



Services in the Meeting House

**Sunday, September 4 Chinese Friends, a Broken Mast, and the Price of Camphor;
Or, What Edward Carrington Saw from Pew 5 in October 1816**

10:00a Keith Brown

People have been sitting in the Meeting House pews on Sunday mornings for 200 years. While we know they were here in body, where did their minds roam as they greeted one another and settled in to listen to that Sunday's sermon? Sometimes they leave clues and traces, as if they meant to spark our own imaginations.

Keith Brown is a Brown University professor, reads whenever he can, and is the current President of this congregation.

This is the last of our Summer Sunday Services.

Next Sunday is the start of our new church year. Services will begin at 10:30a.

Sunday, September 11 A Multigenerational Water Communion Gathering
**10:30a Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman, Cathy Seggel, DRE,
Fred Jodry, Music Director**

As we gather together to dedicate our new church year, we'll share a story for children of all ages. Our interim minister, Charlie Ortman, will share a homily, "From the Four Winds Gathered Hither"; and we'll have lots of music and singing. Our Annual Water Communion will be celebrated with those of us who are returning and those who are here for the first time. Bring a small amount of water to pour into our communal basin, and a word about the spirit and meaning with which you bring it. And if you forget, don't worry; we'll have enough "symbolic/surrogate" water on hand for you to use.

Our Community Collection will be for Harvest Kitchen – a 20-week culinary job-readiness training program for youth to create foods using local ingredients to sell at farmer's markets.

Childcare for infants–three-year-olds will be open on the second floor of the Parish House.

Sunday, September 18 "To Be an Instrument of Peace"
10:30a Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman

First day of Sunday school. Grades K and older begin in the Meeting House for the first portion of the service.

Origins and Play Circle /Pre-K (infants–four years) meet in classrooms on the second floor in the Parish House.

Sunday, September 25 "Why I Am a UU Spiritual Humanist"
10:30a Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman

*Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel.
Following the service, there will be an opportunity to join in a sample Chalice Circle, our UU spiritual practice groups (see page 9).
Our Annual Ice Cream Social follows the Coffee Hour (see page 7).*



**Sunday, October 2 "The High Holy Days: A Time to Break Down and
a Time to Build Up"**

10:30a Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman

Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel.



We are a
Welcoming Congregation

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From My Window . . .

In one of my favorite quotes E. B. White wrote, "I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve (or save) the world and a desire to enjoy (or savor) the world. This makes it hard to plan the day."

For those of you who may not have heard the last sermon I preached in June, my message was about using the summer season as a kind of respite or sabbatical for renewal of the spirit. I spoke of the many challenges in the world – environmental, social, racial, political, and otherwise – that might well stand in the way of rejuvenation. I prayed with you and for us all that we might withstand such challenges, abiding not denying, so that we might avail ourselves of summer's gifts; so that we might be better equipped to stand together, to walk together, to work together in the vineyards of today's realities in which we find ourselves and each other.

This summer has surely served up an ample supply of challenges. As I write this column, much of Southern California is on fire; large portions of Louisiana are under water. Since June, more innocent black men have been killed by police in our nation's cities, and innocent police have been mowed down by madmen. Around the world, terrorists have committed murder and mayhem at an unprecedented pace, and refugees in drastic numbers, from every corner of the earth, search for safe haven. Here at home, our nation is engaged in one of the most inane political seasons in a very long time, if not the craziest and scariest ever. Like so many of you, I too arise each day torn between the desires of saving or savoring our world.

Here's what I can tell you: I'm grateful to have found Unitarian Universalism. I'm grateful to be part of a religious tradition that holds onto faith in the human capacity to revere life through a shared journey of awe, gratitude, and service. I'm grateful to be a part of a religious tradition that does not encourage me to depend upon an omniscient god, interpreted for me by high priests, but a tradition that puts its faith in the good heart and in our ability to answer the call for justice. I'm grateful to be here with you, for this interim period, as you renew your vision of caring for one another in this congregation, and for serving the world by being present and acting in the larger community.

This year we will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the dedication of this congregation's third Meeting House. What an excellent moment this is to rededicate ourselves to the ideals of Unitarian Universalism – affirming and promoting the inherent worth of all people as well as the interdependent web of existence of which we are part.

I'm guessing that the world will continue to dish up some very substantial challenges as we move into this new season. I hope you still have time to enjoy some of the experiences summer has to offer, experiences that will feed your spirit and support your soul. I look forward to being with you as we reconnect for the purposes of finding and making meaning from our experiences to come. I look forward to being with you as we continue to learn to savor and to save our lives on this planet. Ah yes, here's to beginning again!

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

Parking Hospitality

The start of a new church year, as we welcome newcomers and older congregants, is a good time to remind ourselves that parking on Sunday mornings can be a problem. Many in the congregation have a spot staked out, but think of those who have never attended, cannot walk far, and those bringing small people. I know we do our best, but maybe we can do a little better. Can those of us who are able-bodied walk a little farther, leave the parking lot open for the elderly and young families among us? And for the newcomer who has never been here...?

Parking is available (most Sundays) at the Hope Club across Benevolent Street and in the Brown University Horace Mann lot on George Street; street parking means only a short walk. If we plan ahead, we can all help this issue to be more manageable for everyone. Thank you!

– Jennifer Nardone, Membership Coordinator

Deacons' Corner

The Deacons would like to welcome everyone back to First Unitarian after the summer break. Summer services were again outstanding.

Last year the Deacons put in writing a mission statement which should help people in our congregation better understand what we do. A short version of the mission statement reads: "The Board of Deacons will assist the Minister(s) in focusing on spiritual opportunities within the congregation by seeking to promote and support the spiritual health and well-being of the congregation, as well as upholding and encouraging bonds of understanding, faith, connection and affection among individual members and in the various groups and committees of the church."

We pursue our mission by being accessible and welcoming within the congregation, greeting newcomers and others in worship, Coffee Hour, the Newcomers' Cafe, and other gatherings in the Parish House or Meeting House. The Deacons are available for personal contact from members with questions or concerns, as well as by facilitating programs which inspire and connect members to opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth.

There are many other things that the Deacons plan to do this year. Stay tuned to learn more about our work on behalf of the congregation.

The Deacons: Mary Speare and Tom Getz, Senior Deacons; Stewart Armstrong, Jim Barfoot, Joe Fisler, Ariadne Greenberg, Sharon Kernan, Katy Killilea, Judie Knilans, Dave Lewis



WHEEL OF LIFE

Condolences to:

The family and friends of **Jane Blount** who died unexpectedly in July. Jane had been a member of this church since 1975.

HATS OFF TO ...

Mary Frappier for emergency phone coverage when the church was closed for summer vacation.





Spiritual Pathways

Summer is that time when many of us plan to play, imagine, regroup, study, refresh, and even rest. For me, that means time outdoors, time with friends, time with family, time to be creative. Of course, the key word is *time*. I have learned to expect that the days, weeks, months of summer are fleeting. I have grown to deeply appreciate each plunge in the ocean,

every workshop with colleagues, and any hug from a treasured friend.

This summer, I admit to deferring the rest part. However, I was able to focus some precious study time on how to better message the philosophy and goals of our faith-development programs for all ages. The result was well worth it. I have fresh energy, gained from lessons shared by generous leaders to guide our families, teachers, youth, and newcomers.

I will be sending a monthly communication to parents that has relevance to their everyday family lives. Teachers will receive weekly emails with messages that support, empower, and inspire. There will be several "out of the box," themed events for children, youth, and adults that foster creativity and spiritual growth. I learned a lot this summer and am filled with gratitude to my many teachers.

At Lifespan Religious Education Week on Star Island, theme speakers Tim DeChristopher and Bryan Cahall blended word and song about sustainability and faith that call me to act on climate justice. Tim Atkins, a New Jersey religious educator, led a week-long workshop on his UU adaptation of "Think Orange," an RE philosophy that connects family and church. I credit Tim's work for much of our updated messaging this year.

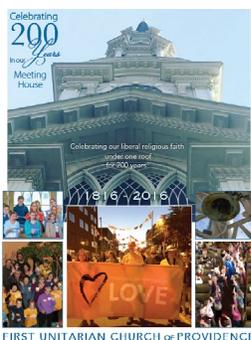
I subscribed to the Soul Matters Sharing Circle, a group providing resources for theme-based ministry, a way to connect the generations and our mutual soul work. For example, September's theme is Covenant. Unitarian Universalism stems from that tradition, and all that we teach and do is based on the promises we share in community.

It will be a year of honoring congregational history, in tune with evolving our current ministry to families. I am pleased to work with our interim minister, Charlie Ortman, for a second year of a learning and serving partnership. We will explore the use of congregationwide themes with multigenerational, experiential opportunities. I am ready, with fresh energy, to support and inspire UU faith development through creating connections, empowering passions, and discovering pathways to serve the world.

I hope you will still make time to swim in the warm ocean, visit farm stands, and groom your yard or rest, as I will. And I look forward to greeting newcomers and all of you returning in September.

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

First Unitarian Resource Guide for 2016-17



Copies of our annual Resource Book have been mailed to member households. This guide includes a congregational calendar, information about our staff, about membership, about programming for children, youth, and adults, about opportunities to connect and participate, and much more.

The Resource Book is also available on the church website (www.firstunitarianprov.org).

Registration for the 2016-17 Spiritual Pathways Religious Education Program

Annual enrollment for our religious education program for children and youth begins in September, in person, on Homecoming Sunday, September 11. Online registration will be available on the church website (www.firstunitarianprov.org).

Please note: Families must register children and youth each year.

Schedule of Opening Events

Sunday, September 11

10:30a – Homecoming/Water Communion: A Multigenerational Worship Service

Childcare for infants to three-year-olds open on the second floor of the Parish House. Registration for Sunday School begins before church and continues during Coffee Hour in the Atrium.

Tuesday, September 13

7:00p – Teacher Orientation in the Parish House and classrooms.

Sunday, September 18

10:30a – First Sunday school session
Grades K and older begin in the Meeting House for the first portion of the worship service, leaving with teachers for classes.
Nursery/Toddler and Pre-K begin in classrooms.

12:00-12:30p – Coming of Age Parent Orientation in the Haynes Room

Calling All Parents!

Parent Network Nest

Sundays beginning October 2

The RE Committee (Spiritual Pathways Team) and the Caring Network are offering a drop-in for parents during Coffee Hour in the Web Room (second floor, next to the Auditorium). Grab your Coffee Hour treats and come on by for a chance to talk and connect with other parents!





Sight Lines

A little less than a year ago, when I felt very much like an imposter as brand-new member and President-elect of the Prudential Committee (our church's governing body), a longer-serving member sat down with me for coffee and asked, bluntly, "What will be your focus as President?" What had been social chit-chat suddenly felt like the world's most uncomfortable job interview, with me as the embarrassingly ill-prepared candidate. With hindsight, I am grateful for that question, and for the stimulus it provided to start discussing with staff and leaders across the church's four ministries the exciting challenges of this upcoming year.

A key focus will be assisting our elected Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) in their work, with the goal of calling a settled minister to take us on into this congregation's fourth century. The search process has already provided an opportunity to reflect on who we are and what we value – processes of discernment that I hope we can pursue further this year.

In particular, I hope that this year we will find ways to build on the vote we took this past year on Black Lives Matter, by speaking out on issues of social justice and having an impact in effecting progressive change.

Beyond that, the run-up to the 200th anniversary of the Meeting House next month has prompted me to learn more about our history. In particular, in exploring the rich archival resources at the Rhode Island Historical Society, I've come to a new appreciation of the resilience and commitment of the congregation in the face of the disaster of 1814, when the previous church burned down. They trusted one another, and in a situation where it must surely have been tempting to doubt, to backslide, or to retrench as individuals, they went all-in to construct a new building.

I find this story compelling, not only for what they did, but also for what they imagined. They built with their vision fixed on the future; they built, in fact, for us. They were able to do so because they recognized what it is sometimes hard to remember these days: we accomplish more when we work together than we can on our own.

So, I do now have an answer for that question I flubbed back last fall. The results of the MSC congregational survey, distributed last February, showed a wide range in our lengths of membership, agenda priorities, and levels of participation. "We" are a "we" that do not know one another that well. This interim year gives us an opportunity to listen to and learn from one another, as we reflect together on the past and imagine our shared future.

Keith Brown
President, Prudential Committee
pres@firstunitarianprov.org



Many Unitarian Universalists experience a deepening commitment to their faith and congregation as a call to accept a position of leadership. Harvest the Power addresses the reality that

today's leaders operate at a time of rapid cultural change, both in and outside our congregations. This program helps lay leaders grow in spirit as they grow as leaders.

Leaders need a broad range of skills, both technical and visionary. The program's 12 workshops offer opportunities for both new and experienced leaders to enrich the skills they bring to their leadership and to experience their leadership journey as a Unitarian Universalist faith journey. Harvest the Power weaves Unitarian Universalist values, Principles, and Sources with four strands: spiritual development, ethical development, Unitarian Universalist identity development, and faith development.

The exploration will begin in October with a dinner, then a weekend retreat, and then regularly scheduled sessions starting in October and ending in April 2017. The program will be led by Rev. Charlie Ortman, Cynthia Rosengard, Cathy Seggel, Tiffany Reed, and Jay Glasson.

Do you feel called to a deepening sense of identity and leadership here at First Unitarian? If so, please contact Cynthia Rosengard (crosengard@gmail.com) for more information.

First Unitarian Capital Campaign Is Set to Begin

The Meeting House Restoration Committee and the PruComm's Executive Committee are pleased to announce that Steven McCloy and David House will co-chair First Unitarian's campaign to raise funds to preserve the permanent symbol of our congregation, our Meeting House.

A feasibility study conducted with over 40 members of our congregation revealed deep concern regarding the deteriorating condition of the Meeting House as described in a report by historical architect Corrie De Boer. The total cost to restore both exterior and interior was placed at \$2 million, with another half million required for the preservation of the organ.

Results from the study group indicated that our congregation could realistically raise \$1 million at this time. The \$1 million goal is enough for us to restore the exterior, so that damage is kept at a minimum, and to address the most serious safety issues. Once details of Meeting House conditions were revealed to the study group, there was strong support for moving ahead now with the capital campaign in order to keep repair costs at a minimum.

Over 25 members have volunteered to take part in our campaign effort. This fall, everyone in the congregation will be approached to participate through a campaign gift.

Please contact Steve (steven.mccloy43@gmail.com) or David (dlhouse51@comcast.net) if you can volunteer or if you would like specifics regarding the need for restoration or costs.

Treasurer's FY16 Report

As of June 30, the closing date for our fiscal year budget, we ended with a small positive balance. The final amount will be determined after all transactions are completed and reviewed.

The positive balance was achieved – even with a budget transfer (\$12,959) for building maintenance to make needed roof and ceiling repairs in the Parish House Auditorium – by careful management of expenditures (thanks to Posey Kooris and David House). The areas with surpluses were the ministerial search, health insurance savings, rentals, and property insurance.

Please note that even though we had budgeted only 93% of the amount pledged by the congregation, just 92% was received; in other words, \$25,259 of the pledged amount for FY2016 was not paid. This highlights the need for generous giving and the importance of honoring pledges.

– Graham Nye, Treasurer



Our Ministerial Search

First Unitarian is renewing its search for a settled (long-term) minister during the 2016-17 church year. The process began in the spring of 2015, when the congregation elected the seven-member Ministerial Search Committee (MSC). The team spent the entire 2015-16 church year involved in the search process. When the candidate of our choice elected to go to another church, we accepted the inevitability of extending the search process for another year. Fortunately, our outstanding interim minister, Charlie Ortman, agreed to stay on for a second year. During last year's search, we learned much about the church, the UUA, the search process, and how we are perceived by candidates, all of which will help us in the year ahead.

During the search, the MSC follows guidelines provided by the Unitarian Universalist Association, with assistance from a UUA consultant; our consultant is UUA Transitions Director Rev. Keith Kron. Last year, we created many opportunities for the church to give input on the type of minister who could best lead our church into the future. We held several "cottage meetings," conducted an extensive survey, and participated in congregational conversations. Although we will not repeat the survey, the now six-member committee (with the departure of Lisa Sampson) will participate in additional congregational conversations and will especially attempt to hear the ideas of parishioners in the age range of 20s to 40s, who were underrepresented in last year's survey.

In the late fall, we will update and submit our "Congregational Record," or church profile, to the UUA, where it will be posted on a website especially for "ministers in search" or "ministerial search candidates." Here we compile information gathered from the congregation, along with descriptive information about the church and the Providence area. This will happen before Thanksgiving. In addition, we will update our search website, which last year was praised as a model of excellence by Keith Kron.

Next, ministerial candidates will look at the postings from churches in search and, beginning in January, will apply for their preferred positions. Things then begin to get exciting! Our committee will review all of the applications and narrow the field to three or four candidates. During the spring, we will invite each of the finalists to visit with us for a few days, giving the committee time to interview them and spend time with them, as well as hearing them preach in a "neutral pulpit" within driving distance of Providence. The candidates do not meet other First Unitarian congregants at this time for reasons of confidentiality.

The MSC then moves into the final phase of the process and selects its top candidate. If we are that candidate's first choice, we have "a match." She or he will then come for a week-long visit at the church, during which time s/he will meet with many groups and individuals, as well as preach on two Sundays. The congregation then has the opportunity to vote to "call" the minister. Typically, ministers will only accept a call that has a high level of "yes" votes (90% or more) among the membership, so as not to create a schism in the congregation.

We look forward to working with the congregation as we embark on the renewed search process. Armed with past experience and additional input from the congregation, we will aim once again for a good match with an outstanding minister. Look for updates in the church newsletter, the hallway bulletin board, and announcements from the pulpit.

– Wendy Oliver for the Ministerial Search Committee



The 2016-17 Ministerial Search Committee: (front) Wendy Oliver, John Simmonds (chair), Shelley Stephenson; (back) Rick Richards, Domenic Napolitano, Bill Koteff

A Congregational Conversation on the Ministerial Search

Sunday, October 2, 12:00p in the Auditorium

All are encouraged to join the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) for an opportunity to ask questions and to share your thoughts and ideas on our search for a new minister. The MSC wants to hear from you!

A History Moment: The Organ

In colonial New England, Puritans frowned on music in church, and consequently Congregational churches (of which ours was one) did not have organs. But in 1770, some 50 years after its founding, our always liberal congregation was the first Congregational church in America to purchase a pipe organ. For reasons not clear in the historical record, the organ was removed in 1785, and the congregation was without an organ for some 15 years. Singing was accompanied by a bass viol and clarinet.

In 1802, an organ was purchased for the new, much larger Meeting House, built in 1794. The funds (\$2,500) were raised by subscription, as attested by this fragmentary document in the church archives: "We, the subscribers, believing it the wish of ev'ry one who frequents public worship (whether influenced by Piety, Ostentation or pleasure) that the 'Concord of sweet sounds' make a part of their Devotional Exercise, do agree to purchase an elegant Organ, in order that the insufficiency of Singing alone may be abated, and that the Music, necessary on the Lord's day, may no longer be dependent on caprice."

When that second Meeting House burned to the ground in 1814, parishioners were able to save the organ pipes. Reusing the pipes in an organ for the new stone Meeting House saved about half the cost. As this rebuilt organ eventually proved inadequate, a fourth organ was purchased in 1846 from E. and G. G. Hook of Boston. In 1928, a fifth organ, built by Cazavant Freres of Quebec was installed, with a special service for its dedication.

Then, in August 1966, another fire. A lightning strike blew out the organ and scattered the pipes around the sanctuary. Some of the pipes were salvaged by parishioners and can be seen in the display cases in the balcony. As part of the major renovation of the Meeting House following the fire, a sixth organ, the one currently in the organ loft, was made by M. P. Moeller Company.



The 1846 Hook organ



Community Life

September All-Parish Supper

Friday, September 16 (Note: third Friday of the month)

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

5:45p Social Hour: Bring hors d'oeuvres to share and/or wine for your own party if you wish.

6:15p Potluck Dinner: Please bring a dish to share that serves at least eight people. You can bring a main dish, a vegetable, a salad, or a dessert.

7:45p Program in the Auditorium: Reflections on the Summer of 2016

Welcome back, everybody! Join us in greeting old friends and welcoming newcomers as our congregation gathers once again for our new church year. Our program will offer us an opportunity to reflect on recent events in our church life and in the world and on our future.

We will be welcomed by Keith Brown, our church President, who will give a brief overview of what's been happening at church and what is ahead for us. We will also hear brief reports from both our youth and adult delegates with highlights of the UUA General Assembly, held in Columbus, Ohio, this past June.

Our main speaker will be our Interim Minister Charlie Ortman. Charlie will provide his own reflections on the summer and will consider the progress and challenges that face our congregation within the context of our nation and the world.

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).

Saturday Social Supper

September 10 starting at 5:30p

The September 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.

We are looking for hosts for the upcoming year. We often have two venues, so it does not matter if you have a smaller home. Please contact Shirley (shelly-dimatteo@verizon.net).

The Sharps' War: A UU Documentary

Airing on PBS-TV on Tuesday, September 20 at 7:00p

In the fall of 1934 and in 1940, a young Unitarian minister (Waitstill Sharp) and his wife (Martha Joukowsky Sharp) traveled to war-torn Europe to defy the Nazis and to help rescue hundreds of dissidents, Jews, children, and other refugees from Nazi oppression. Their courage and sacrifices have inspired an exciting new film by Ken Burns entitled *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War*. All across the United States and beyond, people will be viewing and talking about the story of these two brave UUs, and that includes us.

We plan to celebrate the showings of this excellent documentary film by making it a Congregational Event! Twenty UU families in our area will host gatherings of interested people in their homes for the event on September 20. If you can be one of our host families, please volunteer by calling Jim Estey (401.351.1748) ASAP.

We will also be showing the film that evening in the church Parish House at 7:00p. Please sign up at church or call the church office if you plan to attend. Together, let us honor the Sharps' legacy and consider ways that we can defy hatred, fear, and oppression in our world today.

Follow Your Muse

Sunday, October 16 at 12:00p

The Writers' Circle originated at the First Unitarian Church in 1993. The program moved on to the public sector and became the state's premier writers' group. Twenty years later, the Circle returns to the church to offer a helping hand to those who want to tell their story – and every person has a story. It may be a work of fiction, nonfiction, a memoir, poem, or essay, even a play. Follow your muse wherever it takes you.

Are you writing for yourself? Perhaps you're stuck with an idea and need help getting started. Need others to hear your story, give you feedback, and support your work? You may even dream about being published. Experienced and newcomers are welcome to meet, share, and learn from one another.

For more information, to ask your questions, or to sign up for the upcoming workshops that begin in October. Rose Pearson will be there to greet you. RSVP (thewriterscircle@aol.com).

October Parish Supper

Friday, October 14

"The Story of the Three Churches"

Our after-dinner program will feature several presentations by members and friends of the congregation about some of the important moments in the history of our church and its role in the community. Topics include our beginnings in 1720, the construction of the Meeting House, the fire, and recent developments. Also, a special showing of a 20-minute audio/visual show created by our former minister, Rev. Tom Ahlburn, and members of the congregation in 1976 about the history of the church. Plan to join us and learn about and celebrate the early development and heritage of our church in our bicentennial year.

Atrium Bookstore

The bookstore reopens on September 11 and will be 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.



Community Life

Welcome Back Ice Cream Social!

Sunday, September 25 after Coffee Hour (12:00p–2ish)

It's that time of year again! Come to our Ice Cream Social to celebrate the start of the new church year, enjoy some music, eat some ice cream, say hi to some old friends and meet some new ones on the front lawns. Bring a picnic or buy a hot dog as a pre-ice cream lunch. Invite a friend! We'll see you there!

Sponsored by the Religious Education and Membership Committees



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!

– Jennifer Nardone, Membership Coordinator

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)

The Caring Network

The First Unitarian Caring Network includes the following groups: Chalice Circles, Covenant Group, Mindful Grieving, the Deacons, the Women's Alliance, Membership, Care Crew, and Phone Buddies.



The Care Crew uses "Meal Train" to organize meals, transportation, and errands for people who are ill and/or recovering from surgery. Thank you to all 45 people who have participated in these endeavors. The Phone Buddies conducted a model program this summer, which will now evolve into a larger program. The "graduates" of the Mindful Grieving Group met during the summer. Specific information regarding opportunities to join any of these groups will be forthcoming.

The Care Crew is ready to assist the congregation in times of need such as illness, surgery recovery, transportation, errands, meals, home visits, cards, and calls. To be connected to the Care Crew, please contact Shirley DiMatteo (DiMatteo-shirley.dimatteo@yahoo.com), Steve McCloy (steven.mccloy43@gmail.com) or Posey Kooris in the church office (admin@firstunitarianprov.org).

Path to Membership Classes

Tuesdays, October 11, 18, 25 & November 1, 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 is offered three times during the year. The classes are led by our Interim Minister, Charlie Ortman; our Director of Religious Education, Cathy Seggel; and our Membership Coordinator, Jenn Nardone.

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 in advance.

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

The Women's Alliance

September Is Membership Month

Established in 1882, the Women's Alliance is unique among the organizations of First Unitarian in that it is an autonomous society of dues-paying members and has its own endowment. Many of its members played leading roles in education, suffrage, and social services. In 2014 the Women's Alliance became an affiliate of the church. Its mission continues to be serving the community, both locally and at large, providing friendship and spiritual and cultural stimuli for its members, and supporting the church.

The Women's Alliance meets monthly from October to June and features a variety of speakers, followed by a luncheon. Other activities include fundraisers to provide financial donations to local charities that support women and families; service activities such as hosting a tea at nursing homes, a garden project in partnership with the Tockwotton Courtyard residents, and signing up donations for the church's Sunday Coffee Hour. The Alliance also monitors the maintenance of the Parish House parlors.

Stop by the Alliance coffee table on Sundays for information on membership.

– Nori Duncan, Alliance President

Women's Alliance Coffee Sale

Coffee Lovers Can Rejoice!

The Women's Alliance Coffee Sales are back! The Alliance purchases gourmet coffees locally from New Harvest Coffee Roasters in Pawtucket, RI. Because of its close proximity, New Harvest can deliver freshly roasted coffees just a few days before we sell them. The Alliance only sells organic coffee. The selections are regular and decaf, in both ground coffee and beans. The monies from the sales are donated to community charities and support projects in the church. We hope to see you at the Alliance coffee table in the Atrium!



Our Coffee Hour Co-op Needs YOU!

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. These donations can be 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.



Community Life

Our Newest Members

Since last spring, nine new members have joined the church. Look for them on Sundays and add your personal greetings.

Deborah and Brian Baldizar



Originally from New England, Deborah and Brian moved to Providence 14 years ago from San Francisco to pursue graduate studies and be closer to family and friends. Deborah works as a Professor of Art at Lasell College; and when she finds a spare minute, she sneaks off to make new sculpture in her studio. Brian spends his days with 1,100 teenagers as an Assistant Principal at Classical High School and loves riddles and adventure. They have two boys, Greyson (age 9) and Elliott (age 6), who keep them busy with their music, sports, and zest for life. After years of curiosity and searching, they settled in Seekonk and together found their spiritual home at First Unitarian in Providence.

Amy Grant



Amy grew up in a Catholic family in Boston. She relocated to Providence 13 years ago. She is single and has no children but enjoys being an auntie to 21 nieces and nephews. One of her favorite quotes is "All who wander are not lost."

Janice Lee Kelly



Janice Lee Kelly, an ex-pat from Kentucky, earned her BFA and BArchitecture from Rhode Island School of Design and fell in love with Providence and coastal Rhode Island. Her career in architecture, art, and design improbably led to the creation of Floating Sculptures and Aerial Installations for projects ranging from Lincoln Center to the mountains of Japan. Her work can be seen on her website (www.janiceleekelly.com). Her studio is in Bristol.

Watson Lerner



Watson was born in Park Ride, Illinois, and raised in Jamestown, Rhode Island. He was raised a Catholic and became a Unitarian in 2000 when he lived in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Watson became interested in the Unitarian Universalist principles while serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali, West Africa. After the Peace Corps, he worked at Brown University in the

Office of Summer Studies. He went on to earn his master's degree at Boston College. Watson served as a counselor at Northeastern University, Babson College, and the University of Central Florida. He lives on the East Side of Providence with his dog, Buster. He is very happy to have become a member of the Unitarian church here in Providence.

John, Marie, and Bailey Saddle mire



The Saddle mire family is pleased to become full members of the congregation, having attended since 2013 after moving from Connecticut to join the Bryant University administration. Elijah (11) and Bailey (16) are lifelong UUs, who along with their parents John and Marie, were active members of the Unitarian Universalist Society East of Manchester, Connecticut. The kids attend the Smithfield

Public Schools and pursue various interests. Elijah has boundless energy and focuses it on competing in basketball and soccer. Bailey loves music, spending much of her days singing and teaching herself piano.

The Saddle mires live on the Bryant University campus and enjoy all that a college community has to offer. Marie works with students with learning disabilities, coaching them on how to find success while navigating a challenging curriculum. She is part of the teaching team for kindergarten at First Unitarian. John leads a Student Affairs team in creating an engaging out-of-class experience. Bailey and John served as congregation delegates at General Assembly, Bailey having recently been elected as the Youth Observer to the UUA Board.

Jeanne Sturim



Jeanne was born and raised in a small town in Southeast Missouri, where the community was centered around the Lutheran church that her ancestors founded in the 1830s. Having attended Lutheran schools throughout her primary and secondary years, it wasn't until entering Washington University in St. Louis that she was able to meet a more diverse segment of society and met her

husband, Howard. They moved to Barrington in 1967, where they raised their three sons and she joined the Presbyterian Church, but attended infrequently. Since retirement, they moved to Providence, where Jeanne has been visiting the First Unitarian Church off and on. She likes the friendly atmosphere, the sense of community, the beautiful music, and the inclusiveness of the Unitarian Universalist principles.

Jeanne is an artist and maintains a studio in the Deacon Taylor House at the Providence Art Club. In the past, she has served on the Board of the Women's Center of Rhode Island and looks forward to reconnecting with the larger Rhode Island Community through the church's many social justice programs.



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.



Spiritual Development

A Successful Summer Program

This summer's services featured a wide variety of interesting speakers and beautiful music. Thanks to Bela Teixeira, Rabbi Alan Flam, Rick Richards, StrongHousian Quartet, Barbara Barnes, Katherine Ahlquist, Kelley Smith, Dianne Mailloux, Rev. Gene Dyszlewski, Amber Collins, Maureen Johanson, and Keith Brown for their stimulating talks; and to Phil Gruppuso, John DeBosco, Stew Armstrong, Lynda Gulley, Tom Terceira, Chris Sanzo, StrongHousian Quartet, John Moran, Aubrey Atwater, Elwood Donnelly, Cheryl Brodsky, Steve McCloy, Claire Rosenbaum, Gregory Waksmulski, Rachel Meade, Mike Maven, Bob Logan, Noah Fields, and Neil Bartholomew for the wonderful music.

The 2016-2017 UUA Common Read

The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear

by William J. Barber II with Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove

History doesn't just happen. History is made. Right now in North Carolina there is a movement that's making history, and it is spreading across the land. This book is the memoir of that movement. On these pages, revival and revolution are friends, Jesus and justice kiss, evangelism and liberation are inseparable partners. Far more than a book, this is a daring call to get into the streets and be a part of the history-making, as we interrupt the patterns of injustice and build a better world.

– Shane Claiborne, activist and author of *The Irresistible Revolution*

Unitarian Universalists were electrified at General Assembly 2016 by Rev. William Barber's call for building and sustaining a movement for justice for all people. The UUA Common Read Selection Committee believes that this is a moment for UUs to answer that call.

The Third Reconstruction offers helpful, practical guidance for engaging with justice movements born in response to local experiences of larger injustices. Drawing on the prophetic traditions of the Jewish and Christian scriptures, while making room for other sources of truth, the book challenges us to ground our justice work in moral dissent, even when there is no reasonable expectation of political success, and to do the hard work of coalition building in a society that is fractured and polarized.

Rev. Barber said recently, during his speech at the Democratic National Convention, "Some issues are not left versus right, or liberal versus conservative, they are right versus wrong." Check out Rev. Barber's full speech from the DNC on YouTube.



Chalice Circles and Sampler Sign-up

This Small Group Ministry Program at the First Unitarian Church is for those seeking connections as part of our church community. This experience fulfills the need for intimacy and spiritual growth of members in our large faith community.

Small groups of eight to ten people enhance connections and provide an avenue for religious growth and spiritual meaning. Most groups meet twice a month for two hours in the Parish House or in a member's home. Group members are asked to commit to eight or ten sessions.

Experience a Chalice Circle

Sunday, September 25 at 12:00p

On Sunday, September 25, there will be an opportunity to experience a brief Chalice Circle sampler after church with an opportunity to sign up for a fall session, depending on space availability.

For more information, contact Registrar Janet Downing Taylor (jdtaylo39@verizon.net)

Benevolent Street Zendo
An Ongoing Zen Meditation Group
Every Monday at 7:00p

Special Event, Monday, September 26

Please note: No meeting on September 19

Benevolent Street Zendo is a member community of the Boundless Way Zen Sangha, an interfaith Zen community. We meet most Mondays from 7:00p to 8:30p in the Parish House. All are welcome. If you have never attended, please arrive at 6:40p for a brief orientation. You may call or text Cindy Bapties at (401.573.0881).

Cindy and George Beshers are practice leaders for this group. It is offered as an activity of First Unitarian Church, but is part of the Boundless Way Zen community (www.boundlesswayzen.org, link to Benevolent Street Zen).

Benevolent Street Zen Sangha will host a special event on September 26. The latter half of the evening will be a book reading and discussion with James Cordova, our guiding teacher, who has written *The Story of Mu*, illustrated by Mark Morse. Copies will be available for purchase after the meeting.

Innate Wisdom and Compassion Meditation

Every Wednesday at 7:00p

This drop-in group offers guided meditations of wisdom, love, and compassion. These practices are adapted from Tibetan Buddhism into new forms that can touch the hearts and minds of people from all backgrounds and faiths, to help each of us bring out the best in ourselves and in our service and social action.

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).

UUMen

Sunday, September 11, 7:00–9:00p

Perseids came and went.
Summer came and went.
Olympics came and went.
UU MEN lives on.



Topic: Welcome Back, Men

Facilitator: Steve McCloy (401.486.0333; dadzone43net@aol.com); alternatively: someone else can volunteer.



Social Justice

Peace Flag Project and the Month of Peace

Peace Art Gallery Opening, September 16, 5:00p

Peace Fest RI, Saturday, September 24, 1:00–4:30p, Kennedy Plaza

This is the seventh year our Peace Flag Project celebrates a Month of Peace in Rhode Island, an expansion of our observation of the UN International Day of Peace events. Once again, we will have a lovely exhibit of Peace Art in the Atrium Gallery.

Our main event will be Peace Fest RI on Saturday, September 24, at Burnside Park, Downtown Providence from 1:00 to 4:30p. There will be Activities for Peace (1:00–3:00p), Dances and Songs for Peace (3:00p), and our annual Walk for Peace (3:30p). Please join us. There's something for everyone at every age to enjoy. And we can always use volunteers, so help us out if you can.



For details, see our website (www.thepeaceflagproject.org) and/or our Facebook events page (www.facebook.com/events/934050263307960/). Or contact Ginny Fox (ginfox32@gmail.com). Come celebrate peace, experience peace, be peace.

Neighborhood Social Justice

Monthly Meeting

Sunday, September 11 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, September 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. On the first Tuesday of every month, volunteers deliver food, clothing, and respectful companionship to those at Emmanuel House, a homeless shelter in Providence. All are welcome and encouraged 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.

Standing on the Side of Love

Monthly Meeting

Sunday, September 25 at 12:15p

This fall, Standing on the Side of Love will be registering voters at the Peace Fest on Saturday, September 24, at local farmer's markets, and right on the street. We will also be partnering with the Interfaith Coalition Against Poverty on their initiatives to promote affordable housing, transportation, and licenses for undocumented people – all issues that disproportionately impact communities of color. Stay tuned for more workshops in early winter about institutional racism and white privilege.

Please plan on coming to SSL's monthly meetings with your ideas for antiracism work!

Knitting for a Better World

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)

Community Collections 2016-17

One Sunday each month, First Unitarian donates its non-pledge Sunday offering to a charitable cause, a practice we have been following for several years. The Community Collections Committee has selected the following organizations to receive this year's contributions.

September 11 Harvest Kitchen – A 20-week culinary job-readiness training program for youth to create foods using local ingredients to sell at farmers markets.

October 16 FANG Collective (Fighting Against Natural Gas) Building, supporting, and escalating nonviolent resistance to the natural gas industry, while supporting movements for justice.

November 20 Loaves & Fishes Mission – Monthly food distribution from First Unitarian to the homeless at Emmanuel House in Providence.

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

January 29 Transylvania Partner Church – Assistance in helping our Partner Church to expand their worship space so all congregants can gather together.

February 26 LREDA Endowment (Liberal Religious Educators Association) – to help increase the Endowment Fund for services provided to UU religious educators and religious education.

April 16 Stages of Freedom Swim Empowerment – To provide all Rhode Island children with the opportunity to learn how to swim.

May 7 The Girl Effect – a group at our church that concentrates on raising funds to contribute directly to girls' education.

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

Distribution Day: Monday, September 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–3:00p,
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)



For more information on these and future programs (meeting locations, contact information, etc.), see details in the church newsletter. - www.firstunitarianprov.org

September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Search Committee 6:30p World Affairs 7:00p	2	3
4 Last Summer Worship 10:00a	5 LABOR DAY Church Office Closed Zendo 7:00p	6 Loaves & Fishes Mission 12:00-7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	7 Prudential Committee 6:30p Meditation 7:00p	8 Worship Committee 6:00p Search Committee 6:30p	9	10 Saturday Social Supper (DiMatteo/Shelly)
11 Homecoming Service 10:30a <u>at 12:00p</u> Neighborhood SJ UU Men 7:00p	12 Zendo 7:00p	13 Teacher Orientation 7:00p	14 Meditation 7:00p	15 Search Committee 6:30p	16 Peace Art Exhibit Opening 5:00p All-Parish Supper 5:45p Program 7:45p	17
18 Worship 10:30a Sunday School begins <u>at 12:00p</u> CoA Parent Orientation Membership Annual Budget	19 Food Pantry 2:00p-6:00p [No Zendo]	20 <i>Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War</i> 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	21 Meditation 7:00p	22 Search Committee 6:30p	23	24 Peace Fest RI 1:00-4:30p (Burnside Park, Kennedy Plaza)
25 Worship 10:30a <u>at 12:00p</u> Ice Cream Social Chalice Circle Sampler <u>at 12:15p</u> Standing on the Side of Love	26 Zendo 7:00p	27 Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	28 Meditation 7:00p	29 Search Committee 6:30p	30	