known Seven Deadly Sins, sloth is not one that garners particular attention in our greedy and violent modern times. However, sloth can seriously and regularly stunt spiritual practice and growth. In this sermon, we learn from our religious ancestors how to stay committed to spiritual practice in our fast-paced, consumerist culture.

Catie Scudera is serving as intern minister at Arlington Street Church in downtown Boston. She graduated from Harvard Divinity School in 2012 and was a co-founder of the UU Partner Church Council's A. Margaret Barr Children's Village in Kharang, India.

Music by An Hoeyberghs, Neil Bartholomew, and Lynda Gulley



We are a
Welcoming Congregation

Summer Worship Services

in the Meeting House
begin at 10:00a

Program for Young Children

in the Parish House
during the service

Fellowship Hour

follows the service
(outdoors, weather permitting)

S t a f f

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
Paul Webber/John Forde
Evening Security
Pedro Vasquez/Anderson Correa
Sunday Building Managers

N e w s l e t t e r

Posey Kooris, Managing Editor
Susan Fisher, Proof Editor
Design Consultant, Amy Webb

First Unitarian Church of Providence
One Benevolent Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02906
Tel: 401.421.7970
Fax: 401.276.4291

Web: www.firstunitarianprov.org
Email: min@firstunitarianprov.org
dre@firstunitarianprov.org
admin@firstunitarianprov.org
assist@firstunitarianprov.org
mem@firstunitarianprov.org



SUMMER AT FIRST UNITARIAN

Summer Office Hours

The church office will be open from 9:00a to 4:00p from June 10 to August 30. The office will be closed for holidays on July 4, August 12, and September 2 and for vacation the weeks of July 22 and 29, reopening on Monday, August 5.

Ministry Services from Mid-June to Early August

Nearby ministers will be on call for emergencies through mid-August. Speak with staff in the church office for names and contact numbers.

In case of emergency during the office vacation break (July 20 to August 4, reopening on August 5), a message regarding contact information will be on the answering machine.

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 Day: Mondays, July 15 & August 19
Volunteer for a shift on Distribution Days with our biggest social justice program!

Set-up: 2:00p-3:00p, Shopping with clients: 3:00p-5:00p, Restock 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 18 & August 15

Hunger and need don't end with the arrival of warm weather, so First Unitarian will continue on the third Thursday of each month to stock the Mobile Loaves & Fishes catering truck with donated food and clothing and deliver the contents to upwards of 100 homeless men and women in downtown Providence.

Volunteers are needed during the summer months. On the day of the run, you can:

- 12:00 to 1:00p - join the sandwich-making team;
- 3:30-5:00p - prepare hot food, sort clothes, and stock the catering truck;
- 5:00-7:00p - travel with the truck as it makes its deliveries; or
- 7:15-8:00p - clear out and clean up the truck in preparation for the next run.

Sunday, June 30

Believe It or Not?

10:00a

Jim Barfoot

From earliest childhood to the present moment, we are presented with things somebody wants us to believe. School teachers, parents, advertising, political campaigns, newscasters, and friends all try to get us to buy into their story. Why do you accept some and reject others? We will take a few minutes to explore the tests we all use to decide whether to believe something or not. It may change how you think about beliefs.

Jim Barfoot mixes inquisitive playfulness with an analytical bent. These have been tempered by experience as a product designer after getting a design degree at RISD, by time as an electronic tech in the Navy and doing kitchen design at Home Depot, and by growing up as the son of a Methodist minister. Currently, these proclivities find expression in artworks using a variety of media.

Music by Katherine Wilhelm and Lynda Gulley

Sunday, July 7

The Man without a Country: Edward Everett Hale
Summers in Rhode Island

10:00a

Jacqui Nye

Nineteenth-century Unitarian minister and man of letters Edward Everett Hale summered for over 50 years in Matunuck. Jacqui will reflect on his literary and social justice work and how these may inform our work here at the First Unitarian Church of Providence.

Jacqui Nye has been a member of First Unitarian for 11 years. She loves history, travel, and social justice action. She is currently employed with a local social service agency.

Guest organist Susan B. Hale (see sidebar, page 3)

Sunday, July 14

The Kids Are Alright

10:00a

Maia Bailey

Since joining First Unitarian, Maia has met many friends, become part of a vibrant and active community, and been challenged to live the ideals of Unitarian Universalism. But the best part for her has been working with the youth at First Unitarian. She will be talking about the joys and challenges of working with our teens and how they are the best antidote to what ails us.

Maia Bailey is a recent convert to Unitarian Universalism, having joined the church shortly after moving to Providence in 2007. In her professional life, she is an evolutionary biologist who teaches at Providence College. At First Unitarian, she has worked with the Youth Group and the Coming of Age program.

Music by the StrongHouse Quartet and Lynda Gulley

Sunday July 21

Gather in Peace

10:00a

Pam Steager

While Peace on Earth is a worthwhile goal, perhaps it is well worth our while to focus on the ways in which we can be peaceful within ourselves and create peace within our families, our schools, our neighborhoods, and our communities.

Pam Steager is a writer and prevention consultant, mother of two, grandmother of four, and long-time advocate for peace and justice. She authored the "That's What She Said" column in the Providence Phoenix for 15 years and now blogs for the Women's Fund of RI.

Music by the First Unitarian Community Band

Sunday, July 28

My Bucket List

10:00a

Erica Napolitano

Erica will reflect on how her personal "bucket list" – an ever-changing and organic document – affects her life in the past, present, and future.

Erica Napolitano is a "retired" high school math teacher, stay-at-home mom of two boys (six and four), wife to Domenic Napolitano, avid runner, and reading enthusiast. She is one of the advisors of the church Senior High Youth Group, has previously been Coming of Age mentor coordinator, and also has a small business, Colby Creations, where she makes children's items and reusable products.

Music by members of the First Unitarian Youth Group

Sunday, August 4 Second Chances
10:00a**Kate Menard**

When, in life, do we gently forgive ourselves and others, making space for “second chances”? *Kate Menard has been a mentor in the Coming of Age program for five years, each year assisting one of our youth in writing a “credo statement” and wondering herself what words she would choose to express her own spiritual beliefs. Today, she has that opportunity to speak to the congregation!*

Music by Claire Rosenbaum

Sunday, August 11 Atheist, Secular Humanist, and Other Insults
10:00a**Steve Ahlquist**

Over the years, Steve (and others like him) has had many words thrown at him with the intent to stigmatize and insult. Some of these insults are crude, others are based in ignorance, and still others are right on target. These last are not even truly insults, save in the minds of those hurling them. Some of these insults, like the word *atheist*, are simple descriptors; but others, like *secular humanist*, he wears with pride.

Steve Ahlquist is a writer, artist, award-winning filmmaker, humanist activist, and current president of the Humanists of Rhode Island, a nonprofit group dedicated to reason, compassion, optimism, and action. His blog is CautionChurchAhead.com, where he writes on the intersection of religion and politics, and he is a frequent contributor to RI Future.info, a local progressive political blog. The views expressed are his own and not necessarily those of any organization with which he is affiliated.

Music by Claire Rosenbaum

Sunday, August 18 What’s Up with Boredom, or How Did Zero Become a Negative Number?**10:00a****Jim Edwards**

Over the years, Jim has tried to talk about boredom to his Coming of Age classes in the church school, but it freaks them out. They have an easier time discussing sexuality. The sermon will include a story about sitting under a truck in the middle of the Sahara.

Jim Edwards is retired. He and his wife, Dena Quilici, have been teachers in the Religious Education program for a couple of decades. He has recently completed a novel, Chasing Rabbits.

Music by Claire Rosenbaum and Emma Corbin

Sunday, August 25 Worthiness
10:00a**Lisa Sampson**

What do you think you are worthy of and why? How does this impact the way you operate in the world? Lisa will explore the importance of our own sense of worthiness and our ability to recognize the inherent worth of all beings.

Lisa Sampson has been a member of First Unitarian for nearly two years and is a resident of Providence. She currently works at the Providence After School Alliance as the High School Initiative Coordinator. She graduated from Hartwick College in 2009 with BA in philosophy and religious studies.

Music by the Gray Matter Trio and Lynda Gulley

Sunday, September 1 Bread and Roses: A Meditation
10:00a**Rev. James Ishmael Ford**

Our minister, James Ford, returns to the pulpit for the last of our summer services. He will explore the themes of labor and rest, of dignity and struggle, of bread and roses.

Music by Diana Cole, Neil Bartholomew, and Lynda Gulley

Sunday, September 8 Homecoming & Water Communion
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.

**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)

Welcome Susan B. Hale

Susan Hale, our guest organist on July 7, is a great-great-granddaughter of the Rev. Edward Everett Hale, author of *The Man without a Country*, who is the subject of the July 2 service and a Chaplain of the US Senate. She is also a descendant of Edward Everett, president of Harvard University, ambassador to Great Britain, and Secretary of State, and of Nathan Hale, who regretted that he had “but one life to give for my country.” Susan is a painter and children’s book author as well as an organist. She has given recitals at churches in New York City and Quito, Ecuador; she is the organist in residence at the University of Loja in Peru.