



## Services in the Meeting House

**Sunday, June 5 "Reaching for the Stars . . . on a Summer's Night or Any Other Time"**  
**10:30a Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman and Friends**

*New Members will be recognized during the service.  
Young people begin in their classrooms and closing worship in Chapel.  
Annual and Financial Congregational Meetings follow at 12:00p*

**Sunday, June 12 Flower Communion: A Multigenerational Service**  
**Homily: "To Everything . . . Turn, Turn, Turn"**  
**10:30a Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman**

*Infants–three-year-olds room open on the Parish House second floor.*

## Summer Services

*NOTE: Summer worship services being at 10:00a.  
Childcare is provided every Sunday.*

**Sunday, June 19 Every Great Dream Begins with a Dreamer:  
Reflections on the Long Road to Freedom, First of August  
to Juneteenth**

**10:00a J. Bela Teixeira**

Two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, to announce that the Civil War had ended and all slaves were to be set free from chattel slavery. June 19, 1865, became known as Juneteenth, the last official day of slavery in the United States. In the north, other holidays, such as the First of August, developed to commemorate key dates in Black history in the early years of the Republic. We will learn about some of these historical events and celebrations, as well as the early African Americans whose contributions they recognize.

*J. Bela Teixeira, a member of First Unitarian Providence since 2015, is an artist, works as a health promotions/advocacy grant coordinator, and was executive director of the RI Black Heritage Society for 12 and a half years. She has been engaged in the exploration of Rhode Island's social history, particularly on the contributions of Blacks in Rhode Island to the body politic and race matters, specializing in related topics of slavery and emancipation in New England.*

**Sunday, June 26 Our Hands Are Not Enough**  
**10:00a Rabbi Alan Flam**

Ending homelessness in Rhode Island is not only possible, it is within our sights to accomplish. We can reach this goal with focused and determined actions.

*Rabbi Alan Flam is the Executive Director of the Helen Hudson Foundation for Homeless America and a past President and current Board member of the RI Coalition for the Homeless. From 1982 to 2000, he worked as Jewish Chaplain at Brown University and from 2000 until April he worked as Senior Fellow at the Swearer Center for Public Service. He is a founding member of the RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty and a secretary of the Economic Progress Institute of Rhode Island.*



We are a  
Welcoming Congregation

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## Staff

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 Rev. Gwendolyn Howard, Community Minister  
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## Newsletter

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## From My Window . . .

It's hard to imagine that this year of interim ministry is already coming to an end. But I don't have to imagine it – because it's real! In some ways it feels like it was only a few weeks ago that we began our work together. In other ways, it's clear that there has been a significant passage of time, because of the many important strides that this congregation has accomplished during these intervening months.

A brief recap of your highlights from my perspective include:

- Adjusting to a new ministerial presence;
- Identifying a congregation-wide focus for doing the work of social justice outside of the congregation (Black Lives Matter);
- Increased attention to the stewardship of the congregation – including an average 10% increase of member pledges;
- The re-creation of an infrastructure for taking good care of one another, through both the Caring Network and the re-energized Chalice Circle program;
- The discernment process by your Deacons that has allowed them to better understand their purpose and mission, so that the congregation might be better served by them;
- Diligence by your Prudential Committee in meeting their responsibilities – to each other and the congregation – including the onset of a process to clarify the polity (the organizational structure) of the congregation, making it more sound and effective;
- The creation of a highly functional and useful search process by your Ministerial Search Committee, which enabled them to effectively present the congregation to potential candidates, to assess the likelihood of a match with those candidates, and in the end the strength and discipline to resist the wish to call a new minister when a desirable match was not found;
- The ability of the congregation to maintain and grow in the many other areas of church life while all this has been going on.

That's quite a substantial list! These are all things that you – the congregation – have accomplished. I'd like to provide a perspective of the work that you've been doing through a statement that was written by my colleague David Bumbaugh, who wrote:

The business of the Church is transformation: the transformation of individual lives, of the community, of the world. Uplifting services of worship, magnificent music, creative education programs, provocative art exhibits and friendly coffee hours are not ends, in and of themselves. They are the means by which the church serves that larger process by which lives, families and communities are transformed, so that they become more truly human and humane, more moral and ethical, more deeply meaningful. Everything we do from worship to religious education, to maintaining our facilities – is done in service to this transforming possibility.

It has been my great privilege and pleasure to work with you in this business of transformation throughout the past year. Getting to know you and working alongside you has been a most gratifying and fulfilling experience in ministry for me. I want to thank so many of you for welcoming me so warmly, and for your fine work. I would especially like to thank your president, Cynthia Rosengard, for being such a great partner in this enterprise; when the minister and president work well together, a congregation is always well served. I look forward to continuing that partnership with Keith Brown next year. And I look forward to continuing this wonderfully transformational work with all of you.

Whether you stay close to home, or whether you travel far and wide, through the course of this coming summer, I bid you well. I wish you warm and sunny days with just enough rain to keep your gardens going strong. I wish you opportunities for growth, and happiness, opportunities for making a difference wherever you might be called to make a difference.

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

## Deacons' Bench

### Our Mission Statement and Covenant

– posted on the Deacon Wall to your left as you enter the Parish House – is our effort to define what the Deacons do at First Unitarian. The Board of Deacons has been a part of this church since before the Revolution. The role has changed substantially over the centuries. We are no longer like Deacon Snow, who broke away from this church and took some of the flock with him to found what became Beneficent Congregational (the Round-top Church on Weybosset Street). Snow objected to the preaching of “damnable good works.”



Meanwhile, as always, our meetings are open to anyone and are held on the second Thursday of each month, starting at 5:30p in the Parish House. You are more than welcome.

**Farewells:** Senior Deacons Shirley DiMatteo and Steven McCloy have ended their five-year terms. Our by-laws require them to step down. Kate Bowden is changing roles to join the Prudential Committee with a focus on personnel. We will miss her counsel. We will welcome new members after their election at the Annual Meeting.

**Safety on our Church Campus.** A troupe of members was trained in CPR and AED usage on May 21 at the American Red Cross. A generous donor has provided two AED devices to install in the church.

Another aspect of safety is medical contact information. The Deacons have noted that when the fire department is summoned, there is no medical or contact information to share with rescue personnel, and no central means of contacting a family member to advise them of the event.

- Is that safe?
- Is that enough connection among us?
- What would you think of having a secure central file of next-of-kin and medical information in the church office? Stay tuned.

**Sandwich Generation.** Caught between caring for an older and younger generation. Exhausted. Guilty. Wrung Out. What do people do? How do they get help? IS there help? The Deacons wonder if a self-help group in our community is possible. Shared experience and shared answers seem a good idea. It appears that this might be a good program for Adult Education. Who will step up? . . . with gratitude for our deep connection to each other and to the larger web of existence . . .

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



## Spiritual Pathways

### It Takes a Village and Makes a Village

I love the month of June. I feel the promise of summer, full of sunshine, renewal, and fun. It is also the time when I reflect on my work in faith development and imagine fresh pathways, experiences, and spiritual practices for all ages. This spring I have participated in a UUA RE innovation roundtable, a sustainability of UU ministry summit, a collegial chapter gathering, meetings with leaders of shared ministry professionals, a webinar on theme based ministry, and more.

All of those opportunities were precious and informative. I have also gleaned wisdom and guidance from our own interim minister, brainstorming ways to evolve and inspire our congregational collaboration. All of this has further informed my belief that everything we do is faith development. It is religious exploration. It is family ministry that focuses on every age and stage of people. It is connecting high school youth with elders wanting to learn about social media. It is gathering support groups for parenting, grieving, care-taking. It is the campus group partnering with the youth group to take action on climate justice – and more. It is accompanying each other through transitions and milestones.

We do some of this on Sundays, when we share community worship, RE classes, meetings, and celebrations. There are many reasons to gather weekly in a safe and sacred setting. It is a 24/7 proposition. More happens through lifetimes, when we share our stories and learn skills to carry our values to the wider world. Our Unitarian Universalist faith changes lives and actually can save lives. Sounds dramatic, I know. I believe it is true.

There are opportunities to be part of a team that guides children, youth, and adults on their spiritual pathway. You will be coached and partnered and grow your own understanding of Unitarian Universalism.

In re-visioning the shape of faith development for the future, my colleague Joy Berry has remarked, "It takes a village and makes a village." I agree.

Deep gratitude to the children, youth, and adults who shared time in our faith community this year. Please soak in this summer in ways that you love.

Take good care, Cathy

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

## It's Time for UUA GA and Star Island

There are wonderful opportunities for individual adults or youth and families to attend UU gatherings this summer. Settings like Star Island in July and UUA General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio, in late June are wonderful ways to nurture your spirituality while having fun and making connections.

For helpful information about UUA GA, please consult ([www.uua.org/ga/](http://www.uua.org/ga/)).

The theme at Star Island Lifespan Religious Education Week in July ([www.starweek.com](http://www.starweek.com)) is Sustainability and Faith with Tim DeChristopher. A perfect way to enjoy a beautiful, relaxing, inspirational, and fun island experience! Funding is available for first-time attendees.

Please contact Cathy Seggel ([dre@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:dre@firstunitarianprov.org)) soon for details.



## Senior High Youth Focus on Environmental Justice

*A Message from Serena Lincoln, 10th Grade*

How many trash bags do you go through in one week? One, maybe two?

Well, I'd say that more than just one is too much. What would happen if you added your recyclables to your trash instead of recycling them? That would end up doubling your trash. So, think taking all your biodegradables away from your trash – all your food and food waste, coffee grounds and tea bags, banana peels and spoiled food – and putting that in composting. How many plastic trash bags would you *not* use by simply taking out recyclables and biodegradables?

Me and my ma compost . . . a lot. We keep bowls and bins in our fridge of old food and tea and coffee and other composting waste. We recently got composting bins (only \$45 and made out of recycled plastic!). In one week, we only use a half to three quarters of a plastic trash bag. The rest of our waste goes into recycling or composting, and we spend very little on bags. Not only that, but we get fantastic soil to plant our vegetables in!

So not only is composting good for your wallet and your conscience, but it is insanely good for the environment. By separating your compost from your regular garbage, you could help get billions of tons of garbage out of dumps a year. That reduces methane and greenhouse gasses, thereby bettering air quality overall and slowing global warming.

There is something else we can also keep out of landfills: clothing. It's something that is filling up dumps that you can easily fix. Only 15% of clothing is recycled or donated to thrift stores each year. The rest of that 85% goes into our trash. An easy fix for that is to save up your old, unwanted clothing – even your missing socks, ripped blankets, practically anything made of cloth – and give it to Goodwill, Savers, or the Salvation Army. If they cannot sell or use it, they can find a use for it, ensuring there will be no waste.

With these simple fixes, we can make our own church, and your own homes, a greener and healthier place for the environment.



## Sight Lines

“and yes I said yes I will Yes.” (James Joyce)

Later on this summer, my boyfriend, Eduardo, and his cat, Mildred, are moving from Atlanta, Georgia, to live with my children and me in Rhode Island. We are looking forward to merging our lives together and not having to wait months and take planes to see/spend time together. There will be a lot of changes for us that come with the good and desirable outcome. My kids and I have lived on our own for the past nine years and have developed our own informal routines and forms of communication that we cherish and depend on to function together as a family. Adding new members to our home will require us to look at those routines and expectations and be open to negotiating some of what we now take for granted as “the way things are done.”

A month ago, we started reading a book called *Surviving and Thriving in Stepfamily Relationships: What Works and What Doesn't* to prepare ourselves for some of the tasks associated with bringing families together into a new, and hopefully better, configuration for all. Some of the suggestions that we plan to implement include making space that will be specifically for Eduardo and Mildred to make their own and planning weekends where my kids and I can have time to ourselves while Eduardo visits local friends and family. We know that there will be challenges and conflicts, especially in the beginning. We also count on there being some additional insights and growth that will happen through this process.

Now, you might be wondering why I am choosing my last newsletter article to over-share in this way . . . well, as I thought about this upcoming event in my own life, I began to see the parallels to what has been (and will continue to be) going on at First Unitarian. We are similarly focused on welcoming new members to our spiritual family – both in the form of individuals and families of seekers to join us on our path and in the form of a new settled minister who can help guide us in pursuing our common mission. In doing so, we have been and will need to continue to take a look at our routines and expectations and be open to negotiating some of what we now take for granted as “the way things are done” around here.

Your Prudential Committee has been reading a book called *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership* in an effort to prepare ourselves for the tasks that might be associated with bringing ourselves together with a new minister who can show us a new, and hopefully better, configuration to usher us toward growth, vitality in the community, and engage us all in the process of being and doing the best that we can be and do. I know that there are bound to be challenges and conflicts that arise through this process and I am certain of the insights and growth that can also happen. I am confident in the leadership of Keith Brown to continue the work that has been started this year.

I challenge each and every one of us to try and find the areas of church life in which it feels good to say Yes! It has been a privilege to lead the church this year and I so look forward to seeing what the next chapter of our beloved community will bring.

Have a blessed summer!

Cynthia Rosengard  
President, Prudential Committee  
pres@firstunitarianprov.org

## REMINDER: Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Church

*Sunday, June 5, at 12:00p in the Parish House Auditorium*

The Annual/Financial Meeting of the Church will be held on June 5 for the purpose of electing officers and members of the Prudential Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the Board of Deacons (detailed information on nominations was sent to the congregation in mid-May). The meeting will also review and approve an annual budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year; .

All Voting Members are entitled to vote at the meeting. Absentee and proxy votes are not permitted *except* that Voting Members who are disabled or incapacitated may apply for an absentee ballot seven days before a meeting.

## Treasurer's Report

On Sunday, June 5, First Unitarian Church will hold its Annual Meeting. The proposed Fiscal Year 2016-17 budget to be voted on at that meeting will be presented to the Prudential Committee to finalize at its June 1 meeting.

The Budget Committee will present a balanced budget for FY17. As it is currently proposed, it will include full funding of the UUA assessment, making First Unitarian a Fair Share congregation for only the third time in 18 years. Many consider this commitment to be very important because we have used many resources from the UUA and it supports many human rights and relief efforts worldwide. Also by being a Fair Share congregation, we can be considered for any grants the UUA can provide for building restoration. The budget is not as yet able to fully fund our “Race to 300” initiative.

Our pledge level is very close to last year's. Because of an increase in the three-year average of our endowment, we will have an additional \$8,618 to offset any decreases in rentals and Sunday collections. Other factors which allow a balanced budget include adjustments in both property and health insurance. Also, the retention of Charlie Ortman as interim minister reduces expenses related to bringing a settled minister.

Please attend the Annual Meeting. The more you are involved and learn about how our church operates, the more you can help us grow and have an impact on our community.

– Graham Nye, Treasurer

## Annual Budget Drive

The 2017 Annual Budget Drive concluded as one of the best in recent years. Thank you to all of the 312 households who heard our stewardship message and responded so generously. When you belong to this church, this church belongs to you.

A comprehensive report will be distributed at the June Annual/Financial Meeting. Coupled with tracking trends in pledge dates, First Unitarian can start to look at ways to target our fundraising and improve every year.

Here's a PREVIEW of this year's success story:  
Participation: 82% (312) of the goal of 95% (379)  
Pledges: \$395,217 – 93% of the \$425,000 goal  
BEST Stat: 10% average pledge increase – twice goal of a 5% increase

The success of this year's Annual Budget Drive rests not only with you but also with the extraordinary Annual Budget Drive Team. Thank you!

– Emily Bruce and Anne Connor, Co-Chairs



## Community Life

### The Shape of Our Church Building

*This is the fourth in a series of articles from the History Committee about the Meeting House as part of its 200th anniversary on October 31, 2016.*

You may have noticed that the overall shape of our Meeting House is different from most Christian churches in America and Europe. There's a reason for that. Early Roman Catholic churches copied the floor plans of public buildings built during the pre-Christian Roman Empire for the transaction of public and legal business. These buildings were longer than they were wide, generally not constructed for ceremonial purposes. After Christianity became the religion of the Roman Empire, places for Christian worship emulated the important Roman governmental structures.

Catholic churches of old, and often today, typically have elongated floor plans in the shape of a cross, with the foot of the cross facing west and the most sacred spot, the altar, at the opposite end, facing east. The worshippers are seated some distance away. In most Catholic and Episcopal churches, this is still true today. The most important part of the church service, the performance of the Holy Communion, replicating the ceremony described in early Christian scripture as the Lord's Supper, takes place at the altar.

After the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s, the central element of worship changed: the ceremony of the Communion was supplanted by the reading of Bible passages and the preaching of the sermon. And church architecture gradually changed in response, especially among Congregational churches in America. The centrality of the altar was replaced with the centrality of the pulpit.

If you look around the Meeting House, you will note that it is virtually square rather than rectangular. The closest thing we have to an altar is the small table beneath the suspended pulpit, typically used to hold flowers. The pulpit stands out visually as soon as you enter the room; it is from the pulpit that the most important message, the message of sacred wisdom, what our predecessors would have considered the "message of salvation," is delivered. The architecture of our building reflects the assumption that the sermon is the essential foundation of our collective spiritual activity.

What people most value in their religion will be reflected in the shape and contours of the buildings in which they hold their religious observances. Our congregational ancestors paid close attention to the design of the Meeting House, intending it to serve future generations in the same way that it served them. And they also knew that what is ultimately most important is that the events which take place in this room inform and inspire those who come here so that they leave filled with hope and courage, having rededicated themselves to the service of others as well as to the infinite power which gives life to all beings and people on earth.



### Possible Transylvania Adventure — Summer 2017

*Exploratory Planning Meeting, Sunday, June 12 at 12:15p*

The trip to our Partner Church in Transylvania in the summer of 2015 was a great success and a lot of fun. After the group gave two presentations, in October and January, a number of people wanted to know when we would be going again.

The Partner Church Committee is thinking about a possible trip in the summer of 2017. At this time the slate is clean for an itinerary (other than going to our Partner Church in Szentegyhaza) and the dates. There will be a short meeting on June 12 after the service to determine if there is interest in going and what ideas folks have about a potential trip. Who knows – there may even be a little something to make your tummy happy at the meeting!

Please let Tom Getz (thomas1getz@prodigy.net) know if you can attend the meeting. We hope to hear from you.



### No June All-Parish Supper

Members of the congregation are encouraged to attend the Summer Picnic (see below).

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** The Welcome Back Parish Supper is tentatively scheduled for Friday, September 16, 2016.

### Start Your Summer with a Picnic in the Park!

*Sunday, June 12, 12:00p–3:00ish at India Point Park*

We'll kick off summer 2016 with a picnic in the park after the Sunday service. Join old friends and make new ones during an afternoon of food and fun!

We'll celebrate summer and play some games: we'll have kickball and croquet. Pack a lunch and bring a blanket. The Membership Committee will provide drinks and watermelon.

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

### Saturday Social Supper

*Saturday, June 4, starting at 5:30p*

The June Social Supper will be held at the home of Ariadne and Ben Greenberg in Barrington. 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.

### Art in the Atrium

The June exhibit will feature Joan H. Rollins. She will be showing her oil paintings with colorful scenes of nature, particularly sunsets, a frequent subject for her. Some of her paintings are semi-realistic, somewhat abstract interpretation of landscapes. Her paintings of people are also between realistic and semi-realistic.

If you are interested in using your work in the Atrium next church year, (September to June), contact Chiara at romano-vanerp-design@cox.net

### Interested in Buying One of the Pieces of Art in the Atrium?

Exhibitors are allowed to sell their pieces. The artists will give 25% of the price of their sale as a donation to the church. If you are interested in a piece, look for the binder on the coffee table in the Atrium for prices and contact information; you can then contact the artist directly.



## Community Life

### The Women's Alliance Monthly Program

#### Women's Alliance Annual Outing

Monday June 6

Linden Place, 500 Hope Street, Bristol, RI

Guided tour: 10:30–11:30a, Admission: \$6 per person

Dutch-treat lunch at the DeWolf Tavern, 259 Thames Street, Bristol

This Federal-style mansion was built in 1810 by General George DeWolf, a notorious wheel-dealer and slave trader. It witnessed the family's fortunes rise and fall over 180 years and was host to an array of scoundrels and statesmen. The house was purchased and restored in 1989 by the Friends of Linden Place.

The site is not usually open on Mondays, but they are making an exception for our visit, so we need to know how many can come. More than 15 visitors will require a second tour guide.

If you plan to attend, please email Mary Frappier (mfrappier210@gmail.com).

### Camp Street Ministries Donations

Camp Street Ministries benefits 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 delivers them to Camp Street Ministries.

### Gourmet Coffee Sales in the Atrium

#### Create Your Own Unique Coffee

Why settle for any old coffee? You can create your very own unique blend using the gourmet coffees sold by the Women's Alliance. Perhaps you'd like a reduced-caffeine coffee but with just the right amount of caffeine for mental alertness. Or you might like to blend together several coffees for Your Special Coffee. We offer two bold coffees, one medium coffee, and two decaf coffees. All types come in both beans and drip-grind 16 oz. bags. And they are all organic and freshly roasted in Rhode Island! The Alliance donates the proceeds from the coffee sales to worthy causes. Check out the Alliance coffee table in the Atrium.



### Our Coffee Hour Needs You!

For these last Sundays of our church year, don't forget to sign up and bring donations for our Coffee Hour. With so many events going on in our church, our Coffee Hour donations have been sparse. Remember that this is a cooperative effort, 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.

### May Breakfast a Success!

Many thanks to all who shared May Breakfast with us. And especially to all who helped prepare, serve, clean up. Its success fulfilled the two major goals of holding the event: we strengthened our community over good food, and by our joint effort, we were able to give our Loaves & Fishes Mission a little over \$200, plus a few dozen eggs, some hash, and several cans of orange juice.

Next year we're planning for a Sunday morning May Breakfast, so all of you who are coming to church can begin your day with the same good feeling.

### The Caring Network

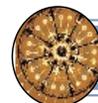
The Caring Network Wrap-Up is Sunday June 12 at 11:45a in the Moon Room. All are welcome to attend.



### UUMen

Sunday, June 12, at 7:00p

This month's program will be facilitated by Chris Belleau.



### WHEEL OF LIFE

#### Condolences to:

**Elizabeth Chan** and her family on the death of her husband, Siu-Chim Chan, at the age of 91, a longtime friend of the church and member since 2012.

**Jon Lax and Vikki Brislin** on the death of Jon's mother, Ann.

**Cheryl King** on the death of her mother, Claire, at the age of 90.

**Sally and Ralph Caruso** on the death of Sally's mother.

### HATS OFF TO ...

#### Our garden mulchers:

Nancy Weiss-Fried, organizer; Fred Jodry, Gregory Waksmulski with friends, and Jaime Durango.

Many thanks to our **Coffee Hour Providers** last month: Tony Allen, Janet Noble, Dave Lewis, Anne Connor, Mary Frappier, Mary Kollar, Steve McCloy, Carol Buckley, Derek Smith, Karen Boulanger-Folke, Chiara Van Erp, Kelly Baraf, Ryk McIntyre, Beth Anterni, Roxanne Stern, Ann Boyd, Elissa Emerson, Sandy Schacht, Vikki Bristlin, Joan Richards, Liz Palter, Lyn Bradford, Lynne Fazzi, and all of you who brought something in to surprise us.

### Find Us on Facebook!



First Unitarian's Facebook page is loaded with updates, useful links, photos, and more!

Type "First Unitarian Providence" in the search box and check it out!

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



## Social Justice

### Standing on the Side of Love (SSL)

The Standing on the Side of Love Committee has been meeting monthly (this month: Wednesday, June 8). After meeting with representatives from the NAACP, we have been asked to participate in some upcoming summer voter registration drives. They will take place on Sunday mornings at local churches and volunteers are needed to staff tables. There will be eight drives during July and August. If you are interested in participating, please contact Tiffany Reed. We also hope to help people register to vote at our table at Pride Fest on June 18, and are looking into other locations. We are currently looking for someone who would be interested in coordinating our voter registration events. If you are interested, email us or stop by the Standing on the Side of Love table in the Atrium after church for more details.



### Organizing a Jim Crow Book Club

*Building a Movement to End the New Jim Crow* is a follow-up guide to our congregational Common Read this year, *The New Jim Crow*. Over the summer, we would like to read and start a discussion group around this book. The discussion group is for those who are interested in organizing against our current penal system. If all goes well, we would like to have additional groups in the fall.

Contact Kathy Ahlquist if you are interested in participating.

### Pride Fest 2016

*Downtown Providence, Saturday, June 18*

We are happy to announce that SSL will be participating in Pride Fest 2016, on June 18. This all-day event, sponsored by RI Pride, will allow us to show our support to the Rhode Island LGBTQ community. Plans are still being finalized, but we know we will need staffing for our SSL table from 11:30a to 8:00p. We will also be looking for people to march in the illuminated parade following the festival.

Pride Fest is a family event, with music, children's activities, and food trucks, as well as vendors and services geared toward the LGBTQ community. The parade starts at nightfall, close to 9:00p and may be appropriate for older children with parental supervision.

Contact Kathy Ahlquist if you are interested in participating.

### Collection for Syrian Refugees

We are collaborating with the Fang Collective and Nu Day, through SSL member Sherrie Andre, to collect new or gently used children's clothing, infant formula, diapers, new socks, and undergarments to send overseas to Syrian refugees. Look for our box in the Atrium. At this time, this will be an ongoing collection. Contact Sherrie Andre if you have any questions.

### SSL T-SHIRTS

We will be ordering Standing on the Side of Love T-shirts. Please email Tiffany or Katherine to purchase one.

**SSL Contacts:** Tiffany Reed (tiffany.e.reed@gmail.com), Katherine Ahlquist (katherine.ahlquist@gmail.com), Sherrie Andre (andre.sherrie@gmail.com)

### Neighborhood Social Justice

#### Monthly Meeting

*Sunday, June 5 at 11:45p*

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

#### Loaves & Fishes Mission

*Tuesday, June 7, 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 at 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 to help prepare the deliveries.

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.

### First Unitarian's Food Share Pantry

#### Distribution Day

*Monday, June 20*

The biggest social justice program at First Unitarian is the Food Share Pantry. It takes many volunteers to keep the program going! Volunteer with your van or truck to transport food from the RI Food Bank to the church, or volunteer for a shift on Distribution Day:

Set-up: 2:00p–3:00p

Shopping with clients: 3:00p–5:00p

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

Contacts: Martha Manno (Mmanno7@comcast.net) or Nori Duncan (nori.duncan@gmail.com)

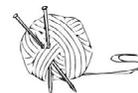
### Knitting for a Better World

*Every Tuesday, 7:00–9:00p*

Come join fellow knitters for a casual evening of knitting and conversation. Work on your own project or 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)



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

June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  Prudential Committee 6:15p Meditation 7:00p	2	3	4  Saturday Social Supper (Greenbergs)
5 Worship 10:30a NSJ Committee 11:45a Annual Meeting 12:00p	6 Women's Alliance Field Trip to Linden Place 10:30a  Zendo 7:00p	7 Loaves & Fishes Mission 12-7:00p  Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	8  Standing on the Side of Love 7:00p Meditation 7:00p	9  Deacons 5:30p	10	11
12 Worship 10:30a at 11:45p Caring Network  Picnic in the Park 12:00-3:00ish  UU Men 7:00p	13  Zendo 7:00p	14  Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Reimagining Religion 7:00p	15  Meditation 7:00p	16	17	18  Pride Fest
19 Summer Worship 10:00a at 11:00a Food Pantry Food Shuttle	20 Food Pantry Open 2:00p-6:00p  Zendo 7:00p	21  Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	22  Meditation 7:00p	23	24	25
26 Summer Worship 10:00a	27  Zendo 7:00p	28  Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Reimagining Religion 7:00p	29  Meditation 7:00p	30		