



Hope changes everything.

– Emma's Revolution

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE

RESOURCE BOOK

2017 - 2018

Meet the Staff

The church staff serves the congregation and its mission, leading worship, providing pastoral care, encouraging faith development for children, youth and adults, administering, maintaining the physical campus and supporting volunteers, committees and programs.



Reverend Elizabeth Lerner Maclay
Minister

Raised Unitarian Universalist in Newton MA. in a family with both Jewish and Catholic roots, Liz earned a Masters of Divinity and advanced Masters in Theology from Harvard Divinity School. Her academic interests are ancient Greek religion and culture, Hellenistic Judaism and early Christianity, as well as the history of women in western religion. She has served UU congregations in Lexington, MA, Mt. Kisco, NY, and Silver Spring, MD. For years she served on the board of UUs for Jewish Awareness. Liz later served on the Continuing Education (CENTER) committee of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA), helping to plan the UUMA's ground-breaking first Institute for Excellence in Ministry, and co-chairing the second Institute. Since 9/11/2001 she has built a strong interfaith relationship with the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA. Liz is committed to building multiracial, multicultural community within our congregations. Parish ministry remains her passion and calling as she begins her service at First Unitarian. She lives in Lincoln with her husband Tim Maclay and two very friendly flat-coated retrievers, Quin and Joey. Liz and Tim have two children, Rachel (22) who lives in Pennsylvania and Alex (24) who lives near Baltimore, MD.

min@firstunitarianprov.org



Cathy Seggel
Director of Religious Education

Cathy has served as the Religious Educator at First U for 25 years. A graduate of UConn with a BS in Nursing, she earned her Masters of Theological Studies degree from Harvard Divinity School in 2007. She is Immediate Past-President of the Liberal Religious Educators Association, the professional group for UU religious educators. Cathy lives in Providence with her husband, Norm. They have three children and four grandchildren.

dre@firstunitarianprov.org



Posey Smith Kooris
Office Administrator

Posey came to First Unitarian as the Church Administrator in June 1998. She oversees the day-to-day operations of the church, congregational communications and supervises support staff. Posey has two adult children, one grandchild, and lives in Barrington.

admin@firstunitarianprov.org



Walter O. Sotelo
Administrative Assistant

Walter came to First Unitarian in 1998. He oversees all financial aspects of the church, maintains the database, and provides technical office support. He is originally from El Salvador and has lived in Providence since he was 14. He has two daughters.

assist@firstunitarianprov.org



Jennifer Nardone
Membership Coordinator

Jenn has been attending First Unitarian since 2000 with her husband Jon, and their two sons. She has served on the Membership Committee for as long as she can remember. Jenn has also taught in the Church School, participates in a Chalice Circle, and volunteers when she can with her son at the Food Pantry.

mem@firstunitarianprov.org



Frederick Jodry
Music Director

Fred began his work at First Unitarian in 2000. He holds a BA in Organ Performance Music and a Masters in Early Music Performance from New England Conservatory. He is founder and director of the A cappella ensemble *Schola Cantorum of Boston*. He has been the Director of Choral Activities at Brown University since 1991 and is a harpsichordist, organ recitalist and singer. Fred lives in Providence.

fred_jodry@brown.edu



Marcia Taylor
Youth Music Director

Marcia encourages music making for all, describing herself as a 'musical midwife.' She is a singer, composer, writer and performer, and provides musical leadership at Youth Chapel, and also for Joyful Noise, an all-ages singing ensemble. Marcia teaches performing arts at Lincoln School.

mdt.renn@gmail.com



Jaime Durango
Building Manager M-F

Jamie has been with the church since 2001. He is in charge of all maintenance of the Meeting House and the Parish House as well as daytime security. Originally from Colombia, he lives in Pawtucket with his wife and two college-age children.



Pedro Vasquez
Sunday Building Manager and Evening Security

Pedro has been with the church since 2009. He is married with grown children and lives in Pawtucket.

Affiliated Community Ministers

Ministers who perform creative and inspirational ministries beyond the walls of a UU congregation.



Rev. Gwendolyn Howard
Community Minister

Gwen is a Unitarian Universalist minister who has served congregations in Illinois and Central New York. She teaches business ethics as well as maintaining a small private practice as a clinical social worker. She provides pulpit support to First Unitarian and other congregations, and spends her free time practicing the tuba.

gwendolynhoward@gmail.com



Rev. Eugene Dyszlewski
Community Minister

Gene is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. He is a religious leader and community activist.

edyszlewski@cox.net

Sources of News & Information

First Unitarian produces several publications to keep the community informed about news, opportunities, activities, and changes in scheduled programs.

The Church Newsletter

The monthly **online** newsletter is published from September to June by church staff and volunteers, with a summer edition issued mid-June. It announces the month's Sunday services, features commentaries by the Minister, President, and Director of Religious Education, and describes recent and upcoming events. Receiving the newsletter electronically is an effort to be greener. Email notification is sent when the monthly issue is posted on our website. If you do not have access to the internet, please call the church office for assistance.

The Meeting House Times

An insert in each Sunday morning's order of service, The MHT is produced weekly during the regular church year. It includes announcements of activities for that day and for the week or two ahead. The MHT is also attached to a weekly "This Sunday" email message that is sent to the congregation from the office.

RE News

Weekly e-messages sent to volunteer teacher teams, *RE Times*, relay the nuts and bolts and themes in the Spiritual Pathways Program for Children and Youth.

Monthly e-messages to parents offer information and inspiration about themes and UU parenting.

The Church Website

The church website provides general information about the church, its staff, and programs, as well as postings of the newsletter and recent sermons.

www.firstunitarianprov.org

The Congregational Directory

An annual e-directory of staff and church members is sent through the office by request.

Facebook



Our Facebook page is loaded with updates, useful links, photos, and more!

Type **First Unitarian Providence**, in the search box and "like" us.

Standing on the Side of Love (SSL) has a Facebook page:

Standing on the Side of Love at First Unitarian, Providence

Accessibility

Visitor & Handicap Parking Spaces

Available in our lot in marked spaces next to the building & across from the Parish House.

Hearing Enhancement Devices

Available in the Meeting House – ask Ushers.

Large Print Hymnals

Available in the Meeting House – ask Ushers.

Gender Neutral Bathroom

Located on the Parish House second floor accessible via elevator or stairs.

Wheelchair Access

Meeting House & Parish House.



Accessible Bathrooms

Located in the Parish House.

The First Unitarian Church of Providence Resource Book 2017-2018

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Monday - Friday 9:00a to 5:00p

Closed: National & State Holidays

December 26 - Jan 2, 2018

Summer Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00a to 4:00p

Closed: July 23 - August 6, 2018

Welcome



Our Covenant

We,

the members of the
First Unitarian Church
of Providence,
with respect for the worth
and dignity of each person,
with wonder at the light we
know by many names,
and with gratitude for our
deep connection to each
other and to the larger
web of existence,
covenant to walk together
in our search for truth,
seeking the paths of wisdom,
compassion and justice.

adopted 2010



Welcome to the First Unitarian Church of Providence and to this the beginning of the church year as we all embark on a new, shared ministry. First Unitarian has just celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Meeting House; in a couple of years we will celebrate the 300th birthday of the congregation. This church lives at the junction of history and the present day. The community honors the long sweep of history this church has been part of, and at the same time people are very focused on the justice and faith issues of these days in which we live. These qualities, rich history and a vital present, two sides of the same coin, are surely going to shape our evolution in this era we serve together.

This year will be a time for us to get to know each other, to learn how to work and serve together, to discover each others' strengths and also to learn where we can help each other. The year before us will be one of unfolding and growing together – I am so glad to be with you all and hope this year will offer many opportunities to get to know each and every one of you.

So much good work will be continuing – Harvest the Power leadership development, work on the Meeting House that was made possible by the very successful campaign last year. Sanctuary Church plans are developing, along with other ongoing justice work and adult programs. We're introducing ministry themes that will help align our worship and religious education experiences. These themes don't dictate any aspect of church life, rather they offer touchstones to help ground the year as we move through it. We'll begin in September with Welcome and Faith as the themes we're exploring over the course of the month.

Surely the year before us also holds experiences and opportunities we don't know of yet, much as we cast our eyes and energies forward. I am very glad to be with you, and looking forward so deeply to this year and all those to follow. See you in church.

– the Reverend Elizabeth Lerner Maclay



Welcome to a congregation that holds fresh opportunities to leap into our ministry for all ages. This year, coordinated worship and faith development themes will provide anchors and sails for creating connections, empowering passions, discovering pathways and acting for justice to transform the world. We live in a time that calls us to both resist and love. Adults, youth and children can find resources in our faith community to balance deep reflection and care for one another, with learning ways to co-create a world that actively dismantles intersectional oppressions.

I hope you will find connections and meaningful relationships here. There will be experiential, innovative programming to inspire Unitarian Universalist spiritual development and an active family ministry that is relevant and accessible.

I look forward to a vibrant shared ministry team partnership with our new settled minister, Liz Lerner Maclay and our seasoned staff, in service to this congregation and beyond.

– Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education

New Beginnings



Welcome to the First Unitarian Church of Providence, its historic Meeting House and its welcoming congregation, committed to a liberal faith tradition,

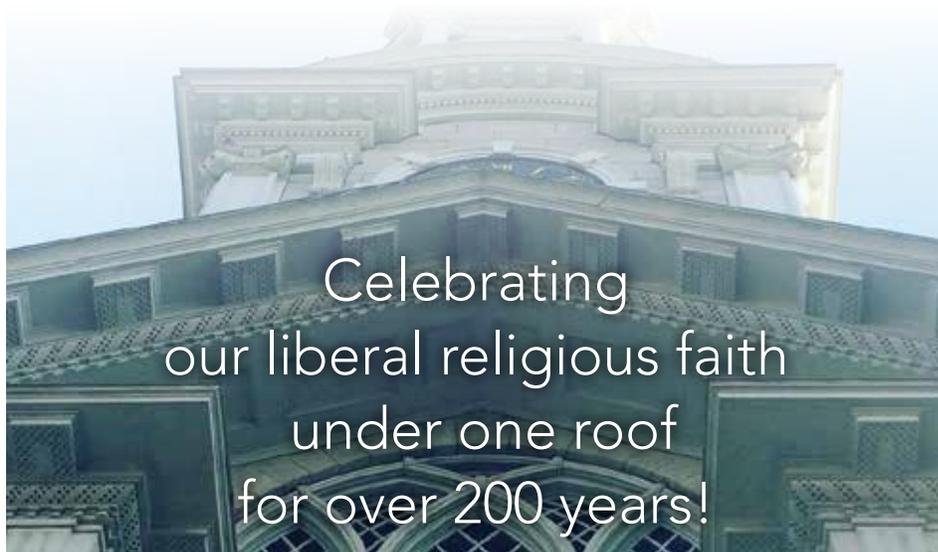
ongoing social justice outreach, and the inherent worth and dignity of all persons.

2017 will be a year of new beginnings.

Liz Lerner Maclay will become the 18th minister, bringing fresh ideas and perspectives to a congregation who voted overwhelmingly to call her. Our ministerial staff, will continue to provide innovative and inspiring direction to our spiritual life as our skilled office staff continue to provide guidance and assistance in addressing our operational needs.

New beginnings, indeed. Moving forward in support of Unitarian Universalist principles, the Prudential Committee will implement our vote to become a Sanctuary Church, the first in Rhode Island. Our Social Justice ministry will begin a concerted effort to collaborate with neighboring faith-based communities on projects. We are initiating a legacy gifting program to bring long term financial stability to the church. A communications team has been established to facilitate a communications strategy plan; a new technology team has been created to inventory and upgrade our technology. The remarkable Capital Campaign team has begun Meeting House renovations. Finally, the Church will continue to offer a variety of enriching programs- to engage and educate our members looking for opportunities to learn or serve. I welcome your involvement in any and all aspects of the new year. Challenging times, exciting times. The carousel has begun to spin; reach out and grab the brass ring!

– Jay Glasson
President, Prudential Committee



Our Mission

The First Unitarian Church of Providence is a safe harbor that welcomes liberal religious seekers. With intention, energy, commitment and love, the people of this diverse faith community gather to:

- Replenish and expand the spirit and the mind throughout life's journey
- Honor each other's gifts and minister to each other, and
- Transform shared values into action in the world.

The Congregation ~ Past, Present, Future

Today, The First Unitarian Church of Providence serves over 600 children, youth and adults. The congregation draws from Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts communities. We are a growing, healthy faith community that seeks and welcomes newcomers.

The church is governed within a system of congregational polity. An elected board, the Prudential Committee, oversees church operations in collaboration with the minister and professional staff. This year, we welcome Reverend Elizabeth Lerner Maclay as the 18th called minister.

The church traces its beginnings to 1720, when a small group of Congregationalists began inviting visiting ministers from Massachusetts to preach in Providence. The congregation erected its first meeting house in 1723 and called its first minister in 1728. In 1795, land was purchased at the corner of Benefit and Benevolent streets and a second house of worship was built; it was destroyed by fire in 1814. The third and present Meeting House was built on the same site and completed in 1816. Designed by Rhode Island architect and member John Holden Greene, it is on the national register of historic places. The congregation formally affiliated with the Unitarian movement in America in the 1820s. In 1953, the congregation voted to change the name to The First Unitarian Church of Providence.

We are a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, New England Region, which serves approximately 1,000 UU churches in the United States. Unitarian Universalism is a liberal living tradition with Jewish-Christian roots. It is a covenantal faith with no creed, that affirms the worth of all people and the interconnected web of all existence, committed to being an open, supportive, multi-cultural, anti-oppressive community.

Sundays

Sharing Worship, Wisdom & Coffee!



The Minister, Religious Educator, Music Director and Youth Music Director work with common themes and sources to create and deliver meaningful Sunday morning worship services for all ages.

In the Meeting House

Meeting House Services: 10:30a

Sundays, September 10, 2017 - June 10, 2018

Summer Services: 10:00a

Sundays, June 17, 2018 - September 2, 2018

Our worship draws wisdom from a variety of spiritual traditions, creating lively, meaningful gatherings. Our Minister, Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay leads most services with occasional guest worship leaders. Music plays a central role in worship. Our Music Director, Fred Jodry, creates a varied and inspiring musical program, performed by our volunteer choir and by Fred and guest musicians.

A Year of Seasons, Celebrations & Rites of Passage

Multigenerational Worship

Our worship year is a blend of adult and multigenerational services. Multigenerational services are co-led by Cathy Seggel, our Director of Religious Education. Like adults, children learn spiritual practice by experience. Young people are valued and welcomed as they participate in services; and young people also respect adult needs in the Meeting House. The goal is to create a peaceful, lively atmosphere, child-friendly and comfortable for all ages.



Be involved on Sundays

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee works with the Minister to foster our shared worship experience, and is responsible for planning and hosting Summer Services.

Contact: Neil Bartholomew, ngbart@gmail.com



Ushers



Ushers greet congregants, distribute orders of service, answer questions, and assist with special needs, they collect the offering and take attendance. Everyone is invited to share in this welcoming experience.

Contact: Lyn Bradford, lbavery@gmail.com

Celebration Flowers

Flowers bring our pulpit to life each week. If you would like to donate flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact our Flower coordinator. Donors are acknowledged in the order of service.

Contact: Jacqui Nye, funjac@hotmail.com

Music Committee

The committee recruits choir members, assures maintenance of the organ and other instruments, acts as a resource for the music program for children and youth, assists with provision of music and musicians for Summer Services, maintains the hymnal collection, formulates the music budget, and facilitates special fundraising.



Sunday Office Volunteer

A volunteer staffs the main office on Sunday from 10:00a to 12:00p to provide assistance.





*This is a church of open minds,
helping hands and loving hearts,
to nurture your spirit and help heal our world.*

In Chapel & Classrooms



Worship for young people is the anchor of our Spiritual Pathways Program, blending time in church and chapel with adults, children, and youth. Most Sundays, young people, Pre K to 7th grade, worship in the auditorium chapel. Chapel services are created and led by our Director of Religious Education, Cathy Seggel, and Youth Music Director, Marcia Taylor. Themes are drawn from the common threads of our shared ministry with a focus on faith development through a multicultural, anti-oppression lens and integrate music, art, meditation, stories, celebrations, and listening in interactive rituals. Young people worship together in the Meeting House for multigenerational services on holidays and at other important times.

During the school year, there is a comprehensive faith development program for children and youth from infancy through early adulthood; this Spiritual Pathways program is in session from 10:30a to 12:00p most Sundays. In the summer, a program for young children is provided each Sunday.



In the Parish House

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour in the Parish House after each Sunday service is a time for fellowship. Snacks supplementing the coffee/tea service are provided by members and friends in the congregation. Six to eight volunteer providers are needed each Sunday. Sign up at the Baker's Table in the front parlor during Coffee Hour.

Our Shared Ministry

First Unitarian embraces the notion that the professional minister, religious educator, music directors, administrator, membership coordinator, staff, and congregants are all essential contributors to the health and growth of the congregation in a shared ministry. In addition to Sunday worship services throughout the year, the mission of the church and its activities are organized around four ministries, as described in this Resource Book:

Spiritual Development (see pages 8 - 15)

Lifelong Religious Education, nursery to adults

Community Life and Heritage (see pages 16 - 18)

Connections within the congregation and community

Social Justice (see pages 19 - 21)

Values into Action for our community and beyond

Stewardship (see pages 22 - 23)

Health and Growth of our Congregation

All are welcome and encouraged to participate. There are many opportunities waiting for you!

For Newcomers, Visitors & Guests Welcome!

We offer these opportunities to help you navigate congregational life and to make connections.

Newcomers' Café



Join us in the paneled parlor, a welcoming space for those new to our UU congregation. Church members and staff help to facilitate informal connections and provide information about the church. The Café is held in the Parish House Paneled Parlor, behind the fireplace, during coffee hour at 11:30a, following the service. All are welcome.

Guest registry and Newcomer forms tell us you'd like to know more about our congregation and make further connections. Find them at the Welcome tables and the Newcomers' Café.

Greeters wearing colorful rainbow scarves are available to meet newcomers and answer questions before worship at building entrances and during Coffee Hour.

Purple/Blue mugs at the coffee and tea stations indicate that you're new or would welcome being approached for conversation and connecting.

Guest/visitor name tags are encouraged and help us get to know you.

We are a UUA Welcoming Congregation



We extend a warm welcome to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender & queer (LGBTQ) individuals, families, and communities. We promote acceptance, inclusion, understanding, and equity.

Membership



About Membership and Support of the Church

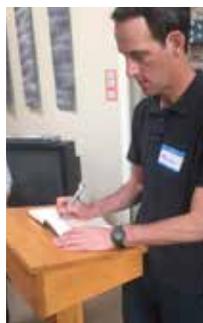
Membership Coordinator, Jennifer Nardone

Why become a member?

Becoming a member means that you have chosen First Unitarian Church of Providence as your faith community. As members, we enter into a covenantal bond to be present to one another, to help each other by learning and engaging in this place where we can grow, and participate in creating a faith community through the available opportunities. There are many ways to take part in the community outlined in this resource book. Members steer the priorities of the church: they vote on the budget, elect church officers, call new ministers, and chair committees. Members are eligible to have rites of passage (e.g. child dedications, weddings, memorial services) in the church by the minister, can rent building space at a discounted rate, receive UU World magazine and serve as delegates to the UU General Assembly.

Are You UU?

What are the requirements of full voting membership?



- Voting members must be over sixteen years old
- Have signed our membership book
- Have made (within the past 12 months) a contribution of record.

Although there is no required amount mandated, all members are expected to make an annual contribution to support the work of the church. During our annual Budget Drive in the spring, members and friends are asked to commit to as generous a pledge as they are able to for the coming year and encouraged to participate in church life by sharing their time, energy, and talents.

Path to Membership Class

The Path to Membership class is for anyone interested in membership at First Unitarian. It offers insights into Unitarian Universalism and our congregation. The class is highly recommended, however not required to become a voting member. Classes will be offered at least three times this church year. There will be scheduled sessions offered in the fall, winter, and spring. Dates will be posted in all church communications, or contact the membership coordinator. At the end of each class, there will be an opportunity to sign the membership book and to make a financial pledge of support to the congregation.

To register for a class contact Jennifer Nardone, mem@firstunitarianprov.org or call the office, 401.421.7970





PROGRAMS & COMMITTEES

Spiritual Pathway Team
*Religious Education Committee
for Children & Youth*
Spiritual Pathways Program
Joyful Noise Community Music

FOR YOUNG ADULTS
Campus UU's
Young Members Group

FOR ADULTS
Adult Religious Education
Worship Committee
Music Committee
Sunday Pulpit Flowers
Chalice Circles
Deacons (*see page 24*)

Spiritual Development Ministry

The Spiritual Development Ministry offers a nurturing community that facilitates a lifelong journey of Unitarian Universalist faith development through communal worship, music, religious education, and spiritual practices.



Contact the Prudential Committee Liaison for Opportunities to Get Involved:

Cynthia Roberts: cynthia.roberts70@gmail.com

- Volunteer team-teach for children, youth or adults
- Mentor an 8th grade Coming Of Ager
- College Student? Check out a Campus UU meeting
- Join a Joyful Noise performance - children, youth & adults welcome
- Join an ongoing Chalice Circle
- Adult choir (try outs and ability to sight-read music required)
- Propose or lead an adult faith development program
- Usher or Donate flowers for a Sunday Service



How Cooperative Sunday School Works

Worship & Music for Young People

Worship for young people is the anchor of our program, blending time in church and chapel. Adults, children, and youth worship together in the Meeting House for multi-generational services on holidays and other important times. Young people begin with adults in church on appropriate occasions, leaving for classrooms with teachers. On most Sundays, young people worship in the Parish House auditorium chapel. Chapel services are created and led by our Director of Religious Education and Youth Music Director. Themes focus on faith development and introduce UU spiritual practices from many sources, integrating the arts, meditation, stories, celebrations, and listening.



Joyful Noise Community Music

Joyful Noise, led by Marcia Taylor, creates inclusive, all-age musical sharing opportunities for young people's chapel and for multigenerational services in the Meeting House. Community Band and Senior Choir join in the fun.

Marcia works with classroom teachers to integrate music and other performing arts across the religious education curriculum. Contact: *Marcia Taylor, Youth Music Director*
mdt.renn@gmail.com

All aspects of the Religious Education program for children and youth are implemented through contributions of time and energy from about 100 generous volunteers. Parents choose how they will help when registering children in September. Non-parent adult volunteers welcome.

The Spiritual Pathways Team - The Religious Education Committee for Children & Youth
The Religious Education Committee holds congregational responsibility for the program for children and youth. Up to nine members each serve three-year terms. They meet monthly during the academic year and support education and congregational gatherings.

Volunteer Teachers

Volunteer teachers on teams of four or more are guided in facilitating meaningful connections and experiences with our young people. Rituals and creative opportunities through the arts, sharing of food, and peaceful time together are considered priorities here amidst our hurried world.

Young People

Young people are valued members of our congregation, bringing enthusiasm and gifts to our community. The expectation is that children and youth come with a willingness to be themselves and to share in a safe, welcoming, supportive atmosphere.

Parents

Parents are responsible for the supervision of their children at all times other than class hours. Parents must remain on church grounds while children participate in all programs.

Parents are the primary religious educators for their children. It is important that children and youth attend regularly to develop a sense of belonging. Parents are encouraged to introduce themselves to teachers, putting down roots in the congregation by getting involved, meeting other families, sharing their interests and concerns so that the religious educator and the minister may be more effective in ministering to their family.

Cost

Our program has no fees. Funding comes from the church operating budget. We encourage families to become voting members of the congregation, generously contributing to the annual budget. For info on how to become a member, see page 7, or contact any staff in the church office.

The Director of Religious Education (D.R.E.)

Cathy Seggel, provides leadership and acts as a spiritual resource for the community. She is responsible for planning and leading the program and worship for children and youth, providing staff support and guidance in adult faith development. She works collaboratively with the Minister, staff, and lay leadership to fulfill the congregation's mission and goals.

The R.E. Assistant

The R.E. Assistant, (part-time staff) provides support for the Spiritual Pathways Program, supporting the D.R.E. including administrative tasks, communications, resource management and worship and other Sunday morning responsibilities.

The Minister

Reverend Liz Lerner Maclay provides spiritual leadership, vision, pastoral care, guidance, and teaching to the entire congregation. She works collaboratively with the D.R.E., other professional staff and lay leadership to fulfill the congregation's mission and goals.

The Youth Music Director

Youth Music Director, Marcia Taylor, works collaboratively with the D.R.E., Music Director & Minister. She is an advocate for music in the RE program and in the congregation at large. She selects, leads, and teaches songs in young people's worship services and directs *Joyful Noise Community Music*.



Policies and Procedures

Safety is a priority in our community of children, youth, and adults. The D.R.E. and committee are committed to establishing congregational best practices: they conduct annual evacuation drills with volunteer teachers, have instituted a code of ethics, background checks, and safety education for volunteer teachers and staff.

Policies are summarized, below. Complete policy information is given to families at registration and is available through the church office.

Arrival and Departure

Parents must remain on church property at all times while children and youth participate in all church programs. Special arrangements must be made ahead of time with the Director of Religious Education. Guidelines for each age group for drop off and pick-up on Sunday mornings are communicated with parents at registration and posted in all classrooms.

Guests

Guests of registered students are welcome, and must submit a guest slip to teachers before visiting.

Health Issues

In order to promote and maintain a healthy environment for our multigenerational community, people with a fever, active cough/cold symptoms, or any sign of infectious disease should remain at home. Basic first aid is provided for accidents. Parents are informed of any injury or illness. A Bathroom Policy for Assisting Young Children is posted in rooms.

There is a NO NUTS policy in all classrooms.

Special Needs

We welcome all children and youth, including those with special needs and make every effort to accommodate everyone. All parents are asked to share children's strengths and weaknesses with volunteer teachers so that various learning styles can be honored. Parents of children with special needs should discuss arrangements for accommodations with the D.R.E.

Childcare for Congregational Events

Childcare is available for most adult events. Information for the sponsoring committee, staff or congregational leader regarding safety issues of sign-in, caregiver expectations, compensation and procedural support is available in the church office.

Conduct

We recognize that people come to our congregation with a variety of emotional, cognitive, medical, and social issues impacting their lives and involvement in our community. We promote respectful and civil behavior among all participants in our programs. People of all ages are expected to behave in a safe and respectful manner toward others at all times. Behavioral guidelines and promises are explained, posted, and promoted in all classrooms and maintained at all R.E. events. Teachers and group leaders are asked to inform the Director of Religious Education or Minister when they are concerned about a person's behavior or emotional state in the classroom and seek assistance immediately if the behavior is deemed to pose a safety risk to anyone. The D.R.E. and Minister abide by their professional codes of practice. All teachers and staff must sign and uphold the First Unitarian Church of Providence Code of Ethics and have an annual RI background check.



A Behavior Covenant

In the Spiritual Pathways Program, children and youth reaffirm these promises with their teachers each year.

We take turns so that all have a chance to speak and participate in activities.

We listen to one another. We don't call people names or interrupt when someone else is talking.

We speak up and get help when we notice someone being treated unfairly. We take turns and share snacks and supplies, leaving something for the next person. We show that we care when someone is hurt.

We participate in group activities to the best of our abilities. We help new people. We apologize when we have not treated someone the way we would like to be treated.

We encourage everyone to share their thoughts and feelings. We listen to others and ask questions to help discover what is true and right. We support asking questions and exploring the things that have meaning for each person, without judging or making fun.

Church members vote for leaders and on important decisions, including what social justice and community projects to work on and how the church's budget money is spent.

We settle our disagreements in honest, caring, peaceful ways. We do not bring dangerous items to church, or play in violent ways, like fighting or pushing. Using hurtful words or talking meanly about others is not allowed. We respect what belongs to the church or other people and don't destroy or damage anything.

We recycle all possible products, reuse supplies, and reduce energy consumption. We do not waste food or supplies. We help keep our classrooms and church clean and safe.



Spiritual Pathways Program for Children & Youth

The Spiritual Pathways Program supports and inspires Unitarian Universalist faith formation through creating connections, empowering passions and discovering pathways for personal transformation and to serve the world.

The Five Faith Skills

Foundational to our program

Cultivating Spiritual Practices

Navigating the UU Sources

Articulating Your Faith

Worshipping with your Life

Serving the World

Themes

Overarching Themes for each age group help guide our path.



Newborns - Kindergarten:
Welcoming Love



1st - 5th grades:
Exploring Community



6th - 8th grades:
Creating Connections



9th - 12th grades:
Empowering Passion



Campus & Young Adults:
Discovering Pathways



Adults - Seniors:
Supporting Lifelong Learning & Transitions

I am grateful to my colleague, Tim Atkins for sharing his work in adapting concepts from "Think Orange" by Reggie Joiner for use in our UU context that has informed my work. Cathy

A Message from the Spiritual Pathways Team

The Religious Education Committee for Children & Youth

Welcome to Spiritual Pathways, our faith development community for children, from infancy through high school and continuing into young adulthood. We seek to provide young people with a secure, nurturing environment in which to explore their spirituality and grow their UU faith.

The R.E. Committee works closely with Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education (DRE), to evolve, plan, and implement the program, drawing from UUA curricula and other resources. Cathy, staff assistants, and committee members collaborate with volunteer teachers to execute, assess, and advocate for the program.

This year we will build on recent innovations, refining effective messaging about themes and focus areas for all ages (see Faith Skills & Themes). We will further incorporate multi-age happenings to forge and nurture connections between children and adults, crossing traditional grade divisions. We plan more multi-age events, including interactive and reflective experiences of justice-making, music, rhythm, movement and visual arts.

As we build on our past, we welcome our new settled minister and look forward to embracing the next phase of our shared ministry, with more cross-generational connections and communication. We will continue helping join families in community with multigenerational sing-alongs, family breakfasts and ongoing social justice projects.

Throughout this time of evolution, we maintain our central focus of enriching the spiritual growth and UU identity of our children and youth through rich curriculum, including social responsibility and justice.

We are looking forward to a great spiritual pathways year!

Ellen Anderson & Meghan Smith, Co-Chairs

Co-Chairs: Ellen Anderson & Meghan Smith, RE Committee: Sarah Cappelli, Alison Green, Erin Newell, Shana Vanderweele Ortman, Elizabeth Roche, and Rachel Spaulding

Youth Representative: Adele Andrews

REGISTRATION begins on Homecoming Sunday, September 10, beginning at 10:00a.

Registration forms are also available through the church office and on the website.

All students – returning as well as new – must be enrolled each year!

TIME AND ATTENDANCE: Groups meet from 10:30a to noon. A light snack is served.

Regular attendance is strongly recommended to support community building.

TEACHERS AND CLASSROOMS: Volunteer teacher lists are available at registration and by contacting Cathy. Room assignments for classes will be confirmed in September.



Welcoming Love

Newborns - K

Goals: Loving and welcoming ourselves.
Loving each other and our church home.
Loving our world/earth.

Origins Playcircle: Newborns–3 years

Location: Ocean Room (second floor)

For Babies: A loving, safe environment, staffed by experienced childcare providers for sharing stories and gentle playing. Please bring bottles, diapers and personal comfort items. Parents welcome and may assist.

For Younger Preschoolers: The Celebrating Me and My World curriculum serves as a guide as children grow a sense of trust and caring.

Staff: Sally Ann Diorio, Coordinator

Karen Barbato, Rosemary Marra, Doreen Coleman



Pre-K 4-5 years - Chalice Children

Location: Earth Room (second floor)

Children are encouraged to use their minds, bodies, and emotions to develop a sense of identity and self-esteem within their UU community and their world. There are songs, games, crafts, and free play.

Kindergarten - Creating Home

Location: Sky Room (second floor)

The *Creating Home* curriculum helps develop a sense of welcoming, grounded in faith and a place of belonging. Children explore sacredness, hospitality and loving relationships that home can represent, learning respect for one another and connection with the congregation. They help with the congregation's Mitten Tree project.



Exploring Community

1st - 5th grade

Goals: Exploring our stories. Exploring our UU principles and sources Exploring our heritage and values.

First Grade - Treasure Hunting

Location: Peace Room (second floor)

Treasure Hunting explores the UU Principles as an expression of the shared values of our faith tradition, helping children create an atmosphere that encourages a sense of reverence, awe, gratitude, and wonder. Includes games, stories, songs, and crafts. Discovered treasures are saved in class and in individual treasure chests.



Second Grade - Free to Believe

Location: Chalice Room (second floor)

The curriculum explores values, beliefs, and what it means to be Unitarian Universalist, nurturing children's emotional, social, and spiritual life. It examines some of life's big questions through the perspective of our UU sources, encouraging spiritual exploration, feelings, and practices.



Third Grade - Moral Tales

Location: Sun Room (third floor)

The Moral Tales curriculum explores spiritual and ethical beliefs, moral values and spiritual practices reflective of UU values, needed to make choices and take actions. Children begin to build a personal moral compass that can transform individuals and the complex world. Stories draw from UU sources, portraying dilemmas and paths to justice through cultural & religious lenses.

Fourth Grade - Timeless Themes

Location: Unity Room (third floor)

The timeless themes of the Hebrew and Christian Bibles are explored as important windows into myth, religious thought and world views. Using *Bibleodeon* and other resources, other resources, young people learn that Biblical ideas and references are common in literature, art, music, and politics, today, and that UU's draw wisdom from many sources, including these historical texts.

Fifth Grade - Toolbox of Faith

Location: Star Room (third floor)

The *Toolbox of Faith* curriculum is a resource that invites participants to explore and reflect on qualities of our UU faith such as integrity, courage, and love as tools to use in living their lives and in building their faith. It helps teach our UU traditions to middle-schoolers and their teachers. This group traditionally sponsors our RI Buy Nothing Day Coat Drive effort.



Creating Connections

6th - 8th grade

Goals: Creating interfaith communication, connection and partnership. Creating loving, courageous and mindful leaders. Creating healthy identities, and relationships.

Sixth & Seventh Grades - *Our Living Tradition/Building Bridges*

Location: Moon Room (third floor)

This combined class focuses on UU faith & youth leadership development with opportunities to sort out feelings about themselves and current world issues. Building on learning in Neighboring Faiths, we will blend content, trips, and guests to educate participants about their multi-faith community, creating connections between the youth, the larger congregation, their UU identity, and neighboring faith traditions. The goal is to help young people discover their beliefs about life's big questions, think independently, make responsible decisions and adopt a practice of radical hospitality. Some UU history, polity and theology as foundations for connecting to our living tradition. They serve as Worship Associates for chapel services and assist in congregational social justice efforts.



Eighth Grade - *Coming of Age*

Location: Haynes Room (first floor)

Students transitioning to senior high and the next stage of their spiritual journeys are helped to clarify their faith development on the way to becoming lifelong Unitarian Universalists. They explore religious heritage and personal beliefs through group and individual experiences. The themes: relationships, spiritual exploration, UU heritage and identity, and social responsibility are developed through *Our Whole Lives (OWL)* comprehensive sexuality curriculum and social justice efforts. Adult mentors from the congregation provide support and friendship. There is a spring trip to Boston UUA headquarters and a recognition ceremony, when participants share faith statements and affirm their beliefs. Detailed information sent to families in August. A required parent orientation is scheduled in early fall.



Empowering Passion

9th - 12th grade

Goals: Empowering youth leadership to take their place in our faith community. Supporting and partnering with teens as they move forward on their lifelong spiritual journey.

Senior High Youth Group (Ninth–Twelfth Grades)

Location: Parish House Basement

The Youth Group uses UUA curricula and other sources to explore the nature and meaning of their evolving spirituality. On their paths to adulthood, youth are encouraged to have an intentional role in the congregation and their communities. Youth and advisors share leadership responsibilities, goal setting, and support. Participation in regional and denominational events is encouraged. Youth have opportunities to co-lead and participate in many congregational activities and actions.



A highlight of the year is the creation of the annual Senior High Youth Group led service, presented to the congregation in the spring, with recognition of seniors, bridging to the adult community.



Discovering Pathways

Campus &

Young Adult Ministry

Goals: Discovering friendships in faith community, Discovering opportunities for congregational connection, leadership, service, worship and fun.

Campus UU's - BUUUG

Brown University

Unitarian Universalist Group

Brown University Unitarian Universalist Group offers college-agers from diverse backgrounds a place to find friendship and to explore their spiritual journeys in a faith community. Students from Brown, RISD, and other neighboring colleges, as well as all young adults in the region, are welcome. Group members attend and participate in worship services, social action and more. They meet weekly in the Parish House. Activities include fireside worship, games, multi-faith forums, parties, trips, and overnights. Everyone is encouraged to help with ideas and planning. Lovingly nicknamed BUUUG, this UU campus group is co-affiliated with First Unitarian and the Office of the Chaplain & Religious Life at Brown.

*Student Facilitators: Kim Meilun & Elias Ellison
Advisor/Brown Religious Life Affiliate: Cathy Seggel*



Young Members Group

There is great potential for various gatherings of younger members, beyond undergraduate college age. Some might include social events, social action efforts, study and support. All church programs, interest groups, committees and task forces are welcoming to young adult participation. This group gathers for activities, at church and off-site at local spots. Stay tuned to church publications for kick-off gathering and other updates.

Contacts: Erin Newell

Email: FirstUSocial@gmail.com for announcements about social gatherings, Young Adult RE opportunities and more!



Adult Religious Education: Supporting Lifelong Learning & Transitions

The goal of adult faith development is to support opportunities for spiritual growth, foster a sense of community in and beyond the congregation, explore issues of social justice through a multicultural, anti-oppressive lens, enrich and expand intellectual horizons, develop and encourage creativity, and have fun. Limited-session & ongoing programs are offered. Program updates are posted in church communications. Programs meet in the Parish House.

Contact: Minister, Reverend Liz Lerner Maclay or Cathy Seggel, DRE

Ongoing Programs

Mindful Grieving Group

Mindful Grieving was launched in response to the needs of members in our community who were grieving over recent and/or long term losses. Several congregant-leaders have contributed their gifts as the program has evolved. Currently, eight week groups are held periodically throughout the year in which participants come together to share their feelings in a safe, supportive environment. Please call the church office for more information.



Chalice Circles

Twice monthly

Chalice Circles, a Small Group Ministry program, fulfills the need for intimacy and spiritual growth within our larger faith community. Eight to ten people enhance connections and provide an avenue for religious growth and spiritual meaning. Church members, trained as facilitators lead the conversation. Groups share a common format: chalice lighting, check in, sharing of responses to a topic or a reading, check out, and closing. Members develop a covenant for how they will relate to each other and to the larger community. Most Circles meet twice a month for two hours in the Parish House or in a member's home. Members are asked to commit to eight or ten sessions.

A Chalice Circle sampler is offered in September to explore and sign up.

The Chalice Circle steering committee plan, promote, and oversee the Chalice Circle program. They recruit, train, and support church members as Small Group Ministry facilitators. Facilitators meet with the minister for their own Chalice Circle monthly.

Registrar: Janet Downing Taylor

Benevolent Street Zendo: An Ongoing Zen Meditation Group

Every Monday 7:00p

Leader: James Myosen Cordova, Sensei

The Benevolent Street Zendo is a meditation group jointly presented as an activity of our congregation and Boundless Way Zen. The community is an ongoing group offering meditation in the Zen tradition, Dharma talks and opportunities for spiritual direction. The sangha meets (nearly) every Monday evening starting at seven o'clock. Introductory instruction is encouraged and is offered promptly at six forty-five, please contact us through the website benevolentstreetzen@gmail.com or by calling 401-573-0881, so we are certain to be ready to greet you. The practice leaders are Cindy Bapties and George Beshers. Our resident teacher is James Myosen Cordova, Sensei. benevolentstreetzen.org, boundlesswayzen.org, benevolentstreetzen@gmail.com

Tai Chi

Every Tuesday 7:00p

Leader: Sean Connor, seanconnor@cox.net

Sean uses Tai Chi to improve balance and suppleness. Once the movements are adequately learned, Tai Chi can become a form of spiritual practice, which Sean enjoys thinking of as meditation in motion. Tai Chi is offered year round every Tuesday evening at 7. Each person may join the class at any time, because the movements are repeated in every class. Sean's feelings are never hurt by someone trying the class, and then dropping out. He always hopes you will drop in again.

Sustainable Compassion Practice

Every Wednesday 7:00p

Leader: Ken Bent, krbent108@gmail.com

This is a drop-in group, with guided meditations of wisdom, love and sustainable 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, within our relationships, and in our service to others. No previous meditation experience is required. However, Before attending, it will be helpful to visit our website listen to the practice on Identifying & Communing with Benefactors: <http://foundationforactivecompassion.org/audios-videos-texts>. You may email Ken with any questions about our practice group.

Reimagining Religion

Second & Forth Tuesdays Monthly 7:00p

Leader: Tom Hall, tw2nd@aol.com

In his autobiography, *Wrestling with God*, Lloyd Geering observes that the longevity of the Judeo-Christian theological tradition has resulted from its brilliant mythological description of the human condition. "But because we have now moved into a radically new age and express ourselves in a non-mythical medium," he argues, "it has now become necessary to enunciate a completely fresh world theology, drawing appreciatively from all religious traditions, the light of our new knowledge of the universe." 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 21st century.

UUMen

2nd Sundays September - June 7:00p

Contact: Steve McCloy, steven.mccloy43@gmail.com

UUMen has been meeting together for twenty-three years. We welcome men of all ages and stages in life. We help each other to deal creatively with the issues of being male in our culture. We meet to confront gender injustice, homophobia, racism, loneliness, and distrust between men, against women and children, themselves and the Earth. Unless otherwise announced, we meet in the Parish House in the Haynes Room. Monthly topics are defined by the facilitator. We rotate and share the role of facilitator. We enjoy occasional Saturday breakfasts and other social events.

All that we do as a congregation is part of our curriculum for all ages.

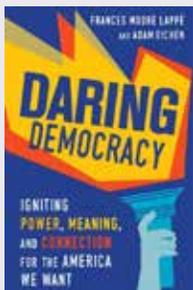
adapted from Maria Harris

Join the Common Read!

A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations.

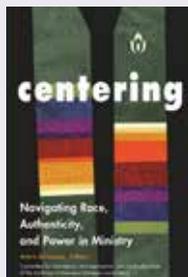
UUA Common Read 2017-18

A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. Unitarian Universalists must be prepared and willing to look inward, examining, exploring, and acting to dismantle white supremacy culture in our association, in our congregations and groups, and in ourselves. At the same time, we must be prepared and willing to look outward and act to lift up UU values in the political and civic challenges of our time. Two books have been chosen for this year's Common Read:



**Daring Democracy:
Igniting Power,
Meaning and
Connection for the
America We Want**
by Frances Moore Lappé
and Adam Eichen

**Centering: Navigating
Race, Authenticity,
and Power in Ministry**
edited by
Mitra Rahnema



Contact Cathy Seggel for interest in a Discussion Group

Limited-Session Programs

Five Wishes Program

Leaders: Shirley DiMatteo, Steve McCloy, Rich Rudert

Five Thursdays 7:00p September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26

Five Wishes is an advanced healthcare directive designed to facilitate end of life conversations and directives among any adult and their loved ones. It is America's most popular living will and meets legal requirements in 42 states, including RI. The sessions will be coordinated by members of The First Unitarian Care Crew.

To register contact Shirley DiMatteo, shirley.dimatteo@yahoo.com

Five Questions

Leaders: Steve McCloy & Mel Shelly

Six Thursdays 7:00p November 2, 9, 16, 30 December 7, 14

A lasting gift of grace from Rev. Charlie Ortman, we will explore these Five Questions as a guide for transformative spiritual reflection.

- What does it mean to be human?
- How do I know what I know?
- Who or what is in charge?
- What is the meaning of life?
- What is the meaning of death?

A workshop for the head and heart, engaging all who attend to articulate their understanding of self, purpose, meaning and connection, leading to a personal credo. All who have questions are welcome.

To register contact Mel Shelly, melshelly46@gmail.com

Harvest the Power

Leaders: Cynthia Rosengard, Cathy Seggel, Jay Glasson, Kimberli Gray, Peter Van Erp

Beginning late October

Many Unitarian Universalists experience a deepening commitment to their faith and congregation as a call to step into a position of leadership. Harvest the Power helps lay leaders grow in spirit as they develop as leaders. 12 workshops, weaving strands of spiritual, ethical and UU faith development offer opportunities for 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. Do you feel called to a deepening sense of identity and leadership here at First Unitarian? The exploration will begin with a dinner, then a Saturday retreat and then regularly scheduled sessions (TBA).

If interested contact Cynthia Rosengard, crosengard@gmail.com

Setting Free Your Inner Writer

Leader: Reverend Gwendolyn Howard

Tuesday, November 7 7:00p

It's not always easy to start writing. In this workshop, I'll be using some tools I developed over a couple of years leading a weekly writing group at the clinic I worked at, which are designed to help kindle (or rekindle) your creativity.

To register contact Cathy Seggel, dre@firstunitarianprov.org

Dismantling White Supremacy: Who are we? Where are we going?

Leaders: Tiffany Reed & Cathy Seggel

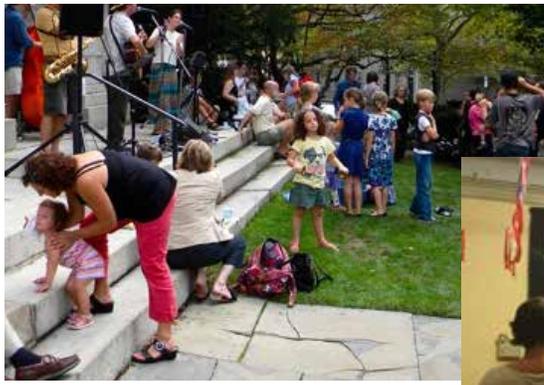
Interest Gathering Session this fall, TBA

There is much to learn about ourselves, our local culture and beyond, in order to do the ministry of anti-racism. We will draw on diverse readings and resources to inform our actions in working for justice.

If interested contact Cathy Seggel, dre@firstunitarianprov.org

PROGRAMS & COMMITTEES

All-Parish Supper
Caring Network
Membership Committee
History Committee
Transylvania Partner Church
Art Collective
Community Band
Atrium Bookstore
Coffee Hour Co-op
The Women's Alliance



Community Life & Heritage Ministry

The Community Life and Heritage Ministry develops and maintains a culture that fosters strong and authentic connections within the congregation and a sense of belonging to our larger community.



Contact the Prudential Committee Liaison for Opportunities to Get Involved:

Samantha Cole: scole1@gmail.com

- Parish Suppers - all are welcome
- Historical Tours of the Meeting House
- Caring Network Volunteers
- Join the Women's Alliance
- Provide baked goods for Coffee Hour
- Join the Community Band
- Take Part in the Art Collective - attend an Art Opening
- Learn about our Partner Church in Transylvania
- Be a Saturday Supper Host

Community Life & Heritage Programs

Additional events will be posted on the website, monthly newsletter & Sunday Meeting House Times. Unless otherwise noted, groups meet in the Parish House and registration is not required.



Atrium Bookstore

Open during Coffee Hour most Sundays, the Atrium Bookstore table offers books on a wide variety of subjects: Unitarian Universalism, inspiration, daily meditation, Buddhism, Bible studies, environmental concerns, children's stories, poetry, family life and rituals, and more. Recent titles from Skinner House, Beacon Press and Skylight Paths as well as the annual UUA Common Read project are available. Irene & Tony Allen make this possible. All profits benefit the church.



History Committee

Archiving the historical records of the church, the History Committee develops ways to share the nearly 300-year history of First Unitarian with the congregation. Past activities include the 200th anniversary celebration of the Meeting House (2016), an architectural tour of the Meeting House with pamphlet for self-guided tour, and a booklet and tour of First U's five-acre burial ground at Swan Point Cemetery. Proceeds from the sale of booklets, note cards, and photos during Coffee Hour help offset the costs of future publications. Interested church members and friends are welcome to join the History Committee as it plans for the 300th anniversary of the gathering of the congregation in 2020.

Contact: Janet Taylor Downing
jdtaylor39@verizon.net

All-Parish Supper

Friday evenings (usually the second) monthly, beginning September 15

These all-congregation, family-friendly suppers are held in the Parish House. The meal is potluck, and all participants are asked to bring an hors d'oeuvre, main dish, vegetable/salad, or dessert to share. Each supper is followed by a program. Reservations for the dinner are strongly requested.

Contact: Jim Estey, jestey@bryant.edu

First U Community Band

Our Community Band is an opportunity for people in this community to connect with one another through making music and song. Anyone who likes to play or sing is welcome. The idea is to play through some UU hymns, folk and roots music, spirituals, or songs with a positive social message with the goal of perhaps playing them in a church service once or twice a year.

Contact: Kate Bowden, kbowdenesq@gmail.com

First U Art Collective

Reflecting the arts and aesthetic vision of our creative community, the Art Collective coordinates individual artist and group exhibits monthly in the Atrium. Our hope is to support and nurture a healthy spiritual community by giving the gift of beauty and offering a window into an artist's visual sense of meaning and search for truth. Exhibitors are allowed to sell their pieces, giving 25% of the price of their sale as a donation to the church. Collective members pay a nominal fee to join.

Contact: Chiara Romano Van Erp, Jim Barfoot
romano-vanerp-design@cox.net

The Women's Alliance

Business meeting and program:

First Mondays, Oct - May, with June event

The Women's Alliance, established in 1882 and incorporated in 1904 has since 2014 been affiliated with the First Unitarian Church of Providence. The mission continues to be to serve the community, both locally and at large; to provide friendship and spiritual and cultural stimuli for its members, and to support the church and its denomination.

The Alliance meets on the first Monday of the month from October through May, with an annual outing in June. Monthly programs, which are open to everyone who is interested, feature inspiring speakers followed by a delicious catered luncheon (\$10). Membership dues (\$35) support the programs and business expenses of the Alliance; all fundraising profits after expenses benefit selected charitable organizations that support women and families.

The Alliance conducts fund-raisers throughout the year such as selling organic coffee, cheese and Easter desserts and producing an annual indoor yard sale. The Alliance also monitors the maintenance of the three parlors in the Parish House, provides a tea at nursing homes and partners with Tockwotton Courtyard Memory Unit residents for a garden project.

Contact: Nori Duncan, Alliance President
nori.duncan@gmail.com



Women's Alliance Coffee Hour Co-op

Coffee Hour is a cooperative congregational effort organized by the Women's Alliance. Never underestimate the power of delicious food for community spirit. In order to feed the ravenous crowd each Sunday, we need 8 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.



First Unitarian Caring Network

Taking care of one another is a spiritual practice. The Caring Network is one way of practicing. Everyone is part of the Caring Network at First U. We are a community; we are a family; we look after each other, guided by our seven principles. The Caring Network includes: The Care Crew, Phone Buddies, Deacons, Membership and The Women's Alliance, as well as The Mindful Grieving Group, The Chalice Circles, and The UUMen's Group (see p.14), AND all of us really.

The Care Crew assists members of the community facing illness, recuperation from surgery, and other needs. The 'Meal Train' provides meals, on a short term basis, to those who are ill, recovering from surgery, and have special family circumstances. The 'Meal Train' is composed of members of our congregation. The Care Crew assists with errands, rides, home visits, cards, and calls. Members warehouse medical supplies for people who have orthopedic needs, etc. for safety in homes and on our church campus.

Phone Buddies are those people who live alone and would like a daily contact to make sure of safety and well-being. Anyone can join Phone Buddies at any time if he/she would like to call and/or be called.

Through a member's generous donation, two Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) have been purchased and installed on the church campus. Several members have been Red Cross AED trained.

Please call the church office to make a request of the Caring Network or to volunteer.

Shirley DiMatteo, shirley.dimatteo@yahoo.com

Steve McCloy, steven.mccloy43@gmail.com

The Membership Committee

Focusing on congregational life, including welcoming newcomers, integrating new members, and building community, committee initiatives include the Greeters (rainbow scarf) Program, Newcomers' Café, the Path to Membership Classes, and sponsoring community events. All of these initiatives are in collaboration with the Membership Coordinator, who facilitates the welcoming, integration, and programming which contributes to the growth, development, and life of the church; bringing us together as a community through shared experiences.

Chair: Terri Smith

Staff: Jenn Nardone, Membership Coordinator
mem@firstunitarianprov.org



Transylvania Partner Church Committee

Part of the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council, we support partnership between First U and the Unitarian church in Szentegyhaza, Transylvania, currently a part of Romania. The kopjfa, or memorial post, in our meditation garden and the wooden chalice, used for our "Joys and Sorrows" ritual, are gifts from our partner church, made by woodworker members of their congregation. Through fundraising efforts our church helped fund the construction of the Szentegyhaza church bell tower and a loft apartment to house future visitors.

First Unitarian congregants traveled to Transylvania in 2006, 2012 and 2015 to further explore Transylvanian Unitarian history, celebrate our friendship, and strengthen ties.

Contacts: Tom Getz & Janet Downing Taylor
thomas1getz@prodigy.net



Social Events

Ice Cream Social

Sunday, September 24, 12:00p

Our annual Welcome back event on the front lawn with live music, friends, and sweet treats. Come connect with fellow First U'ers dance, clap and eat with us.

Annual First Unitarian Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 23, 1:00 - 4:00p

Members, friends, and their families are invited to join with other First Unitarians in our annual celebration of Thanksgiving in the church parlors.

Contact: Nori Duncan or Church Office

Winter Cook-Off

TBA

Put your culinary talents to the test, and see who in our congregation will get top honors at this year's food tasting extravaganza!

All Parish Picnic

Sunday, June 10, 12 noon

Celebrating the close of another church year. A gathering at India Point Park to picnic together, play games, and enjoy (if the weather cooperates) the outdoors.

For information contact Jenn Nardone,
mem@firstunitarianprov.org

Saturday Social Suppers - Be a Host!

A monthly Saturday evening pot-luck meal at one congregant's home for 8-18 people. Announced in church publications well in advance, each guest is asked to make a reservation and bring part of the meal. Newcomers welcome. To reserve or host contact the coordinator.

Contact: Shirley DiMatteo
shirley.dimatteo@yahoo.com



PROGRAMS & COMMITTEES

- Community Food Share Pantry & Committee
- The Girl Effect - Task Force
- Green Team Environmental Task Force
- Habitat for Humanity Work Group
- Knitting for a Better World
- Neighborhood Social Justice Committee
 - Loaves & Fishes Mission
 - Y'All Come Community Lunch
- Peace Flag Project
- Standing on the Side of Love
 - Sanctuary Church
- UU Service Committee
- World Affairs Committee
- Global Write-a-Thon for Human Rights

Social Justice Ministry

The Social Justice Ministry moves our values into action within our community, city, state, and the world.

Social Justice & Young People

Efforts through the RE Program include:

- Supporting SSL initiatives
- Coat Drive - Buy Nothing Day
- Peace Flag Workshops
- UUSC Guest at Your Table
- Food Pantry Support
- The Mitten Tree
- Holiday Gift Drive

Dorcas International Institute



Contact the Prudential Committee Liaison for Opportunities to Get Involved:

Nancy Weiss Fried: nwf_la@yahoo.com

- Volunteer for the Community Food Share Pantry
- Learn more about the Sanctuary Movement
- Volunteer for the Loaves & Fishes Mission
- Join the Green Team
- Support prisoners of conscience at the Write-a-Thon
- Knit warm items for folks in need
- Create a peace flag and help wage peace
- Support The Girl Effect Sale

Social Justice Programs

Program updates are posted on our website, monthly newsletter & Sunday Meeting House Times.

Community Food Share Pantry

Distribution day: Third Monday, monthly, in the Parish House Atrium

The church-based Community Food Share Pantry, CFS, has been a continuously operating monthly food distribution site for the past 14 years on the third Monday afternoon of every month. As an agency of the Rhode Island Food Bank, CFS provides free food and household products to low-income families in the greater Providence community. Other services have included health care talks, free flu shots, and information about the SNAP (food stamp) program.



The Community Food Share Committee oversees and operates the CFS Pantry. The committee purchases food from the RI Food Bank and We Share Hope and also accepts donations from individuals and community groups. The CFS Committee recruits a large team of volunteers who procure, set-up and present the food, and coordinate the distribution each month. Children and youth from our Sunday school also assist the program. The Pantry is endowed through a generous bequest from the late Dino Germani, and receives the congregational community collections on Christmas Eve.

*Contacts: Judy Ortman, Martha Manno
jbortman@aol.com*

The Peace Flag Project



The Peace Flag Project provides an opportunity to create flags about our deepest hopes for the world. Our major event is the Peace Fest, which expands our celebration of the UN Peace Day, and unites peacemakers all over Rhode Island. First U hosts a peace art exhibit as part of the MOP. We are an all-volunteer organization, and we would love to have you involved with our efforts to build peace. Ginny visits many Sunday classes of children and youth to teach and make peace flags.

Contact: Ginny Fox, thepeaceflagproject.org



Standing on the Side of Love

A denomination-wide social justice advocacy and public witness campaign, we are inspired and guided by Unitarian Universalist principles. SSL creates a network of support and communication for taking united action against hate crimes and identity-based oppression and violence. Both locally based and nation-wide, participation in SSL is a step on the path to creating the beloved community and living our Unitarian Universalist faith.

Standing on the Side of Love at First Unitarian is focused on supporting the movement for black lives and is committed to harnessing the power of love to take action to dismantle racism and white supremacy in our communities and to promoting justice. with opportunities for education, advocacy, and action to pursue, individually and as a collective, including publicizing and attending rallies and vigils, workshops, book clubs and film screenings, letter writing campaigns, and supporting Sanctuary immigration justice. *Contact: Tiffany Reed, tiffanyreed@gmail.com*

Facebook: *Standing on the Side of Love at First Unitarian, Providence.*

All people, not just UUs, are invited to stand, speak, worship, march and live on the side of love.



Sanctuary At First Unitarian

Standing on the Side of Love Sanctuary Committee

Upholding our Unitarian Universalist Principles, our congregation voted in 2017 to become a sanctuary church. In collaboration with local agencies, including Dorcas International, Rhode Island State Council of Churches, Fuerza Laboral and Providence Immigrant Rights Coalition, as well as the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and churches in Massachusetts and Colorado, we have been working hard to put our words and beliefs into action. The work of

becoming a place of sanctuary for someone who is in immediate danger of being deported is ongoing, and the opportunities for people to participate are many. Throughout the year there will be training for those who wish to learn more about the role of a Sanctuary Host, as well as opportunities for other important jobs as our involvement in being a sanctuary site deepens.

To learn more, or if you are interested in helping, contact the Sanctuary Steering Committee.

Contact: firstusanctuary@gmail.com



The Girl Effect - Task Force

The Girl Effect Task Force raises funds to support girls' education mostly in less developed countries. We follow the example of The Girl Effect www.girleffect.org, a non-profit founded on the principle that, "Girls are the most powerful force for change on the planet." We raise funds by selling Fair Trade handicrafts from less developed countries also benefiting those who make the crafts. In 2016-17 we donated to Heshima Kenya; the Kibera Girls' Soccer Academy in Nairobi, Kenya; The Malala Fund's Gulmakai Network; San Lucas Toliman Scholars in Guatemala; and Save Every Last Girl program of Save the Children in Afghanistan.



Contacts: Polly Walker, polly41walker@gmail.com, Marilyn Eanet, Martha Manno, Pam Steager

UU Service Committee @ First U.



The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee advances human rights through

grassroots collaboration. In more than a dozen countries throughout the world, UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression. This congregation support and participate in programs including the annual Guest At Your Table effort, College of Social Justice and more.

Contact: Cathy Seggel in the church office

Habitat for Humanity Work Group



Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry, seeking to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat invites people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need." Volunteers of all skill levels are welcome, the only requirement is a willingness and ability to do physical work and minimum age of 16.

Contact: Peter Van Erp, petervanerp@cox.net

Global Write-a-Thon for Human Rights

Open House: Sunday, December 10, 1:00-5:00p

Snow date to be announced

The Global Write-a-thon for Human Rights is the world's largest letter writing event. In celebration of International Human Rights Day, Write-a-thons are held all across the US, and in over 50 countries. The Providence celebration is held at First Unitarian and sponsored by the World Affairs Committee in collaboration with the international human rights organization, The Benenson Society.



The event is free and open to the public, and suitable for young people and families. There will be refreshments, prizes and an inspirational guest speaker. No registration necessary.

Contact: Marcia Lieberman marcia.lieberman@gmail.com

World Affairs Committee

The World Affairs Committee serves to provide presentations regarding humanitarian concerns. There have been some 18 programs and presentations over the past several years. The committee has sponsored programs on the war in Iraq, climate change, Native Americans, and similar topics. The WAC is also co-sponsor of the Global Write-a-thon.

Contact: John Petell, pic skate@aol.com

First U Legislative Ministry

Our Legislative Ministry is a member of the UU Legislative Ministry-RI, the state-wide organization involved in social, economic, and justice causes in the RI General Assembly and the US Congress. It is one of ten UU Legislative Ministries who serve as a visible force in the "public square," as guided by our UU Principles. UULM-RI has been an advocate for justice and peace, activities include letter writing campaigns, participating in march's, meeting with local legislators, and lobbying at the RI General Assembly. Current work is to see that the 2017 General Assembly acts on the following issues: Women's rights, Housing & Homelessness, Guns & Violence, Sustainable Communities and Restoring Ethics Commission Jurisdiction Over Legislators. There is much to do, join us!

Contact: Derek Smith, dsmith0813@gmail.com

Knitting for a Better World

Every Tuesday 7-9:00p

Come join us for an evening of knitting and conversation. Work on your own project or knit for one of First U's social justice projects, including our Mitten Tree. Drop by any Tuesday evening. Beginners are always welcome. We have plenty of yarn and needles to get you started.

Contact: Kathy Ahlquist katherine.ahlquist@gmail.com

Neighborhood Social Justice Committee

First Sundays, 12:15p

First Tuesdays, Loaves & Fishes Mission

"Y'All Come" Community Lunch - October 14

The NSJC was founded to provide volunteer opportunities to work beyond our church doors, with those who have been socially, economically, or legally marginalized. The NSJC sponsors a monthly outreach mission to Emmanuel House, a homeless shelter in Providence, meeting on the first Tuesday of every month, delivering food, clothing, and respectful companionship. The NSJC also sponsors various other outreach and/or educational programs including the "Y'All Come" lunch for the homeless held in collaboration with the Beneficent Congregational Church. All are welcomed!

Contact: Joe Salvatore, joesuu@gmail.com
Chiara Romano, romano-vanerp-design@cox.net

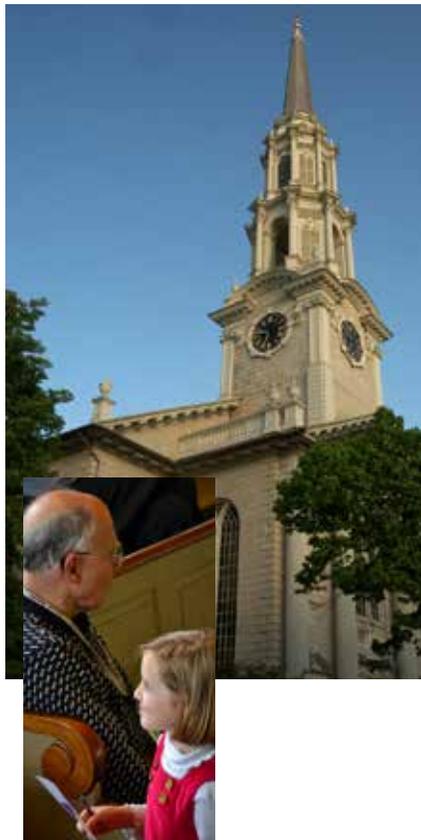


Green Team Environmental Task Force

Fourth Thursdays, 7:30p

The Green Team Environmental Task Force promotes environmental issues and sustainable living within and outside First Unitarian. We care for our environment so that it may sustain life for generations to come, an especially important responsibility because those who are most impacted by environmental destruction are often those with the least power. Creating a sustainable way of life is central to our view of a just and compassionate world. We invite all who share these values to join us on this journey of connection, sustainability, and hope. Get involved and join our broad and growing movement for climate justice.

Contact: Kristen Ivy Moses kristenivymoses@gmail.com



PROGRAMS & COMMITTEES

Annual Budget Drive
Finance and Investment Committee
Planned Giving
Meeting House Capital Campaign
Building and Grounds

Stewardship Ministry

The Stewardship Ministry focuses on generosity in support of the health and growth of our congregation and its mission.



Contact the Prudential Committee Liaison for Opportunities to Get Involved:

Gregory Waksmulski: waksmulski@gmail.com

- Volunteer to work on the Annual Budget Drive
- Help run or attend a fundraising event
- Help out with a grounds clean-up
- Join a Stewardship Committee



*Generosity begins
at the crossroads where your deep
joys and passions intersect with
the world's deep needs,
blessing you with the
opportunity to live
life graciously
and with
integrity.*

– Frederick Bueckner



*When you belong
to this church,
this church belongs to you!*



Stewardship Sustaining & Growing Our Church

Annual Budget Drive

Year-round, but most active March through April

Members and friends of First Unitarian are urged to make a fair share commitment of their financial support for the church in the upcoming year (July – June). The amount pledged during the Budget Drive becomes the basis for the Budget Committee's recommendations for support of church staffing, ministry activities and infrastructure for the year ahead. This year-long effort engages the entire congregation through church leadership strategic planning, visiting steward one-on-one conversations, small group cottage talks and targeted communications. This year we continue a strategic effort to reduce our reliance on the endowment to support our annual operations. Through collective ownership of this goal we can achieve long term financial health and sustainability for this congregation and honor our responsibility to those who will inherit it next.

Planned Giving

Our congregation has a long tradition of planned giving. The first bequest made to our congregation was in 1803, and members and friends have been following in that tradition ever since. For over 200 years, these acts of giving have sustained and advanced the values, generosity, and reason that lie at the very core of our liberal faith. We encourage all supporters to consider leaving a gift to the endowment in their Last Will and Testament, thus automatically becoming a member of our Benevolent Society.

Website: www.firstunitarianprov.org/getinvolved/giving.shtml



Fundraising

It has become customary to initiate fundraising activities in a given church year, raising money for the general budget or special projects, in addition to what is raised in the Annual Budget Drive. In the past, events have included dances, concerts, paper shredding days and walkathons. Our fall event this year is a program by Charlie Sweigart, performing his one-man-show fundraiser in honor of his father, a veteran, and William Shakespeare. Celebrate the service of our veterans and support the mission of First Unitarian by joining us, November 11th, 2017.

Contact: David House, dlhouse51@comcast.net

Finance and Investment Committee

The Finance and Investment Committee oversees the investment of the Church's invested funds and provides strategic financial advice to the Treasurer and Prudential Committee.

Contact: Jennifer Laurelli

Building & Grounds - Help in the Garden

A couple of times a year there are opportunities to contribute to the upkeep and improvements of the church's buildings and grounds. Volunteers are needed for annual spring and fall garden projects. This is a good way to help and enjoy being outdoors.

Contact: Nancy Weiss-Fried, nwf_la@yahoo.com



Governance

The Congregation Decides -You Lead!

Congregational Governance and Lay Leadership

The congregation operates under a system of congregational polity as defined in the church's constitution and by-laws. Voting members* of the congregation hold the right and responsibility to decide major issues that affect the church including calling a minister, electing members to leadership positions and adopting an annual budget. The congregation conducts its business at an annual meeting in June when it elects board members, officers and deacons and approves an annual budget. Special meetings are called, as needed. *(see pg. 7 on voting members)*

These volunteer teams help provide leadership to hold the congregation's mission and vision.

Prudential Committee

The Prudential Committee (PruComm) is the governing board of the church. It is composed of six officers (President, President-elect, Past President, Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer) and six other voting members of the church. PruComm members are elected to three-year terms; officers are elected annually to one-year terms, (Clerk, Treasurer, and Assist. Treasurer are renewable). Four committee members serve as liaisons to the four ministries of the church: Spiritual Development, Community Life and Heritage, Stewardship, and Social Justice. They gather the ministry around common goals and support groups and leadership. The PruComm sets policy, long-term goals, establishes committees, hires professional staff other than the minister, manages the operating budget in accordance with the by-laws, and performs other necessary duties.

Contact: Jay Glasson, President, pres@firstunitarianprov.org

Nominating Committee

The six-member Nominating Committee is responsible for identifying and developing church leadership. Members are elected for two-year terms. In addition to recruiting for elected positions, the committee helps identify committee chairs. Committee members have an understanding of the structure and work of the organization, specific leadership needs, and special qualifications needed for elected and appointed positions.

Deacons

The Deacons develop activities and programs that realize the principles outlined in the church mission statement and help foster a sense of welcome and belonging among newcomers, friends and members. Past activities have included assisting professional staff with new member orientation, phoning members and friends annually to greet and solicit comments about their relationship to congregational life, assisting the Minister in preparing and leading communion services, and monthly ushering. The Deacons promote participation and aid in an open governing process by encouraging congregational polity as part of the expression of spiritual and community life. Deacons are elected by the congregation to five-year terms.

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee is composed of a liaison from the PruComm, at least two other church members approved by the PruComm, the Minister, Administrator and the Director of Religious Education, ex-officio. They review Personnel Policies and Procedures annually and recommend changes to the Prudential Committee. In consultation with staff, appropriate committees, and the Minister, they develop and oversee non-ministerial employee evaluations and recommend salary increases. Committee members may assist in the selection process to fill vacant, non-ministerial staff positions; and, in conjunction with the staff, they may recommend any reduced, expanded, or new staff positions to the Prudential Committee.

Church Leadership

Prudential Committee:

Jay Glasson, President
 John Simmonds, President Elect
 Cynthia Rosengard, Past President
 Michael Cappelli, Clerk
 Graham Nye, Treasurer
 Roberta Groch, Asst. Treasurer
 Samantha Cole, Community Life
 Nancy Weiss Fried, Social Justice
 Cynthia Roberts, Spiritual Development
 Gregory Waksmulski, Stewardship
 Diane Baxter, Strategic Planning
 Kate Bowden, Personnel

Nominating Committee:

Anne Connor, chair
 Martha Cussler
 Marilyn Eanet
 Lyn Bradford
 Dianne Mailloux
 John Petell

Deacons:

Jim Barfoot, Senior Deacon
 Joe Fisler, Senior Deacon
 Katy Killilea
 Judie Knilans
 Dave Lewis
 Martha Rice Sanders
 Peter Gray
 Meghan Smith
 Beth Anterni
 Max Pounder



Welcome to Unitarian Universalism

We are people of all ages, people of many backgrounds, and many beliefs. We are brave, curious and compassionate thinkers and doers. We create spirituality and community beyond boundaries, working for more justice and more love in our own lives and in the world.

Unitarian Universalism affirms and promotes seven Principles, grounded in the humanistic teachings of the world's religions. Our spirituality is unbounded, drawing from scripture and science, nature and philosophy, personal experience and ancient tradition as described in our six Sources.

We are brave, curious, and compassionate thinkers and doers. We are diverse in faith, ethnicity, history and spirituality, but aligned in our desire to make a difference for the good. We have a track record of supporting the call of love, justice, and peace.

We are Unitarian Universalist and Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Humanist, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan, atheist and agnostic, believers in God, and more.

On the forefront of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer inclusion for more than 40 years, we are people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

We seek to welcome you: your whole self, with all your truths and your doubts, your worries and your hopes. Join us on this extraordinary adventure of faith.

- www.uua.org

Denominational Connections



The UUA

Unitarian Universalist Association

The First Unitarian Church of Providence is a member congregation, New England Region, of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

The UUA devotes its resources to and exercises its corporate powers for religious educational and humanitarian purposes. The primary purpose of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new congregations, extend and strengthen UU institutions and implement its principles. Supported by our contributions, the UUA strengthens Unitarian Universalism by advancing social justice through raising our collective voices, training and equipping religious leaders, and creating tools and curricula for local congregations and beyond. Read about UU values in action with books from Beacon Press and Skinner House, and find inspiring stories in UU World magazine. Learn more at uua.org or facebook.com/theuua.



Commission on Institutional Change

The UUA has charged the Commission on Institutional Change with long-term cultural and institutional change that redeems the essential promise and ideals of Unitarian Universalism. Appointed by the UUA Board of Trustees in 2017 for a period of two years, the Commission will analyze structural racism and white supremacy within the UUA.



UUA President

The Unitarian Universalist Association elected the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray as its ninth president. She was installed as UUA president on Sunday, June 25, 2017. She served as lead minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix, Arizona, since 2008.

Frederick-Gray is the first woman elected to lead the liberal religious movement, which includes approximately 1,000 congregations with 200,000 adults and children in the US.

In her words, "This is a defining moment, and the stakes are very high," "We have deep work to do, within our association and our tradition, and critical work to do beyond the association." Frederick-Gray champions the UUA as "a voice for love and justice." She promotes a three-point vision of a "spiritually vital" movement "grounded in relationships" and "organized for impact." "We have much work to do. I believe we are up to it. I look forward to working with you on this transformative path ahead."

Unitarian Universalist Association

24 Farnsworth Street, Boston, MA 02210
617.742.2100 www.uua.org

New England Region of the UUA

182 Main St. Watertown, MA 02472
newengland@uua.org

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

130 Prospect St., Cambridge, MA 02139
617.868.6600 www.uusc.org

CONNECT - UUA Online Community

From news about social justice work to weekly prayers and meditations, UU social media is a great way to connect.

Facebook, Twitter, YouTube & Pinterest

Follow the latest messages and photos.

Subscribe to UUA's Blogs

Keep up-to-date on the programs or initiatives.

Subscribe to UUA RSS Feeds & News Alerts

See the latest headlines and updates.

The Monthly Bulletin for Congregations

A collection of updates from the UUA and from the Church of the Larger Fellowship.

September 2017

- 3 Last Summer Service
- 10 *10:30 a* Homecoming/Water Communion
M *Multigenerational Service*
- 12 *7-9p* (Tuesday) Teacher Orientation
- 15 *6-9p* (Friday) Welcome Back Parish Supper
- 17 Sh *Worship & Sunday School Classes Begin*
Children & Youth begin in Meeting House
12p COA Parent Orientation
- 24 *12p* Worship & Sunday School
Ice Cream Social

October 2017

- 1 Worship & Sunday School
- 8 Worship & Sunday School
- 14 (Saturday) Y'All Come Community Lunch
- 15 *12p* Worship & Sunday School
Coming of Age Mentor Orientation
- 22 *12p* Worship & Sunday School
Installation of The Reverend Maclay
- 29 Worship & Sunday School

November 2017

- 5 *Daylight Savings (fall back 1 hour)*
Worship & Sunday School
- 11 (Saturday) Fundraising Performance
- 12 *12p* Worship & Sunday School
First Mentor/Mentee Lunch
- 19 M *Thanksgiving Service*
- 23 (Thursday) Thanksgiving Dinner
- 26 Worship & Sunday School

December 2017

- 3 Worship & Sunday School
- 10 *1p* Worship & Sunday School
Global Write-a-thon
- 17 M *Winter Solstice Service- Child Dedications*
- 24 TBA, no Sunday School
- 24 Christmas Eve Services 5p & 9p
- 25 (Monday) Church Office Closed for the week
- 31 Worship No Sunday School

January 2018

- 2 (Tuesday) Church Office Opens
- 7 Worship & Sunday School resumes
- 14 M *Martin Luther King, Jr. Service*
- 21 Worship & Sunday School
- 27 (Saturday) COA Supper Fundraiser
- 28 Worship & Sunday School

February 2018

- 4 Worship & Sunday School
- 11 M *Worship -Wholly Family*
- 18 Worship & Sunday School
- 25 Worship & Sunday School

March 2018

- 4 Worship & Sunday School
- 11 *Daylight Savings (spring ahead 1 hour)*
Worship & Sunday School
- 18 Worship & Sunday School
- 25 Worship & Sunday School

April 2018

- 1 M *Easter Sunday - Child Dedications*
- 2 (Monday) Passover Seder Dinner
- 8 Worship & Sunday School
- 15 Worship & Sunday School
- 22 Worship & Sunday School
- 29 Worship & Sunday School

Note: Senior High Youth Multigenerational Service TBA

May 2018

- 6 *8 a* Worship & Sunday School
May Breakfast
- 13 M *Mother's Day Service*
- 20 M *Coming of Age Recognition Service*
- 27 *Service time & location TBA (No Sunday School)*
Brown Med School Commencement in Meeting House

June 2018

- 3 Sh *Worship*
Choir/Teacher Recognition
12p Annual Congregational Financial Meeting
- 10 M *Flower Communion Service*
12p Annual Picnic
- 17 *10 a* First Summer Service

Summer Services 2018

Summer services, Worship and childcare, begin at 10:00a and are held each Sunday, June 17 to August 26, 2018

Weekly & Monthly Events

- Every Sunday 11:30a Newcomer's Cafe
 - 2nd Friday 5:45p Parish Supper (confirm monthly)
 - 3rd Monday 2:00-6p Community Food Share Pantry
 - 1st Tuesday 12-7p Loaves & Fishes Mission
 - 1st Monday 11:00a Women's Alliance
- See our monthly newsletter calendar for full listings*

Child Dedications

December 17 Winter Solstice & April 1 Easter Sunday

KEY TO CALENDAR

During the regular church year, Worship and Sunday School classes begin at 10:30a. Dates listed are Sundays unless otherwise noted. Changes in themes or dates will be announced in church publications.

M MULTIGENERATIONAL SERVICES

Children (grades pre-K and older) and adults worship together in a Multigenerational Service. Origins Playcircle & Pre-Kindergarten rooms are open.

Sh SHARED OPENING SERVICES

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

On all other Sundays, children begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel.



First Unitarian Church of Providence

One Benevolent Street

Providence, Rhode Island 02906

Tel: 401.421.7970

Fax: 401.276.4291

Web: www.firstunitarianprov.org



We are a Welcoming Congregation



Unitarian Universalist Principles

As Unitarian Universalists, we share a value system expressed by a set of principles and purposes affirmed and promoted by the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Unitarian Universalism draws from many sources:

Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;

Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;

Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;

Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;

Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;

Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

These principles and sources of faith are the backbone of our religious community.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

