



Monkey Mind

On Wednesday evening, the seventh of May, I informed our Prudential Committee that I intend to retire from the parish ministry at the end of the church year in 2015. I then sent a note via email to our membership with some of the details. Here I want to expand that note just a little.

First, I want to underscore that my retirement is going to be a year and a couple of months from now. So, there is a lot we yet get to do together! And formal goodbyes don't need to happen for some time.

What led to this decision were conversations my wife, Jan, and I have been having about the next steps in our lives. We consulted with our financial planner. We thought about where we were in our work, me here and Jan at Perkins School for the Blind. And we concluded it is a good time to make this transition in our lives, allowing us to move closer to family in California while everyone is healthy and in a position to enjoy that next stage.

I've certainly not accomplished everything I'd hoped for in my time among you. But I feel I have been of real use and that I will be leaving a healthy and happy community ready to go on to the next phase of its life. It's hard to hope for much more.

As I've noted, we will have plenty of time for our goodbyes, and, absolutely, I feel there's some good work yet we can do together.

And even as we go forward with that work, it is time to begin planning our respective transitions. By the time you read this newsletter, the Prudential Committee will have met with Rev. Bill Zelazny, our District Executive, and will have begun weighing considerations of ministerial succession. While I can be a resource, it is important that I not be in the decision-making process for this. This belongs to you, as a free congregation of our liberal tradition.

Right now, I just want to convey my enormous love and gratitude for these years together. I remain ever yours,

Rev. James Ishmael Ford, Minister
 Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday,
 9:00a-12:00p. Appointments are recommended.
 min@firstunitarianprov.org
 James's blog: www.patheos.com/blogs/monkeymind

Introducing Our New(est) Community Minister



At its most recent meeting, the Prudential Committee approved a covenant with the Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Howard to become our newest community minister. Gwen earned her undergraduate degree from Creighton University and a doctorate in ministry from Meadville Lombard. She served as a parish minister at the UU Church of Peoria, IL and St. Paul's Universalist Church in Little Falls, NY. She currently works as a psychotherapist in private practice and teaches ethics at Johnson and Wales. She will preach on occasion, teach, and be available for pastoral support at James's request. Please welcome Gwen into our community!

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 June is Pat Gifford. Referrals or calls to the church will be passed on to Pat, who will call upon Care Crew volunteers.

The Lay Ministry Team: Margaret Balch Gonzalez, Andy Barrett, Pat Gifford, Kate Menard, Rick Richards, Tori Smith and Susan Weston.

Deacons' Corner

This has been a very busy year for the Deacons. Back in September, we began to work on Home Hospitality for the upcoming General Assembly (GA). We signed up about 60 homes, especially important because of the shortage of available hotel space in Providence. The next task was to inspect each home. Special thanks to Jacqui Nye, who headed this project. It would not have been as successful without her hard work.

The First Unitarian T-shirt program was revived, feeling that people would like to wear them to GA. Thirty-three shirts were sold. Both of these projects were fundraisers for the church.

Along with these activities, we still did our Deacons Calling program and assisted at communion services.

As Senior Deacon this year, and chair last year, David Spremulli would like to personally thank the people who worked so hard this year. Thank you Ruth, Steve, Shirley, Keith, Tom, and Mary. He is happy to leave the Deacons in capable hands. Thanks to Gerry, also, who is leaving this year, and to Jacqui and Claire, who did not finish the year. Welcome to Sharon Kernan, who replaced Claire, and to Sally Caruso and Kate Bowden, who are coming on for the next five years starting July 1.

Wishing a great and safe summer to everyone.

The Deacons: David Spremulli, Senior Deacon, Gerry Spremulli, Ruth Arellana, Steve McCloy, Shirley DiMatteo, Keith Brown, Tom Getz, Mary Speare, Sharon Kernan



WHEEL OF LIFE

Condolences to:

The family and friends of **Rose Solakian**, church member since 1972.

John D'Abate and his family on the death of his mother, **Janina D'Abate**, church member since 1956.



Spiritual Pathways

Approach To Summer

June is one of the beautiful months, full of flowers and berries, beach openings, weddings, and graduations. In church and academic circles, we look at where we have come and plan forward to where we are going. Each year, my professional vision is fed by listening carefully to our children, youth, and adults as they share in chapel services, speak from the pulpit at recognitions and celebrations. It seems to me that we have had a healthy year of growth and faith development. And, I know that there is more to be done. Our youth are strong and inspirational, modeling the independent worth and dignity of each person. Some hold up friends and family as most important. Others are most intrigued by word and story. They seek to make a difference in their own lives and in their world. We have a responsibility to guide them on their paths to blending individuality with community.

The Religious Education Committee and I have been working on ways to evolve our communications, practices and programs in keeping with changing cultural and congregational needs. Our priorities will be aimed at communications and collaborations in better serving our multigenerational community and our living UU tradition.

The closing Sunday school class day and chapel worship is June 1. We will honor each group and participant by sharing highlights of the year. We will sing and be silent, talk and listen, remembering why we gather.

Once class weeks end, my work focuses on preparation for next season, including worship planning, volunteer recruitment and support and curriculum development. I look forward to being with many of you at UUA General Assembly, here in Providence, where I will begin my term as President of my professional organization, The Liberal Religious Educator's Association (LREDA). In mid- July I will soak in RE Week on Star Island. This year's theme is Full Week Faith. After enjoying a few weeks away from work, I will dive into updating materials and programs for fall.

I am pleased with where we have come this year and look forward to what is next. For now, it is a good time to refill our wells. Let's soak up the precious ending of spring and beginning of summer. I plan to enjoy the delicious, longer days of June, even while facing deadlines and caring for my family.

I wish for you a summer that is just what you need.

Take good care,

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



Photo: Richard Boober

The Eighth-Grade Coming of Age Class and their Mentors

Brown Campus UUs (BUUUG)

The closing party for our campus ministry group was at Cathy's house. There, five seniors were honored and gifted with a miniature clay chalice like they light each week at their meetings. We will miss Liz Resnick, Erin Capra, Dan Tatar, Kelvin Jackson & Chelsea Feuchs and wish them every happiness as they begin this next chapter in their lives. The group will resume in the fall. Stay tuned.

Team Teaching Volunteer Opportunities

There are still a few spots open on volunteer teaching teams in some classes for next year. Each class has a minimum of four adults who help, two or three at a time, on half of the school year Sundays.

Interested and for more information, please contact Cathy Seggel (401.421.7970, dre@firstunitarianprov.org) or any RE Committee member.



Registration for the 2014-15 Spiritual Pathways Program

Annual enrollment for our religious education program for children and youth begins in September, in person, on Homecoming Sunday, September 7 or by downloading the registration form from our website. *Please note: Families must register each year.*

2014-15 First Unitarian Resource Guide

Please check our website in August for our annual resource guide that includes a congregational calendar, information about programming for children, youth and adults and opportunities to connect and participate. Hard copies are mailed to member households in August.



Sight Lines

From the President

As the end of the church year (June 30) approaches, a brief review of the recent past and plans for the future are in order. Also, some concerns should be noted.

The current year began well. Thanks mainly to a grant from the Champlin Foundations, five of the large windows in the Meeting House were rebuilt, and all windows now operate. For the first time in years we can reduce heat loss and the costs of heating our main building. In the parking lot, hazardous conditions were mitigated by volunteers.

The year is ending well. Thanks to very able leadership and plain hard work, the budget drive raised more funds from pledges than ever before. We also had greater participation than in the past. Other accomplishments deserve mention. As the result of a generous gift from the Women's Alliance, the Paneled Parlor in the Parish House will be refurbished this summer. The Alliance, previously an independent organization, has supported the Church for generations. They have recently changed their affiliation and become a formal program within the church. Also, planning for the UUA General Assembly in June is nearly complete. Planning for First Unitarian celebrations in 2016 (the 200th anniversary of the Meeting House) and 2020 (the 300th anniversary of the gathering of the congregation) is under way.

Generally, the staff, committees, members, volunteers, and friends of First Unitarian are well coordinated and contributing to the vitality of our church and community. Church membership is growing nicely.

Nevertheless, we face several challenges. James Ford has announced his retirement, and soon we will be searching for a new minister. We thank him for his excellent ministry and for his many, many contributions to First Unitarian. We offer him and Jan our best wishes for a constructive future and our love.

Another challenge is MONEY. Two items – improvements for facilities and our fair share contribution for the UUA – will likely not be fully funded in 2015. This is symptomatic of a growing concern. The gap between the funds we raise and the amount we should spend for operations and maintenance of facilities is widening. In recent years, we balanced operating budgets by deferring basic building maintenance and reducing payments to the UUA. Such expediency cannot and should not continue indefinitely. The issue of major capital improvements must be addressed. If the congregation is unable to meet the church's needs, significant cuts in operating budgets will be required. This will reduce staff time, which will, in turn, impact the level of service First Unitarian currently offers. The congregation gives what we can, but there is a limit. Are we close to that limit?

We welcome the future. We shall consider and meet our challenges as well as we are collectively able. Your participation in this communal effort and spiritual journey is most welcome and appreciated. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president.

Respectfully yours,

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

Notice of Annual Meeting and Annual Financial Meeting

Sunday, June 1 at 12:00 noon

The meeting to be held on Sunday, June 1, will be a combined Annual and Financial Meeting. Items that church members will vote on include candidates for elected positions and the proposed operating budget for FY 2014-15.

Under the bylaws, only those who have been a member for more than three months, who are over 16 years of age, and who in some recorded manner within the previous year have contributed to the financial support of the church are entitled to vote.

If you are not a Voting Member, you may still attend and speak at the Annual Meeting, but you may not vote. Robert's Rules of Order governs all duly called meetings of the church.

Treasurer's Report

The Fiscal Year 2014-15 budget for First Unitarian has been completed. It will be voted on at the Annual Meeting, Sunday, June 1.



The budget to be presented represents several areas which have been seriously reduced. The most glaring are limited denominational support (UUA and Ballou Channing District fair share) and the amount (\$2,000) set aside for the Race to 300. These limitations are necessary even with the tremendous Annual Budget Drive support from the congregation.

Please attend the Annual Meeting so that you can have a better understanding of the process and the future needs of the church.

Currently, pledge payments are on target, but in order to complete the year with a balanced budget for FY13-14 it is very important for all of us to complete our pledges by June 30. To date, there are still 23% of pledges to be received. The loss of a large number of parking lot rentals has made it even more important that we receive a high percentage of our pledges.

Graham Nye, Treasurer

Thank You!

When our team's budget drive journey began in early fall, I couldn't quite wrap my head around the magnitude of this job, but knew that jumping in was the only way to find out. A leap of faith, perhaps? Like so many of us, I am in awe of this church and proud to be a part it. But this fall, for the first time since joining our community a few years ago, this pride was met with an equally great sense of responsibility.

We are the keepers of this place and this spring we have done our forefather's proud. We have pledged more money than ever before. And most meaningful to me, more households have pledged than ever before – 345! We did it.

Of course, you only need to read the surrounding columns to know that the news is not all good. But I have reserved this space for an equally important message. On behalf of the Annual Budget Drive Team, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

With deep gratitude,

Lisa Sampson (Co-Chair, Annual Budget Drive Team) on behalf of Anne Connor (Co-Chair) and the entire Annual Budget Drive Team



Community Life

Welcome Our Newest Members!

On Sunday, April 27, the congregation recognized eight new members with a ceremony of covenant and welcome. Look for them at church and add your personal greetings.



Cyndi and Jesse Alexandre live in North Providence with their nine-year-old son. Jesse is a sales merchant for a local retail company and Cyndi is an elementary school library teacher. They met through work and married last summer. They enjoy camping, traveling, and spending time with family. Cyndi and Jesse have been attending First Unitarian for several years and are glad to “make it official”!



Jean Dolan moved to Providence last fall from Massachusetts to be with her (now) husband, William Dolan. Cathy Seggel officiated at their wedding on November 30, 2013. Jean grew up a Unitarian Universalist in Madison, Wisconsin, and then, upon moving to the East Coast 30 years ago, got involved once again in the UU church in Chelmsford, having contributed there by playing music as well writing and teaching in their Coming of Age program. She looks forward to getting involved here in Providence in the near future.



John Gallagher lives in Smith Hill. He is currently a school bus driver and union member. He’s been a rank and file member of the George Wiley Center since 1999, a peace activist during the Iraq war, a Green Party member, friend of Bill W’s, and a third-year student of Social Work at Rhode Island College.



Mike Mathieu is a professional musician and home expert who has lived in the Providence area for four years, returning to his home state after spending a decade living in Boston, New York, and finally Austin, Texas. Mike is excited to find a diverse community of like-minded, progressive people who share a common goal of exploring spirituality and the self.



Nicole and Christian Weeks are parents of two boys: Cooper, 4 and Ethan, 1. Nicole is a special education teacher (severe profound disabilities) at a high school in the Chariho Regional School District. She is a mosaic artist and enjoys spending some of her free time making mosaic projects for home or decorative art.

Christian is a psychotherapist building a private practice working with children, adults, couples, and families. He has always been a spiritual person, connecting with God through nature and being outdoors. With a desire to create more balance and a sense of peace in his life, he has enjoyed finding and exploring the ideas and ways of the Unitarian church.

They both enjoy being active and outside, bike riding, camping, snow skiing, and now going for long walks with their two young boys. They are excited to be members of the church and look forward to making new friends and having the boys be a part of the youth program.

Rob Galvin is originally from Wakefield, Massachusetts. He lives in Warren with his lovely wife, Elizabeth O’Connell, who is also a member of the church. They were married in this church. Their family includes Rob’s son, Bart, and Elizabeth’s son, Zack, and daughter, Selena. His work life has included real estate, commercial fishing, and being a radio host. He lived on Cape Cod for 25 years and moved to Rhode Island in 2003. Discovering the First Unitarian has enriched his life in many ways, and he is proud to be a member.

Women’s Alliance Programs

The Women’s Alliance

Monday, June 2

Annual Outing: Museum of Work and Culture
42 South Main Street, Woonsocket, RI

Annual Meeting: 10:00am in the museum

Tour: 10:30am–12:00pm, led by Paul Papineau

Dutch-treat lunch: 12:30 at a nearby restaurant

The Museum of Work and Culture, managed by the Rhode Island Historical Society, exhibits the culture of the French-Canadian and other ethnic communities who settled in the Blackstone River Valley in response to the need for laborers in the mills during the Industrial Revolution. Exhibits also feature the role that work and organized labor played in shaping the lives of these Rhode Islanders from diverse origins.

The Way We Worked, the current exhibit at the museum, is a Smithsonian Institution exhibition touring New England in collaboration with Historic New England.

The museum, not usually open on Mondays, will open for the Alliance so we can view this show and bring as many people as we wish. The admission is free for members of the RI Historical Society. The Alliance will pick up the admission for members of the Alliance who do not have membership with RIHS. For all guests not members of RIHS the admission is \$6.

Paul Papineau, a native French speaker, spent more than thirty years in the American Schools of France, Germany, and the Netherlands. He is a longtime docent for the RIHS, leading tours in Providence, Newport, and Woonsocket.

Non-members *and men* are always welcome to join us for our monthly programs and luncheon.

Gourmet Coffee Sale in the Atrium

The Women’s Alliance sells delicious organic gourmet coffee each Sunday during Coffee Hour. They offer several varieties of both beans and ground coffees from New Harvest Roasters, including a bolder decaf: French Roast.

Your purchases help the Women’s Alliance support community charities and church projects.

Support for Camp Street Ministries

Your Eastside Marketplace grocery receipts can benefit the programs at Camp Street Ministries. Bring them to the collection box at the back table of the Atrium near the Haynes Room. The Women’s Alliance passes them on to Camp St. Ministries.



Community Life

June All-Parish Supper

Friday, June 13

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 - "An Evening of Contra Dancing"

For our after dinner program, we will celebrate the coming of summer with a lively evening of Contra Dancing in the UU tradition. (This means that there will be lots of freedom for people to move as they choose, and of course discussion of the dancing will be encouraged.) This is an event for all ages (8-108), and both beginners and experienced dancers are welcome. You can come to participate or to observe and enjoy. Paul Wilde will be our caller; musicians will include Andy Grover and friends. Come and join us for a great time, and wear your dancing shoes. Suggested donation for people who are dancing is \$5.00.

Reservations for the dinner are strongly requested. Please 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).

Saturday Social Supper

June 7 starting at 5:30p

The June 7 Social Supper will be held at the home of Dave and Gerry Spremulli in E. Providence.

People new to the church are always encourage to attend; it is a very nice way to meet others from our church. For reservations, contact Shirley DiMatteo (shelly-dimatteo@verizon.net, 401.861.1537) with the number of people in your party and what you would like to bring.

Start Your Summer with a Picnic in the Park!

Sunday, June 8, 12:00p-3:00ish at India Point Park

Kick-off the summer with a picnic in the park after the Sunday service. Join old friends and make new ones during an afternoon of food and fun! Let's celebrate summer and play some games: we'll have kickball, face painting, and relay races. Pack a lunch and bring a blanket. The Membership Committee will provide drinks and watermelon.

Check out the event on our church Facebook page (search "First Unitarian Church of Providence" and click on Events) and add your input.

Are You Up for an Extraordinary Vacation?

Planning meeting June 15 at 12:00

The Transylvania Partner Church Committee is planning a trip to Transylvania in June of 2015 and is looking for fellow travelers. We will be going to some of the important sites in the founding of the Unitarian religion in Transylvania. We will also be visiting UNESCO World Heritage sites along the way to our partner church in Szentegyhaza.

We are in the beginning of our planning process, so if you have an inkling that you may want to go on this adventure, please join us at our planning meeting on June 15. If you have questions about this trip, please contact Tom Getz (401.726.1667).

Welcome Back All-Parish Supper

Friday, September 12

The program will be "Reflections on the Summer of 2014." The main speaker will be Rev. James Ford, who will provide reflections on our congregational life. We will also hear from Beth Armstrong, President of the congregation, and from our delegates to the UUA General Assembly.

Newcomers' Café

First Unitarian's Newcomers' Café is open every Sunday during Coffee Hour during the "regular" church year in the Paneled Parlor. The Café is hosted by a rotating cast of church members and offers coffee, goodies, and fellowship. The Café will be closed for the months of July and August. There will be a welcome table at our outside after service social hour.

Our Coffee Hour

Our regular church year extends through June 22 this year, so please keep signing up to bring donations for our Coffee Hour. Remember that our Coffee Hour is a cooperative effort organized by the Women's Alliance with donations from our congregation of baked or bought goodies such as brownies, cookies, fruit, cheese and crackers, sandwiches, coffee cake, and more. In order to feed the ravenous crowd each Sunday, we need eight people bringing donations that serve 24 each. Sign-ups are preferred in order to plan for each upcoming Sunday. Sign up in the first parlor during Coffee Hour and go home with a reminder so you won't forget.

The Atrium Bookstore Will Close for the Summer

The Atrium Bookstore will be open through the regular church year, but will be closed over the summer months. Be sure to stop by during June to pick up some inspiring, entertaining, or educational reading for the summer.

HATS OFF TO...

Our Coffee Hour Providers last Month:

Martha Cussler, John Dooley, Mary Frappier, Kelly Baraf, Paul Almeida, Anne Connor, Tony Allen, Michele Gallagher, Arlene McGonagle, Elissa Emerson, Steve McCloy, Mary Speare, Sam Cole, Carolyn Sammon, Anne Calderella, Raissa Mensah, Marilyn Eanet, Emily Conner, Kathy Ahlquist, Betty Finn and Tom Getz and all of you who brought something in to surprise us.

Julie Burkhardt, teacher for creating a cuddly reading corner in the preschool room.

The mentors, teachers, parents, and students for a wonderful Coming of Age season.



Spiritual Development

Art in the Atrium

The show in June will be a collective made up of artists from our congregation including some pieces from the Sunday School.

For more information please contact Chiara Van Erp (romano-vanerp-design@cox.net)

Interested in Buying an Atrium Art Piece?

The Art Gallery in the Atrium started about eight years ago. From time to time people have asked if they could purchase a piece. In response to that, the Art Committee and the Prudential Committee have instituted a policy for exhibitors in the Church's Atrium Gallery. Exhibitors will now be allowed to sell their pieces.

If you are interested in a piece, look for the binder on the coffee table for prices and contact information, contact the artist directly. The artist will give 25% of the price of their sale as a donation to the church.



General Assembly will cost you less this year than any other year in your lifetime because it's in Providence! There will be hundreds of workshops, tons of music and a choir to join if you like, plus vendors selling all kinds of goods. The Ware Lecturer is Sister Simone Campbell, who organized the "nuns on the bus" tour to oppose the Ryan budget. The Service of the Living Tradition celebrates new ministers, retiring ministers, and ministers who have died in the past year. It can be very powerful. The UUA is co-sponsoring Waterfire on Saturday night and there will be displays about the social justice witness program dealing with homelessness. There are issues to be discussed and voted on, and UUs from all over the country will be there to participate in the conversation. It is very exciting and stimulating.

If you want the full experience, you have to register. You can do that at (www.uua.org/ga).

If you can't attend the full GA, you can still experience some of the highlights. The Service of the Living Tradition, Waterfire, and the Sunday morning worship service are free and open to the public.

We hope to see you there!

First U GA Planning Committee: Beth Armstrong, Stew Armstrong, Bob Cox, and Graham Nye

GA Service Project: "Empty Bowls"

At GA, the "Empty Bowls" service project will raise funds for McAuley House and Housing First RI, while showcasing the issues of hunger and homelessness at a booth in the Exhibit Hall. A selection of bowls will also be shown in a tent at WaterFire on Saturday evening. Meanwhile, Nori Duncan, the project coordinator, is collecting bowls from UUs and others around the country. You can help by making or decorating a bowl, or more than one! Buy a handmade bowl to donate, or donate one you already own. Persuade an artist to donate a bowl. Organize a group to make bowls together. Bowls may be made of any material, and they need not be usable for eating; any hand-made bowl-shaped object that can symbolize the empty bowls of the hungry will do. You can participate in this project even if you don't plan to attend GA. And even if you can't donate a bowl, come to our tent at WaterFire or to the exhibit hall on Sunday, June 29, when it will be open to the public, to acquire a bowl.

Please see Nori Duncan during coffee hour or contact her at (nori.duncan@gmail.com) to pledge a bowl or to arrange to donate one before June 22. Nori also can provide instructions for making bowls that are knitted and felted or made of papier-mache, and she can refer you to a pottery studio on Wickenden Street where you can decorate a ready-made bowl.



Papier-Mache bowl by Ann Boyd

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)

Reimagining Religion

Tuesdays, June 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 (tw2nd@aol.com)

UUMen

Sunday, June 8 from 7:00-9:00p

TOPIC: UU Men in Conversation

Men have the reputation of not talking very much or about "important things." That has not been true in the UU Men's Group. We will gather and we will see what topics emerge from the fishbowl. Guaranteed to be a good evening with good conversation and important things.

There is no facilitator for this final meeting of the church year. Men are encouraged to bring small snacks for sharing. For further information, contact Steve McCloy (dadzone43net@aol.com)



Social Justice

Annual Pride Parade

Saturday evening, June 21



Think of all the marriages celebrated in Rhode Island since Marriage Equality became a reality last year! Join members of First Unitarian at the annual Rhode Island Pride Parade on Saturday evening, June 21. We will be decorating our vehicle at our site on the parade route. You can park at the church any time after 5:30p (there is a wedding at the church until then) and walk down to join us. The parade kicks off at 8:00p. We plan to have a lot of fun! This family-friendly event is the only night-time illuminated Pride Parade in the country, and it's always a wonderful community event. As the day approaches, we will communicate on the SSL email list, Facebook and Twitter with details.

Helping to End Homelessness

Our partnership with the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless continues. RICH is composed of individuals and organizations that provide direct help and services to people in need "through advocacy, education, collaboration, technical assistance, and selected direct services."

There are some bills coming up in the legislature that affect the homeless community. We will be organizing letter-writing campaigns, lobbying, and other actions to speak out for justice. There's room for all degrees of time commitment in this important work. We at First Unitarian worked hard on the successful campaign for marriage equality in Rhode Island, and we can bring that same energy and dedication to the problem of homelessness. We hope you'll join us to help create coalitions and working groups with other organizations and faith communities in Rhode Island. We can speak with one voice to end homelessness!

Please be on the lookout for messages from the Standing on the Side of Love Committee.

Neighborhood Social Justice Committee

Monthly Meeting, Sunday June 1

The Neighborhood Social Justice Committee takes on projects to lighten the load of low income and homeless Rhode Islanders. Please join us – on this and every first Sunday of each month – to learn more about our work and perhaps to contribute some ideas of your own.

Mobile Loaves & Fishes / Harrington Hall

Tuesday June 3, noon to 7:00p

We will be once again preparing and serving food to the men of Harrington Hall. Donations of food and men's clothing will be collected at the NSJC table on Sundays.

You can also view the list of needed food items and sign up on line at: (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4FA5A728A5F49-mobile1>)

There are three shifts:

noon-1:00p - sandwich crew;

3:00-5:00p - clothing organizers and supply loaders;

5:00-7:00p - delivery crew.

Since Harrington Hall may also shelter some sex offenders at times, children under 18 are not allowed there, but they are more than welcome to come to our church at 12:00p to prepare sandwiches, or at 3:00p to collect clothes and help to load food & clothes in the cars.

Please remember that this program of the church continues throughout the summer on the first Tuesdays of each month.

Contact Joe Salvatore (joesuu@gmail.com) for details.

First Unitarian's Food Share Pantry Volunteer at Our Food Pantry

Distribution Day: Monday, June 16

The biggest social justice program at First Unitarian is the Food Share Pantry. It takes many volunteers to keep the program going! Volunteer for a shift on Distribution Day:

Set-up: 2:00p–3:00p,

Shopping: 3:00p–5:00p,

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

Contacts: Martha Manno (Mmanno7@comcast.net), Brian Paradis (briananddeacon@comcast.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 and fill out a brief registration form.

Your Recycled Magazines = Food for the Food Pantry

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, and personal improvement, just to name a few. No catalogs, please. Last year this program earned close to \$370. for our Food Pantry.

Knitting for a Better World

Every Tuesday, 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.

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



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!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Sunday Service 10:30a <u>at 12:00p</u> Annual /Financial Meeting</p>	<p>2 Women's Alliance Outing</p> <p>Zendo 7:00p</p>	<p>3 MLF/Harrington Hall Food Delivery 12:00-7:00p</p> <p>Lay Ministry 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Prudential Committee 6:30p Meditation 7:00p</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Worship Comm. 7:00p</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Saturday Social Supper (Sprenulli's)</p>
<p>8 Sunday Service 10:30a <u>at 12:00p</u> Annual Picnic at India Pt. Park</p> <p>UU Men 7:00p</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Zendo 7:00p</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Reimagining Religion 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p</p>	<p>11</p> <p>R.E. Committee 6:30p Meditation 7:00p</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Deacons 5:30p Standing on the Side of Love 7:00p</p>	<p>13</p> <p>All Parish Supper 5:45p Program 7:45p</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Sunday Service 10:30a <u>at 12:00p</u> Transylvania Partner Church</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Food Pantry 2:00p-6:00p</p> <p>Zendo 7:00p</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Knitting for a Better World 7:00p</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Meditation 7:00p</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Habitat for Humanity</p> <p>Pride Parade 8:00p</p>
<p>22 Sunday Service 10:30a</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Zendo 7:00p</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Reimagining Religion 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Meditation 7:00p</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>General Assembly Service of the Living Tradition at the Dunkin Donuts Center 7:30p</p>	<p>28</p> <p>UUA-sponsored Waterfire 7:30p</p>
<p>29 No Service at First Unitarian</p> <p>General Assembly Worship Service at the Dunkin Donuts Center 11:00a</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Zendo 7:00p</p>					