



THE MEETING HOUSE TIMES

October 1, 2017

TODAY

10:30a in the Meeting House

Postcards from the Edge of Civility: Is Facebook Faithful?

Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay

Like any tool, social media can be used for good or for ill, with care or contempt. Studies show people address each other via screens (texts, Twitter, Facebook) with scorn they never would express in person. Our own online engagement across UU congregations and continental organizations confirm those studies, despite our affirmation of “the inherent worth and dignity of every human being.” So how do we, as people of faith, counteract the “othering” effect of a keyboard and a screen? How can we stay strong for each other and our first principle, together with our imperatives of justice and ethics?

*Young people begin in classrooms and worship in Chapel.
Worship theme is courageous love & anti-bullying.*

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

Coffee, tea, goodies, and fellowship . . . plus
Newcomers Cafe in the Paneled Parlor
Coffee Hour Baking Sign-up
Registration for Sunday School
Women’s Alliance Coffee Sale
Atrium Bookstore open

12:00p Chalice Circle Sampler in the Auditorium

Community Band in the church basement

History Committee in the History Room

12:15p Neighborhood Social Justice in the Haynes Room

5:00p Campus UUs (BUUUG)

All college aged young adults are welcome to weekly, Sunday evening gatherings. Meeting tonight in the Parish House 5-6pm. Contact Maria (maria_ronchi@brown.edu) or Cathy Seggel in the church office.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, October 2

11:00a Women’s Alliance Program and Luncheon

7:00p Benevolent Street Zendo in the Atrium

Tuesday, October 3

12:00-7:00p Loaves & Fishes Mission

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, October 4

12:00 Chalice Facilitators Lunch

1:00p Nominating Committee meeting

6:00p Prudential Committee meeting

7:00p Natural Wisdom and Compassion Meditation

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

Contact: Ken Bent (kenbent@cox.net)

Thursday, October 5

7:00p Five Wishes Program

NEXT SUNDAY

Sunday, October 8

You Will Ride With Me Tonight

Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay

Our Ministry Themes in October are Courage and Death – not exactly what your new minister have chosen for the same month as our installation service and the beginning of a new ministry together! But these themes always relevant, they are required of us for mortal living all the time – so we may as well engage them now, and we’ll be starting using some unconventional lenses, including a song by folk singer Dar Williams and reflections by American writer and undertaker Thomas Lynch.

Young people begin in classrooms and worship in Chapel.

For details on these and future programs

(meeting locations, contact information, etc.),

see the monthly newsletter on the church website at

www.firstunitarianprov.org/news

PROGRAM NEWS

COMMUNITY LIFE

The Women's Alliance

Monthly Meeting

Monday, October 2

Business Meeting: 10:00a

Program: 11:00a followed by luncheon (\$10)

All are welcome to attend the first Women's Alliance program of the new church year, "The Process and Fun of Quilting," presented by one of our own members, Nancy Libby Fisher, assisted by Bobbi Fisler. Nancy will display items of her handiwork and describe the steps she follows to create them.

Women's Alliance Gourmet Coffee Sale

Why settle for any old coffee. You can create your very own unique coffee using the gourmet coffees sold by the Women's Alliance. They sell two bold coffees, one medium, and two decafs. All types come in both beans and drip-grind 12 oz. bags. And all are organic and freshly roasted in Rhode Island! Your purchase helps the community – the Alliance donates proceeds from its sales to worthy causes. Visit their coffee table in the Atrium.

Saturday Social Supper

October 7, 5:30p

The October Social Supper will be at the home of Mary Frappier. Please contact Shirley DiMatteo for meal planning and reservations (shirley.dimatteo@yahoo.com). People new to the church are encouraged to attend; it's a very nice way to meet others from our church family.

Anyone interested in hosting an Intergenerational Supper or an Adult Supper is invited to contact Shirley.

Path to Membership Class

Tuesday Evenings, October 10, 17 & 24, 7:00–9:00p

The Path to Membership class is for anyone who is interested in membership, or in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and First Unitarian.

This three-session course is offered several times during the year. The classes are led by our minister, Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay; our Director of Religious Education, Cathy Seggel; and our Membership Coordinator, Jenn Nardone.

Childcare will be provided if requested in advance. Registration forms are available in the Newcomers' Café and on the Membership Board in the Parish House hallway.

For anyone interested in this class but unable to attend the Tuesday evening sessions, alternative arrangements can be made. Please let Jenn Nardone know if you are interested. For questions, contact: Jenn Nardone, Membership Coordinator (mem@firstunitarianprov.org) or call the church office (401.421.7970).

Name Tags — Now in the Meeting House!

We are trying something new, something that will be more welcoming and helpful to everyone in our community! The name tags have been moved into the Meeting House. This will make it easier for everyone to get their name tag before Sunday service. Seeing a name gives you a better chance of remembering it.

Wearing your name tag is a thoughtful way to help all newcomers, including our new minister, to find their way into our community. Before the worship service, please pick up your name tag from the board, now located at the front of the church on the Benefit & Benevolent St. corner.

At the end of coffee hour, return your name tag to the correct basket labeled A-F, G-M, and N-Z on the Welcome Table in the Parish House hallway. Please place your tag in the appropriate basket.

If you need a new name tag, you can request one on the sign-up sheet (on the clip board) on the Welcome Table in the Parish House hallway. Thank you for wearing your name tag!

Blue Jean Sunday

Sunday, October 8 after Sunday service

In preparation for the upcoming installation of our new minister a group of volunteers is planning to clean the Meeting House after services on October 8. In addition to some willing volunteers, cleaning supplies and several vacuum cleaners will be needed. Watch for more info. next week, or call Joe Fisler at 274.1410.

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)

Our Coffee Hour

Our Coffee Hour is a cooperative effort of the Women's Alliance, featuring donations from our congregation of peanut- and peanut-butter-free baked goods, brownies, cookies, fruit, cheese and crackers, sandwiches, coffee cake, and more. Donations can be made at home or bought at a store. Each Sunday we need eight to ten people bringing donations that serve 24 each.

Sign-ups are preferred in order to plan for each upcoming Sunday. You can sign up in the first parlor during Coffee Hour and go home with a reminder so you won't forget.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Religious Education Program - Time to register!

Annual enrollment for our religious education program for children and youth is available on-site at the RE table in the Atrium, in classrooms or online www.firstunitarianprov.org. Important: Parents must register children & youth each year.

Chalice Circles

Chalice Circles and Sampler Sign-up

This Small Group Ministry Program at the First Unitarian Church is for those seeking connections as part of our church community. This experience fulfills the need for intimacy and spiritual growth of members in our large faith community.

Small groups of eight to ten people enhance 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.

Experience a Chalice Circle Sampler

Today, October 1 at 12:00p

These "samplers" offer the interested and the curious an opportunity to experience a brief Chalice Circle session and to sign up for a fall group, depending on space availability. For more information, contact Registrar Janet Downing Taylor (jdtylo39@verizon.net).

UUMen

Sunday, October 8, 7:00–9:00p

This will be a no-topic conversation for men. These always go to interesting places; the same should happen this Columbus Day weekend.

Facilitator: Tim Dawes

Benevolent Street Zendo: An Ongoing Zen

Meditation Group - Mondays at 7:00p

Benevolent Street Zendo is a member community of the Boundless Way Zen Sangha, an interfaith Zen community. All are welcome. If you have never attended, please arrive at 6:45p for a brief orientation. You may call or text Cindy Bap-ties (401.573.0881) for more information. Cindy and George Beshers are practice leaders.

Innate Wisdom and Compassion Meditation

Every Wednesday at 7:00p

This drop-in group provides 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. No previous meditation experience is required.

Contact: Ken Bent (kenbent@cox.net)

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Neighborhood Social Justice

Loaves & Fishes Mission

Tuesday, October 3 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. 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.

Thanks to all who so generously donate to the monthly Loaves & Fishes Missions. We appreciate your ongoing support.

For more on NSJ and the Loaves & Fishes mission, contact Joe Salvatore (joesuu@gmail.com)

Y'All Come Community Lunch, Saturday October 14

NSJC continues its collaboration with the Beneficent Congregational Church, with the Y-All Come Community Lunch for the homeless. The event takes place twice a year. Please save the date and stop by the NSJC table for more information or to see how you can help. Volunteers are needed to prepare dishes for the potluck. Thank you!

Come Celebrate Indigenous People's Day

October 9 at the Providence Honk Festival

We will march from The Wild Colonial on South Water Street to the Hurricane Barrier just south of Point Street. This is another opportunity to march for racial justice with a fun, funky, marching band vibe. If you cannot march, but would like to participate, a pedicab may be available if we know early enough. Sign up at the SSL table on Sundays.

Contact katherine.ahlquist@gmail.com

The new shipment of SSL shirts have arrived. Stop by with \$20 and pick yours up today! Let's let our UU presence in Providence be known! Proudly wear yours at rallies, protests and when you go to the statehouse. Represent for Love!

Knitting for a Better World

Every Tuesday-7:00p

Join fellow knitters to work on your own project or one of ours - Beginners are always welcome.

Contact: Kathy Ahlquist (katherine.ahlquist@gmail.com)