



Services in the Meeting House

Sunday, October 4 **Interim Ministry: A Shared Experience!**
10:30a **Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman**
Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel.

Sunday, October 11 **Standing for Something**
10:30a **Beth Armstrong**
Beth Armstrong has been a Unitarian Universalist since the early 1970s and served as Music Director to the UU Church of Concord, New Hampshire, for 16 years. She and her husband, Stewart, have been members of First Unitarian for 14 years. Beth sings in the choir and has served as chair of the Music Committee and as a member of the Nominating Committee. She is in her fourth year on the Prudential Committee, currently serving as Past President.
Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel.

Sunday, October 18 **It Takes Two Hands**
10:30a **Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman**
Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel.

Sunday, October 25 **We Don't Need Another Hero**
10:30a **Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman**
Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel.



Daylight Savings Ends (turn your clocks back one hour)

Sunday, November 1 **New Members – "Be Ours a Religion . . ."**
10:30a **Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman**
Young people pre-K–Senior High begin in the Meeting House, then go to their classrooms. Newborn–three-year-old room is open.

Now Is the Time to Make Your Voice Heard!

The Ministerial Search Committee is hosting a series of meetings in September and October to gather your ideas and insights to help them frame the search for our next settled minister.

This is your opportunity to give *verbal* input into the search process, to hear what others are thinking, and to talk directly with the Search Committee. These conversations will augment the data collection from the survey to be distributed later this month. After these events, the committee will begin crafting the documents that describe our congregation and the minister we are seeking.

The meetings will be organized around our four ministries: Community Life, Spiritual Development, Social Justice, and Stewardship, plus Governance groups. If you are involved in a committee or group in one of the ministries, please come to the appropriate meeting. If you cannot attend that meeting or are not involved with a committee or project, please come to either of the cottage meetings.

All meetings are held at the church from 7:00p to 8:30p unless otherwise indicated.

Monday, 9/28	Past Presidents' Meeting	Thursday, 10/1	Stewardship & Governance
Tuesday, 9/29	Social Justice Ministry	Sunday, 10/4	Cottage Meeting, noon-1:30p
Wednesday, 9/30	Community Life	Tuesday, 10/6	Spiritual Development
		Thursday, 10/8	Cottage Meeting

RSVP requested but not required (admin@firstunitarianprov.org, 401.421.7970)



We are a
Welcoming Congregation

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Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman, Interim 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

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From My Window . . .

Seventeenth-century English poet John Milton wrote, "Gratitude bestows reverence, allowing us to encounter everyday epiphanies, those transcendent moments of awe that change forever how we experience life and the world."

We are entering a season of change within a year of change. As the Jewish High Holy Day reading "On Turning," by Jack Riemer, assures us, this is a time for turning. Leaves venture from verdancy to their fullest glory of autumn. Birds, having enjoyed their share of Rhode Island's summer, prepare for their southern sojourns. Riemer reminds us that many changes in nature occur simply because they are a part of the cycles of those changes. Not so for people. I'm not saying that we humans are unnatural, just that sometimes we lose track of our primal connections with nature and its cycles. Sometimes we do well to rely on nature to remind us that we have changed and that we are in the midst of change – each of us individually, all of us together.

I want to report to you that all of the many changes that I have been through in the past few months, changes that have brought me to be with you for this interim year of transition, have surely been redeemed by your warm reception. You have greeted me with an openness to my presence and to my ministry. By accepting me, I feel that you are embracing the changes that the turn of the seasons has brought upon you.

Many of you have met and shared with me your perceptions and visions of and for First Unitarian. A precious gift, by the way. I've heard about some of your strengths and weaknesses, and about some of your accomplishments and your challenges. I'm confident that we will be able to parlay some of those strengths in order to bolster a substantial response to the challenges that lie ahead. We'll have ample time to work on those this year.

I want to focus on one of the accomplishments that I've heard mentioned a good number of times. That is the state of your ministry as it has been under the leadership of Rev. James Ford. In this season of change, when James's presence is first being keenly felt in his absence, I would ask each of you to reflect on James's ministry to the congregation and to you. What were some of the experiences that you had in which his ministry somehow touched your life, somehow made a difference? What was the character of those experiences? Again, in this season of change, what might you glean from your experience with James that now you might want to feed back into the world?

I'm guessing that back in June, as you said goodbye to James and to Jan, you expressed your gratitude graciously and generously. I'm asking you now to reconnect with that gratitude, to re-own it, as well as the experiences that engendered it. And I'm asking you to find ways to cycle the value you took from them back into your life, into the lives of your family, and into the life of this congregation. What more fitting tribute might you offer your new Minister Emeritus than to transform the gifts of his ministry into your own ministry going forward!

And in this season of change, what other sources of gratitude might lie in wait of your making the most of them? I'm guessing the stream is endless! Gratitude bestows reverence. *Le shana tovah*, my friends – may you be inscribed for a good year in the Book of Life. And may you make the most of the changes that await your attention this season and this year.

See you at church. Please pray and act for peace and justice,

Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman, Interim Minister
Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday
min@firstunitarianprov.org

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, elderly companionship, or meal delivery.

Referrals or calls to the church will be passed on to Lay Ministry and Care Crew volunteers. Please contact Posey Kooris in the church office (admin@firstunitarianprov.org, 401.421.7970).

Lay Ministry Team: Kate Menard, Martha Rice Sanders, Tori Smith, John Wilhelm

Deacons' Corner

The Deacons Calling campaign

continues . . . this year with a difference. We offer ourselves as contacts and conduits to the members and friends of the congregation. If you have concerns or needs within our church community, talk to us. We are your liaisons to the larger church community.



The Ministerial Search Committee. This church year is all about the search for our new settled minister. Rightly so. The Search Committee is surveying the congregation. You may already have received your survey. Response is vital. If we are to find the best minister for us, we need to let the Search Committee know what we need. And we will need to find the generous spirit necessary to pay for that kind of minister. (And maybe get away from "categorical thinking," as was examined at the workshop held on September 26.)

The 2015-16 Resource Book is a source of information and an outline of the avenues of communication within our church. If you didn't receive a copy in the mail, you can find it online at the church website (www.firstunitarianprov.org).

Who are the Deacons and what do they do? This has been a perennial question in this church. We met last month with Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman for mutual introductions. We shared a good meal together and learned from him some of the demands and dynamics of his interim ministry. He will explain this (probably many times) during his time with us. In addition to "tiding us over" until we call a settled minister, he has specific ideas on how to assist us in defining ourselves and what kind of minister will be optimal for the next maybe two decades. An awesome question! We in turn introduced ourselves to Charlie and offered our ideas for specific areas where individual Deacons want to engage with the congregation and aid it in its spiritual journey. That is what we do.

The Deacons: Shirley DiMatteo, Steve McCloy, Senior Deacons; Rebecca Alberg, Stew Armstrong, Jim Barfoot, Kate Bowden, Tom Getz, Ariadne Greenberg, Sharon Kernan, Mary Speare





Spiritual Pathways

The Core Message

The early fall season is full of start-up orientations, face-to-face meetings, conference calls, launch trips, and video chats. Opening Sundays of worship and classes have been full of positive energy and feelings of connection and opportunity. I am happy to be greeting new families and those

who call this congregation their own. I am privileged to spend time serving the generous adults who guide children and youth in our Sunday programming. I am happy to report that we have almost 60 volunteers on board this year and we have had a fine start. I thank everyone for their patience and flexibility as we adjust rooms, add to supplies, support volunteer staff, and attend to individual needs in these early weeks.

The pump seems primed, and I am ready to honor our traditional religious education practices and to risk trying some fresh ideas. In my professional life, I constantly learn from others, including you. I go to conferences, lead and take workshops, read, follow social media, and consult with colleagues. This year, we will try a process that helps us remain focused and provides more parent communication and connection.

As the religious educator serving the Morristown, New Jersey, UU Fellowship, Tim Atkins encourages teachers to hold up a Core Question and a Core Truth each week. The Core Question is the one at the heart of the lesson. One that we might imagine parents asking their children on the way home, such as, what can we do to take care of the Earth? How can we help each other? The Core Truth or Core Value or Core Belief is a single sentence starting with "We believe." For example: We believe we should help each other. We believe that all beings have inherent worth and dignity. A small, understandable concept can be more likely to stick, be more memorable, making a longer lasting impact on UU faith development. And sharing those messages with parents helps guide them in being the primary religious educators of their children and youth. I will also share our worship themes and multigenerational opportunities.

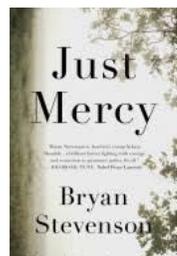
I have shared with many of you that I am grateful for the inspirational opportunity to listen, learn, and partner with the transitional, transformational ministry of our Interim Minister, Charlie Ortman. I hope you will join me.

Take good care,

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

Announcing the 2015-16 UUA "Common Read"

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption, by Bryan Stevenson (2014; Spiegel & Grau, an imprint of Random House), is this year's selection. Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, has dedicated his legal career to defending those who are trapped by an often capricious, political, and willfully unjust criminal justice system – poor people, people of color, children, and others over whom the system has run roughshod. It speaks to justice, mercy, and compassion, themes of concern to us as Unitarian Universalists and as human beings. It follows on recent Common Reads, such as *The New Jim Crow* and *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness*, and responds to recent statements passed by the delegates to the UUA General Assembly. 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 across the UUA by giving diverse people a shared experience, a shared language, and a basis for meaningful conversation. A discussion guide will be available in early October.

Interested? Contact Cathy Seggel (dre@firstunitarianprov.org)

Spiritual Pathways Religious Education Program

Registration for the 2015-16 Church Year

Annual enrollment for our religious education program for children and youth began in September and is ongoing. Newcomers are warmly welcomed!

The registration form is available at the RE table in the Atrium during Coffee Hour, in each classroom on Sundays and online anytime (www.firstunitarianprov.org).

Please note: Returning families must register each year.

Attention: Parents of children and youth as our school year begins

Welcome new and returning families! The RE Committee and I want to be sure that there are opportunities for you to learn more about our programming, get to know one another, and ask questions. There will be several occasions this semester for you to drop in and gather.

Open houses are planned for parents of eighth-grade Coming of Agers and high schoolers. Stay tuned to church publications and your personal e- and snail mail for invitations to classrooms, Chapel, and other gatherings. I will be contacting all new families to make connections and check in.

I welcome communication from you and can be reached in the church office (401.421.7970 or dre@firstunitarianprov.org).

– Cathy Seggel, DRE

Young Members Group

There is great potential for various gatherings of young adult members of the congregation, those beyond undergraduate college age. Activities might include social events, social action efforts, study, and support.

All church programs, interest groups, committees, and task forces welcome young adult participation. This Young Members group gathers for activities, at church and off-site at local spots. Stay tuned to church publications for updates.

Contacts: Emily Bruce, Caroline Mailloux, Lisa Sampson

Email: FirstUSocial@gmail.com for announcements about social gatherings, Young Adult RE opportunities, and more!

Kick-off Gathering

Light lunch, Meet & Greet
Sunday, October 4, 12:15–1:30 in the Moon Room



Sight Lines

"No matter how wonderful things used to be, we cannot live in the past. The joy and excitement we feel here and now are more important."

This past month, I embarked on a home-simplification project that was inspired by a morning service delivered on Star Island during the Life-span Religious Education conference I attended this summer. The morning speaker introduced her experiences with Marie Kondo's *Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, the book from which I've drawn the above quote. The service and the message have stuck with me.

As I approached years of unsorted-through stuff in my garage, I followed Ms. Kondo's suggestion to pick up each object and asked myself if it sparks joy in me. When I uncovered a valentine from my then-four-year-old son, the answer was yes, it was worth keeping and finding a home for. When I tackled half a dozen boxes of never-looked-at journal articles from my academic days, it was easy to discard them. When unearthing something less straightforward – for example, a thoughtful gift from a beloved family member that doesn't suit my taste – I took the object that no longer sparked joy in my life and thanked it for the role that it had played . . . offered it gratitude, acknowledged how it provided me with something that I needed at an earlier time in my life, and then I said good-bye.

The initial meeting of the Prudential Committee was our opportunity to begin this year's process of discernment – reviewing the numerous initiatives, groups, and committees that shape how each of us individually and collectively "do church." The meeting ran a bit longer than usual because there was so much to catch up on and a great deal of energy around working with the Ministerial Search Committee, streamlining internal and external communication, and reinvigorating the ministry structure of our governance.

In the coming months, we will be discussing our policy manual, a needs assessment that we received to guide the immediate and longer-term restoration of our buildings, and the creation of a "safe congregation" policy, among other initiatives.

In all that we do this year, I am hopeful that part of what will guide us to determine what to keep and what to let go of will be the amount of joy that is sparked in us. I so look forward to working alongside all of you and to hearing about what brings joy to you about this beloved community.

Until soon,

Cynthia Rosengard
President, Prudential Committee
pres@firstunitarianprov.org

Meet the Transition Team

To help ensure a smooth transition from James Ford's ministry to a new settled minister, the Prudential Committee has appointed a five-member Transition Team to work with our Interim Minister, Charlie Ortman. The team is charged with providing support, information, and the occasional reality check for Charlie as he leads us through the transition process this year. Their first task was to arrange for Charlie to meet with many of the past and present leaders of church committees and activities so he could begin to understand us and our organization.

The team consists of Carol Adams, Bruce Boucek, Michael Currier, Marilyn Eanet, and Susan Fisher. Please feel free to contact any of them with your comments, questions, or suggestions throughout this interim year.

- Carol Adams (carol.adams6@cox.net)
- Bruce Boucek (bruce.boucek@gmail.com)
- Michael Currier (mpcurrier@gmail.com)
- Marilyn Eanet (meanet@cox.net)
- Susan Fisher (susan.fisher42@gmail.com)

Community Collections 2015-16

The **September 13** collection for Strong Roots School in Kathmandu raised \$2,345. Thanks to all who so generously donated.

The Community Collections for the remainder of this church year are:

October 18 City Year Providence – A partner organization with five Providence public schools to address issues related to the risk of students dropping out of school.

November 22 Loaves & Fishes Mission – Our monthly prepared-food distribution from First Unitarian to the homeless men at Harrington Hall in Cranston.

December 24 First Unitarian Community Food Share Pantry – Our monthly client-choice food pantry at First Unitarian.

January 17 Senior Agenda Coalition – A group that helps agencies that assist senior citizens with key programs such as Meals on Wheels.

February 14 Crossroads RI – An organization in Providence that helps the homeless and less fortunate with housing, shelter, and healthcare needs, among other services.

April 10 Children's Friend – A non-profit agency in Rhode Island providing services for vulnerable children and their families.

What More Can We Do?

Seven or eight times a year, First Unitarian provides assistance to nonprofits in our community and in such faraway places as Nepal through Sunday plate contributions. It is one way in which we extend our mission beyond the walls of our church. Last year, over \$12,000 was given for these projects.

What is our obligation to our local and, by extension, our world community? We do work to provide for those with less through our Food Pantry and Loaves & Fishes Mission, but these are once a month efforts. Is there more we can do? I raise these questions in the face of suffering in all corners of the world.

– Graham Nye, Treasurer





Our Ministerial Search

What Qualities Do We Want in Our Minister?

What should we look for in a minister? Congregations have been asking this question for well over a century. David Pohl, who served the UUA as Ministerial Transitions Director and Director of Ministry (1971-1993), suggested “Ten Cs” as a guideline for the qualities a minister should possess:

- **Character:** A person of character demonstrates “moral consistency, stability, and reliability, as well as personal authenticity, genuineness or transparency, the absence of phoniness, airs, and self-importance.”
- **Calling:** “There should be a compelling urgency to do one’s best because what one is doing is important and holy under the aspect of eternity as well as in our own eyes.”
- **Culture:** “It is reasonable to hope a minister will be cultured in the sense of being reasonably learned, informed and interesting as a person... and acquainted with religion, politics, sports and [popular culture].”
- **Caring:** “He or she should be genuinely interested in and concerned for other persons...an extension of the caring ministry is concern for the larger community, especially for the voiceless and the dispossessed...”
- **Creativity:** “A healthy capacity to innovate is every bit as important as the capacity to conserve and transmit the ‘tried and true.’”
- **Catalytic:** “Helping to make things happen, galvanizing people into action, sometimes providing just the impetus to bring to pass what had previously been latent.”
- **Consultative & Cooperative:** “It is a given of our movement that leadership be democratic, not authoritarian; nonetheless, it is still leadership, involving the willingness to be out front...in raising initiatives, in suggesting tactics and goals.”
- **Collegial:** “This a word that points to the need to relate personally and professionally to colleagues—both in one’s own denomination and in the inter-faith community.”
- **Competent:** “A minister ought to possess the theoretical knowledge and practical skills of the craft... the art of communicating: a minister should project, not mumble; and shape a coherent message, not ramble!”
- **Comic:** “A minister...needs a healthy sense of humor and an awareness of his or her own limits.”

Daniel Hotchkiss, Transitions Director (1990-1997), added an eleventh “C” to this list.

- **Conduct:** “Ministers meet people at their most vulnerable... True ministers wear the power of their office lightly, but remember that their power is given as an opportunity to strengthen others not to control or exploit them.”

What weight would you give to each of these qualities in assessing a prospective minister? The Ministerial Search Committee would like to hear how these “11 Cs” resonate for you, and what other qualities and concerns to consider in our search process. Bring your thoughts to a ministry or cottage meeting or speak to any of us individually. And thanks!

The Ministerial Search Committee: Bill Koteff, Domenic Napolitano, Wendy Oliver, Rick Richards, Lisa Sampson, John Simmonds (chair), Shelley Stephenson

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

The Search Committee needs your input before it can proceed to the next stage of its work.

October is dedicated to data collection. In addition to our conversations with you at the meetings described on page 1, we will be sending out a survey that is a vital part of the preparation process. Electronic versions will be sent via email the week of September 27. Paper copies will be available at the conversation meetings and at church on October 4 and 11. (Note: use of the electronic version will greatly facilitate analysis.)

Thanks in advance for your participation!

Please return your SURVEY by October 11 !

What Has the Search Committee Been Doing?

For the past few months, the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) has been laying the foundation for events and documents that are crucial to the process of finding a settled minister. The Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop is designed to help the congregation create the most inclusive search process possible. As a prerequisite to the workshop, the UUA required the MSC to fill out an extensive form about our church so that the leader would be well prepared for the session on Saturday, September 26. We also developed a communication campaign to publicize the event, and we are working with a diverse group to make this a rewarding experience.

Another important aspect of preparation is the Congregational Record. This is a lengthy, web-based document that we are required to provide to the UUA. It will include historical and financial information about the church and our current congregation, staff, lay leadership, congregational life and our neighborhood. Information we gather from the congregational survey and through ministry and cottage meetings will be synthesized and included in the Congregational Record.

We are in the process of creating a website for ministers who are interested in us. In addition to information about our church, it will contain information about Providence and Rhode Island, with lots of photos depicting church members in action.

Additionally, we have been developing a survey that is available online and on paper. It is based on several models including our own past surveys and some available through the UUA. We will also be interviewing church staff for input, and the MSC has been developing questions for those interviews. Finally, we are developing questions to pose during the ministry and cottage meetings so that we can gather as much useful information as possible.





Community Life

October All-Parish Suppers

Fridays, October 2 and October 23

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

Friday, October 2 (*Note: one week earlier than usual*)

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 fall 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 (10 to 110), 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 bring your friends. 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 who request in advance; call Jim Estey (401.351.1748).

Friday, October 23 (*Note: the fourth Friday*)

Supper and Special Transylvania Program

5:45 Social Hour: Appetizers will be provided by the Transylvania Partner Church Committee. Bring wine for your own party if you wish.

6:15 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.

7:45 Program in the Auditorium: "Partner Church Pilgrimage"

This past June, ten adventurers, eight from First Unitarian, experienced a magical trip to Transylvania and a visit to our partner church in Szentegyhaza. The group consisted of Joan and Rick Richards, Janet Downing Taylor, Nori Duncan, Mary Speare, Hillary Salmons, Betty Finn and her two teenage grandnieces, and Tom Getz.

Our after-dinner program will feature a presentation and discussion of their experiences. It will include fantastic photos, "testimonials," a bit of history of the area and the religions past and present, the events of the visit, our differences, our similarities, what Unitarianism means to them and to us, and why we do this. Don't miss this special opportunity to learn about and to celebrate our Hungarian Unitarian friends.

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 who requested it in advance; call Jim Estey (401.351.1748).

Saturday Social Suppers

Saturday, October 3 starting at 5:30p

The October Social Supper will be held at the home of Shirley DiMatteo and Mel Shelly in Providence. People new to the church are encouraged to attend; it's a very nice way to meet others from our church family.

For reservations, contact Shirley DiMatteo (shelly-dimatteo@verizon.net, 401.477.9668) with the number of people in your party and what you would like to bring.

On November 14, there will two suppers. One at home of Beth and Stew Armstrong in Bristol and the second at the home of Carrollyn Grace on the East Side of Providence.

First Unitarian Variety Show Fundraiser

Saturday, November 7, 7:30p

The playbill for the November 7 variety show is growing, and it looks to be an evening of fine performances. Those of you with special performance skills, please contact David House (dlhouse51@comcast.net) to see how you can fit into the performance schedule.

For the rest of our church community, please mark your calendars and tell your friends that the First Unitarian Variety Show is the place to be on November 7 at 7:30p in the Parish House auditorium. You will not be sorry!

November Parish Supper

Friday, November 13, 7:30–10:00p

The topic of our after-dinner program will be "Making Our Communities Safe."

How and to what extent do we and our neighbors feel safe and fairly treated in our communities? Citizens of all backgrounds seek and hope to sustain secure environments in their homes, streets, schools, businesses, and public places. What are some of the ways in which citizens and community institutions can take action and can partner in reducing crime and fostering justice and equality in our communities? A panel of community leaders will be our discussants.

Sponsored by the World Affairs Committee

Atrium Bookstore

The bookstore is open every Sunday during the regular church year in the Atrium at Coffee Hour. Besides the books that we get from the UUA's own Beacon Press and Skinner House, we have begun to offer books from Skylight Paths Publishing, an interfaith publisher of various faith traditions. And don't forget: we also carry books written by several church members.

Our Coffee Hour Co-op Needs YOU!

It's time for all those seasonal apple and pumpkin treats at Coffee Hour. 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. We welcome donations 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 upcoming Sunday. Sign up in the first parlor during Coffee Hour and go home with a reminder so you won't forget.



Community Life

Path to Membership Classes

Tuesdays, October 6, 13, 20 & 27, 7:00–9:00p

The Path to Membership class is for anyone who is interested in membership, in learning more about Unitarian Universalism or about First Unitarian. This four-session course will be offered three times during the church year. The classes are led by our Interim Minister, Charlie Ortman; our Director of Religious Education, Cathy Seggel; and our Membership Coordinator, Jenn Nardone.

Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings in October, February, and the end of May. For anyone unable to attend the Tuesday evening sessions, arrangements will be made to provide a “mini-course” as an alternative. Childcare will be provided if requested by October 4.

To register contact: Jennifer Nardone, Membership Coordinator (mem@firstunitarianprov.org) or call the office (401.421.7970).

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 just 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. I look forward to meeting you!

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)

– Jennifer Nardone, Membership Coordinator

Transylvania Partner Church Update

Save the Date – Friday, October 23 – and join us for a fun evening as we share our great adventure with you.

When a group of us from First Unitarian visited our partner church this past June, one important part of our visit was being able to present the gift of a wonderful chalice quilt from our



Women’s Alliance to the Women’s Society of our partner church. Nancy Libby Fisher and Bobbi Fislser of the Women’s Alliance designed and made the quilt. The photo shows this presentation after the Sunday service, when gifts were presented. Janet Downing Taylor made the presentation, as Mary Speare and Nori Duncan (behind the quilt) held it up.

During the month of October the Transylvania Partner Church Committee will have some of the wonderful photos from our pilgrimage displayed in the Atrium. We have also been busy preparing our presentation of this trip for the October 23 Parish Supper program after the dinner. Because Jim Estey will be at an important event for him at Bryant College, we will be hosting the Parish Supper as well as our program. We welcome as much help as we can get for this task. Please let the office know if you can help. We will be providing traditional Transylvanian appetizers, but the dinner will be our church’s traditional and delicious potluck.

– Janet Downing Taylor for the Transylvania Partner Church Committee

The Women’s Alliance

Women’s Alliance Monthly Program

Monday, October 5

Business Meeting: 10:00a

Program: 11:00a followed by luncheon (\$10)

Big Nazo Lab: Unique Puppets and Spectacle

Speaker: Erminio Pinque

Erminio will discuss the inspiration for the characters created by his puppets, masks, and wearable sculpture, and how he collaborates with other artists to perform in a variety of venues here in Rhode Island and throughout the world.

Erminio Pinque is founder and artistic director of the Big Nazo Lab, based in Providence. His larger-than-life-sized aliens, robots, and animal-hybrid characters have performed in parades, festivals, television projects, and stage shows throughout the USA, Europe, and Asia.

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

Supporting Camp Street Ministries

Camp Street Ministries benefit from Eastside Marketplace grocery receipts. Save your receipts from Eastside Marketplace and place them in the collection box at the back table of the Atrium near the Haynes room. The Women’s Alliance collects them for Camp Street Ministries.

Gourmet Coffee Sale in the Atrium

The Alliance purchases its gourmet coffees locally from New Harvest Coffee Roasters in Pawtucket. 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 coffee and coffee beans. Our coffee prices have increased a little due to the increase in the prices we pay. Proceeds from the sales go to community charities. The coffee sales are in the Atrium at the Women’s Alliance table.

HATS OFF TO ...

The Religious Education Committee for their extra time and help with registration and start-up activities.

Our Coffee Hour Providers last month: Lyn Bradford, Steve McCloy, Mary Frappier, Janet Taylor, Dee Reynolds, Tony Allen, Cynthia Rosengard, Karen Keohan, Spence Hobbs, Gerry Spremulli, Janet Noble, Tiffany Reed, Philip Swayze, Roberta Groch and all of you who brought something in to surprise us.



Spiritual Development

Gen Silent: A Film and Discussion

Thursday, October 29, 7:00p

Gen Silent is a critically acclaimed documentary focusing on the lives of six LGBT seniors as they face various issues of ageing. The film looks at the universal questions around how people deal with the circumstances of

growing old in our contemporary society.

At the same time, it looks at the unique challenges faced by people who grew up in a society where they were often marginalized and who must cope with a system which isn't always accepting of them or their identities. A discussion will follow (with some help from a board member of SAGE RI).

Presenter: Rev. Gwendolyn Howard

Navigating End-of-Life Issues: A Series of Conversations

Sundays, October 18 & 25, November 1 & 8, 12:15–2:00p (with light lunch)

This four-part series offers insightful conversation, legal information, specialists in the field, and a document to articulate your end-of-life wishes, using *Five Wishes*, a thoughtful and practical guide to help navigate challenging questions. Many of us have living wills and medical powers-of-attorney. But many have not thought through our end-of-life issues, especially with other family members.

The two-hour sessions include: Funeral Consumers' Alliance; Hospice and Home Care; *Five Wishes*; final session topic to be announced.

In the third session, we will review the parts of the *Five Wishes* document and discuss our interpretations of the key concepts. Paul Brule, church member and Rhode Island lawyer, will talk about specifics for Rhode Island law. Every adult should have this comprehensive end-of-life document. Please join us for the opportunity to complete yours.

Five Wishes is published by Aging with Dignity, a private, nonprofit organization.

Leaders: Ruth Arellana, Rev. Ralph Mero, and Paul Brule

Registration required. Contact: Ruth Arellana (rkarellana@yahoo.com)

Art in the Atrium

During October, we are pleased to host an exhibit of photographs from Transylvania. In anticipation of the program after the Parish Supper on Friday, October 23, the Transylvania Partner Church Committee will show some of the photos from their pilgrimage this past summer to our partner church in Szentgyhaza, Transylvania. Photo contributions will be from Janet Downing Taylor, Betty Finn, Tom Getz, Joan Richards, Nori Duncan, and Hillary Salmons.

In November, Tom Gleason, a retired professor of Russian history at Brown University with a long passion for painting, will exhibit his work. He is a member of the Providence Art Club and does primarily abstract work using oil technique.

There are a few months still open, if you are interested in showing your work.

Contact: Chiara Van Erp (romano-vanerp-design@cox.net)

Flowers for Sunday Services

Flowers each Sunday are donated by members and friends in honor or memory of a loved one. Donors are acknowledged in the order of service. Whether the flowers are a florist's arrangement or picked from a garden, people always comment on how they brighten the pulpit.

Jacqui Nye will be glad to explain how you can provide an arrangement and to schedule your donation. Your Sunday flower offering will be greatly appreciated.

Contact: Jacqui Nye (funjac@hotmail.com) with "Sunday Flowers" in the subject line.



Glass flowers by Chris Belleau
from the Gallery Belleau on Wickenden Street

Continuing 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: Cindy Bapties and George Beshers

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.

No previous meditation experience required. You can visit our website (foundationforactivecompassion.org/audios-videos-texts).

Contact: Ken Bent (kenbent@cox.net)

Tai Chi

Every Tuesday at 7:00p

Tai Chi class for beginners to advanced, children to seniors. All inclusive. Instruction and performance. For information or to sign up, contact Sean Connor (seanconnor@cox.net).

All Levels Yoga

First & Third Thursdays at 7:00p

An evening practice to stretch mind and body and reduce stress. Adults and youth 14 and older welcome. Please bring a yoga mat or towel. No charge for this class. Optional donation will support several congregational social justice efforts. Leader: Ariadne Greenberg (ariadne.g15@cox.net)

UUMen

Sunday, October 18, 7:00–9:00p

(Note: a week later than usual)

"Waiting for my real life to begin..."

And this means . . . ? Who needs to ask? No long explanations necessary. Especially after "new year/new beginnings" in September. The readiness is all. Let's get to it. Some assembly required. Men, please join us. Yes – this is a song cue, from Colin Hay, formerly of (I'm-not-making-this-up) Men at Work. Google the song/lyrics – worth hearing/reading now.

Facilitator: Mel Shelly



Social Justice

Neighborhood Social Justice Monthly Meeting

Sunday, October 4 at 12:15p

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

Loaves & Fishes Mission

Tuesday, October 6, noon to 7:00p

This month, as always, we could use your help – whether time, goods, or money – with carrying out our monthly Loaves & Fishes Mission for the men at Harrington Hall. On the first Tuesday of every month, volunteers deliver food, clothing, and respectful companionship to the men of Harrington Hall, a homeless shelter in Cranston.

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

There are three shifts:

noon–1:00p: sandwich crew

3:00–5:00p: clothing organizers and supply loaders

5:00–7:00p: delivery crew

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

The Economics of Henry George

Sundays, October 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 12:15p

A great economic philosophy awaits you! Although most think it inevitable that we live in a society with ugly divisions between rich and poor, in fact it is not. There is a peaceful, democratic way we can assert everyone's right to work at high-wage jobs of their choice in a non-government-controlled, market economy. The economics of Henry George will make poverty and fear of poverty a thing of the past.

Join Cathy Orloff for a discussion-oriented seminar on the four Sundays of October right after Coffee Hour.

Senior Agenda Coalition

Eighth Annual Conference and Expo

Friday, October 16, 8:00a to 3:30p

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick, RI

Theme: Get Involved

Make a Difference for the Community and Yourself

Speaker: George Rebok, Director, Baltimore Experience Corps

Volunteering can improve seniors' brain function and overall health.

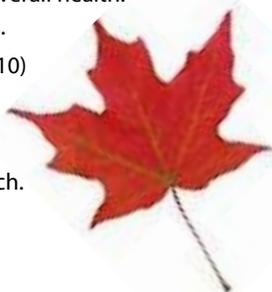
Gov. Gina Raimondo will attend to discuss senior issues.

Register at (www.senioragendari.org or call 401.351.6710)

Seniors age 60+ \$35 (\$25 if on fixed income)

Students \$35; All others \$50.

Registration fee includes continental breakfast and lunch.



First Unitarian's Food Share Pantry

Volunteer at Our Food Pantry

Distribution Day: Monday, October 19

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–3:00

Shopping with clients: 3:00p–5:00p

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

Contacts: Martha Manno (Mmanno7@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.

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 knit for one of First Unitarian's social justice projects. Drop in any Tuesday evening. Beginners are always welcome. We have yarn and needles to get you started.



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

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!

If you are interested in posting a church related event email to Membership Coordinator Jenn Nardone (mem@firstunitarianprov.org) or contact the church office.

For more information on these and future programs (meeting locations, contact information, etc.), see details in this newsletter.

October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>1</p> <p>Worship Comm. 5:30p Stewardship/Governance Ministry 7:00p Yoga 7:00p</p>	<p>2</p> <p>All-Parish Supper 5:45p Program 7:45p</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Saturday Social Supper (DiMatteo/Shelly)</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Worship 10:30a at 12:00 Cottage Meeting at 12:15p Chalice Facilitators Neighborhood SJ Henry George Young Members</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Women's Alliance 10:00a/11:00a</p> <p>Zendo 7:00p</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Loaves & Fishes Mission 12:00-7p Path to Membership 7:00p Spiritual Ministry Meeting 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting 7:00p</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Prudential Committee 6:30p Meditation 7:00p</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Deacons 5:30p Cottage Meeting 7:00p Nominating Comm. 7:00p Search Committee 7:00p</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Worship 10:30a at 12:15p Henry George</p>	<p>12</p> <p>COLUMBUS DAY Church Office Closed</p> <p>Zendo 7:00p</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Path to Membership 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Meditation 7:00p</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Yoga 7:00p</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Worship 10:30a at 12:15p End-of-Life Issues Henry George</p> <p>UU Men 7:00p</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Food Pantry 2:00p-6:00p</p> <p>Zendo 7:00p</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Path to Membership 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Meditation 7:00p</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Search Committee 7:00p</p>	<p>23</p> <p>All-Parish Supper 5:45p Program 7:45p</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Worship 10:30a at 11:30a Deacons' Salon at 12:15p End-of-Life Issues Henry George</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Zendo 7:00p</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Path to Membership 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Meditation 7:00p</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Gen Silent 7:00p</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>HALLOWEEN</p> 