



SUMMER 2014

Summer Services in the Meeting House

At First Unitarian, we continue gathering, inquiring, and discovering throughout the summer. Our 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 as well as some special guest speakers. 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. 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. Our summer Fellowship Hour is an opportunity for everyone to greet our many visitors. You never know who you may meet! A Welcome Table at the Fellowship Hour will have UU pamphlets and our guest registry where newcomers can sign up for a reusable name tag and ask to be placed on our mailing list.

Sunday, July 6 War, Peace, and Self-Organization
10:00a

Rick Richards

War is prevalent and makes us into many things, both as individuals and as a society. Peace is less common but also makes us into many things. Considering our experiences of war and peace, what do they say to us about how we could live in this world?

Rick Richards is recently retired and thus able to explore a variety of activities, causes, and relationships for which he never had time or energy before. It feels like a second childhood, a time when choices are determined by a loose set of guidelines rather than a schedule. On Sundays, his internal compass points toward First Unitarian, as it has for over 30 years. That's enough time to dedicate children, raise them, have them leave home, and become adults in their own right. Sitting in church on Sunday creates a point of constancy from which to view this sea of change.

Music by the Brock family and Lynda Gulley

Sunday, July 13 Lost and Found—A Spiritual Journey
10:00a

Rita Rossi

Sometimes a loss of faith can lead a person in a different direction. For Rita, the path has always been winding, periodically bringing her farther away and then again closer to her origins, often more than she expects.

Rita Rossi has been a member of First Unitarian since 2002. Over the years she has volunteered on various committees, but most consistently as a teacher for the eighth grade Coming of Age class. She lives in Pawtucket with her two great loves: her husband, Nate, and their son, Payce.

Music by An Hoeyberghs, Chris Sanzo, Michael Capelli, and Claire Rosenbaum



We are a Welcoming Congregation

I n s i d e

Summer Services

begin at 10:00a

Program for Young Children

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
- Rev. Gwendolyn Howard, 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
- Amy Webb, Design Consultant
- Deadline for the September newsletter is August 15

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Sunday, July 20 Versus—Poetry and the Conversation with the Divine

10:00a **Ryk McIntyre**
 People have used poetry to imagine the world. How do we imagine the Divine, other than longer, denser poems?

Ryk McIntyre is a professional writer, performer, and workshop leader. He has been coming to First Unitarian Providence since 2007. He recently released a book of poetry "After Everything Burns" (Sargent Press).

Music by the Gray Matter Trio and Claire Rosenbaum

Sunday, July 27 Building a Partnership, Building a Church

10:00a **First Unitarian Partner Church Committee**
 Why did the members of the First Unitarian Church of Providence initiate a partnership with a church in Transylvania? This is an interesting story in itself. More importantly, it led to a partnership between two very different churches which share a Unitarian heritage and whose members share a dream of building a church that reaches out to the community.

Our church partnership was established in 2008 by a unanimous congregational vote. This commitment established a relationship with our fellow Unitarians in Szentegyhaza, Transylvania, one of mutual respect and support, which continues to grow as we do.

Music by Tricia Kammerer

Sunday, August 3 The Interplay between the Word and the Image

10:00a **Jim Curtis**
in the Evolution of Western Religion
 Judaism, Christianity, and Islam were all created on the south bank of the Mediterranean and marked a huge transformation from the ritual-based religions, such as those in Greece, to text-based religions that emphasized patriarchal authority. The interplay between the word and the image has defined our concepts of worship and spirituality ever since, especially in America.

Jim Curtis, currently a member of the First Unitarian Church in Wilmington, Delaware; grew up in Tupelo, Mississippi, and has a PhD in Russian from Columbia University, so he combines a strong interest in America, and especially American popular culture, with an equally strong interest in European high culture. His experience as a lecturer on cruise ships has given him the opportunity to take some of the pictures that he will show during his sermon.

Music by Lynda Gulley

Sunday, August 10 Ruminations of a Born-Again Agnostic

10:00a **Richard Boober**
 What poems, verses, and sayings have influenced your life and brought you to where you are? We will hear some of each of these and see what they have done for one of our long-time congregants and how he unites them.

Richard Boober is a retired postal carrier and Vietnam veteran who has been a member of First Unitarian Providence for about 17 years. He is currently on the History Committee and has been a Deacon and head usher. Most Sundays you will find him assisting the ushers and greeting people as they enter the church, as well as inviting visitors to explore the steeple and ring the bell. His hobbies include photography and reading old or obscure books.

Music by the StrongHouse Quartet and Lynda Gulley



Summer at First Unitarian

Summer Office Hours

The church office will be open from 9:00a to 4:00p from June 23 to September 2. The office will be closed for holidays on July 4, August 11, and September 1 and for vacation the weeks of July 21 and 28, reopening on Monday, August 4.

Ministry Services from mid-June to early August

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

In case of emergency during the office vacation break (July 19 to August 3, reopening on August 4), a message will be left on the answering machine regarding contact information.

Spiritual Development Programs

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

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)

Reimagining Religion

Second and Fourth Tuesdays, 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)

Sunday, August 17 Whose Choice Is It Anyway?

10:00a

Jim Carberry

End-of-life issues are always a difficult subject. At what point should the patient's wishes supersede the technical capabilities of the medical profession—or should they? We will hear reflections on this question coming from the experiences of a family which has faced it directly and personally.

Jim Carberry has been a member of First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Framingham for over 20 years. He is a life-long resident of Massachusetts, husband of the late Margie Carberry and proud father of Alissa and Andrea Carberry.

Music by Claire Rosenbaum

Sunday, August 24 The Power of Stories

10:00a

Cynthia Rosengard

Stories can either bring us closer to one another and to our Source or they can distance us. Cynthia will weave together stories that have guided her along her path—stories that she's shared with her clients/students—and assist us in thinking about the stories we tell ourselves and how we might alter those narratives.

Cynthia Rosengard has been a member of First Unitarian Church for the past ten years. She has taught in the church school for most of that time and served as a member and co-chair of the Religious Education Committee for the past three years. In July, she will begin her time as President-Elect and looks forward to helping to craft the next chapter in the life of our church community.

Music by Claire Rosenbaum

Sunday August 31 Humanistic Judaism: Do We Really Need God to Be Jewish?

10:00a

Carol Steinberg and Jerry Rubin

In the early 1970s Rabbi Sherwin Wine, a reform rabbi in Michigan, decided that rather than continue to face the frustration and hypocrisy he felt by following god-centric liturgy that he didn't believe, he would create a "fourth branch of Judaism," or what has come to be called Humanistic Judaism. Humanistic Judaism blends the core beliefs of Humanism—that people make their own destiny—with the history, culture and traditions of Judaism. We will hear the basic ideas and practices of "the fourth branch," as well as some personal experiences with Humanistic Judaism and answers to some common questions.

Carol Steinberg is an attorney and her husband, Jerry Rubin, is the CEO of a major human service agency in Boston. They have been members of Congregation Kahal B'Raira ("Community of Choice"), Boston's Humanistic Jewish Congregation, for about 20 years and have served as co-Presidents and in many other leadership roles in the congregation. They have two grown daughters who went through the congregation's Sunday school and youth group and who remain active in Humanistic Judaism.

Music by Neil Bartholomew and Lynda Gulley

Sunday, September 7 Homecoming Sunday at 10:30a

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



Social Justice Programs

Knitting for a Better World

Every Tuesday at 7:00p

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.

Our Food Share Pantry

Distribution: Mondays, July 21 & August 18

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)

First Unitarian Mobile Loaves & Fishes

Tuesdays, July 1 & August 5

We will be once again be preparing and serving food to the men of Harrington Hall. Donations of food and men's clothing can be brought to the church on Sundays.

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

There are three shifts:

12:00-1:00p 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 prepare and load food and clothes in the cars.

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