



Services in the Meeting House



Daylight Savings ends – turn your clocks BACK one hour.

Sunday, November 6 “The Ministry of All Souls”

10:30a

Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman

This service will include the All Souls litany of departed church members and music for the occasion. Our senior choir will offer several movements from Fauré’s beloved *Requiem*, accompanied by a chamber ensemble including string players from Community MusicWorks.
Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel.

Sunday, November 13 “One Nation, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All”

10:30a

Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman

*New Members will be recognized during the Service.
Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel.*

**Sunday, November 20 Thanksgiving Sunday: “...That Thorns Have Roses...”
A Multigenerational Service with Joyful Noise**

10:30a

Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman

*Our Community Collection will be for our Loaves & Fishes Mission,
a monthly food distribution from First Unitarian to the homeless
at Emmanuel House in Providence.*

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

Sunday, November 27 “Reflecting on Spirituality”

10:30a

Steven McCloy

I have always had trouble with the word *spirituality*. But if I relate it to the work we do with one another, it looks something like this.
Steve McCloy is a long-time member of First Unitarian Church. He is currently co-chair of the Caring Network and the Capital Campaign and a member of the choir.

*Music today will include selections from Bach and Scarlatti
by Boston-based classical guitarist Aaron Larget-Caplan.*

Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel.

Sunday, December 4 “Advent in Piano and Verse”

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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Staff

- 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
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- Next Deadline: November 15

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From My Window . . .

Our second and final year of working together, through your ministerial transition, is now well under way. Various groups, committees, task forces, and programs of the church are rolling along at a strong and effective pace. In Religious Education, your children are learning from their teachers about life and about the meaning of life. Your Chalice Circles are gathering

to provide members of the congregation with opportunities to explore matters of ultimate concern within a context of intimate connection. Your Caring Network and Care Crew are working hard to meet the needs of your members by creating opportunities to fill those needs by other members. Your Ministerial Search Committee is preparing the way for the congregation to find and call your next settled minister. Your Prudential Committee is hard at work getting the policies and structures of the congregation in order so that you will be in the best position possible for making that successful ministerial call. The Deacons are laying a foundation for creating an ever more meaningful spiritual life within the congregation, and they are working with your Standing on the Side of Love Committee to create ways of making this congregation's claim that Black Lives Matter a true declaration.

The Pledge Drive co-chairs are already working on a plan for this year's Annual Fund Drive, so that it might be the most successful yet; and your Capital Campaign Task Force is making great headway at raising the \$1 million it will take to shore up and secure the integrity of your 200-year-old Meeting House, so that it might serve future generations for the centuries yet to come. Oh, and your History Committee worked for months to produce a celebration for the Second Centennial of these fabulous facilities, a commemoration befitting such a momentous occasion.

Wow! That's amazing! And it doesn't even touch on so many other important programs and efforts being made by committees, teams, and individuals in the fulfillment of this church's mission.

I've sometimes heard it said that many of you are unclear about the purpose of this church. To me, that purpose is not so hard to see. The purpose of First Unitarian is the fulfillment of its mission, a mission by the way, that I think is as elegant as it is inspiring:

The First Unitarian Church of Providence is a safe harbor that welcomes liberal religious seekers. With intention, energy, commitment, and love, the people of this diverse faith community gather to:

- Replenish and expand the spirit and the mind throughout life's journey,
- Honor each other's gifts and minister to each other, and
- Transform shared values into action in the world.

I've also sometimes heard it said that the spiritual center of this congregation is nebulous and hard to grab hold of. For me, that center is clear: it is being held in all of the many efforts that are under way here. The center of this congregation's spiritual life, as I see it, can be found in the promotion of the possibilities of goodness and love as they are sought and experienced – in our hearts, our homes, our communities, and in the world. Perhaps you can hold a sense of that spirit more easily in these words by the nineteenth-century Unitarian minister James Vila Blake, who wrote, "Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law. This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another."

I'm so glad to be here with you. I'm glad to join you in your work toward an effective transition, your work toward the creation of beloved community, your work toward securing the financial and physical well-being of this place, your work toward promoting transformation in the world around you, and your work toward serving the spirit that has called us here, all together.

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

Deacons' Corner

There are a lot of things going on at First Unitarian and the Deacons will be adding to the mix. In the past, the Deacons have called people to determine the mood of the congregation. Our Deacons Calling effort provides an outlet to voice your concerns or support for the direction of the church. This year, we would like to provide you with the questions we will be asking you. You can either use this information to talk to us or you can e-mail your responses to the Deacon who will be contacting you. So here are our questions:



1. Do you think you have had enough input into the ministerial search? If not, would you like to talk to someone from the committee?
2. Do you see value in knowing about the history of the church?
3. What do you see as strengths of First Unitarian?
4. What do you think the church could be doing differently to enhance your experience?
5. Are there any new programs that should be added that would enhance your experience at church?
6. Are you aware of the Caring Network activities?
7. Would you want to be part of the Caring Crew?
8. What can the church do to facilitate attendance/participation of persons with handicaps or mobility problems?

The Deacons will begin their calls in November and hope to finish by the end of December. The calls are focusing on the above eight questions. We will not be contacting you to request financial assistance!

In addition, the Deacons will be working with the Standing on the Side of Love Committee to set up discussion groups on the 2016 UUA Common Read: *The Third Reconstruction – How a Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear*, by William J. Barber II. This could be a timely topic in light of the national elections.

The Deacons would also like to sponsor two or three repeat group discussions of the 2015 read, *The New Jim Crow*, by Michelle Alexander, for those who were unable to attend the sessions last year. Sign-ups for both groups will begin in November. The discussion groups, if there is sufficient interest, will begin in early 2017.

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



Spiritual Pathways

Gratitude Circles

November certainly feels fully like fall. The weather, hours of daylight, and various autumn festivals, sports, and holidays abound. This particular autumn, we are also dealing with constant political messaging and worrisome news about the challenges of the storms of climate change. All of this affects people of all ages. We need our faith community to help us navigate through it.

In our Spiritual Pathways programs for children, youth, and adults, we have opportunities to connect the generations, each teaching and learning. The Sunday morning experience is anchored by community worship, where we light our chalice flame with respect for the past, in celebration of the present, and with hope for the future. Chapel services are supported by seventh-graders serving as Worship Associates and Marcia Taylor leading us in song and movement. Themes, so far, have included Beginnings, What Is Worship?, Covenant and Community, Indigenous People’s Day, Harvest/Sukkot, and the 200th Anniversary of our Meeting House.

Through this worship, spiritual practices from Unitarian Universalism and the sources of our living tradition are shared with our young people. It is an interactive ritual, with music, silent meditation, storytelling, and active listening. When creating these opportunities, I coordinate with the adult worship calendar and reach out to various resource people, curating fresh resources every week. I have joined the on-line Soul Matters Sharing Circle that provides theme-based ministry ideas.

The Religious Education Committee and I look forward to presenting a Sunday of Sustainability and Gratitude and Our UU Faith, a unique combination of worship, music, youth conversation, and leadership lunch programming. We will welcome Tim DeChristopher and Bryan Cahall for that special event on Sunday, November 13. Stay tuned for other creative curricula as our church year progresses. We know that highly relevant, life skills-oriented material best serves our community. I am very grateful to be able to offer these opportunities.

In this season of family or friend gatherings, some have the habit of going around their tables, each person sharing something for which they are grateful. In some groups, the mention of this practice elicits moans and groans or “Here we go again.” It’s worth considering whether there is value in the experience. I have found these words from Jane Mauldin to resonate:

We continue to work on gratitude circles at our house. Some of us find it hard to be thankful when we would rather be angry. Sometimes even I (who like to consider myself closer to perfect than many) would rather give my husband a swift verbal kick than words of appreciation. Yet, there is something sacred about our gratitude circles. Gratitude has a healing power at our table that is more tangible than forgiveness or even ice cream. We can’t honestly nourish a grudge at the same time that we nourish gratitude. So we try.

Take good care.

Love, from my gratitude circle to yours,

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

Child Dedications

The next Child Dedication ceremony will take place during the multigenerational service on December 18. Members with a baby or young child they would like to have dedicated, please contact the church office (401.421.7970).

Guest at Your Table

Guest at Your Table is the UUSC’s annual inter-generational program to raise support for and awareness about their work to advance human rights.

This year’s program theme is “Defying Hate,” based on the recent release of the Ken Burns documentary about UUSC founders Martha and Waitstill Sharp, *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps’ War* (on PBS in September). The Sharps defied hate by helping Jews and dissidents escape Nazi Germany using brave, creative methods, many of which could have caused them to be imprisoned, tortured, or worse. Learn more about the Sharps and UUSC’s beginnings at www.uusc.org/the-history-of-uusc/.



The UUSC is proud to carry forward the Sharps’ legacy by continuing to defy hate and protect the lives and rights of refugees, asylum seekers, and other marginalized groups, both here in the United States and throughout the world.

Guest at Your Table offers an array of program materials to help you engage with this year’s theme while learning about the initiatives and grassroots partners the UUSC works with to confront hate and bigotry and support human rights from the ground up – just as the Sharps did during their rescue missions.

First Unitarian Resource Guide for 2016-17



Copies of our annual *Resource Book* were mailed to member households in September. 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).



Sight Lines

We cannot live for ourselves alone. Our lives are connected by a thousand invisible threads, and along these sympathetic fibers, our actions run as causes and return to us as results.

– Herman Melville

David House, our church’s Assistant Treasurer and co-chair of our Capital Campaign, offered this quotation from Melville as the opening words in October’s Prudential Committee meeting. It was new to me; and so served as yet one more reminder of how much I still have to learn, after nearly 20 years, about New England’s distinctive literary and spiritual heritage.

A few days after that meeting – where we continued the work of identifying and strengthening the systems and structures that will help First Unitarian Church achieve its mission – I had the chance to visit the Berkshires for the first time. Along the way, I managed to persuade my family to stop by Arrowhead in Pittsfield, where Herman Melville lived and wrote between 1850 and 1863. On a brisk fall morning, we walked up from the old house to the woods where, our guidebook told us, Melville would come to chop firewood. What it didn’t tell us was that inside the woods, you can look up at slender, straight trees that sway against the blue sky like ships’ masts. Or that somehow, miraculously, those trees are joined to the ground by twisted skeins of wood that resemble rope rigging or thicker braided hawsers. Or that up in those woods it is so quiet that you notice, quite clearly, the creaking of the trees and branches in the wind. It was easy to imagine how Melville, so far from the ocean, might nonetheless have found some echoes of life under sail here, as he worked to finish the manuscript of *Moby-Dick*.

But perhaps too easy. Coming back from the woods of Arrowhead to Providence, and with David’s quote still fresh, I convinced myself that Melville shared with the Boston Transcendentalists – and our own Unitarian traditions – a strong sense of nature’s wonder, and the interdependent web of existence. It was a shock, therefore, to learn that Melville is often considered an anti-Transcendentalist, on the basis of his satirical treatment of Ralph Waldo Emerson’s philosophy. And also that even though his wife was a lifelong Unitarian, and they were pewholders at All Souls Church in New York City, Melville nevertheless strongly criticized what he saw as the un-Christian views of slavery and poverty expressed by conservative Boston Unitarians in the 1840s, in particular Orville Dewey.

What do we do when gut feelings and scholarly arguments pull us in different directions? When we see principles and sentiments that we share expressed in opposition to our ostensible religious ancestors? In this 200th year of worship in the Meeting House, by exploring and telling some of the vast stock of stories anchored here, we can decide whether we go all in with Melville’s Starbuck, to “let faith oust fact; let fancy oust memory...” Do you want to know more about the church’s role in establishing Rhode Island’s first peace society in 1818? Are you intrigued by Mrs. Lydia Metcalf’s request in 1822 to be dismissed from the church on theological grounds? Are you surprised that the congregation defied the Fugitive Slave Act to protect their African-American sexton, a runaway slave, when his former owner visited Providence in the 1840s? Are you curious who tried to set a fire in the organ loft in January 1866?

I believe that delving deep into our precious, unique archive can energize long-time as well as newer members in our discernment of who we are now. And that in engaging with our sometimes fractious history we can catch hold of the threads and fibers that connect us to the past, to one another in the here and now, or in our shared journey toward an imagined horizon.

Keith Brown
President, Prudential Committee
pres@firstunitarianprov.org

Capital Campaign Moves into Phase Two

We are pleased to announce that the capital campaign for the restoration of the Meeting House is entering its second phase. Gathering volunteers from among the early donors to the capital campaign completed the first phase. Now these dedicated members of our congregation will be continuing the effort to raise funds for restoring the symbol of our presence in Providence and the state of Rhode Island.



OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Although early donations have been generous and are moving us toward our campaign goal of \$1 million, we need all members and friends of our congregation to look into their hearts, remember the importance of the meeting place and community, and then respond generously to those who meet with you to describe the need for Meeting House restoration. All campaign volunteers look forward to meeting with you and listening to your response to this call for action.

Should you have any questions regarding the campaign, please feel free to contact either David House or Steve McCloy, co-chairs for this effort.

– David House and Steven McCloy, Co-chairs
The Meeting House Restoration Task Force

Treasurer’s Report

The congregation is reminded that you can make a “payment of record” with your cash contribution by using the envelopes provided at the front and the back of the church. Write your name on the front and the office will credit you with a donation or add to your pledge payment. If you plan to make a cash contribution on any Sunday, just pick up an envelope when you enter the church.

This record of contribution is used in documenting your contributions to the church for income tax purposes; your cash payments will thus be included in your year-end statement of donations to the church. Each week three to five envelopes have been received as part of the collection. Also it is hoped these envelopes will encourage giving by those who visit the church for other events.

– Graham Nye, Treasurer





Our Ministerial Search

Gleanings from Our Congregational Conversation

On Sunday, October 2, the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) led the congregation in a conversation designed to give input about the minister we are seeking to lead our church. The conversation was well attended by both adults and youth, and focused on three questions:

1. Does the summary of last year's congregational opinions regarding the search still hold true in 2016?
2. What opinions do people have about the age of our future minister?
3. Good preaching is priority number one for most members; what are priorities two and three?

Does last year's summary still hold true?

To begin the conversation, moderator Wendy Oliver reviewed some of the highlights of last year's Congregational Survey, cottage meetings, and staff interviews; these highlights were also summarized in the church newsletter so people could have them in hand. Then she asked the congregation if these highlights accurately represented our hopes for the new minister. Below is a summary of the responses and some quotations from attendees who spoke.

Some people mentioned that passion is very important; we need "someone to ignite us." Potential for growth and someone who empowers us were also key. "We have strengths, and need a minister who sets us up for success." The ability to help us grow is important, as well as compassion.

We need to focus on what characterizes us, what will make us stand out in comparison to the other congregations in search this year. We have a love of our community and a feeling of connection here. But what makes us different from a social club with common interests? What unites us above all those things?

What are our opinions about the age of the minister?

The second question focused on the age of our future minister. Last year, the MSC noticed that there was a difference of opinion throughout the congregation with respect to the desired age and experience of the next minister. There were several respondents to this question. One person noted, "I'd like to see someone in the middle: someone who's had one church, has done well, and is looking for a bigger challenge." Another said, "I'd like to see an older minister who can attract younger people, like Bernie Sanders. The minister needs to captivate younger people and energize them."

Others felt we should not worry about age, but instead think about specific qualities that we value. We tend to stereotype by age; for instance, that a younger person can't be steady and responsible, and an older person can't be energetic, but this is not the case. One noted, "A youthful minister may be better, because s/he can grow with our community and stay longer;" but another pointed out that decades-long ministries are probably a thing of the past. The average term for a minister today is seven years.

What are our top priorities after good preaching?

The third question centered on priorities for the professional and per-

sonal skills of the minister. Most people last year listed preaching as one of their top priorities. After preaching, what skills or qualities should be numbers two and three on our priority list?

Speakers mentioned many qualities including warmth, compassion, opening us to the outside world, helping us develop our own strengths, and a vision for diversity. Being a part of the community (as opposed to simply serving it) and providing denominational leadership were also mentioned. We need a community-builder who can also fundraise effectively. We also need someone who can stretch us. This past year, our interim minister, Charlie Ortman, has helped motivate us and develop new programs. We need someone who will continue this work and add to it.

People also talked about the idea that worship is more than great preaching. We need someone who can guide the entire worship experience. The minister should be passionate about what s/he cares about, and get people excited and involved. Curiosity and the ability to make connections between the congregation and the world are important.

There were some who expressed a desire for our next minister to stay a long time, while others thought this was not realistic. One person noted, "I'm looking less at marriage and more at serial monogamy." Finally, it was suggested that the MSC should identify our top two to three priorities, then several other things we'd be happy to find. Also, we should identify the strengths we have and realize that our new minister may not need to echo those strengths. It makes sense for the minister to provide leadership in the areas where we cannot do it ourselves.

The Congregation Conversation ended at 12:15p; people who had not had a chance to speak were encouraged to fill out the yellow forms available at both the front and rear doors of the church, or to speak with a member of the MSC.

Thanks to everyone who participated in or attended the Conversation. We're always happy to hear from you. You can send us a message at minsearch@firstunitarianprov.org.

– Wendy Oliver and Shelley Stephenson



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



Community Life

November All-Parish Supper

Friday, November 18 (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 - The US Election of 2016: What Happened and Why?

Our presenters will be professors John Dietrich and Richard Holtzman, two popular and provocative young political scientists at Bryant University. Their review and analysis will move beyond the noise of media coverage and political rhetoric to consider the big picture.

How typical or unusual was this election? What trends in American electoral politics does it reveal? Our speakers will analyze the changes that are happening in campaigns, the political parties, and citizen involvement. A Q & A period and discussion will follow.

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

November 5 starting at 5:30p

In November there will be two Social Suppers. One at the home of Annette Casparis in Barrington and the other at the home of Steve McCloy in Providence. People new to the church are encouraged to attend; it's a very nice way to meet others from our church family.

The hosts for the December 3 Supper are Rich Rudert and Sonya Gray, both in Providence. For reservations, contact Shirley DiMatteo (shelley-dimatteo@verizon.net, 401.477.9668) with the number of people in your party and what you would like to bring.

Share Thanksgiving Dinner with Fellow UUs

Thursday, November 24, 1:00–4:00p in the Parish House

Members, friends, and their families are invited to join in our congregation's celebration of Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 24. We will gather for conversation and appetizers at 1:00p and plan to sit down to dinner around 2:00p. Turkeys will be provided; participants are asked to bring side dishes. A suggested donation of \$3.00/adult, \$1.50/child will cover the cost of the turkeys and incidentals.

Ann Boyd, Nori Duncan, and Mary Frappier are organizing the dinner again this year.

Volunteers are needed to help with cooking the turkeys, setting up and decorating, receiving and serving the side dishes, and clean-up.

Please sign up with Nori Duncan during Coffee Hour in November, or call her (401.378.3996) to reserve your space. Sign-up deadline is Sunday, November 20.

Art in the Atrium

The November show will be a solo exhibit of Doris Ann Bridgehouse's form of art called ekphrasis (poems that describe art). Her nature photography is the beginning . . . an inspiration. Later she mediates to focus on the sensitivity of life's fleeting moments by writing poetry. Her poetry shows that through relationships, we can experience sacred connectedness.

December is the month open to the artists of our congregation for the Annual Collective Holiday Exhibit. The theme is the Winter, Christmas holidays, and spirituality in general, but it is not strictly enforced. Any other subjects are welcome as well.

If you are interested in showing your work in the Atrium, please contact Chiara Van Erp (romano-vanerp-design@cox.net).

December Parish Supper

Friday, December 16

Our after-dinner program will be a special holiday celebration featuring the Aurea Ensemble's presentation of *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, by Dylan Thomas. This beloved story will be narrated by popular Rhode Island actor Nigel Gore, with musical interludes of old English carols and holiday chamber music from earlier times. Our own Fred Jodry (voice and harpsichord), Chris Turner (harmonica), and a string quartet led by Consuelo Sherba and including Emmanuel Feldman and Megumi Stohs will perform. Discounted tickets will be available for those who attend the supper.

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. Come and browse.

HATS OFF TO ...

Our Coffee Hour Providers last month:

William Mogle, Jess Dolan, Ryk McIntyre, Lyn Bradford, Tony Allen, Annette Casparis, Liz Palter, Yvonne Federowicz, Mary Frappier, Anne Connor, Steve McCloy, Lisa Rose, Kelly Baraf, Lindseyann Woodside, Sarah Cappelli, Cynthia Rosengard, Janet Ellis, TL Rogers, Joan Gratzner, Joyce Boober, Elissa Emerson, Carol Buckley, Lynda Gulley, Gaby Petruck, Sue Meyer, Ted Martin, Jeremy & Marissa, Lynne Hoppin Fazzi, and all of you who brought something in to surprise us. Thank you!



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.



Community Life

Congregational Conversation: A Vision Workshop for First Unitarian's Future

Saturday, November 5, 10:00a–1:00p

The First Unitarian Prudential Committee is hosting a Congregational Conversation to discern our vision and consider how our vision influences our culture, aligns our actions both inside and outside of our church walls, strengthens our relationships, energizes our spiritual life, and binds us together as one community. Our vision work together will be by inspired by our mission:

The First Unitarian Church of Providence Mission Statement

The First Unitarian Church of Providence is a safe harbor that welcomes liberal religious seekers.

With intention, energy, commitment and love, the people of this diverse faith community gather to:

- Replenish and expand the spirit and the mind throughout life's journey,
- Honor each other's gifts and minister to each other, and
- Transform shared values into action in the world.

We invite everyone in our beloved community at First Unitarian (all ages and perspectives) to join us for a series of gatherings over this church year as we reflect on our congregational history, discern who we are at the present moment, and envision how we want to grow more into living our vision and mission in the future. Charlie Ortman, our Interim Minister, and Gary Lerude, a UUA facilitator from the New England chapter, will guide our conversation as we start the vision process on November 5.

Light refreshments and childcare will be provided.

RSVP to Posey Kooris (admin@firstunitarianprov.org) providing your name and any need you have for childcare.

The Caring Network

The Caring Network met on October 16 and exchanged updates and ideas. We were very pleased that our interim minister, Charlie Ortman, included a description of our goals and how they relate to the overall good workings of the church community. Friends and members also had a chance to sign up for the Care Crew and Support Groups. We heard reports from all groups of the Caring Network. These are some highlights.

- Our Chalice Circles have 24 new participants to add to our nine groups.
- There is now a chat room for parents of young children to get to know each other – the Parenting Network meets during Coffee Hour in the Web Room, off the Auditorium.
- Anyone who is living alone might be interested in joining the Phone Buddies. This involves a daily check-in with another person. A pilot was run successfully last summer and now we are looking for more people to partner and become Phone Buddies. Please contact Coordinator Judie Knilans if you are interested (judiek3@aol.com or 401.246.0192).
- A Path to Membership Class with eight participants is under way. There will be a new membership book signing during the service on November 13. Please be sure to say "Hi" to newcomers holding a blue or purple mug and drop by the Newcomers' Café after the service.
- The Care Crew was busy last summer and into the early fall serving Meal Trains, shopping, providing rides, sending cards, and making visits. Would you or do you know anyone who would like a friendly visitor? Do you need some meals during an illness or an emergency? Do you need a ride to church or to an appointment?

To be connected to the Care Crew, please contact Shirley DiMatteo (shelley-dimatteo@verizon.net), Steve McCloy (steven.mccloy43@gmail.com) or Posey Kooris in the church office (admin@firstunitarianprov.org)



Annual Budget Drive

Dear Fellow UUs,

A Covenant of Generosity. That's what we at First Unitarian Church enter into when we walk in the doors. Our church generously provides: food for the hungry; inspiration and guidance for spiritual seekers of any age; programs and services that affect the lives of people in our community; a place for us to share, together.

As members and friends of First Unitarian, we are required to be generous in return, contributing something in the way of energy, talent – and yes, money – toward maintaining our spiritual community. It takes all three to keep it going. This year, we need more generosity from the whole congregation; specifically, more money than we have been able to raise in the past.

This year's Pledge Drive must raise the level of generosity from everyone who can, for everyone who cannot. We need a conversation about this. We need *you* to help us remind our congregation of our covenant of generosity; it is the only way we can keep our doors open and our programs functioning. While it is vital to position ourselves to attract the kind of minister that will see us through to 2020 when we celebrate 300 years as a congregation; while we are mindful of our building's physical needs; nonetheless, this is about more than the future. We need help to ensure nothing less than the Present Moment for Our Congregation.

We have gotten a lot of great ideas on how we can do this. A Pledge Drive team of former presidents Beth Armstrong and Cynthia Rosengard, along with Jacqui Nye and Gregory Waksmulski, are attending a Generosity and Stewardship seminar early this month in New Hampshire. We will be very excited to share our impressions and plans on our return.

We are calling for personable, passionate people to be on hand at a planning meeting, tentatively set for Wednesday, November 16, at 7:00p. The team will need lots of energetic team members who are comfortable having fun and meeting lots of congregants. If you plan to attend, please let one of us know: Beth (401.523.8121 or Gregory (574.387.8291).

The fund drive takes place in March, but the groundwork – and our generosity to each other – is year-round.

Your participation will make a big difference! Thank you.

– Beth Armstrong and Gregory Waksmulski
Pledge Drive Co-chairs



Community Life

Welcome, Newcomers!

If you are new to the First Unitarian community, I look forward to welcoming you as we move into our 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)

Our Coffee Hour Needs You!

It's November and time to think of all things for which we are thankful as we harvest our plenty into delicious food donations for our Coffee Hour. Indeed, 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. Our Coffee Hour is Thankful for You!

Transylvania Unitarian Religion Lecture Series



The Transylvania Partner Church (TPC) Committee at First Unitarian is supporting a lecture series being offered in Boston about the Unitarian religion in Transylvania. The lectures are being sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council, First Church Boston, and King's Chapel. The series is being held from November 11 to 13. The lectures will be held at the First Church in Boston, located in the Back Bay.

About the Lecture Series

The fall 2016 Minns Lecture Series will explore the ideals that Transylvanian Unitarians hold dear and discuss the core ritual practices kept vibrantly alive in Transylvanian Unitarian churches. Attendees will be invited into a dialogue about the pressing questions facing religious liberals in this time of unique opportunity for Unitarian and Universalist communities around the world.

The series will include three lectures and a pair of closing sermons. For information about the lectures and to register, go to www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-2016-minns-lectures-sources-of-global-faith-november-11-13-tickets-26468665491.

Interested in Going?

A number of the TPC Committee members have registered and are going to the Saturday 3:00p lecture. If you are interested in going with us, please contact Tom Getz (thomas1getz@prodigy.net), who will help with possible car pool arrangements.

The Women's Alliance

Monthly Meeting

Monday, November 7

Business Meeting: 10:00a

Program: 11:00a

Luncheon: noon (\$10 or bring your own)

A Tanzanian Adventure

Speaker: Posey Kooris

This past summer, Posey journeyed to Tanzania with Missions for Humanity, a Massachusetts nonprofit that provides medical, dental, and humanitarian aid to some of the world's neediest communities. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam hosted the group in Tanzania. Posey did pharmacy work in clinics. In the middle of her two-week trip, she went on a safari to Tarangire National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater.

Posey Kooris has been the Administrator at the First Unitarian Church for 18 years. Prior to coming to the church, she was a neighborhood organizer through the Elmwood Foundation, serving the population of South Providence.

Women's Alliance Coffee Sale

Coffee Lovers, Rejoice!

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!



2016 Tax Credit Available from the Woman's Alliance

If you donate items for the Alliance spring Antiques & Uniques Indoor Yard Sale before December 31, you can get a tax deduction for what you say it is worth, which will count toward your 2016 tax return. Please think about donating items that you no longer use or need but that are too nice to just give away.

For more information contact Janet Downing Taylor (401.751.7969, jdtaylo39@verizon.net).



Spiritual Development

Five Questions

Thursday evenings, November 3, 10, 17 & December 1, 8, 15 at 7:00p

Leader: Charlie Ortman

The Five Questions series has proven to be a transformative experience for many participants, who have found it to be both spiritually uplifting and fulfilling. The process is based on exposure to and exploration of Five Questions:

- What does it mean to be human?
- How do I know what I know?
- Who or what is in charge?
- What is the meaning of life?
- What is the meaning of death?

Set within the context of a sharing group, the process can be counted on to engage both the head and the heart. Participants will develop an evolving ability to articulate their deeper understanding of themselves, their purpose in life, the meaning of death

This is a good opportunity to spend time with our interim minister, Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman, and our religious educator, Cathy Seggel, while attending to your own spiritual/faith journey.

Registration recommended. Contact the church office (assist@firstunitarianprov.org or 401.421.7970).

Trans*: An Introduction

Tuesday, November 15, 7:00p

Leader: Rev. Gwendolyn Howard

“Transgender” is an umbrella term that an increasing number of people are becoming aware of. This workshop is an opportunity to better understand what is under that umbrella and how to be a good ally to the transgender community.

Follow Your Muse – The Writers’ Circle

Wednesdays, starting October 26, 6:30–8:30p

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 stories – 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.

For more information, or simply to ask a question, contact Rose Pearson (thewriterscircle@aol.com). All are welcome.

A History Moment: Keeping Warm in 1816

Early in the life of our Meeting House, only the small room behind the pulpit – the minister’s study – was heated, by a small fireplace. In cold weather, families carried foot warmers to church; these were pierced metal boxes with a wooden frame and a handle that held a pot inside for preheated stones or hot coals. Some may have been filled with embers from the minister’s fireplace. The foot warmers were placed in the pews, and the door at the end of the pew was closed to keep the heat in. The foot warmer pictured here was discovered in 1915 during the renovations for the 100th anniversary and is now part of the church archive.



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. 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 (401.573.0881).

Cindy and George Beshers are practice leaders. This is offered as an activity of First Unitarian, but is part of Boundless Way Zen (www.boundlesswayzen.org, Benevolent Street Zen).

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)

Reimagining Religion

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7:00p

Reimagining Religion is an ongoing attempt to employ the best recent scholarship in coming to grips with issues raised by radically new developments in the study of religion and thereby achieving a fuller appreciation of what religious literacy entails in the twenty-first century.

Leader: Tom Hall (twh2nd@aol.com)

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, November 6, 7:00–9:00p

From “locker room” talk to talk from a kind and compassionate heart. What is a “Real Man”? What is a “Good Man”? What is the difference between the two?

Facilitator: Tom Terceira (tterceira@cox.net)



Social Justice

Holiday Sale to Benefit Girls' Education

Sundays, November 13, November 20 & December 4, 10:00a–12:30p

Here's a chance to do some early holiday shopping! Beautiful fair-trade gift items will be on sale in the Atrium before, during, and after church on November 13, 20, and December 4. You will be able to choose handicrafts

from around the world for unique holiday gifts. Proceeds from the sale are donated to non-profits committed to girls' education. So your purchases help twice – first by supporting those who create what we sell and then by helping girls stay in school. Educating girls is a most important tool to alleviate poverty.

For questions or to volunteer: contact Polly Walker (polly41walker@gmail.com)

The Girl Effect Task Force, First Unitarian Steering Committee: Polly Walker, Marilyn Eanet, Martha Manno, Pam Steager

Standing on the Side of Love

Monthly meetings: November 13, December 11

Accessible Transportation in RI

November 20, 12:00p

Join the RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty, RI Organizing Project and Olneyville Neighborhood Association to talk about transportation access at the intersection of faith, poverty, and justice. Learn about two important advocacy concerns: (a) protecting the no-fare RIPTA bus pass for seniors and people with disabilities; and (b) making driver's licenses accessible to undocumented Rhode Islanders. What are the facts on these issues? What are the stories behind the numbers? How does our faith inform our thinking about transportation justice here in Rhode Island?

Contact: Tiffany Reed (tiffanyreed@gmail.com)



Annual Buy Nothing Day Winter Coat Exchange

Led by our fifth-grade class and their teachers

Drop off contributions until Sunday, November 20 at the church

Distribution Day: Friday, November 25 on the State House Lawn

On November 25, the busiest day in the American retail calendar and the unofficial start of the international Christmas shopping season, thousands of activists and concerned citizens in 65 countries will take a 24-hour "consumer detox" as part of the twentieth Buy Nothing Day.

In Providence, as part of International Buy Nothing Day, a winter coat exchange will again be held on the lawn of the State House directly across from the Providence Place Mall (rain location: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 15 Hayes Street, Providence).

If you have a coat/s to give, drop off your contribution at the church no later than Sunday, November 20. Volunteers are needed at the November 25 Distribution Day. If interested, contact Lauren Testoni (lmtest5189@gmail.com) or Pam Testoni (ptteach16@gmail.com).

Volunteer at First Unitarian's Food Share Pantry

Distribution Day: Monday, November 21

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)

Community Collections

The Sunday offering on October 16 generated \$541 for Fang Collective (Fighting Against Natural Gas), a group building, supporting, and escalating nonviolent resistance to the natural gas industry, while supporting movements for justice. Thanks to all who generously contributed.

Neighborhood Social Justice

Monthly Meeting

Sunday, November 6 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, November 1, 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.

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)

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

November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1</p> <p>Loaves & Fishes Mission 12:00–7:00p</p> <p>Path Class 7:00p</p> <p>Young Adults 7:00p</p> <p>Tai Chi 7:00p</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Prudential Committee 6:00p</p> <p>Writers' Circle 6:30p</p> <p>Meditation 7:00p</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Search Committee 6:30p</p> <p>Five Questions 7:00p</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Vision Retreat 10:00a–1:00p</p> <p>Saturday Social Supper (Casparis/McCloy)</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Worship 10:30a <u>at 12:00p</u></p> <p>Mentor/Mentee Neighborhood SJ</p> <p>UU Men 7:00p</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Women's Alliance: Meeting: 10:00a Program: 11:00a Luncheon: noon</p> <p>Zendo 7:00p</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Reimag. Rel. 7:00p</p> <p>Knitting for a Better World 7:00p</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Writers' Circle 6:30p</p> <p>Meditation 7:00p</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Worship Committee 6:00p</p> <p>Search Committee 6:30p</p> <p>Five Questions 7:00p</p> <p>Tai Chi 7:00p</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Worship 10:30a <u>10:00a–12:30p</u></p> <p>Girl Effect Sale <u>at 12:00</u></p> <p>Leader Lunch <u>12:15p</u></p> <p>Standing on the Side of Love</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Deacons (S. Kernan's) 5:30p</p> <p>Zendo 7:00p</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Trans: An Introduction 7:00p</p> <p>Tai Chi 7:00p</p> <p>Knitting for a Better World 7:00p</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Writers' Circle 6:30p</p> <p>Meditation 7:00p</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Search Committee 6:30p</p> <p>Five Questions 7:00p</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Art in the Atrium Opening</p> <p>All-Parish Supper 5:45p</p> <p>Program 7:45p</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Worship 10:30a <u>10:00a-12:30p</u></p> <p>Girl Effect Sale <u>at 12:00p</u></p> <p>Accessible Transportation</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Food Pantry 2:00p–6:00p</p> <p>Zendo 7:00p</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Reimag. Rel. 7:00p</p> <p>Tai Chi 7:00p</p> <p>Knitting for a Better World 7:00p</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Meditation 7:00p</p>	<p>24</p> <p>THANKSGIVING DAY</p> <p>Thanksgiving Dinner 1:00-4:00p</p>	<p>25</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Worship 10:30a</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Zendo 7:00p</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Tai Chi 7:00p</p> <p>Knitting for a Better World 7:00p</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Writers' Circle 6:30p</p> <p>Meditation 7:00p</p>			