

## Services in the Meeting House

**Sunday, June 4**     **"A Teacher Is One Who Talks in Someone Else's Sleep"**  
**10:30a**     **Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman**

During the service, we will welcome the last cohort of New Members for this year, and we will recognize and celebrate the important contributions of our Church School teachers.

*New Members and Teachers will be recognized during the service.*

*Children grades pre-K and older begin in the Meeting House, then go to their classrooms.*

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

*The Annual/Financial Meeting follows the service (see page 4).*

**Sunday, June 11**     **Homily: To Be a Part of the Beauty – A Multigenerational Service**  
**10:30a**     **Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman**

*Flower Communion and Volunteer Recognition will be celebrated during the service.*

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

## Summer Services

*NOTE: Summer worship services begin at 10:00a.*

*Childcare is provided every Sunday.*

Our lay-led summer services are planned and hosted by the Worship Committee. Presented by members of our church family, as well as occasional guest speakers, they provide an opportunity to get to know one another in a less formal setting and to better appreciate the insights and rich experiences of our diverse community. (Note the earlier starting time.)

**Sunday, June 18**     **Justice in the Age of Algorithms**  
**10:00a**     **Kathi Fisler**

Our modern digital world provides vast opportunities for connection and convenience, alongside significant risks to privacy and justice. What is the worth and dignity of every person when decisions are increasingly made by opaque aggregated data and algorithms? How do we work for justice in this context?

*As a computer scientist and professor who works on K–12 computing education at the national level, Kathi Fisler often finds herself reflecting on what everyone needs to understand about living in our digital world. She looks forward to sharing a UU perspective on these questions.*

**Sunday, June 25**     **An Opportunity to Share Love and Compassion:  
Therapy Missions in Jamaica**

**10:00a**     **Nancy Robert Dooley**

Rev. Tom Ahlburn used to say, "Life is but an opportunity to share love and compassion." After friends started an organization to bring occupational therapists to underserved places in the world, Nancy saw the chance to help people in Jamaica. She will share reflections on occupational justice, the first and sixth UU principles, and some of her experiences working with a community of adults with disabilities.

*In nearly 25 years as a member of First Unitarian, Nancy Dooley has been an eighth-grade mentor and a teacher for the Youth Group and the sixth grade. Nancy teaches occupational therapy at Worcester State University and has been visiting Jamaica as a volunteer for Therapy Missions since 2012. She lives in Gloucester with John, Annie, and Sean.*



We are a  
Welcoming Congregation

## I n s i d e

From My Window .....	2
Spiritual Pathways .....	3
Sight Lines .....	4
Community Life .....	5
Spiritual Development .....	6
Social Justice .....	7
Monthly Calendar .....	8

## S t a f f

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

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

- Posey Kooris, Managing Editor
- Susan Fisher, Proof Editor
- Design Consultant, Amy Webb
- Next Deadline: August 15

First Unitarian Church of Providence  
One Benevolent Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02906  
Tel: 401.421.7970  
Fax: 401.276.4291

Web: [www.firstunitarianprov.org](http://www.firstunitarianprov.org)  
Email: [min@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:min@firstunitarianprov.org)  
[dre@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:dre@firstunitarianprov.org)  
[admin@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:admin@firstunitarianprov.org)  
[mem@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:mem@firstunitarianprov.org)



## From My Window . . .

Seems like hardly more than yesterday when we began this journey of transition together. At the onset we thought it might be a one-year stint, but fate had two years in mind for our partnership. I'm glad of that; things are feeling much more in place than they did a year ago. Hearing many of you talk about your week together with Liz Lerner Maclay, your minister-to-be, I sense a high level of readiness, eagerness, and wonderfully positive energy. I'm so very pleased for you all!

When I first arrived, I predicted that there would be myriad differences, changes, and transitions that we would experience together. That prophecy has surely come to pass. It has not always been easy, but it has been a part of the sacred work this congregation has been called to during this interim, and it has been good. I just wanted to let you know in this final column that, while this phase of transition is nearly complete, it's not quite done. I'm reminded of words I spoke to you in the sermon "We Don't Need Another Hero," on Sunday, October 25, 2015, which I'd like to remind you of now.

You will soon be pursuing a relationship with a new minister and my hope for you is that this will begin a long-standing relationship for you with that person. . . . You don't need to be looking for a new minister that's a hero. . . . There are no perfect ministers out there waiting for you to discover them. Besides, heroes are incapable of creating or sustaining a congregation. If this is going to be the caring and connected congregation you want it to be, all of you will need to make it so. We don't need heroes; we need do-bees, those who are willing to do the work that you say the congregation needs to have done – willing to do the work you say the world needs doing.

The strength and the power of this congregation lies in you, its members. When the new minister comes, you won't need a hero who will make all things well and good. You will need someone capable of sharing your vision of what this congregation is and what it is capable of becoming. You will need someone to help you articulate that vision. You will need someone capable of working with you and walking with you into that vision, someone who will create the ceremonies by which you will celebrate your achievements and grieve your losses. You won't need a hero. You will need a partner, in much the same way as you need each other in partnership. A healthy relationship between minister and congregation is one of collaborative partnership.

I think you have found that right someone. I feel that I've gotten to know and love this congregation rather well over these past two years; I've also known and appreciated Liz for nearly 25 years. I trust that you are all on the threshold of a new ministerial relationship that will provide you and her with a strong vision and a faithful willingness toward working together and living into that vision. This all feels right and good to me.

As my work with you now comes to an end, there are so many of you that I would like to thank. In this brief space, let me simply thank all of you for your hospitality and partnership; for your collaboration, dedication, and support; for your spirit and your soulful devotion; for your compassion; and for your ministry. I can't call out everyone by name, but I do want to especially acknowledge your two presidents that I have had the privilege and the pleasure to serve with; thanks to both Cynthia Rosengard and Keith Brown for their support, partnership, humor, their dedication on your behalf, and for so much more.

I want you to know that I leave taking with me a great fondness for this congregation and for this time that we have spent together. I wish you a continued path of bright possibilities and of soul-nourishing meaning gleaned from their fruition.

I leave you in faith and in hope . . .

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

## Deacons' Corner

The church year has flown by and the Deacons have many things to report. In this 200th year of our church, we supported the History Committee in celebrating the anniversary on October 29. We also assisted in bringing refreshments to our Christmas Eve Wassail celebration.



The Deacons worked with Rev. Ortman in the November Communion Service. Although this service touches just a few in the congregation, it is a tradition that has been observed for decades. The Maundy Thursday service was canceled due to Sanctuary Movement discussions and events around the calling of the new minister.

One of the most exciting things to report is that the Deacons have adopted a "Shadow Deacon" from the RE program. Jack Killilea is an active member of our group; he brings a fresh viewpoint to us and is an important ally in getting input from the youth of our congregation.

In the spring, the Deacons sponsored another discussion of *The New Jim Crow*. Although the group was a bit smaller than last year, the conversation was lively and informative.

The Deacons Call captured lots of good information from the congregation. The health of the congregation is very good. Some observations from the congregation were that it is:

- Extremely satisfied with the ministerial search process and were supportive of the work of the History Committee in its 200-year celebration;
- Positive about the strengths of the church and thought highly of our church community, the music program, and Religious Education;
- Interested in seeing First Unitarian act as an agent of change in the state, but think we could do a better job in our communication;
- Looking for improvements in handicap accessibility: there is need for railings on the outside of the church, pews should be modified for accessibility, and better signage should be installed both inside and outside on the campus.

The Deacons have set up a Deacons' Suggestion Box in the first parlor of the Parish House. This box will be another avenue to make your ideas or thoughts known to the Deacons. Please leave your contact information.

This is the last column by the current Board of Deacons: Tom Getz (401.726.1667) & Mary Speare (401.521.3262), Senior Deacons; Jim Barfoot (401.521.9097), Joe Fisler, (401.274.1410), Sharon Kernan (401.723.1745, Katy Killilea (401.861.0582, Judie Knilans (401.246.0192, Dave Lewis (603.204.7505)



## Spiritual Pathways

### Revolutionary Love

June has always felt like a combination of relief and overload in my personal cycle of the year. There is always much more to accomplish in my congregational and professional work than my capacity and resources allow.

There is more need to groom and clean and organize and plant than hours in the day. But I certainly know this; I have lived it over and over. This year, our ministerial transition, the many challenging transitions in our UUA, in addition to the intense circumstances in our country and the world, have stretched emotions and stamina even thinner.

As we celebrate closings and envision new beginnings, I have found inspiration in at least a couple of places. At home, our youngest daughter has moved in with her family until they find a new house. Time with a two-year-old and a six-week-old is as exhilarating as it is exhausting. In my First Unitarian home away from home, the Spiritual Pathways Team (aka RE Committee) and I have been preparing to offer fresh, relevant programming for next year. We are gathering volunteer teaching teams and sharing appreciation for this year's crew. I am already in communication with our newly called settled minister, Liz Maclay, on our journey to collaborate and serve together. I am looking forward to our shared ministry. In the bigger UU world, my leadership in the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) continues through a hard time of important change. I have been honored to take part in the individual and joint work of the UUA Board, Council of Cross Cultural Engagement, UU Service Committee, UU Ministers Association, UU Musicians Network, Meadville Fahs Collaborative, Black Lives of UU, and more. These communities are all focusing on the need for a healthier, more just, living UU faith for us all and a waiting world.

In our congregation, Sunday, June 4, is our closing Sunday school day. We begin in the Meeting House to honor the many teachers who have served all year, followed by time in classrooms to celebrate. Gratitude to the children, youth, and adults who have shared time in our faith community this season!

Next, I will complete content for the 2017-18 Resource Book, plan worship, recruit and support volunteers, and develop curriculum. In late June, I'll attend UUA General Assembly in New Orleans, representing our congregation and completing my time as president of LREDA. In mid-July I will be on staff for LRE Week on Star Island. The theme is *Beacons of Hope: Growing UUs in a Changing World*. After enjoying a few weeks away from work, I will dive into updating materials and programs for fall.

As I keep momentum going to innovate and support spiritual development for all ages, even in challenging times, I am held by the concept of *Revolutionary Love*, as explained by Valerie Kaur, Sikh leader, at the Middle Collegiate Church annual spring gathering by that name. "We need to show up for each other with three kinds of love; love for others who are being oppressed, for our opponents, resisting hate, as we understand forces and institutions of power and for ourselves, as necessary for sustainable change."

Deep thanks to our Interim Minister, Rev. Charlie Ortman, for his collaborative, wise, and spirited leadership. It has been a meaningful experience that has supported and informed my own evolving work.

Please soak in this summer in ways that you love.

Take care,

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



### Team Teaching Volunteer Opportunities

There are still a few spots open on volunteer teaching teams in some classes for next year. Each class has a minimum of four adults who help, two or three at a time, on half of the school year Sundays.

Interested? For more information, please contact Cathy Seggel (401.421.7970 dre@firstunitarianprov.org) or any RE Committee member.

### Brown Campus UUs (BUUUG)

The closing party for our campus ministry group was held at Cathy Seggel's house, with 13 students reveling. Seniors were honored and presented with a miniature clay chalice like the one they light each week at their meetings. We will miss Kim Meilun and Elias Ellison and wish them every happiness as they begin this next chapter in their lives.

The group will resume in the fall. Stay tuned.



### Registration for the 2017-18 Spiritual Pathways Program

Annual enrollment for our religious education program for children and youth begins in September – in person; on Homecoming Sunday, September 10; or online on our website in September.

Please note: Families must register each year.

### First Unitarian Resource Guide for 2017-18

Please check our website in late summer for our annual Resource Book that includes a congregational calendar; information about programming for children, youth, and adults; and opportunities to connect and participate. Hard copies will be mailed to all member households.



## Sight Lines

This has been an ego-massaging and sometimes disorienting month for me. It feels as if everywhere I turn, people are congratulating me. I'm enjoying the warmth and solidarity, but sometimes I have to think twice, and even ask – what for? Because whatever else has happened for me professionally this year, it's been the chance to work with and get to know a truly remarkable group of folks at First Unitarian: the members of the Prudential Committee and our generous, compassionate, and hardworking professional staff. It's been one of the most rewarding experiences of my adult life and, given half a chance, I will count the ways for you, at length, in person. But for now, let me just review the past couple of months in the light of our four principal goals for the year.

**Ministerial search:** After a candidating week expertly managed by the Ministerial Search Committee and bookended by two inspirational Sunday services, Rev. Elizabeth Lerner Maclay accepted our congregation's call to become our new settled minister. Out of 239 ballots cast by voting members, 237 were yes votes, for a 99.2% positive vote. Plans are already under way for her installation service – which, in accordance with current UU practice, will be attended by major figures in our denomination, as well as local clergy and community partners, on Sunday October 22, at 4:00p. Hold that date!

**History:** Lisa Sampson, who has been working with Rev. Charlie Ortman on a wide-ranging project on First Unitarian's rich history, shared with the Prudential Committee a synthesis of her oral histories with the past 18 church presidents, as well as a brief narrative history of the last 30 years. Brown student Adam Vieira has digitized a set of oral histories conducted in the 1970s and, together with audio interviews he conducted this year, will be archiving his work at the Brown library. And after this year's 200th celebration in the Meeting House, the History Committee are already gearing up to build a new team to lead the congregation's 300th in 2020 – when the UUA General Assembly comes back to Providence.

**Racial justice:** Following our April vote (another one?) to declare First Unitarian a Sanctuary congregation, our Standing on the Side of Love Committee is continuing the work of follow-through, by deepening partnerships with other organizations and movements, exploring legislative action, and preparing for the possibility that we will be called to offer physical sanctuary.

**Stewardship and infrastructure:** After the successful capital campaign of the fall, the Canvass Committee set an ambitious target for the annual pledge drive. That target, if achieved, would have allowed us to meet operating costs without relying heavily on the church's endowment – freeing up those funds for longer-term needs and new programming. Although we did not meet the target, the congregation's commitment and generosity, combined with that of past generations, allowed the Prudential Committee to approve a balanced budget which included new investments in communication and outreach with an eye to getting to know each other more fully and filling our wonderful Meeting House with soul, spirit, and love for years to come.

It's been busy, but it's been a good busy. If it sounds like fun, and something you'd like to throw more of yourself into, contact our incoming president at [pres@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:pres@firstunitarianprov.org).

Keith Brown  
President, Prudential Committee  
[pres@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:pres@firstunitarianprov.org)

## REMINDER: Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Church

*Sunday, June 4, at 12:00p in the Parish House Auditorium*

The Annual/Financial Meeting of the Church will be held on June 4 for the purpose of electing Officers and members of the Prudential Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the Board of Deacons (detailed information on nominations was sent to the congregation in mid-May).

The meeting will also review and approve an annual budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

Information on who is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting appears in the sidebar.

## Treasurer's Report: The 2017 Budget

On Sunday, June 4, First Unitarian Church will hold its Annual/Financial Meeting. The Prudential Committee will present a balanced budget for FY17-18. As currently proposed, it will include full funding of the UUA assessment, making First Unitarian a Fair Share congregation for the second year in a row. Many consider this commitment to be very important because we have used many resources from the UUA to find a settled minister and it supports many human rights and relief efforts worldwide. Also, by being a Fair Share church, we can be considered for grants the UUA can provide for building restoration. The budget is not able to provide any funding for the "Race to 300" initiative, which limits use of the property endowment and establishes a dedicated account for long-term capital repairs.

Our pledge total is very close to last year's. Our cost for a settled minister is increased by approximately \$13,000 based on a two-week overlap of interim and settled minister and the addition of SECA (comparable to social security). This year our Sunday collections have been above estimate, and this is reflected in what is budgeted for next year. Other factors which allow a balanced budget include several adjustments to health insurance. Two other areas have been added, including communication improvement and increased funding for evening and weekend building managers to allow for additional programming. Most ministry budgets have been funded at FY17 levels. Employee compensation has been increased by 1%.

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

– Graham Nye, Treasurer

## Participating in the Annual Meeting

All Voting Members are entitled to vote at the meeting. Under the bylaws, Voting Members are those who have been a member for more than three months (i.e., signed the Membership Book before March 6, 2017), who are over 16 years of age, and who in some recorded manner within the previous year have contributed to the financial support of the church. Absentee and proxy votes are not permitted *except* that Voting Members who are disabled or incapacitated may apply for an absentee ballot seven days before a meeting.

If you are not a Voting Member, you may still attend and speak at the Annual Meeting.



## Community Life

### June All-Parish Supper

Friday, June 9

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 Vanishing Neighbor:**

#### The Transformation of American Community"

Our presenter will be Marc J. Dunkelman, a faculty fellow at Brown University's Watson Institute and author of a recently published book, *The Vanishing Neighbor*. Marc is an engaging speaker and a member of the Summit Avenue Neighborhood Association in Providence. He will present his findings on how neighbors and neighborhoods are changing in America, and how these changes have affected government, the economy, the social safety network, and neighborhoods. Do you know your neighbors? How and to what extent can you depend on their support? Should we consider becoming more neighborly? Please join us for fellowship and the program of our last Parish Supper of the church year.

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).

### September Welcome Back All-Parish Supper

Friday, September 15

Save the date to welcome our new minister, Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay.

### Saturday Social Supper

June 3 starting at 5:30p

The June Supper will be at the home of Ariadne and Ben Greenberg in Barrington. People new to the church are encouraged to attend; it's a nice way to meet others from our church family.

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

### Art in the Atrium

The month of June will feature an exhibit of two well-known artists from our congregation: Amy Webb and Sally Barker. They explore the theme of birds, flight, and murmurations. Amy Webb has worn numerous creative hats in art and design; Sally Barker is a RISD graduate and textiles instructor. The show will hang and perhaps evolve throughout the summer.

### Big News: We Are Creating an Art Collective!

A newly forming Art Collective at First Unitarian will officially begin in September 2017. If you would like to schedule a show in the coming church year, please contact Chiara Van Erp (romano-vanerp-design@cox.net).

For more information, please ask Jim Barfoot (barfootjim@gmail.com).

### Atrium Bookstore

The bookstore is open every Sunday during the regular church year in the Atrium during Coffee Hour. Besides the books that we get from the UUA's own Beacon Press and Skinner House, we also offer books from Skylight Paths Publishing, an interfaith publisher of various faith traditions. We have copies of the recent reading group books: *The New Jim Crow* and *The Third Reconstruction*. Please stop by and browse our selections.

### General Assembly in New Orleans!

The 2017 Unitarian Universalist General Assembly will be held in New Orleans from June 21 to 25. This year's theme is Resist and Rejoice.

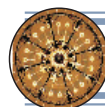
A new UUA President will be chosen by delegates from member congregations (voting either on-site or remotely). We have nine delegate slots, based on our membership. The PruComm will select our delegates from among those expressing interest. Online registration for GA attendance and housing began on March 1.

For information, go to [uua.org/ga](http://uua.org/ga). Or contact Cathy Seggel in the church office ([dre@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:dre@firstunitarianprov.org) or 401.421.7970).

### Our Coffee Hour Needs You!

For the last two Sundays of our church year, please sign up and bring donations for our Coffee Hour. With so many events going on in our church, our Coffee Hour donations have been sparse. Remember that our Coffee Hour is a cooperative effort with donations from our congregation of peanut- and peanut butter-free baked or bought goodies such as brownies, cookies, fruit, cheese and crackers, sandwiches, coffee cake, and more. In order to feed the ravenous crowd each Sunday, we need eight people bringing donations that serve 24 each.

Sign up in the first parlor and go home with a reminder so you won't forget.



## WHEEL OF LIFE

### Condolences to:

The family and friends of **Katherine Hegedus**, member since 1984, who died on May 16.

### HATS OFF TO ...

**Rebecca Alberg and Jim Barfoot** and all who volunteered to provide a successful May Breakfast fundraiser that raised \$325 for the church's Loaves & Fishes Mission. And thanks to everyone who attended/ate at the May Breakfast.

### Our Coffee Hour Providers last month:

Joyce Boober, Gerry Spremulli, Suzanne Alden, Scott Davis, Paul Almeida, Tony Allen, Kate Mashburn, Carol Adams, Betty Finn, Mary Speare, Anne Connor, Suzanne Francis, Vicki Brislin, Jess Dolan, Karen Boulanger, Janet Bralove, Anne Caldarella, Elissa Emerson, Jess Duckett, Gaby Petruck, Rachel Spaulding, and all of you who brought something in to surprise us.



## Community Life

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

*Sunday, June 11, 12:00p–2:30ish at India Point Park*

We'll kick off Summer 2017 with our annual Picnic in the Park after the Sunday service. Join old friends and meet new ones during an afternoon of food and fun! We'll celebrate summer and play some games.

We usually set up right in front of the playground. Pack a lunch and bring a blanket or chairs. The Membership Committee will provide drinks and watermelon.

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

## The Caring Network

The Caring Network hosted Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay with a lively discussion during her candidacy week with us. We are all excited about working with Liz to continue our work. The group also met May 21 and reports were given by all groups involved.



### Care Crew

The Care Crew has been busy offering rides, meals, sending cards, and providing visits. Please do not hesitate to contact the church office should you need any services or know of anyone who needs services. If the church office is closed, please contact Steve McCloy (steven.mccloy43@gmail.com) or Shirley DiMatteo (shirley.dimatteo@yahoo.com).

## The Women's Alliance

### Monthly Meeting

**Monday, June 5**

#### Annual Outing to the Tomaquag Museum

**390A Summit Road, Exeter, RI**

10:30a – Guided Tour of the Museum

12:00p – Dutch-treat lunch at a local restaurant

Tomaquag Museum, in historic Arcadia Village, is Rhode Island's only museum dedicated to southern New England's Indigenous Peoples. Founded in 1958 and operated by Native people, it features 12 exhibits that tell the stories of the Narragansett and other local tribal groups. Exhibits include traditional arts such as ash-splint baskets, beadwork, traditional clothing, pottery, weaving, and more. The museum was a winner of the National Medal for Museum and Library Services in 2016.

For information about carpooling to the museum, contact Beth Anterni (bethanterni@gmail.com)

### Camp Street Ministries

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

### Women's Alliance Coffee Sale

The Women's Alliance supports community charities with the proceeds from its coffee sales at Coffee Hour every Sunday.

New Harvest is now supplying smaller, 12 oz. bags of coffee (instead of the 16 oz. bags), and the cost is proportionally less: Regular \$12 and Decaf \$13. Stop by the Alliance coffee table in the Atrium.



## Spiritual Development

### 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](http://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 and 4th Tuesdays 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, June 4, 7:00–9:00p*

Topic: Bullying

The June Men's group will be facilitated by Christopher Belleau. We will meet at his glass studio – 32 Curtis Street, East Providence.

Questions? 401.486.3121



## Social Justice

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

The past month has been busy for our SSL sanctuary team. We have put together a Pop-Up Sanctuary Kit, so when we are assigned someone who is in need of help, we can set up quickly and work on finding more permanent furnishings as needed. Our next steps include coming up with a plan

for the first 72 hours, and setting up trainings for our congregation so we will be informed and ready to go when we are called.

Many people signed up to help when we held our online survey. If you missed that opportunity to volunteer your services, please stop by our SSL table in the Atrium during Coffee Hour, over the next few weeks and let us know how you might like to be involved.



On May 21, after meeting our First Unitarian community, the RI ACLU also met with our fellow RI Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry (RI-UULM) congregations at Westminster Unitarian Church in East Greenwich. Our goal: to have representatives from each municipality in RI contact their local representatives and ask them to enact local ordinances that favor sanctuary. Representatives from other community organizations attended this event. Thanks to Jim Cowen for his interest in this initiative and his efforts to make it all happen.

Every spring, the UUA hosts the Minns Lecture series in Boston. This year, the lectures focused on the historical and future trajectories of Black Lives Matter and Unitarian Universalism and were presented by Revs. Rosemary Bray McNatt, Mark Morrison-Reed, and our own former Community Minister, Rev. Mary Margaret Earl. The series was excellent and is available online for those who couldn't make it. You can link to it at (<http://minnslectures.org>). Stay tuned for plans for an upcoming discussion group.

### PrideFest 2017

*Downtown Providence, Saturday, June 17*

On Saturday, June 17, First Unitarian will once again be participating in the RI Pride Festival. We will need help staffing our table during the day and, later on, marching in the Illuminated Night Parade. This is a fun opportunity to show our support for the LGBTQ community. We hope to have a great showing of people from First Unitarian sporting their Standing on the Side of Love shirts. If you need a shirt, you can order one at the SSL table until Sunday, June 4.



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

Contact Kathy Ahlquist ([katherine.ahlquist@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.ahlquist@gmail.com)) if you are interested in participating.

### Neighborhood Social Justice

*Monthly Meeting, Sunday, June 4 at 11:30a (before the Annual Meeting)*

Neighborhood Social Justice 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, June 6 from noon to 7:00p*

On the first Tuesday of every month, volunteers deliver food, clothing, and respectful companionship to those at Emmanuel House, a homeless shelter in Providence. The Loaves & Fishes Mission will continue throughout the summer. We will be serving the men at Emmanuel House on June 6, July 4, August 1, and September 5. Please support this mission in anyway you can. We need food items (canned tuna, chicken, etc.), new men's socks, or any item you wish to have the men enjoy. Volunteers are always welcome.

Contact Joe Salvatore ([joesuu@gmail.com](mailto:joesuu@gmail.com)) if you have any questions or concerns.

### Our Community Collection

The May Community Collection for the Girl Effect brought in \$1,513. Thanks to all who so generously donated.

### Knitting for a Better World

*Every Tuesday, 7:00-9:00p*

Come join fellow knitters for a casual evening of knitting and conversation. Work on your own project or knit for one of First Unitarian's social justice projects. Drop in any Tuesday evening. Beginners are always welcome. We have yarn and needles to get you started.



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

*Distribution Day: Monday, June 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](mailto:Mmanno7@comcast.net)) or Nori Duncan ([nori.duncan@gmail.com](mailto:nori.duncan@gmail.com))

### The Pantry Is Open to All

You probably know that volunteers at First Unitarian run a very well attended food pantry. But did you know that members of the congregation who are in need are also welcome to take part and receive food? You do not have to be receiving government help or otherwise demonstrate need. Just come to the church after 2:30p on the third Monday and fill out a brief registration form.

### 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](mailto:mem@firstunitarianprov.org)) or contact the church office.

For more information on these and future programs (meeting locations, contact information, etc.), see details in the church newsletter at [www.firstunitarianprov.org](http://www.firstunitarianprov.org)

June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3  Saturday Social Supper (Ariadne & Ben Greenberg)
4 Worship 10:30a at 11:30a Neighborhood SJ at 12:00p Annual/Financial Meetings  UU Men 7:00p	5 Women's Alliance Annual Outing to the Tomaquag Museum  Zendo 7:00p	6 Loaves & Fishes Mission 12:00-7:00p RE Comm. 6:30p Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	7  Prudential Committee 6:00p Meditation 7:00p	8	9  All-Parish Supper 5:45p Program 7:45p	10
11 Worship 10:30a Annual Picnic at India Point Park	12  Zendo 7:00p	13  Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00 Reimag. Rel. 7:00p	14  Meditation 7:00p	15  Deacons 5:30p Worship Committee 6:00p	16	17  PrideFest (downtown Providence)
18 Summer Services Begin - 10:00a (note the time change)	19 Food Pantry Open 2:00p-6:00p  Zendo 7:00p	20  Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	21  Meditation 7:00p	22  Green Team 7:30p	23	24
25 Summer Worship 10:00a	26  Zendo 7:00p	27  Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Reimag. Rel. 7:00p	28  Meditation 7:00p	29	30	