



## SUMMER 2016

### Summer Services in the Meeting House

The First Unitarian congregation continues gathering, inquiring, and discovering throughout the summer. Our lay-led services, planned and hosted by the Worship Committee, give us an opportunity to know one another in a less formal setting and to better appreciate the rich experiences of members of our church family as well as some special guest speakers.

**"HISTORY AND MYSTERY":** This summer, some of our services focus on history as part of the year-long recognition of the 200th anniversary of our Meeting House, and many of the other services touch in some way on how Unitarian Universalists interpret or relate to the mystery of the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Come gather with us!

**SUMMER PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN:** A well-planned and -supervised program for children from infancy through age 10 is provided in the Parish House during each Sunday service. If there are more than the anticipated number of children, parents may be asked to help with that day's program.

**SUMMER HOSPITALITY:** Welcoming newcomers is an important part of the congregational life of our church. Our summer Fellowship Hour is an opportunity for everyone to greet our many visitors. You never know who you may meet! A Welcome Table will have UU pamphlets and our guest registry where newcomers can sign up for a reusable name tag.

**Sunday, June 19**      **Every Great Dream Begins with a Dreamer: Reflections on the Long Road to Freedom – First of August to Juneteenth**  
**10:00a**                      **J. Bela Teixeira**

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

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

Music by Phil Gruppuso, John DeBosso, and Stew Armstrong

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

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

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

Music by Lynda Gulley and Tom Terceira



We are a Welcoming Congregation

### I n s i d e

#### Summer Services

**NOTE:** Services begin at 10:00a

**Program for Young Children**  
during the service

**Fellowship Hour**  
follows the service  
(outdoors, weather permitting)

### S t a f f

- Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman, Interim Minister
- Rev. Eugene Dyszlewski, Community Minister
- Rev. Gwendolyn Howard, Community Minister
- Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education
- Frederick Jodry, Music Director
- Posey Kooris, Administrator
- Walter O. Sotelo, Administrative Assistant
- Jenn Nardone, Membership Coordinator
- Jaime Durango, Building Manager
- Paul Webber, Evening Security
- Pedro Vasquez/Anderson Correa
- Sunday Building Managers

### N e w s l e t t e r

- Posey Kooris, Managing Editor
- Susan Fisher, Proof Editor
- Amy Webb, Design Consultant
- Deadline for the September newsletter is August 15

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Sunday, July 3

**Spirit in Life**

10:00a

**Rick Richards**

One of the remaining vestiges of Rick's Catholic upbringing is a preoccupation with the nature of spirituality. In the Catholic tradition, there are many artifacts that codify spirituality: prayer, spiritual practice, and saints come to mind as examples. Do these have analogs in a spiritual, but more secular, tradition such as Unitarianism?

*Rick Richards feels fortunate to have married someone with Unitarian proclivities. Following her to church allowed him to understand that religion can be meaningful and relevant, and to grow over the years through exposure to Unitarian values. They joined First Unitarian after moving to Providence in 1982, and raised their children in the church. Now, in their retirement, the church is an old friend who cumulatively gained their affection as they participated in diverse adventures over the years.*

Music by Chris Sanzo and Lynda Gulley

Sunday, July 10

**Encouraging Spiritual Growth – Applying the Third Principle**

10:00a

**StrongHousian Quartet**

Beth and Stew Armstrong, David House, and Janice Okoomian are the vocal quartet StrongHousian. These two life-long and two midlife-convert Unitarians all experience a spiritual lift in the presence of music. Like all Unitarians, each has distinct ideas of what faith means to them and how it impacts their lives. Yet, they are united in expressing appreciation for blessings arising out of their unique approaches to spiritual life. This service is a collaborative effort in expressing that appreciation in music, meditation, and word.

Music by StrongHousian and Lynda Gulley

Sunday, July 17

**Re-Building Faith in the City of Hope**

10:00a

**Barbara Barnes**

Two hundred years ago, after a devastating fire in 1814 had destroyed the 21-year-old First Congregational Church, resilient and committed church members built a new worship space in which the congregation still gathers today. Since 1816, the First Unitarian Church of Providence, as it is now known, has been a symbol of leadership, stability, and spirituality in the Benefit Street neighborhood and in all of Providence. What difference does this historic church make in a city first founded on hope?

*Barbara Barnes worked as a tourism manager and walking-tour guide in Providence from 1990 to 2015. Many tours she led for the Providence Preservation Society and the Rhode Island Historical Society included special visits to the First Unitarian Church.*

The First Unitarian-Providence Barbershop Quartet and Lynda Gulley

Sunday, July 24

**Why Not Me? Some Thoughts on Cancer, Life, and Getting through It All**

10:00a

**Katherine Ahlquist**

*Katherine Ahlquist has been attending First Unitarian since 1995, when her oldest daughter, Kailigh, came with a friend and really, really liked it. The next week she insisted her family come, and some of them have been attending ever since.*

Music by John Moran and Lynda Gulley

Sunday, July 31

**In the Water with the Seventh Principle**

10:00a

**Kelley Smith**

Kelley had a "conversion experience" six years ago when she was living and working in American Samoa: that is, she became a passionate snorkeler and lover of marine life. She will explore how snorkeling has become a spiritual practice for her, and how it helps her to live into the seventh UU principle.

*Kelley Alison Smith is a writer and health researcher living in Riverside, RI with her wife, Samantha Cole, and daughter, Carson Cole. They have belonged to First Unitarian for about three and a half years. Kelley sings with Community Band and serves on the Worship Committee.*

Music by Aubrey Atwater, Elwood Donnelly, and Lynda Gulley

## Summer at First Unitarian

### Summer Office Hours

The church office will be open from 9:00a to 4:00p from June 20 to September 6. The office will be closed for holidays on July 4, August 8, and September 5 and for vacation the weeks of July 25 and August 1, reopening on Tuesday, August 9.

### Ministry Services from mid-June to mid-August

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

In case of emergency during the office vacation break (July 25 to August 1, reopening on August 9), a message will be left on the answering machine regarding contact information.

## Social Justice Programs

### Knitting for a Better World

*Every Tuesday at 7:00p*

Come join fellow knitters for a casual evening of knitting and conversation. Work on your own project or join in one of our many group efforts: hats, socks, mittens, scarves, and more.

Beginners are always welcome. We have plenty of yarn and needles to get you started.

### Our Food Share Pantry

*Distribution: Mondays, July 18 & August 15*

The biggest social justice program at First Unitarian is the Food Share Pantry. It takes many volunteers to keep the program going! Volunteer for a shift on Distribution Day:

Set-up: 2:00p–3:00p

Shopping: 3:00p–5:00p

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

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

### Loaves & Fishes Outreach Mission

Every first Tuesday of the month year round.

We will continue our outreach mission during the summer months, so please help out if your schedule allows.

There are three shifts:

noon–1:00p: sandwich crew

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

5:00–7:00p: delivery crew

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

**Sunday, August 7      Storytelling and Parables as Worship**  
**10:00a                  Dianne Mailloux**

Telling stories can do more than entertain. There are life lessons and life's ponderables there. They make connections between the storyteller and the audience. They can assist us in our search for meaning!

*Dianne Mailloux and her husband, Len, have been members of First Unitarian since 2003. Dianne is "semi-retired," and family is her priority. (Ask her about her grandchildren.) You can recognize her, as she is almost always smiling!*

Music by Cheryl Brodsky, Steve McCloy, and Claire Rosenbaum

**Sunday, August 14      Living with Cliven Bundy and Gordon Gecko**  
**10:00a                  Rev. Gene Dyszlewski**

Advocating for social justice with a confident New England accent. The "conservative" moral matrix of care, fairness, and community colors our cultural imagination. Taking delight in each other's uniqueness creates in us a sense of mutuality. We can speak from a "we" perspective to people who think "me."

*Rev. Gene Dyszlewski is a Community Minister at First Unitarian Church and an advocate for social justice. As chair of the Religious Coalition for Nonviolence, he has been engaged in advocacy for gun regulation and criminal justice reform in RI.*

Music by Greg Waksmulski, Rachel Meade, and Claire Rosenbaum

**Sunday, August 21      Born OK the First Time – Stories from a Born-Again UU**  
**10:00a                  Amber Collins**

When Jesus told Nicodemus that one must be born again to see the kingdom of God, he was met with skepticism: Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Many UUs are skeptical, too. Our UU principles seem to contradict the need for a religious rebirth, yet the concept has value for personal renewal and to attract and retain diverse and young members. How can we embrace this concept without letting go of reality?

*In the early 1990s, Amber Kelley Collins was a member of the First Unitarian Providence youth group. Now she is active at the UU Congregation of South County, serving on the Worship, Religious Education, and Ministerial Search committees as well as the Past Presidents Council. Amber is a writer, farmer, early childhood educator, and mother of five, as well as an aspiring minister.*

Music by Mike Maven and Stew Armstrong

**Sunday, August 28      Musings of an Ordinary Mystic about Non-ordinary Realities**  
**10:00a                  Maureen Johanson**

Maureen offers contemplations on 25 years or so of observing the interaction of physical and non-physical realities in her holistic healing practice and in daily life, including spontaneous healings reported by students in her classes. Some say miracles, some say coincidences – "a rose by any other name . . ."

*Maureen Johanson joined First Unitarian in 1989, around the time that she left the corporate world to create her own yoga studio, Eastside Wellness. Having trained in Reiki and spiritual healing traditions, she now maintains practice in Seekonk and teaches yogalates classes and Reiki training.*

Music by Jill, Charlotte, and Rebecca Malin; Bob Logan; and Lynda Gulley

**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 incoming President of this congregation.*

Music by Neil Bartholomew and Lynda Gulley

## Spiritual Development Programs

### Benevolent Street Zendo: An Ongoing Zen Meditation Group

*Every Monday at 7:00p*

Benevolent Street Zendo is a member community of the Boundless Way Zen Sangha, an interfaith Zen community that maintains close ties with the Soto Zen Buddhist Association and the American Zen Teachers Association.

Everyone is welcome. Brief instruction available at 6:45p.

Leaders: Cindy Bapties and George Beshers

### Innate Wisdom and Compassion Meditation

*Every Wednesday at 7:00p*

These guided meditations of love and wisdom from Tibetan Buddhism have been adapted into new forms that can touch the hearts and minds of people from all backgrounds and faiths to help each of us bring out the best in ourselves within our relationships, service, and social action.

Contact: Ken Bent (kenbent@cox.net)

### Reimagining Religion

*Second and Fourth Tuesdays, 7:00p*

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

Leader: Tom Hall (twh2nd@aol.com)

