



Services in the Meeting House

Sunday, January 1 Bob Dylan: Nobel Laureate

10:30a

Rev. Douglas Wilson

Rev. Douglas Wilson was born in Vancouver, grew up in Santa Barbara, CA, and fell in love with the music of the Beatles and Bob Dylan in the mid-sixties. After graduating from UC-Santa Barbara in religion and philosophy and from the Starr King School for the Ministry, he was ordained in Brooklyn in 1971. In 1973 he hiked the Appalachian Trail. In 1974 Doug established the UU Rowe Conference Center at Rowe Camp (founded in 1924), which he co-directed, mostly with his wife, Prue Berry, until 2012, when he retired. Since then, he's mostly been doing whatever he wants to do.

No Sunday School. All ages welcome. Newborn-three-year-old room is open.

Sunday, January 8 "Practicing Presence in Uncertain Times"

10:30a

Rev. Martha Niebanck

We are living in "interesting times." This disruptive moment in history will be a time of disaster and possibility. The preservation of human decency is at stake. Given that each one of us is the environment in which others live, we must practice a deeper listening for possibilities that are emerging from the space between us.

Rev. Martha Niebanck is Minister Emerita of First Parish in Brookline and has also served the Doolittle Home, the Congregation of South County, RI; and First Parish in Waltham. She created and convened the Mass Bay District Conflict Transformation Team and has led workshops in many of our UU congregations.

Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel.

Sunday, January 15 Martin Luther King Sunday: "Where Do We Go from Here"

10:30a

Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman

Young people in grades Pre-K and older begin in the Meeting House, then go to their classes.

Sunday, January 22 "Why I Am a UU Buddhist"

10:30a

Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman

Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel.

Sunday, January 29 Transylvania Partner Church Sunday

"Faith of the Larger Liberty: The Message of Torda"

10:30a

Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman

Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel.

FEBRUARY FOCUS for the MONTH: A Community of Story

Sunday, February 5 "So, Who Are You?"

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

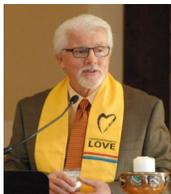
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Newsletter

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From My Window . . .

Perhaps you've seen the reading by T. S. Eliot that is #685 in our hymnal. It's based on Eliot's poem "Little Gidding." I often think of it when approaching new beginnings, especially New Year's.

What we call a beginning is often the end
and to make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from.

We shall not cease from exploration
and the end of all our exploring
will be to arrive where we started
and know the place for the first time.

So, here's my New Year's wish for you and me and for everybody: the opportunity to grasp a challenge that has been in your life – something important, perhaps even quite painful – and to shake it up well enough that you might be able to see it in new terms, so that you might be able to do something new and fresh and perhaps transformative with it.

Perhaps for you that's about a relationship you've left dormant for far too long. Maybe it's about a troubled relationship and it's time to relate differently than you have in the past. Perhaps for you that's about an ongoing illness, an addiction, a deep-seated fear, a sense of limitation, or some other significant emotional challenge. Perhaps it's about facing a new political reality and being a bit stuck as you try to determine what you might be able to abide and what is intolerable.

A new beginning, a new perspective, might allow you to be better able to respond to whatever it might be in a way that better enables you to live your life the way that you want to live it. Perhaps a new approach might offer fresh opportunities of integrity and the freedom to creatively respond to your life and to the world. Maybe you'll be able to just go ahead and make the changes that you'd like to see. Maybe you'll need the help of others – family, friends, or professionals.

Whatever challenge – large or small – that beckons you, it might be a good time to see it in a new light. I hope that the growing light through the winter season encourages you to see and to do what you know needs to be done.

I'll hope that you remember that you are part of a community of similarly struggling pilgrims who, like you, will not cease from exploration. And I'll hope that this thought gives you comfort along the way.

Happy New Year! I wish you all the best of life, love, and happiness in 2017. Whatever challenges may arise for you, I hope you are able to face them well and that they might serve to help deepen your sense of meaning and direction in life.

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

Parking Hospitality

The arrival of winter with its meteorological challenges is a good time to remind ourselves that parking on Sunday mornings can be a problem. Many in the congregation have a spot staked out; but please be mindful of those who have never attended, cannot walk far, and those bringing small people. I know we do our best, but maybe we can do a little better. Can those of us who are able-bodied walk a little farther, leave the parking lot open for the elderly and young families among us? And for the newcomer who has never been here?

Parking is available (most Sundays) at the Hope Club across Benevolent Street and in the Brown University lot at Prospect and George streets; street parking means only a short walk. If we plan ahead, we can all make parking more manageable for everyone. Thank you!

– Jennifer Nardone, Membership Coordinator

Deacons' Corner

Happy New Year! We are beginning a momentous year, with the second iteration of our search for a new settled minister under way. The first portion of the Capital Campaign having been completed, improvements to the structure of our Meeting House will be starting.

The annual Deacons Calling effort to reach everyone in the congregation has almost concluded. We want to encourage you to call or email us with anything you would like to discuss. When you have questions or concerns, we would like to get you the answers. Though we may not know all the answers, we will get back to you. Our telephone numbers are at the bottom of the column, or use the email addresses you have. Please also look for us at Coffee Hour, especially in the Newcomers' Café behind the fireplace; and remember to visit the Atrium after church to find out more about all our church activities.

The Deacons and the Standing on the Side of Love Committee will be available for more sign-ups in January for the two sets of discussion groups starting in February. *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander is a repeat of last year, and *The Third Reconstruction* by William J. Barber II is the 2016 UUA Common Read. Both books examine racism and many forms of injustice in our current society with the goal of offering helpful, practical guidance for us to engage with justice movements locally and nationally. Both books are available at the Atrium bookstore.

- The Deacons: Tom Getz (401.726.1667) & Mary Speare (401.521.3262), Senior Deacons
Jim Barfoot (401.521.9097)
Joe Fisler (401.274.1410)
Ariadne Greenberg (401.247.7557)
Sharon Kernan (401.723.1745)
Katy Killilea (401.861.0582)
Judie Knilans (401.246.0192)
Dave Lewis (603.204.7505)



"Did You Know?."
from The Canvass
SOCIAL JUSTICE
MINISTRIES AT 1ST U.

- touch 1000's of lives around the world
- feed 100's of families here in RI every month
- ask only \$850 from the church budget.

what's it worth? pledges count!



Spiritual Pathways

What Does It Mean to Be a Community of Prophecy?

The new year, 2017, a time for fresh beginnings and for looking back. It's a time, post-election, to remain tuned in, awake. How might we focus our hopes and dreams for this next chapter – in our faith community, our neighborhood, our country, and our world? As a congregation of all ages, we know that our children are watching, listening, and learning from how we live and how we judge and care for ourselves and others. Our ministry to children and youth is important and must include relevant life issues with supportive relationship building, in community.

I have been finding wisdom and inspiration to guide my work from an online resource called "Soul Matters Sharing Circle." You might appreciate these quotes from January's theme, Prophecy. "Prophets are known for their condemnation. Images of an angry bearded man shouting and predicting God's judgment come to mind. But for Unitarian Universalists, the prophetic voice has always been less about shouting, 'You're evil!' and more about pointing out, 'We're all asleep!' The prophetic message, for us, is not so much 'Repent!' but 'Wake up!' (Unattributed)

And from UU theologian and minister Rebecca Parker: "Our times ask us to exercise our capacity for prophetic witness; by prophetic witness I mean our capacity to see what is happening, to say what is happening and to act in accordance with what we know. . . . Prophetic witness . . . is the ability to name those places where we resist knowing what needs to be known."

In the Spiritual Pathways Program, we appreciate and affirm accomplishments, while embracing challenge and change. This winter, the Religious Education Committee and I will continue to reflect on innovative programming, review goals, evaluate curricula and safety practices, and stretch our creative energy toward fresh opportunities for full-week UU faith development. In November the committee sponsored a day with climate justice activists Tim DeChristopher and Bryan Cahall as well as a Family Sing-Along. They have plans for another out-of-the-box curriculum day and more sing-alongs. I continue to partner with our excellent Search Committee and Interim Minister, Charlie Ortman, in supporting the ministerial transition and search for the next settled minister. I look forward to involving youth in that process.

January young people's worship will balance messages of hope and action.

Here's a sampling of first-semester good news in the lives of our children, youth, and adults:

- Launch of the Parent Network Nest with the Caring Network.
- Marcia Taylor's Joyful Noise graced us with music at the Thanksgiving service.
- Preschoolers joined the Chapel worship group to sing, meditate, and share their wisdom.
- Sixth-grade Neighboring Faiths group visited Temple Beth El and the Providence Vedanta Society and coordinated a Recycled Toy Sale, raising funds for a cause to be chosen through a Chapel vote.
- *Senior high youth led a gift-card drive for Dorcas International Institute. They are connected to Standing on the Side of Love projects and many areas of congregational life.
- Eighth-grade Coming of Agers and their mentors have been building relationships as they shepherd the UUSC Guest at Your Table effort and plan for their Taco Supper this month. They experienced a spiritual biography project along with congregational VIP elders.
- Seventh-graders did a wonderful job selling UUSC cards and are excellent chapel worship associates.
- Over 55 teacher, advisor, and RE Committee volunteers share their time and loving energy with our children and youth.

May 2017 be full of opportunities for prophecy, health, and transformation.

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

Guest at Your Table

Don't forget to put your Guest at Your Table boxes out during this holiday season and plan on returning them by January 8.



First Unitarian Fiesta!

Coming of Age Taco Night

Saturday, January 28, 6:00–8:00p
(Snow Date: February 4)

What's better than tacos with teens?! Your hosts, the First Unitarian Coming of Age families, invite you to join us for a First Unitarian Fiesta featuring a festive evening with delicious tacos and more, plus entertainment.



Chase the winter chill away with good company and food.

Relax, visit, and mingle as your hosts and their families serve you.

To further spice up your time, purchase a raffle ticket or two for a chance to take home one of a variety of specialty items. This event helps support the eighth-graders' trip to the UUA headquarters in Boston later in the spring. Bring your family and invite your friends!

Donations for the raffle table are welcome! Contact Cynthia Rosengard (crosengard@gmail.com).

Individual Tickets: \$8; Family Tickets (4): \$25
Tickets are on sale during Coffee Hour.

Opportunity to Participate in the Wholly Family Service in February

It could be your family's turn this year!

We are looking for families interested in participating in our Wholly Family Service on Sunday, February 26. This multigenerational service has become an annual tradition when we share diverse family stories, connecting us as a community. Singles, couples, step, adopted, multicultural, GBLTQ – all kinds of families, with or without pets, are encouraged to participate.

Interested? Please contact Cathy Seggel in the church office (401.421.7970 or dre@firstunitarianprov.org)





Sight Lines

Look at the facts of the world. You see a continual and progressive triumph of the right. I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways; I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight; I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice. – Theodore Parker (1853)

I write on a Friday at the tail-end of the academic semester, ten days after our final Prudential Committee meeting of 2016. It was our first meeting since the Presidential election, as the scale and shape of the changes in national policy became clearer with each cabinet pick. Odds are that come January 20, the beige rug that has lain in the Oval Office since 2010, and that bears Martin Luther King’s distillation of Theodore Parker’s statement, will be rolled up, and will leave with President Obama.

The good news is that whatever incoming President Trump’s views are on the arc of the moral universe, Theodore Parker still speaks for many. This was clear at the memorial vigil in our Meeting House, called by the Religious Coalition for a Violence-free Rhode Island on December 14. The vigil wove together a dedication of the memorial quilt, prayers and hymns, with calls for direct participation in the push for common-sense gun legislation. In attendance were clergy from across the state, along with mayors Elorza and Diossa, NAACP President James Vincent, Congressman Cicilline, and Governor Raimondo. All bore witness to our state’s history of tolerance and inclusion, and their commitment to honor and continue that legacy.

Last January, we voted as a congregation, affirming that Black Lives Matter and pledging to pursue racial justice. We committed ourselves to “...initiate a campaign of intentional learning, public witness, and partnership building to fulfill this pledge.” Our programming and engagement under this rubric will also enhance our capacity to act quickly in response to new challenges – including the threat to DACA participants, which SSL are already discussing.

My hope for 2017 is that we continue to learn from each other, and from the well-springs of expertise and goodwill that surround us in this state, to fulfill our mission. With so much uncertainty on the national stage, we can find encouragement in all that our fellow First U members have accomplished in our name in 2016. Besides our BLM commitment, we also reconnected with the UUA by paying our fair share; we celebrated a 200-year anniversary, and ran a successful capital campaign; we strengthened ties with each other through Chalice Circles, the Caring Network and the new spiritual biography project; and we welcomed new members, who brought energy, expertise and inspiration to our planning for the future.

These, more than the spectacle offered by the national media, are the facts of the world. Theodore Parker still feels prophetic, when we see his conviction reflected in the eyes of family, friends, and neighbors, and when we take action together. And so, as that rug, proclaiming our shared belief, gets rolled up and taken out of the Oval Office, we can roll up our sleeves and get to work, to defend those core UU principles – tolerance, inclusion, hope, and mutuality – which make America great.

Keith Brown
President, Prudential Committee
pres@firstunitarianprov.org

Winter Storms and First Unitarian

In case of extreme weather, the staff decides if church will be cancelled. If the City of Providence announces a ban on street parking, church will be cancelled. A cancellation decision will be made by 7:00a and conveyed to these media outlets: TV channels ABC 6, NBC 10, WPRI 12, Fox Providence, RI PBS; and radio stations 630WPRO, 920WHJJ, 1180 CCNX News Radio, WRNI, Lite Rock105, B101, 94HJY, 92ProFM, 98.1Cat Country, 93.3Coast FM, 95.5 WBRU.

If church is open during a storm, no one should make heroic efforts to get to church. Use your best judgment about whether it is safe to drive or walk.



OVER THE TOP!!

The Capital Campaign Task Force is happy to report that to date our congregation has pledged about \$1,030,000 for the restoration of our Meeting House, with a large number of members recently contacted during the December 8 telethon yet to respond.



It’s wonderful news that the congregation has raised enough to protect the exterior of the Meeting House, but we still are only halfway to funding the total \$2 million cost for the entire restoration to include interior work as well as exterior.

We invite those who have yet to join us in this remarkable commitment to Unitarian permanence in the area to review the Capital Campaign information sent to you regarding Meeting House restoration and commit to contributing the most generous amount you can over a three-year period to finance this work.

If you are ready to make your pledge, please submit your commitment form to the church office before January 22. If you need a pledge form, please email a request to David House (DLHouse51@comcast.net).

In the meantime, the Meeting House Restoration Task Force has begun planning for exterior work on the Meeting House. The actual work will begin late in 2017 after the first year of pledge contributions are received. We look forward to reporting on our progress in future newsletters.

Treasurer’s Report

How do we develop the budget for First Unitarian each year?

Each year the operating budget is developed for presentation to the Prudential Committee by a committee consisting of the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Church Administrator, Minister, RE Director, and representatives of the four ministries (Community Life, Social Justice, Spiritual Development, Stewardship). The ministry representatives may be a PruComm liaison to that ministry or a representative from that ministry.

Prior to the initial budget meeting the liaison will contact each group within their ministry to determine their fiscal needs for the upcoming year. Three meetings are scheduled during April to develop a balanced budget, which will be presented for approval by the PruComm at its May meeting. The final budget is then presented to the congregation at the Annual meeting in June for final approval.

– Graham Nye, Treasurer



Leadership Development

Nominating Committee Is Seeking Leaders for 2017

Are you interested in being considered for an elected position at First Unitarian Church on the Nominating Committee, the Prudential Committee, or as a Deacon? This year, our Nominating Committee has made it a priority to reach out to newer members who have never had a governance role at the church as we develop the slate for 2017.

If you are interested in learning more about these elected positions or would like to express your interest in being considered, email Suzanne Alden, Nominating Committee chair (suzannealden@com-cast.net) or Jennifer Nardone, Membership Coordinator (mem@firstunitarianprov.org).



Harvest the Power is a multi-session program that helps lay leaders grow in spirit as they grow as leaders. In this time of rapid cultural change, leaders need a broad range of skills, both technical and visionary. This program's 12 workshops offer opportunities for both new and experienced leaders to enrich the skills they bring to their leadership and to experience their leadership journey as a Unitarian Universalist faith journey.

The group that formed in the fall began its exploration with a dinner in November, followed by a weekend retreat, and is now meeting monthly through April 2017. The program is led by Rev. Charlie Ortman, Cynthia Rosengard, Cathy Seggel, Tiffany Reed, and Jay Glasson.

As part of this month's presentation, the group began to think about their Faith Statements, to address the question of "What does it mean as a UU to have faith?"

The goal was for each one to have a greater understanding of his or her own faith and to be able to articulate it as part of their leadership in a congregational context; i.e., what has the utmost importance in our lives and enables us to feel at home in the universe? Once they have an understanding of their own faith, they can open themselves to discussing it with others.

What better way of living their faith statements than inviting a friend or family member to church? That was the homework assignment for December.



Our Ministerial Search



On January 2, the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) will be receiving candidating materials of ministers in search who are interested our congregation. It will be "crunch time" for the MSC as we listen to recorded sermons, review ministerial records, view ministers' websites, and sort through letters of recommendation. Once we have our "short list," we will conduct Skype video interviews to help narrow our list to the final three candidates we will meet with in person. We will be in touch with the congregation in January.

Many people have helped the MSC this fall with contributions to the Congregational Record and our website. We would like to thank the following people:

- Youth, for being vocal in the conversation (and Cathy Seggel, for facilitating so that they could contribute)
- Photographer Richard Boober
- Church Administrator Posey Kooris & Administrative Assisant Wally Sotelo
- Bev Koteff for editing
- Cathy Seggel and Amy Webb for the 2016-17 Resource Book
- PruComm members for their work on the draft Ministerial Agreement
- Church President Keith Brown and Interim Minister Charlie Ortman for their suggestions and counsel.

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



"Did You Know.."
from The Canvass

LEGISLATIVE ACTION
MINISTRIES AT 1ST U:

- advocate and organize for the most vulnerable with UULM-RI
- lobby legislators, leaders for more racial & social justice
- currently lack leadership, & so ask for no budget
- participation on hold.

what's it worth? pledges count!



Community Life

January All-Parish Supper

Friday, January 13

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: Protecting Our Waterways and Communities in Rhode Island

Our waterways are precious resources that not only define the places where we live, but also serve as an economic driver for our region. Our presenter will be Curt Spalding, EPA Regional Administrator and former director of Save the Bay in Rhode Island.

Curt is an engaging speaker who will give a PowerPoint presentation about the condition, protection, and improvement of our waterways, especially Narragansett Bay. A major challenge that threatens the health of our waterways is climate change. He will discuss how the EPA has been approaching the various environmental challenges in partnership with communities and the state. The goal is to find holistic environmental economic and social solutions that put communities first. Please plan to join us for this important program on climate change in Rhode Island.

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

January 7 starting at 5:30p

In January there will be two Social Suppers, one at the home of Tony and Irene Allen in Providence and the other at Stew and Beth Armstrong's in Bristol. People new to the church are encouraged to attend; it's a very nice way to meet others from our church family.

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

The February 4 Social Supper will be at the home of Mary Frappier in Providence.

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 two books for the reading groups sponsored by the Deacons and Standing on the Side of Love: *The New Jim Crow* and *The Third Reconstruction*.

February All-Parish Supper

Friday, February 10

Program: A Concert by the GNOMES

We will welcome the return of the GNOMES, an exciting, popular, and talented group of folk singers and instrumentalists, who will present a concert of traditional musical tunes from all over the world. The band members include some of Rhode Island's finest musicians, among them: Phil Edmonds, Cathy Clasper-Torch, Mike Fischman, Peter Breen, and Matt Niebels. You won't want to miss this great show.

Annual Cook-Off to Feature Dips and Spreads

Sunday, February 5 during Coffee Hour

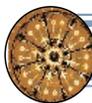
Path to Membership Classes

Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28, 7:00–9:00p

The Path to Membership class is for anyone who is interested in membership or in learning more about Unitarian Universalism or about First Unitarian. This four-session course is offered three times during the year. The classes are led by our Interim Minister, Charlie Ortman; our Director of Religious Education, Cathy Seggel; and our Membership Coordinator, Jenn Nardone.

For anyone unable to attend the Tuesday evening sessions, arrangements will be made to provide a "mini-course" as an alternative. Childcare will be provided if requested in advance.

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



WHEEL OF LIFE

Condolences to:

To the family and friends of **Martha Van Zuiden**, who died on October 5

To the family and friends of **Bob Frederickson**, who died on December 5, particularly to Marilyn and Allison Meardon and Bela Teixeira

To the family and friends of **Robert (Bob) O'Neal**, a member since 1994, who died on December 7.

To the family and friends of **Elly Camp** who died in early December.

HATS OFF TO ...

Ann Boyd, Nori Duncan, and Mary Frappier for feeding 80 diners at the Thanksgiving Day dinner. It gets bigger every year. And to everyone who brought something to share.

Annette Casparis, Janet Downing Taylor, and Richard Boober for their assistance in decorating the church for the holidays.

Our Coffee Hour Providers last month:

Mary Frappier, Lyn Bradford, Nora Brock, Martha Cussler, Beth Anterni, Anne Connor, Norvel Ferguson, Carlo Buckley, Lynne H. Fazzi, Nancy Shand, Lucille Riccitelli, Vikki Bristlin, Elissa Emerson, Rachel Spaulding, Sally Barker, Edie Warren, George Beshers, Audrey Eisenstein, and all of you who brought something in to surprise us.



Community Life

The Caring Network

Members from the Caring Network continue to work together to meet the personal and social needs of our congregation. Updates this month include the following:



Parenting Group: Each Sunday after the church, parents are welcomed in the Web Room next to the stage in the Auditorium. This is a good way to meet other parents of children in the church school community. Contact: Janet Bralove (bralove.estey@gmail.com)

Chalice Circles: The Chalice Circles are now engaged in service projects in addition to their regular meetings. Contact: Janet Downing Taylor (jdtaylor39@verizon.net)

The Mindful Grieving Group: The next group will begin January 29. Contact: Carol Adams (carol.adams6@cox.net)

The Phone Buddies: This group is still open to new people who would like a daily contact via phone. Contact: Judie Knilans (judiek3@aol.com)

The Care Crew: The Care Crew is prepared to provide rides, do errands, send cards, and provide meals to those who have medical needs. Contact Posey Kooris (401.421.7970) in the church office, or Shirley DiMatteo (shirley.dimatteo@yahoo.com) or Steve McCloy (steven.mccloy43@gmail.com) when the church office is closed.

There has been a request to form a group to discuss living alone, feeling alone, handicapped, etc., to have dialogue with others feeling isolated. Please contact Shirley or Steve (listed above) if you are interested.

Celebrating Our Transylvania Church Partnership

Partner Church Sunday, January 29

Service in the Meeting House at 10:30a

Program in the Auditorium at noon

Our church has had a partnership with the Unitarian congregation in Szentegyhaza, Transylvania, for many years. Some members of the Transylvania Partner Church Committee have traveled there to get to know their congregation. In order to keep contact from year to year, we set one Sunday aside each year for both congregations to celebrate our partnership with readings, stories, and song. Our interim minister, Rev. Charlie Ortman, will read the greetings from Rev. Szabolcs Kelemen, the minister of our Partner Church in Szentegyhaza.

Look for Hungarian snacks during Coffee Hour, including *Körozött* (recipe below) and come upstairs to the Auditorium at noon for a discussion about our partnership, including a film.

Körozött (a cream cheese spread)

- 8 oz. cream cheese plus 6 oz. feta cheese
- 1/2 cup melted unsalted butter
- 3 tbsp. sour cream

Cream together until smooth and add:

- 1 tbsp. finely chopped onion
- 1 1/2 to 2 tsp. paprika (1 tsp. hot and 1 tsp. mild), 1 tsp. caraway seeds, 1/2 tsp. salt

Mix until smooth, place in bowls or mound on plate, cover with wrap and keep in refrigerator until ready to serve. Transfer mixture to a serving plate and shape into a smooth mound.

Sprinkle with paprika. Chill slightly in refrigerator. Garnish by arranging parsley sprigs around mound. Serve with crackers, pumpernickel or rye bread, and/or celery.

For more recipes, there will be some Transylvania cook books available for sale at the gathering upstairs in the Auditorium.

– Janet Downing Taylor for the Transylvania Partner Church Committee

The Women's Alliance

Monthly Meeting

Monday, January 9

Business Meeting: 10:00a

Program: 11:00a

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

Beautiful Day/Providence Granola Project

Speaker: A representative from Beautiful Day RI

Beautiful Day is a Rhode Island nonprofit that "seeks to nourish our community by providing first jobs and on-the-job training for resettled refugees." Since 2008, its Providence Granola Project has trained refugees to prepare and sell all-natural gourmet granola. More than 45 refugees of 11 nationalities have entered the job market after completing their paid training.

Women's Alliance Tea

Saturday, January 21 at 2:00p

The Women's Alliance Tea this year will be at Scandinavian House. Volunteer sign-up will take place at the January meeting.

Women's Alliance Coffee Sale

Chase away the after-Holiday Blues with a hot cup of delicious coffee. The Women's Alliance supports community charities with the proceeds from our coffee sales.



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

Our Coffee Hour Needs You!

Happy New Year! Here's a great resolution for the New Year: Sign up regularly to bring food to the Coffee Hour! Remember that our Coffee Hour is a cooperative effort organized by the Women's Alliance 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-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.



Spiritual Development

Thinking of Joining a Chalice Circle?

Sign-ups and Information: Sunday, January 8 in the Atrium during Coffee Hour

Samplers: Sundays, January 15 & 22 at 12:00p in the Auditorium

Chalice Circles – our “small group ministry” program – fulfills the need for intimacy and spiritual growth of members in our larger faith community.

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

If you would like to find out more about Chalice Circles, there will be an information table in the Atrium during Coffee Hour on January 8 to answer questions and provide an opportunity to sign up for a Chalice Circle. On Sundays, January 15 and 22, there will be a Chalice Circle sampler, which will provide a brief experience of what participating in a Chalice Circle is like, as well as another opportunity for questions and to sign up.

Contacts: Marilyn Eanet (memeanet50@gmail.com) or Janet Downing Taylor (jdtaylor39@verizon.net).

Art in the Atrium

The January exhibit will be illustrations and watercolors by Nancy Smith Worthen. Nancy painted illustrations for *The Sunflower Story*, *Planting Seeds of Love*, to honor her daughter, Margaret Worthen. Watercolor paintings are inspired by her journey of grief and recovery after her daughter’s death.

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

UUMen

Sunday, January 8, 7:00–9:00p

Topic for January: Gratitude and How One Can Cultivate It and Increase Our Well-being and Happiness by Doing So

Facilitator: Paul Bazin (pbazin11@gmail.com)

Flowers for Sunday Services

Flowers each Sunday are donated by members and friends in honor or memory of a loved one. Donors are acknowledged in the order of service. Whether the flowers are a florist’s arrangement or picked from a garden, people always comment on how they brighten the pulpit.

Jacqui Nye will be glad to explain how you can provide an arrangement and to schedule your donation. Your Sunday flower offering will be greatly appreciated.

Contact: Jacqui Nye (funjac@hotmail.com) with “Sunday Flowers” in the subject line.



Glass flowers at the pulpit by Chris Belleau from Gallery Belleau on Wickenden Street

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).



Social Justice

Neighborhood Social Justice

Thanks again to all who so generously donated to the Loaves & Fishes Mission (LFM) in November. We appreciate your ongoing support, and so do the homeless men who get a delicious dinner, a chance to socialize, and a few small gifts as they leave.

Monthly Meeting

Sunday, January 8 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, January 3 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.

“Did You Know?”
from The Canvass

STANDING ^{IN} SIDE ^{OF} LOVE
MINISTRIES AT 1ST U:

- worked for marriage equality, will do same for the undocumented
- host events, attend actions & vigils as Accomplices in the movement for Black Lives
- ask only \$775 of church budget each year.

what's it worth? pledges count!

Volunteer at First Unitarian’s Food Share Pantry

Distribution Day: Monday, January 16

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)

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.

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)

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.

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

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 NEW YEARS DAY Worship 10:30a	2 OFFICE CLOSED Zendo 7:00p	3 Loaves & Fishes Mission 12:00-7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	4 Prudential Committee 6:00p Meditation 7:00p	5 Search Committee 6:30p	6	7 Harvest the Power Saturday Social Supper (Allen/Armstrong)
8 Worship 10:30a at 12:00p Mentor/Mentee Neighborhood SJ Membership UU Men 7:00p	9 Women's Alliance: Meeting: 10:00a Program: 11:00a Luncheon: noon Zendo 7:00p	10 Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Reimag. Rel. 7:00p	11 Meditation 7:00p	12 Worship Committee 6:00p Search Committee 6:30p	13 Art in the Atrium Opening All-Parish Supper 5:45p Program 7:45p	14
15 Worship 10:30a Chalice Circle Sampler 12:00p	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day OFFICE CLOSED Food Pantry Open 2:00p-6:00p Zendo 7:00p	17 Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	18 Harvest the Power 7:00p Meditation 7:00p	19 Deacons 5:30p Search Committee 6:30p	20	21 Women's Alliance Tea 2:00p (Scandinavian Home)
22 Worship 10:30a Chalice Circle Sampler 12:00p	23 Zendo 7:00p	24 Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Reimag. Rel. 7:00p	25 Meditation 7:00p	26 Search Committee 6:30p	27	28 Coming of Age Taco Fiesta
29 Worship 10:30a Transylvania Partner Church Program 12:00p	30 Zendo 7:00p	31 Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p				