

## Services in the Meeting House

Forgiveness and Abundance are our themes for November.



**Sunday, November 5**

**The Piece/Peace of Forgiveness**

**Daylight Saving Ends** – Turn your clock BACK one hour

**10:30a**

**Claire M. Donaldson, M.Div., CTRS**

Claire Donaldson is a Deacon and Chair of the Pastoral Care Committee at First Church in Salem, Unitarian Universalist, in Salem, MA. A 2009 graduate of the Boston University School of Theology, she has worked as a chaplain and recreation therapist in a variety of healthcare settings. Claire lives in Lynn, MA with her loyal, lovable dog, Sherman.

*Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel.*

**Sunday, November 12    Revenge: A Story of Hope**

**10:30a**

**Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay**

We all know forgiveness is not easy, and lately, when we look around, we can see it's also not popular. We'll spend this morning looking at a story of an extraordinary journey and consider what is really required, and really possible, between us human beings.

*Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel.*

**Sunday, November 19    Harvest of the Heart**

**Part I: Thanksgiving Multigenerational Service**

**10:30a**

**Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay, DRE Cathy Seggel**

**Joyful Noise & more!**

Join us for an energetic and engaged exploration of Thanksgiving's themes and history. This family-friendly service promises something for all ages.

*Childcare for newborns–three-year-olds open in the Parish House.*

**Sunday, November 26    Harvest of the Heart**

**Part II: The Close Up – For All the Abundance We Receive,  
How Grateful Are We, Really?**

**10:30a**

**Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay**

Especially as we enter the holiday season, we often remark on the struggle to get in the swing, the spirit, of the holidays. Much as we mean to, wish to, look forward to days with family or friends, and cooking and decorations and gifts, and music and travel and giving and receiving . . . it's not always easy. Sometimes, rather than grateful and openhearted and abundant and joyful, we feel . . . tired, burdened, resentful . . . even grinchy. What can we do with this grinchiness that dwells inside us, even when we most seek to be expansive and aware and sharing?

*Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel.*



Highlights from the Installation of our new minister, the Rev. Elizabeth Lerner Maclay, on Sunday, October 22, appear on pages 5 and 6.



We are a Welcoming Congregation

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## Lately . . .

We've talked some about Forgiveness already this year, because of the Jewish New Year. It's also one of our themes for November, along with Abundance. Abundance is a lot broader topic. We could take it a lot of directions, and we will over the course of the month, including, of course what an abundance of forgiveness might look like.

But in the meantime, I'm struck by the words of comedian Steven Wright, famous for his earnest, deadpan delivery, who said: "I have the world's largest collection of sea shells. I keep it scattered on the beaches of the world. Have you seen it?"

Two years ago, we had three-plus feet of snow in Maryland. We never get that kind of snow. I actually had to use my snowshoes just to walk to the next door neighbor's house. Later that night, we tramped back from their house to ours. We took the long way around. We were snowed in, and there was no rush to do anything. It was late and our porch lights were on; a few lights inside the house glowed warm and bright. I looked at the house, surrounded by deep billows of pristine snow, bright and dark under the clear, black, starry sky. It took my breath away. It was the most beautiful, peaceful, irresistible I had ever seen our home. We stopped and stared at this astonishing fresh beauty, our home in deep snow in the deep night.

I find myself thinking about all the ways we have abundance and can or cannot see it. Abundant love in our lives from family or friends. Abundant comfort if we are warm and safe. Even abundance in the form of silver linings: abundant opportunity for change if we find ourselves unhappy or frustrated. Abundant things to mourn. Abundant imperatives we have to attend to. Abundant moments when we can try something new or different. Abundant possibilities for taking a risk. Abundant ways we can reach out to one another. Abundant ways we may take care of ourselves or others when fragile or uncertain.

Abundance shows itself to us in such surprising ways, especially when we try on a new lens, maybe a Steven Wright lens, maybe the lens of a new season or strange hour. Maybe we can use this month to consider abundance in a different way. Let's keep an eye out together for the varied forms abundance takes in our lives. There are lessons for us in what we perceive, changes we might make, treasures we may discover, when we look.

See you in church,



Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay, Minister  
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday  
min@firstunitarianprov.org

## The Caring Network

The First Unitarian Caring Network includes Chalice Circles, Mindful Grieving, the Deacons, the Women's Alliance, Membership, Care Crew, and Phone Buddies.

### The Care Crew

The Care Crew is ready to assist the congregation in times of need, such as illness, surgery recovery, transportation, errands, meals, home visits, cards, and calls. The Care Crew uses "Meal Train" to organize meals, transportation, and errands for people who are ill and/or recovering from surgery. Thanks to all 45 people who participated in the Care Crew last year.

To be connected, contact Shirley DiMatteo (shirley.dimatteo@yahoo.com), Steve McCloy (steven.mccloy43@gmail.com), or Posey Kooris in the church office (admin@firstunitarianprov.org).



## Deacons' Corner

Life is full of questions and decisions. We constantly go round the cycle of the same four questions:

- What do I want "X" to be like? What is my vision for that?
- What can I do that would help that vision be real? (Then do that.)
- Is what I'm doing working?
- How can I adjust what I'm doing to work better?

All those questions depend on one critical thing – paying attention.

"X" could be anything from putting on my shoes to saving for college to world peace. But what if we use "My experience of First Unitarian" as that "X"?

The Deacons try to have conversations with the church community regularly – at least once a year – to understand what our common vision is, and what we want to do about it. That's the "paying attention" piece.

One way the Deacons support First Unitarian is to reach out to as many in the congregation as we can, for a kind of annual checkup. So, sometime during the next couple of months, expect a Deacon to contact you by phone or social media, in person or by mail, with a few questions that are designed to clarify what we, the First Unitarian community, want to accomplish together. Call it checking our group pulse.

This year, it's especially important as we begin our journey with our new settled minister, Liz Lerner Maclay. She needs to know how to help us toward our shared goals, and what our range of commitments is. So think ahead a bit about what's important to you about what we do, or can do, here. How would you respond to those four questions or other related ones? Make it easy for the Deacons to connect with you. We are, very much by choice, in this together.

**The Deacons:** Jim Barfoot, Joe Fidler, Senior Deacons; Beth Anterni, Peter Gray, Katy Killilea, Judie Knilians, Dave Lewis, Max Pounder, Martha Rice Sanders, Meghan Smith



## Spiritual Pathways

### Abundance and Gratitude

November brings darker, colder, shorter days, filled with calls for attention and action about severe storms, fires, political chaos, gun violence, and racial, gender, and immigration injustice. Our faith community supports families as they seek ways to insist on positive change and health.

And, still, it is a time threaded with opportunities for gratitude. I share thanks for the more than 50 adult volunteers who generously serve as teachers in our programs for children and youth, as well as the adults who are leading Spiritual Development programs. We are in full swing, as groups forge relationships and all ages learn from each other. Sunday morning programming is anchored by community worship, where we light our chalice flame with respect for the past, in celebration of the present, and with hope for the future.

- Sixth- and seventh-graders serve as Worship Associates, and Marcia Taylor leads us in song and movement. Spiritual practices from Unitarian Universalism and sources of our living tradition are shared with the youth in an interactive ritual, with music, silent meditation, storytelling, and active listening. October's services focused on courage.
- The fifth-grade Toolbox of Faith group will shepherd our participation in the annual Rhode Island "Buy Nothing Day" Coat Drive on November 24.
- The eighth-grade Coming of Age program has launched, with parent and mentor orientations complete. The first mentor/mentee session is coming up soon. That group will lead our congregational participation in the "Guest At Your Table" project.
- The Senior High Youth Group is reflecting on their role in the congregation and possibilities for mission-driven service beyond our walls. There are youth reps on the Prudential Committee, Spiritual Pathways Team, and Deacons.

This month's theme from our UU Soul Matters Sharing Circle is "What does it mean to be a people of Abundance?" I was stretched to connect that query with traditional November direction of appreciation and generosity. The concept is that we already have all we need. I learned that in addition to the gratitude, along with noticing abundance, it's important to focus on the choices we make in our priorities and commitments to action. That is what the living tradition of Unitarian Universalism teaches.

In greeting this season of abundance and thanks, words from "Swimming to the Other Side," by activist musician Pat Humphries, call to me.

When we get there we'll discover  
 All of the gifts we've been given to share  
 Have been with us since life's beginning  
 And, we never noticed they were there.

Take care,

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

## Sixth/Seventh-Grade Children's Recycle-a-Toy Sale

Collection of Toys: Sunday, December 3

Save the Date

Toy Sale: Sunday, December 10, 12:00–12:30p in the Auditorium

Our Children's Toy Sale offers a way for young people to buy gifts for family and friends on a very small budget. Prices range from 25 cents to \$2. We hope that our children will seize the spirit of the season and shop for others they love. The sale is open to the church community.

We encourage families to donate gently used – or even new – toys, games, and books for preschool- through high school-age children. Donations will be collected on the Sunday prior to the sale. Our goal is to encourage children to recycle their toys and do good for their community. Through a democratic process, young people will choose the recipient for the money raised. All toys not sold will be donated to Camp Street Ministries in Providence. The sixth/seventh-grade class is organizing the event with help from teachers.

Questions? Contact John Dooley (dool@cox.net)

## Guest At Your Table 2017-18

Kick-off, Sunday, November 19

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about their work to advance human rights. Since UUSC works in over 25 countries, with over 75 grassroots partners, there



are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work that our members make possible. GAYT is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these individuals – the "guests" in Guest at Your Table.

UUSC's grassroots partners make a big difference in their communities, and so does your participation in GAYT. That is why this year's program theme is Small Change Is Big Change. This year's "guests" include a leader of local efforts to respond to climate change in the South Pacific, a Burmese human rights activist, as well as those assisting families in immigration detention in Texas and helping LGBTQI asylum seekers in New York.

Our eighth-grade Coming of Age group will anchor this project. The kick-off is during our congregational Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 19.

Save the Date

## Upcoming Child Dedications

Sunday, December 17 during the service

The next Child Dedication ceremony will take place during the multigenerational service on December 17. Members with a baby or young child they would like to have dedicated, please contact the church office (401.421.7970).

## First Unitarian Resource Book for 2017-18

Copies of our annual *Resource Book* have been mailed to all member households. This guide includes a congregational calendar, information about our staff, membership, programming for children, youth, and adults, opportunities to connect and participate, and much more.

The *Resource Book* is also available on the church website ([www.firstunitarianprov.org](http://www.firstunitarianprov.org)).





## Sight Lines

### Faith-Based Outreach

First Unitarian has been comfortably ensconced on the East Side of Providence for 300 years. While we encourage people of faith to come to us, we are less inclined to go out into the community to work with others. Obviously, there are individuals and groups within the church which represent exceptions to this blanket statement, but overall there is little social outreach to other faith-based communities. We are trying to change that.

Last week, our minister, Liz Maclay, received an invitation from the RI State Council of Churches for First Unitarian to become a member congregation. The State Council of Churches is an organization First Unitarian helped found 80 years ago; Bob Cox of our Social Justice Committee has been working with them for years. Their mission is to “gather denominations, congregations, faith-based leaders and individuals to serve as a catalyst for ecumenical, cultural and interfaith dialogue; to offer resources to each other; and to advocate for peace and social justice,” which is clearly aligned with our own Unitarian Universalist principles. On November 2, the Council will award our congregation its 2017 Heroes of Faith Award for Congregations for the work Kathy Ahlquist and her hard-working committee have done over the past year to establish First Unitarian as a Sanctuary Church in Rhode Island. It is time to join, share with, and learn from this organization.

I have asked Ann Boyd and Tom Getz to meet with Trinity Episcopal Church in Newport. This church, which Tom brought to my attention, has turned itself into a community church doing social justice outreach in Newport on a large scale. I have asked Ann and Tom to find out why they did it, how they did it, whether we can learn anything from their efforts, and what activities we might incorporate into our own outreach efforts.

Soon we will have an opportunity to join Mobile Loaves & Fishes as a member church, not just a participating church, standing shoulder to shoulder with other religious communities, making an active statement about our desire to work with others and put our social justice covenants into action. Mobile Loaves is now a Rhode Island nonprofit corporation of 11 member churches whose mission is to “serve food and clothing to our neighbors in need, while honoring their dignity.” This is exactly the faith-based outreach Joe Salvatore and our Neighborhood Social Justice Committee has been working on for the past few years. It’s time to formally support their efforts as a congregation.

As noted by British author David Szalay, “We are just a moment’s immersion in the texture of existence, the eternal passing of time.” Let’s make the best of our moment.

Sincerely,

Jay Glasson  
President, Prudential Committee  
pres@firstunitarianprov.org

## The New Benevolent Society

Our October organizational meeting revealed a lot of interest in revitalizing the Benevolent Society. Originally established in 1770 to ensure financial support for a church building and a minister, the reinstated Society will provide a means of encouraging and appreciating gifts to our endowment made through wills and other forms of planned giving.

Charitable organizations need endowments for the same reason that ocean liners need lifeboats. An endowment is the lifeboat for a charitable organization: 1) to survive stormy economic seas, and 2) to support missions beyond those that can be funded annually by the current donors. Many religious, educational, and humanitarian organizations depend on the investment returns from their endowments to support important activities.

The various forms of planned giving can be advantageous to the giver as well as to the nonprofit recipient. As our recent capital campaign has shown, we are a congregation of generous people who love our church and its place in the community.

To learn more about the Benevolent Society, contact Ralph Mero (rmero237@verizon.net).

## Treasurer’s Report

Enhancing and protecting First Unitarian’s endowments is the role of the Finance and Investment Committee, currently chaired by Jennifer Laurelli. The committee meets quarterly with representatives from Washington Trust, our portfolio manager.

At the September 19 meeting, Washington Trust representatives Kent Gladding and Joan Caine presented a complete report of the performance of our funds and the market outlook. Our three major endowment accounts (Property, Sunday School, and Consolidated) produced a return for FY17 of 13.7%. As of September 14, 2017, First Unitarian’s portfolio had a total market value of \$5,162,128.

In addition, eight “designated funds” totaling \$463,000 are invested with Ocean State Charities Fund, which provides a more flexible investment approach. This allows access to funds as needed. Included are the funds for the Women’s Alliance, Community Food Share Food Pantry, and the Pastor’s Fund.

– Graham Nye, Treasurer



## Wheel of Life

### Condolences to:

The family and friends of **Robert “Bob” Allen** who died recently. He was the husband of Elizabeth Allen and had been a church member since 2001.

The family and friends of **Elizabeth “Lilly” Chace**, daughter of Buff and Johnnie Chace, who died on October 12.

### Congratulations to:

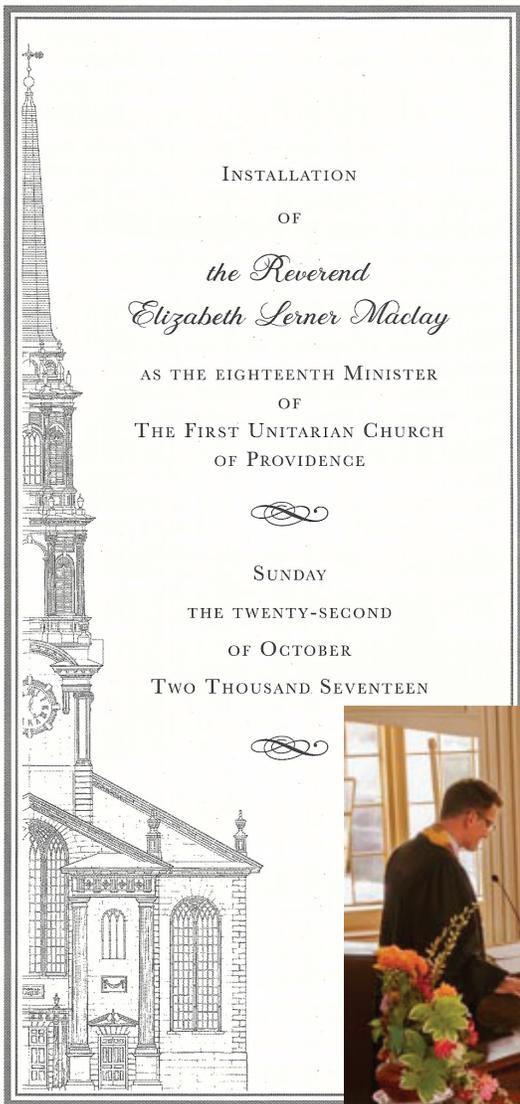
**Nancy Weiss-Fried and Herb Fried** on the birth of their second granddaughter, Cecilia Elizabeth.

## Hats Off To ...

### Coffee Hour Providers last month:

Roxanne Stern, Emily Conner, Steve McCloy, Ralph Mero, Suzanne Francis, Anne Connor, Claire Rosenbaum, Gerry Spremulli, Liz Palter, Joyce Boober, Elissa Emerson, Lyn Bradford, Jess Dolan, Mary Kollar, Rachel Spaulding, Betty Finn, Kelly Robinson, Lynda Guley, Nancy Nicholson, Roberta Groch, Karen Boulanger, Tony Allen, Carol Buckley, Martha Cussler, and all of you who brought in something to surprise us.

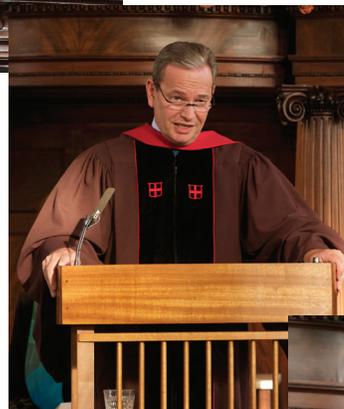
# Installation Highlights



Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern delivers the Invocation and Prayer



The Presidents – Jay Glasson, Cynthia Rosengard, John Simmonds – welcome the congregation



Brown Chancellor Samuel Menco and Rev. Sarah Lammert of the UUA bring greetings to the gathering



Rev. Dr. Robert Hardies delivers the Installation Sermon (pulpit flower arrangements by Fred Jodry)



UU seminarians Lisa Garcia-Sampson and Emily Bruce announce the offering for the Harvard Divinity School



Adele Andrews and Myles Napolitano, with DRE Cathy Seggel, bring wishes to Liz from the church school

# Installation Highlights



President Jay Glasson leads Liz and the congregation in the Act of Installation



Pastor David B. Smith delivers the Charge to the Minister



Rev. Nathan Detering delivers the Charge to the Congregation



Nori Duncan presents Tim Maclay with the Minister's Wife's Pin from the Women's Alliance



Tazeen Ahmad (above), Rev. Helen Cohen and Rev. Jane Rzepka offer blessings from family and colleagues to the newly installed minister



The Reception following the service featured two special cakes



## Community Life

### November All-Parish Supper

Friday, November 10

Everyone, young and old and in between, is welcome at these monthly gatherings of members and friends of the congregation.

**5:45p Social Hour:** Bring hors d'oeuvres to share and/or wine for your own party if you wish.

**6:15p Potluck Dinner:** Please bring a dish to share that serves at least eight people. You can bring a main dish, a vegetable, a salad, or a dessert.

#### 7:45p Program in the Auditorium: Understanding Putin's Russia

Our speaker will be Russia scholar Joshua Rubenstein, Faculty Associate at the Harvard Center for Russian Studies and a long-time executive staff member of Amnesty International USA. Professor Rubenstein is a very engaging and informative speaker.

Russia was once our enemy. After Gorbachev and the end of the Cold War, US-Russian relations improved. Now with Putin in charge, Russia is becoming more assertive, even threatening, in international affairs. Russia also appears to be trying to interfere in US politics.

Is Russia our enemy again? What are Putin's goals for Russia? Professor Rubenstein will discuss the recent history and the current events of the changing relationship between the US and Russia in light of President Putin's domestic and foreign policy initiatives and the recent pronouncements and policies of President Trump. Please join us for this fascinating discussion.

Reservations for the dinner are strongly requested. Please fill out the tear-off form in the Sunday Meeting House Times and put it in the collection plate; see Jim Estey at Coffee Hour; or call the church office in advance (401.421.7970). Childcare for infants and children to age 10 will be available for parents who request in advance; call Jim Estey (401.351.1748).

### Saturday Social Supper

November 4, 5:30p

The November Social Supper will be at the home of Sine and Max Pounder in Edgewood. Please contact Shirley DiMatteo for meal planning and reservations (shirley.dimatteo@yahoo.com).

People new to the church are encouraged to attend; it's a very nice way to meet others from our church family.

If anyone is interested in hosting the supper in December, please contact Shirley (shirley.dimatteo@yahoo.com).

### Share Thanksgiving Dinner with Fellow UUs

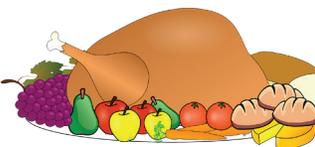
Sign-up deadline, Sunday, November 19

Dinner, Thursday, November 23, 1:00–4:00p in the Parish House

Members, friends, and their families are invited to join in our congregation's celebration of Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 23. We will gather for conversation and appetizers at 1:00p and plan to sit down to dinner around 2:00p. Participants are asked to bring side dishes. A donation of \$3.00/adult, \$1.50/child is suggested.

Four turkeys are needed and must be roasted off-site and delivered to the church midday on Thanksgiving. Please contact the organizers ASAP if you would like to donate a turkey and/or roast one. Ann Boyd, Nori Duncan, and Mary Frappier are organizing the dinner again this year.

Volunteers are needed to set up and decorate, receive and serve side dishes, and clean up. Reservation forms for the dinner will be in the Sunday orders of service through November 19. Or you can sign up with Nori Duncan during Coffee Hour or call her (401.378.3996) to reserve space.



### The Women's Alliance Monthly Meeting

Monday, November 6

Business Meeting: 10:00a

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

#### The Ancient Greek Goddess Artemis Brauronia Speaker: Rev. Elizabeth Lerner Maclay

Liz will explore the role of the Greek goddess Artemis Brauronia in the lives of citizen women and girls in Classical Greece. Her other interests include ancient Western religions, early Christianity and Hellenistic Judaism, and the history of women in religion.

First Unitarian's newly settled minister, Elizabeth Lerner Maclay, taught English in Greece for several years before earning Master of Divinity and Theology degrees from Harvard Divinity School. Raised a UU in Newton, MA, she has served congregations in Massachusetts, New York, and Maryland. Passionate about parish ministry, she enjoys the challenge of growing the size and racial/cultural diversity of congregations while retaining a sense of history and community.

All are welcome to attend the Women's Alliance programs and luncheons.

#### Gourmet Coffee Sales in the Atrium

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



### December All-Parish Supper

Friday, December 15

Our after-dinner program will be a special holiday celebration featuring the Aurea Ensemble's presentation of *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, by Dylan Thomas. This beloved story will be narrated by popular Rhode Island actor Nigel Gore, with musical interludes of old English carols and holiday chamber music from earlier times, featuring our own Fred Jodry (voice and harpsichord), Chris Turner (harmonica), and a string quartet led by Consuelo Sherba.

Discounted tickets will be available for those who attend the supper.



## Community Life

### Veteran's Day Celebration and First Unitarian Fundraiser

Saturday, November 11 at 7:30p

Charlie Sweigart – stage, Hollywood, and TV-series actor – will share a moving portrait of his WWII-veteran father,

Roy Sweigart, on Veteran's Day. Poignant, thought-provoking, and funny, Charlie's one-man, multicharacter show is an expression of love and resolution between parents and their children. Charlie is staging this production as a fundraising gift to the congregation in appreciation for the warm welcome he has experienced as a participant in our church community.

Please plan to join us at 7:30p on Saturday, November 11, in the Parish House Auditorium for this not-to-be-missed theatrical performance and a post-performance reception.

Suggested donation is \$25 at the door. All proceeds will be given to support the mission of our congregation.

For more information, contact David House (dlhouse51@comcast.net).



### First "Path to Membership" Class of the Church Year

Tuesday Evenings, November 14, 21 & 28, 7:00–9:00p

The Path to Membership class is for anyone interested in membership or in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and First Unitarian. This three-session course is offered several times during the year. The classes are led by our minister, Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay; Director of Religious Education Cathy Seggel, and Membership Coordinator Jenn Nardone. Registration forms are available in the Newcomers' Café and on the Membership Board in the Parish House hallway. Childcare will be provided if requested in advance.

For anyone interested in this class but unable to attend the Tuesday evening sessions, alternative arrangements can be made.

For questions, contact: Jenn Nardone, Membership Coordinator (mem@firstunitarianprov.org) or call the church office (401.421.7970). On Sundays, Jenn can be found in the Newcomers' Café in the Parish House (next to the kitchen).

### Why Not Visit Transylvania?

Since 2008, our church has been in a special partnership with a Unitarian church in Szentgyhaza, Romania, a small town nestled near the Carpathian Mountains in an area called Transylvania, once a part of Hungary. Members of our congregation have visited Transylvania three times. We have crisscrossed the area, learning about its history and the founding of the Unitarian church there. We have been hosted in Unitarian homes and treated to warm hospitality. We have participated in their worship services and heard their bells ring from the bell tower we helped to build. This ongoing relationship has created a special feeling for the members of our sister congregation and a deep appreciation of our shared religious heritage.

Transylvania is the very early (1568) birthplace of a religion based on recognizably Unitarian principles and beliefs. In that year Francis David, a self-declared Unitarian, convinced the king of Transylvania to declare an edict of tolerance, the first proclamation of religious freedom anywhere in Europe. It declared: "Preachers shall be allowed to preach the Gospel everywhere. . . . No one shall be made to suffer on account of his religion, since faith is the gift of God." All this took place more than a century before the Mayflower landed and almost 150 years before Roger Williams created a government that protected the liberty of conscience.

The Partner Church Committee is beginning to plan the next trip to our sister church in July 2019. If you (and your children) are interested in participating in a life-changing experience, please consider joining us. The committee will provide more information as we get closer to 2019. In the meantime, if you have any questions, contact Tom Getz.



the king of Transylvania to declare an edict of tolerance, the first proclamation of religious freedom anywhere in Europe. It declared: "Preachers shall

### Newcomers' Café

Every Sunday during Coffee Hour

If you're new to the church, the Café is a great place to meet people in a less daunting setting than the regular Coffee Hour. Held in the elegant and intimate Paneled Parlor (behind the fireplace), the Café is hosted by a rotating cast of church members and offers coffee, goodies, and fellowship.

If you've been around for a while, this is a great place to help new folks get acclimated.

To sign on as a Café host, contact Jennifer Nardone, Membership Coordinator (mem@firstunitarianprov.org)

### Join the History Committee

Monthly meeting, Sunday, November 5

12:00p in the History Room

The mission of the History Committee is to preserve and share the History of First Unitarian. Interested church members and friends are welcome to join the committee as it plans for the 300th anniversary of the gathering of the congregation in 2020. The committee meets on the first Sunday of every month in the History Room at the top of the stairs in the Parish House.

Contact: Janet Downing Taylor

### Our Harvest Coffee Hour!

It's November and time to think of all the things for which we are thankful as we harvest our plenty in delicious food donations for our Coffee Hour. Our Coffee Hour is a cooperative effort organized by the Women's Alliance with donations from our congregation of peanut- and peanut-butter-free baked goods, brownies, cookies, fruit, cheese and crackers, sandwiches, coffee cake, and more. We welcome home-made or store-bought donations.



Each Sunday we need eight people to bring donations that serve 24 each. Sign-ups are preferred. Sign up in the first parlor during Coffee Hour and go home with a reminder so you won't forget. Our Coffee Hour is Thankful for You!

### Remember – Your Name Tag Is Now in the Meeting House!

Wearing your name tag is a thoughtful way to help newcomers, including our new minister, to find their way into our community.

Before the worship service, please pick up your name tag from the board located at the front of the church in the Benefit and Benevolent streets corner. And thanks for wearing it!



## Spiritual Development

### Setting Free Your Inner Writer

Led by Rev. Gwendolyn Howard

Tuesday, November 7 at 7:00p

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

Rev. Gwendolyn Howard has been affiliated with First Unitarian as a Community Minister since 2009.

To register, contact Cathy Seggel ([dre@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:dre@firstunitarianprov.org))

## Art in the Atrium

### Exhibit Opening

Friday, November 10 before the Parish Supper

The month of November will host the work of Joan Rollins. She will exhibit some of her new oil paintings, including landscapes, flowers, people, pets, and a few abstracts.

### The Art Collective – Join now!

Thank you to all the artists and friends of artists who have joined our new Art Collective! It will give us a small budget to use for upgrading the hanging system and contributing to the opening exhibit refreshments.

The art displays in the Atrium each month are one of the joys of our community life. We are fortunate to have so many talented artists among us whose creations stimulate, amuse, and inspire us. All church members who are artists – and those who just want to support our artists and their shows in our Atrium Gallery – are invited to join the Art Collective. Membership in the Collective allows you to propose shows of your own work during the church year. Chiara Van Erp schedules and curates the shows. All members will receive notices of our shows, plus shows in other galleries in the area where our members are showing their art.

Membership dues are \$10 per year (payable by check to First Unitarian Church, with a notation "Art Collective"). We encourage all artists in our community, and anyone who appreciates our shows, to join. This gives us a funding base to work with for advertising, receptions, and maintaining/improving our hanging technology.

## Our Lifespan RE Program: The Five Wishes

The Five Wishes program concluded its series at the end of October. Many end-of-life topics were discussed and participants are completing their Five Wishes brochure to be notarized with their own personal instructions. In addition to writing a living will, the group had an opportunity to gain information from various professionals, create their own memorial service, and outline their obituary.

Thanks to the following people who helped make the series a success:

Matthew Leonard, Esq. – Legal Issues, Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, Estate Planning

Mark Russell – Monahan-Drabble-Sherman Funeral Home

William Caldwell, Linda Xavier, Joseph Cavallaro – Swan Point Cemetery

Sandy Schacht – Visiting Nurses, Home Health Care, Hospice Care

Betty Finn and The Grace Note Singers (bedside singing at end of life)

Shirley DiMatteo, Rich Rudert, Steven McCloy – Caring Network

## Benevolent Street Zendo

### An Ongoing Zen Meditation Group

Every Monday at 7:00p

Benevolent Street Zendo is a member community of the Boundless Way Zen Sangha, an interfaith Zen community. We meet most Mondays from 7:00p to 8:30p in the Parish House. All are welcome.

If you have never attended, please arrive at 6:45p for a brief orientation. Call or text Cindy Bapties (401.573.0881) for more information.

Cindy and George Beshers are practice leaders. This is offered as an activity of First Unitarian but is part of Boundless Way Zen ([www.boundlesswayzen.org](http://www.boundlesswayzen.org), select "Benevolent Street Zen").

## Innate Wisdom and Compassion Meditation

Every Wednesday at 7:00p

This drop-in group offers guided meditations of wisdom, love, and compassion. These practices are adapted from Tibetan Buddhism into new forms that can touch the hearts and minds of people from all backgrounds and faiths to help each of us bring out the best in ourselves and in our service and social action.

Contact: Ken Bent ([kenbent@cox.net](mailto:kenbent@cox.net))

## Reimagining Religion

Second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00p

Reimagining Religion is an ongoing attempt to employ the best recent scholarship in coming to grips with issues raised by radically new developments in the study of religion and thereby achieve a fuller appreciation of what religious literacy entails in the twenty-first century.

Leader: Tom Hall ([twh2nd@aol.com](mailto:twh2nd@aol.com))

## UUMen

Sunday, November 12, 7:00–9:00p

For information about this month's meeting, contact: Steve McCloy ([steven.mccloy43@gmail.com](mailto:steven.mccloy43@gmail.com))





## Social Justice

### The Girl Effect Holiday Sale

November 12 & 19 and December 3, 10:00a–12:30p

Mark your calendars for the Girl Effect Holiday Sale to benefit girls' education around the world. On three Sundays in November and December, beautiful, unique fair-trade gift items from around the world will be on

sale in the Atrium.

The proceeds from the sale are donated to nonprofits committed to girls' education.

If you would like to join this effort, or learn more about it, please contact our new volunteer coordinator, Suzanne Alden (suzannealden@comcast.net).

### Standing on the Side of Love

*Interfaith Forum, Wednesday, November 1, 7:30p*

*Hero of Faith Award Presentation to First Unitarian, Thursday, November 2, 7:30a*

On November 1, an Interfaith Forum will be held at the Providence Career and Technical Academy, 41 Fricker Street in Providence. The Mayor's office has invited First Unitarian to attend this meeting along with many other houses of worship in the city. It would be wonderful if we could have a good showing from our congregation.

The Rhode Island Council of Churches will be awarding First Unitarian with a Hero of Faith Award for our work on getting the sanctuary movement started in our state. The award will be given at a fundraising breakfast on November 2, 7:30–10:30a at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, 60 Rhodes Place, Cranston. All are welcome to attend with the purchase of a \$35 ticket.

In October, Standing on the Side of Love was able to support several community events.

- A dozen members of our congregation were present for the Rally for Racial Justice at India Point Park. We were joined by UUs from other Rhode Island churches, as well as a group from Concord, MA. It was an opportunity to learn what is going on with members of other local social justice groups, and how to connect with them.
- The PRONK event was held despite the rainy weather, but the opportunity to march with other social justice groups in support of a public observance of Indigenous People's Day was cancelled. Hopefully, SSL can be more involved next year.
- Several members attended a program presented by Resist Hate, Black Lives in RI: The Legacy of Slavery and Structural Racism in Rhode Island. This session was incredibly informative, bringing home the need to realize and identify our white privilege. The speakers were excellent, and we hope to see one or two of them at a parish supper in the future.
- Two members from our group attended a lecture in Boston by Ravi Ragbir, a social justice advocate who is under a deportation order after living legally in the US for nearly 20 years. He spoke about his work creating Sanctuary Neighborhoods in New York City, and what we can do to make those vulnerable to deportation feel safe and supported in our own city. In the coming months, we hope to bring Mr. Ragbir to Providence to share his inspiring story.



Look for updates in the *Meeting House Times* on how you can be involved with upcoming Standing on the Side of Love events.

### Ways to Support Our Sanctuary Program

After attending a training at the Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition at the end of October, members of the Steering Committee will be holding trainings for members of First Unitarian as we move further along in our preparations to accept someone into Sanctuary in our building. Over the next few weeks, we will be preparing a room and making it comfortable as a living space.

Watch the *Meeting House Times* and your email for opportunities to sign up for training and for providing help donating, transporting furniture, and setting up our guest room.

Contact: (katherine.ahlquist@gmail.com)

### Volunteer at First Unitarian's Food Share Pantry

*Distribution Day: Monday, November 20*

The biggest social justice program at First Unitarian is the Food Share Pantry. It takes many volunteers to keep the program going! Volunteer with your van or truck to transport food from the RI Food Bank to the church, or volunteer for a shift on Distribution Day:

Set-up: 2:00p–3:00p

Shopping with clients: 3:00p–5:00p

Restock, recycle, and clean up: 5:00p–6:00p

Contacts: Martha Manno (Mmanno7@comcast.net) or Judy Ortman (jbortman@aol.com)

### The Pantry Is Open to All

You probably know that volunteers at First Unitarian run a very well attended food pantry. But did you know that members of the congregation who are in need are also welcome to take part and receive food? You do not have to be receiving government help or otherwise demonstrate need. Just come to the church after 2:30p on the third Monday and fill out a brief registration form.

### Knitting for a Better World

*Every Tuesday, 7:00–9:00p*

Come join fellow knitters for a casual evening of knitting and conversation. Work on your own project or knit for one of First Unitarian's social justice projects. Drop in any Tuesday evening. Beginners are always welcome. We have yarn and needles to get you started.



### Find Us on Facebook!



First Unitarian's Facebook page is loaded with updates, useful links, photos, and more! Type "First Unitarian Providence" in the search box and check it out!

If you are interested in posting a church-related event, email to Membership Coordinator Jenn Nardone (mem@firstunitarianprov.org) or contact the church office.



## Social Justice

### Neighborhood Social Justice

*Monthly Meeting, Sunday, November 5 at 12:15p*

The Neighborhood Social Justice Committee takes on projects to lighten the load of low-income and homeless Rhode Islanders. Please join us to learn more about our work and perhaps to contribute some ideas of your own. Leadership Volunteers are Needed.

### Loaves & Fishes Mission

*Tuesday, November 7 from noon to 7:00p*

On the first Tuesday of every month, volunteers deliver food, clothing, and respectful companionship to those at Emmanuel House, a homeless shelter in Providence. All are welcome and encouraged to come to the church at 12:00p to prepare sandwiches or at 3:00p to collect clothes and help to load food and clothes in the cars.

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

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

### Y'all Come Community Lunch Thank You!

The NSJC and the Beneficent Church Peace & Justice Team, are sending heartfelt thanks to everybody who helped to make another very successful lunch. Our guests enjoyed a good home-style meal, socializing in a festive ambience while listening to soft piano music.

We served 131 guests with delicious meals. We have two of these meals a year; the next one will be in February. We hope we will have your support again.

Thank you!

– Chiara Van Erp, NSJC Co-Chair



## Annual Buy Nothing Day Winter Coat Exchange

Led by our fifth-grade class and their teachers

*Drop off contributions until Sunday, November 19 at the church*

*Distribution Day: Friday, November 24 on the State House Lawn*

On November 24, the busiest day in the American retail calendar and the unofficial start of the international Christmas shopping season, thousands of activists and concerned citizens in 65 countries will take a 24-hour “consumer detox” as part of the twentieth Buy Nothing Day.

In Providence, as part of International Buy Nothing Day, a winter coat exchange will again be held on the lawn of the State House directly across from the Providence Place Mall (rain location: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 15 Hayes Street, Providence).



If you have a coat/s to give, please drop off your contribution at the church no later than Sunday, November 19.

Volunteers are needed at the November 24 Distribution Day. If interested, contact Pam or Lauren Testoni (ptteach16@gmail.com).

Patrons and volunteers at a recent Winter Coat Exchange

Patrons and volunteers at a recent Winter Coat Exchange

## Community Collections 2017-18

One Sunday each month, First Unitarian donates its non-pledge Sunday offering to a charitable cause, a practice we have been following for more than a decade. The Community Collections Committee has selected the following organizations to receive this year’s contributions.

### September 10 (Homecoming)

The collection for First Unitarian and the UUA Sanctuary Movement brought in \$1,272. Thank you all for your generous contributions.

### October 15 – Pawtucket Backpackers

The collection for the Pawtucket Backpackers brought in \$1,077. Thank you all for your generous contributions.

### November 19 – Loaves & Fishes Mission

Provides monthly food distribution from First Unitarian to the homeless at Emmanuel House in Providence

### January 28 – Transylvania Partner Church

Assistance to our Partner Church in Transylvania for expansion of their worship space, so all congregants can gather together

### February 11

**Sojourner House** – A comprehensive domestic and sexual violence agency

**Day One** – Working to reduce the prevalence of sexual abuse and violence in Rhode Island

### April 15 – Pets in Need

Low-cost, affordable pet care veterinary clinic in East Providence

### May 20 – Dorcas International Institute

Empowering individuals and families to become self-sufficient and fully participating members of our diverse community

## Join the Green Team!

*Thursday, November 30, 7:30p*

*(Note: fifth Thursday this month)*

The Green Team Environmental Task Force promotes environmental issues and sustainable living in and outside First Unitarian. Caring for our environment is an 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 get involved in our broad and growing movement for climate justice and join us on this journey of connection, sustainability, and hope.

Contact: Kristen Ivy Moses (kristenivymoses@gmail.com)

For more information on these and future programs (meeting locations, contact information, etc.), see details in the church newsletter at [www.firstunitarianprov.org](http://www.firstunitarianprov.org)

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  Prudential Committee 6:00p Meditation 7:00p	2	3	4  Saturday Social Supper (Pounder's)
5 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Worship 10:30a at 12:15p Neighborhood SJ History Comm.	6 Women's Alliance 10:00a Business Meeting 11:00a Program followed by luncheon Zendo 7:00p	7 Loaves & Fishes Mission 12:00-7:00p  Setting Free Your Inner Writer 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	8  Meditation 7:00p	9	10  Atrium Art Exhibit Opening 5:00p All-Parish Supper 5:45p Program 7:45p	11  Veteran's Day Celebration & Fundraiser with Charlie Sweigart 7:30p
12 Girl Effect Sale 10:00a-12:30p Worship 10:30a  UU Men 7:00p	13  Zendo 7:00p	14  Deacons 5:30p Path Class 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Reimagining Religion 7:00p	15  Nominating Committee 1:00p  Meditation 7:00p	16	17	18
19 Girl Effect Sale 10:00a-12:30p Worship 10:30a Guest at Your Table Kick-off at 12:00p Mentor/Mentee	20 Food Pantry 2:00p-6:00p  Worship Comm. 6:00p Zendo 7:00p	21  Path Class 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	22  Meditation 7:00p	23 THANKSGIVING  Thanksgiving Dinner 1:00-4:00p	24 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 Worship 10:30a	27  Zendo 7:00p	28  Path Class 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Reimagining Religion 7:00p	29  Meditation 7:00p	30  Green Team 7:30p		