



## SUMMER 2017

### 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.

**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 to greet our many visitors. You never know who you may meet! A Welcome Table will have UU pamphlets and a guest registry where newcomers can sign up for a reusable name tag.

The Worship Committee: Neil Bartholomew, chair; Jim Barfoot, Michael Currier, Elisa Emerson, Betty Finn, Watson Lerner, Jacqui Nye, Kelley Smith

#### 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.*

Music by Greg Moses

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

10:00a

**Nancy Robert Dooley**

Our former minister, the 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.*

Music by Nancy Nicholson and Janice Okoomian



We are a  
Welcoming Congregation

### I n s i d e

#### SUMMER SERVICES

**June 18–September 3**

*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. Elizabeth Lerner Maclay, 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

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

Deadline for September newsletter  
is August 15

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**Sunday, July 2      Lifting Spirits with the Stories We Choose to Share**  
**10:00a      Len Cabral**

If we are waiting to hear or read positive stories from the news media, we could be waiting for a long time. (“If it bleeds, it leads.”) We need to be sharing stories that lift our collective spirits, the types of stories that aren’t often shared.

*Len Cabral, an internationally acclaimed storyteller, has been part of the First Unitarian community since the late 1970s. Over the years, Len has been a Deacon and a youth mentor, and has performed many times for church events. He lives in Edgewood with his wife, Judy. They have two grown daughters who attended the church school.*

Music by Phil Gruppuso and John DeBossu

**Sunday, July 9      Finding Peace and Joy in Challenging Times**  
**10:00a      Ginny Fox**

We are bombarded by bad news day and night. Ginny believes that the world is a better place than the news media would have us believe. She has a few suggestions for broadening and brightening our understanding of life on this planet.

*Here at First Unitarian, Ginny Fox has taught sixth grade in the religious education program, facilitated a Chalice Circle, served on the RE Committee, and been a Coming of Age mentor. Guiding the Peace Flag Project now takes up a good deal of her time.*

Music by Kelley Smith and Chris Sanzo

**Sunday, July 16      Me First**  
**10:00a      Suzanne Alden**

Putting the Unitarian Universalist principles into action requires a lot of us, and a lot of our leaders. Yet, when these leaders let us down by not practicing what they preach, we find ourselves grappling with the times in which we’ve struggled in the same way. Suzanne will explore how the pursuit and implementation of UU principles requires us to live our best lives by first intimately knowing and taking care of ourselves.

*Suzanne Alden has been a member of First Unitarian since 2012, serving in many capacities, including ushering, the Loaves & Fishes Mission, the most recent capital campaign, and as chair of the Nominating Committee. Suzanne was drawn to the church’s close sense of community and opportunities for involvement and spiritual development. She works in Brown University’s Computer Science Department and is an avid practitioner of yoga and mindfulness meditation.*

Music by Jill and Charlotte Malin

**Sunday, July 23      Consumer Choices that Honor the Interdependent Web of**  
**10:00a      Life and Justice for All**  
**Polly Walker**

Most of us lead very busy lives and we are immersed in a consumption-focused society. Buying things is supposed to make us be happier, feel better, look better, lose weight, improve our health, and on and on. In facing the huge selection of food to eat and things to buy, it’s overwhelming to try to make choices that honor both the seventh and sixth Principles of the Unitarian Universalist faith. Do our small individual actions even matter?

*For the past 20 years, Polly Walker, MD, MPH, has been affiliated with the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, where she is a Senior Fellow and former Associate Director. The center focuses on increasing understanding of the complex interactions among diet, food production, environment, and human health and on promoting policies for a more sustainable food system. Polly moved to Rhode Island in 2005 to live near her children and grandchildren and has been attending First Unitarian Church since 2006.*

Music by Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly

**Summer at First Unitarian**

**Summer Office Hours**

The church office will be open week days from 9:00a to 4:00p from June 19 to September 5. The office will be closed for holidays on July 4, August 14, and September 4 and for vacation the weeks of July 24 and 31, reopening on Monday, August 7.

**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.

During the office vacation break (July 22 to August 6, reopening on August 7), there will be a message on the answering machine regarding contact information in case of emergency.

**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 17 & August 21*

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

**Loaves & Fishes 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, July 30      Learning to Let Go So Others Can Hold On:  
Some Thoughts on Pastoral Care**

**10:00a** **Emily Bruce**  
 Emily Bruce is spending her summer as a hospital chaplain intern at Yale–New Haven Hospital. Of all the challenges she faces in that role, perhaps the hardest one is just learning to be present. An everlasting “fixer,” Emily shares her struggles trying to just sit still and let in all the wisdom her patients have to offer her.  
*Emily is currently studying for her Masters in Divinity at Yale University, with an intent to pursue ordination in the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition. Her vocational plans are interfaith chaplaincy work in higher education, combined with environmental justice work that intersects congregational and campus ministries to address climate crisis issues from a faith-based perspective.*  
 Music by Gregory Waksmulski and Rachel Meade

**Sunday, August 6      Curating the Living Tradition**

**10:00a** **Sandy Greenberg**  
 What does “ritual” mean to Unitarianism? Reflections on constructing, inhabiting, and sharing sacred space.  
*Sandy Greenberg has been affiliated with First Unitarian in one way or another since he was in kindergarten. He is now an undergraduate student at Brown University.*  
 Music by Chris Sanzo

**Sunday, August 13      Moving On (or not)**

**10:00a** **Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Howard, First Unitarian Community Minister**  
 When 2017 began, Gwen resolved to be a more forgiving person. This has proven to be a more challenging year than she expected (or wanted). Is there a limit to forgiveness?  
*Gwen Howard is a Unitarian Universalist minister who has served congregations in Illinois and Central New York. She teaches business ethics as an adjunct faculty member at Johnson & Wales University, as well as maintaining a small private practice as a clinical social worker. She has been doing a regular pulpit supply for the last three years in Rockland, MA.*  
 Music by John Moran

**Sunday, August 20      Seize the Moment**

**10:00a** **John Petell**  
 We have all had times of decision. Act or sit. Forks in the road. Do the right thing. The sermon will address this quandary.  
*John Petell has been a First Unitarian member for 13 years. He serves as chairman of the World Affairs Committee, which has organized and sponsored 20 presentations on topics such as community safety, climate change, immigration, and other topics.*  
 Music by the High Society Hot Jazz Orchestra



**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 for newcomers is 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)

**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)

**Sunday, August 27      How Living in Faith Saved Me**

**10:00a**

**Bailey Saddlemire**

Bailey will talk about experiences with the Unitarian Universalist faith during high school in relation to mental illness, tragedy, and coming to terms with sexuality.

*Bailey Saddlemire is a 17-year-old soon-to-be-senior at Smithfield High School, a lifelong UU who moved to this congregation from the Unitarian Universalist Society: East in Manchester, Connecticut. She is currently serving a two-year term as a Youth Observer to the UUA Board of Trustees and participates in several musical programs away from church.*

Music by Greg Moses

**Sunday, September 3      “There Was, and There Was Not”:  
Lessons from an Armenian’s Pilgrimage to Turkey**

**10:00a**

**Janice Okoomian**

In 2015, the centennial of the Armenian Genocide, Janice made her first trip to Turkey. Here is what she learned about nationalism, alternative facts, and the immense courage of truth-tellers.

*Janice Okoomian is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist and a professor of Gender and Women’s Studies at Rhode Island College. Her grandparents were survivors of the Armenian Genocide.*

Music by Neil Bartholomew and Lynda Gulley

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**Sunday, September 10      In-Gathering and Water Communion**

**10:30a**

As the new church year begins, we will welcome our newly settled minister, the Rev. Elizabeth Lerner Maclay. Liz comes to us from a 17-year ministry with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring, Maryland.

We will also celebrate our annual Water Communion. Remember to bring a small sample of water from a meaningful place or time during your summer.

*Note:* Our services during the church year begin at **10:30a**.

