



THE MEETING HOUSE TIMES

December 17, 2017

Three Things You Need To Know from your program staff

Singing on Christmas Eve

Liz, Cathy, Fred & Marcia are so excited that there will be multigenerational music at the 5:00p Candlelight Service this year. To take part, just come at noon to the Meeting House today, after the service to learn 2 songs to perform at that joyful celebration! (there will be cookies)

Please remember, because of our 5:00pm and 9:00p Christmas Eve services on Sunday, December 24, there is no worship or religious education programming that morning. We look forward to seeing you later that day!

Christmas Eve worship and festivities - bring your family, friends and neighbors!

5:00p Family-oriented Christmas Candlelight service with carols, candles, story and celebration.

9:00p Traditional Christmas Candlelight service of lessons and carols with guest musicians and our own choir. Join us for our wassail reception following the late service. If you make Christmas cookies, bring some of your favorites to share; you can drop them off at the kitchen before the service.

TODAY

10:30a in the Meeting House

Multigenerational Winter Solstice Worship Experience

Rev. Liz, DRE Cathy Seggel with storyteller Len Cabral, Music Director Fred Jodry

We're exploring a multisensory, worship and arts approach to our solstice celebration this year. Come join us for opening and closing worship in the Meeting House that will frame campus-wide experiences of the sounds, smells, sights of this wintry, forbidding, beautiful moment in the year.

11:30a Food Pantry Food Shuttle. Meet in the church basement.

11:30a Coffee Hour in the Parish House Parlors/Atrium

Newcomers Cafe in the Paneled Parlor
Coffee Hour Baking Sign-up
Women's Alliance Coffee & Cheese Sale
Atrium Bookstore open

5:00p Campus UUs not meeting tonight. Will resume on Sunday, January 28.

All college aged young adults are welcome to weekly gatherings in the Parish House. Contact Maria (maria_ronchi@brown.edu) or Cathy in the church office.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, December 18

2:30p Food Pantry Doors Open

7:00p Benevolent Street Zendo

Tuesday, December 19

7:00p Knitting for a Better World

A weekly gathering for knitting and conversation. Bring your own project or work on one of our group projects. Yarn, needles, and instruction available.

Wednesday, December 20

7:00p Natural Wisdom and Compassion Meditation

A weekly drop-in guided meditation adapted from Tibetan Buddhism.

Contact: Ken Bent (kenbent@cox.net)

A New Celebration on Christmas Eve!

We're introducing a new element on Christmas Eve. At both services we'll honor all infants born to families in the church in a simple and lovely moment: naming them and lighting a candle for each to lift up the blessing and hope of their new lives. If you have a baby born in your family whose name you'd like lifted up in the service, contact Cathy dre@firstunitarianprov.org by Monday, December 18.

LOOKING AHEAD

December 31

Mother of Us All: A New Look at Eve and the Serpent

Rev. Richard Trudeau

With the turning of the year, the preacher invites us to rethink this foundational story of our religious heritage. He claims that a careful reading will show that the story is not about sin, the weakness of humans, or the inferiority of women. On the contrary, it is an uplifting and very UU story, and Eve is the hero!

Rev. Richard Trudeau was, for 17 years, the minister of the UU Church of Weymouth, MA and, for 35 years, a teacher of math and the history of astronomy at Stonehill College in Easton, MA. His latest book is Bible Stories for Skeptics.

No Sunday school. The nursery for infants - 3year olds will be open. People of all ages are always welcome in our Meeting House.

PROGRAM NEWS

COMMUNITY LIFE

Child Dedications in the new year!

We will celebrate child dedications on Sunday, January 7 (not December 17) at the service in the Meeting House. Please contact Cathy in the church office dre@firstunitarian-prov.org for more information or to include your family.

Atrium Bookstore

Stop by the Atrium bookstore to see the display of gift ideas for the coming holiday season. The bookstore is open every Sunday during the regular church year during Coffee Hour. Besides the books that we get from the UUA's own Beacon Press and Skinner House, we now 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.

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)

Women's Alliance Annual Holiday Cheese Sale

Just in time for the Holidays - everyone's favorite cheddar cheese from Vermont will be for sale at the Women's Alliance Coffee Sales Table on Sunday December 17. Cheese is perfect for hostess gifts but remember to treat yourself.

Women's Alliance Gourmet Coffee Sale

Impress Your Guests or Your Hostess!

The gourmet coffee sold by the Women's Alliance is a perfect gift to bring to your hostess or to serve your own guests. You can choose either beans or ground coffee in several organic varieties. We have regular and decaf. Some people buy two different varieties and mix their own special blend. The coffee is from New Harvest Coffee Roasters, a local company, so you will be helping the RI economy as well.

Don't Let the Grinch Steal Our Coffee Hour!

The holidays are here! When shopping or baking for these special times, remember to make or buy extra for our Coffee Hour! This cooperative effort is organized by the Women's Alliance with donations from our congregation of *peanut-and peanut butter-free* baked goods, brownies, cookies, fruit, cheese and crackers, sandwiches, coffee cake, and more. Each Sunday, we need eight people to bring donations that serve 24 each. Sign up in the first parlor during Coffee Hour and go home with a reminder so you won't forget.

Saturday Social Suppers - January 6, 5:30p

In January there will be two suppers. One at the home of Beth and Stew Armstrong in Bristol and the other at Carol Delaney's in Providence. People new to the church are encouraged to attend; it's a very nice way to meet others from our church family. Please contact Shirley for meal planning and reservations (shirley.dimatteo@yahoo.com)

First U Fiesta! ~ Taco Night

Saturday, January 27, 6:00-8:00p

What's better than tacos with teens?! Your hosts, the First Unitarian Coming of Age class, their families and mentors, invite you to them for *A First U Fiesta* featuring a fun evening with delicious tacos, fabulous pastries, and musical accompaniment. Chase the winter chill away with good company and food. Relax, visit and mingle as this year's awesome eighth graders and their families serve you. We'll also have raffle tickets available for purchase for a chance to take home one of a variety of specialty items. Raffle donations welcome! Email curryk78@gmail.com. This event helps support the Coming of Age trip to Boston and UUA Headquarters in the spring.

Individual Ticket // \$8.00 or Family Ticket (four) // \$25.00. Tickets will be available starting today during Coffee Hour.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Annual Gift Card Drive for Immigrants and Refugees

Our senior high youth group and their advisors have connected with Dorcas International Institute to help that agency throughout the year. This season, they are collecting gift cards to help purchase appropriate necessities for our new neighbors in need. Please bring gift cards to church (RE office) from now until January.

UUSC Holiday Card and Gift Sale

Sundays as long as supply lasts

Our sixth/seventh-grade class is selling beautiful greeting cards from the UUSC. Look for them at the RE table during Coffee Hour. Proceeds benefit social justice efforts of the UUSC. By buying these cards, we choose compassionate consumption and support human rights efforts.

Rapid Response Team Forming

Wanted: People interested in rapidly mobilizing to support immigration emergencies due to ICE. **Requirements:** The ability to hold a sign, gather with a group, and sing or chant to draw attention to an unjust situation. Phone with video a plus. For info. email firstsanctuary@gmail.com

Training for Sanctuary at First Unitarian

Sunday, January 21, 12:15 to 2:30p

If you haven't been able to attend our other trainings, come find out what becoming a Host entails and learn about other volunteer options. Bring a brown bag lunch, beverages and dessert will be provided. RSVP at firstsanctuary@gmail.com. Childcare available with RSVP.