



Services in the Meeting House

Our themes for February are **Perseverance and Love**.

Sunday, February 4 Safe and Sacred Space

10:30a

Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay

"Safe and sacred space" is a phrase commonly used in Unitarian Universalist churches, but what does it really mean? Is it even possible? What are the commitments we make to each other, what can we offer each other, what do we owe each other, in this congregation? A church is an environment and a community like no other. As we kick off this month exploring our themes of love and perseverance, we'll consider how those themes play out in the gifts and requirements of beloved community.

Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in chapel.

Sunday, February 11 The Wholly Family, A Multigenerational Service

10:30a

Cathy Seggel, DRE, Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay & Families

An annual celebration of the many ways we are family. Over the years, family stories have been shared by people of many ages, races, and economic conditions and many family configurations: GBLTQ, "traditional" couples, one parent, and single-person families. Come, and celebrate with us!

Childcare for infants to three-year-olds will be open on the second floor of the Parish House.

A Community Collection will be taken to support the work of Sojourner House – a comprehensive domestic and sexual violence agency and

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

Sunday, February 18 Beauty as Spiritual Nourishment

10:30a

Rev. Lilia Cuervo

Looking for and enjoying beauty is a way to nourish the soul, observes Matthew Fox. Let us reflect on how we can encounter beauty in splendid features of nature and, most important, in ordinary things around us. Persevering on the path of beauty, we are bound to experience joy, gratitude, and love, necessary values to nurture the human and the spiritual in us.

The Rev. Lilia Cuervo, a native of Colombia, was the first Latin American woman ordained in the Unitarian Universalist denomination. At First Parish in Cambridge she also made history by being the first woman to be installed as Parish Minister there. She is a co-founder of the Latino/a UU Networking Association (LUUNA) and the initiator and a translator of several pieces for Las Voces del Camino, the Spanish-language Unitarian Universalist hymnal.

Lilia holds a Master of Divinity degree from Starr King School for the Ministry, a Master of Demography from Georgetown University, and a B.A. in math and physics from Women Teachers College, Bogota, Colombia. She has three grown children: Xavier, Nilza, and Shani, and one grandchild, Javale. She is married to Sam, a long-time UU lay leader.

Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in chapel.

Sunday, February 25 If Love Were a Plane, No One Would Get On

10:30a

Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay

The title of this sermon is taken from a country song by Liz's favorite country artist, Brad Paisley. And it's true – the odds of love surviving, even of marriages surviving, aren't great. On the other side of the marriage equality battle, having won the right to marry for so many, what have we won? What is this ancient, modern institution – what does it mean, what *should* it mean to us in the here and now?

Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in chapel.



We are a
Welcoming Congregation

Inside

Lately ...	2
Spiritual Pathways	3
Sight Lines	4
Community Life	5
Spiritual Development	7
Social Justice	8
Monthly Calendar	9

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Lately . . .

The explosion of the “Me too” movement, with its attendant revelations about bad behavior and ethical violation so broadly spread throughout our society, has opened a lot of eyes. We are aware, as perhaps never before, of the ways people don’t act the way they should. Those kinds of violations seem to be everywhere. In some instances, we’re not surprised

at all. In some instances, we’re blown away.

But a gift of this tumultuous time is the reminder that it matters a great deal how we are with each other, how we behave with each other. Not just in terms of sexual ethics, though surely also there, but in terms of respect, care, mutuality, support. Sometimes we have to spell these things out with each other in order to be clear, not just about what is not acceptable, but also to be clear about what is aspired to; to focus not only on how we mustn’t be to each other, but how we hope to be with each other.

In recent years, First Unitarian has also been looking at these questions, and in February the church is rolling out its Safe and Civil Church Policy. This is an important, and long-sought, addition to our church policies, outlining how we organize ourselves to make sure we’re being responsible and faithful with each other, to offer standards for our behavior here, for addressing important conflicts and concerns that arise, for delineating boundaries and commitments we make here. And the point of this is not to police our church, but to strengthen it. To make sure that all who come here seeking a place where they can be vulnerable, where they can be open, where they can speak from the heart and lean on a neighbor or friend in a pew or in a meeting or in a Chalice Circle gathering can do so in the knowledge that they will be met with care and respect.

Though this enterprise started well before I came on to the scene, I’m so glad to be here as it is enacted. I believe such policies, and congregational covenants, are essential for helping a faith community be our best selves with each other, especially when we encounter difficulties. I’ve known such policies and covenants to be critical tools for helping a church as a whole, as well as individuals looking at their own behavior and opportunities.

You’ll hear more about this as we enter February; but for now, as we begin this month that we are dedicating to our ministry themes of perseverance and love, I am so heartened that we have these new resources, witness to new iterations of perseverance and love, within this church that has such a big heart and such stamina. I look forward to integrating safe congregation work into who and how we are together.



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

Looking Toward Summer Services 2018

Our worship services from mid-June through Labor Day weekend are planned and hosted by the Worship Committee. These services are led by members and friends of the congregation and occasional guest speakers. They provide a unique opportunity for us to learn more about the spiritual insights, passions, and life-changing events that are important to the people who share this religious community with us.



The Worship Committee would like to hear from the congregation with suggestions for possible speakers, including yourself, interested in sharing an aspect of their spiritual path. They also want to hear from anyone with a musical talent to share. Please look for members of the Worship Committee at Coffee Hour.

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Worship Committee: Neil Bartholomew (chair), Suzanne Alden, Michael Currier, Jean Dolan, Elissa Emerson, Greg Kniseley, Kelley Smith

Deacons’ Corner

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! – Wassail!

The Deacons extend praise and deep appreciation to the more than 40 church members who helped make the Christmas Eve Wassail Reception a joyous event! The wassail is a centuries-old English custom that morphed into our present-day caroling with warm drinks and treats.

The Women’s Alliance and the choir provided most of the refreshments. Whether it was setting up on Friday or food prep and serving before the service or clean up, many church members pulled together for a great celebration.

Special accolades are due to:

- Janet Downing Taylor, who graciously offered her past experience organizing receptions by serving as co-chair with Deacon Judie Knilans.
- Music Director Fred Jodry who created a beautiful floral centerpiece, as well as teaching the Wassail Song.
- Our Minister, Liz Lerner Maclay, who inspired this event.
- Our Administrator, Posey Kooris, for her invaluable assistance and for securing the building at 11:30p.

We hope the Christmas Eve Wassail Reception will become a First Unitarian tradition. This successful event highlights the need for a church Fellowship Committee to meet the social and celebratory needs of the congregation.

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

Winter Storms

In case of extreme weather, the minister and staff will determine if church will be held or cancelled. A cancellation decision will be made by 8:00a on Sunday and conveyed to the following media outlets: TV channels ABC 6, NBC 10, WPRI 12, Fox Providence, RI PBS and radio stations 630WPRO, 920WHJJ, 1180 CCNX news radio, 1290WRNI, Lite Rock105, B101, 94HJY, 92ProFM, 98.1Cat Country, 93.3Coast FM.

If the City of Providence announces a ban on street parking, church will be cancelled.

Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay, Minister
Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education
Fred Jodry, Director of Music
Posey Kooris, Congregational Administrator
Jenn Nardone, Membership Coordinator





Spiritual Pathways

Upholding Trust ~ Brave Space

Every year. Every year I review our congregation's safety guidelines, policies, and practices, ranging from arrival and departure procedures to how we staff classrooms to detailed ways we accompany youngsters to the bathroom. Every year we conduct criminal background checks on all volunteer and staff teachers and mentors. We share information and educate teacher teams and mentors about how we promise to behave and act in all that we do in this faith community.

Then, every year, we model and teach our children and youth to covenant with one another, to live our values, to embody our UU principles, and to be brave in living faithfully. Young people helped to develop their covenant. The program-wide promises are connected to our UU values and include clear behaviors and actions. I make sure that we reflect – both in Chapel worship and in age-appropriate class sessions – on issues such as bullying and other disturbing, relevant subjects that our children and youth face in their lives.

In their UUA work on trust in the RE community, Laurel Amabile and Tera Little share that by setting up clear limitations and expectations, responsibility, and accountability, we recognize the need to create and maintain clear safety requirements in which we leave no room for doubt in our expectations of healthy relationships and boundaries between adults and children and between adults and adults. We can't leave to chance our interactions with the children in our church, assuming that everything will be all right because we are all good Unitarian Universalists.

We don't expect infractions of our guidelines or predict disruption or breaking of laws or rules. We imagine that we are creating trusting relationships between children, youth, parents, and all of you. That is what happens in our Spiritual Pathways Religious Education program.

What about the full range of adults, from members to friends with varying roles, who are connected in our faith community? I am pleased that right now, the Prudential Committee, as our congregational leadership, has refined and affirmed a set of safety guidelines for people of all ages. There will be opportunities for everyone to review this and other congregational policies through online and other communication channels. I am glad that this important aspect of congregational life has become a priority for adults as well as for our children and youth.

This reading, by Micky ScottBey Jones (inspired by an unknown poet), has informed my vision of safety and bravery. And, there will be learning and mistakes along the way.

*Together we will create brave space
Because there is no such thing as a "safe space"
We exist in the real world
We all carry scars and we have all caused wounds.
In this space
We seek to turn down the volume of the outside world,
We amplify voices that fight to be heard elsewhere,
We call each other to more truth and love
We have the right to start somewhere and continue to grow.
We have the responsibility to examine what we think we know.
We will not be perfect.
This space will not be perfect.
It will not always be what we wish it to be
But
It will be our brave space together,
and
We will work on it side by side*

Take care as we embody brave and safe community,

Cathy

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

Faith Skills and Themes



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

that are foundational to our program philosophy are:

Cultivating Spiritual Practices
Navigating the UU Sources
Articulating Your Faith
Worshiping with your Life
Serving the World



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 of all ages
Supporting Lifelong Learning & Transitions





Sight Lines

February Is Congregational Safety and Security Month

This past year, the Prudential Committee adopted a revised Policy and Procedure Manual for First Unitarian Church, which included a safe-congregation policy for the church. The Safe and Civil Church Policy was created to assure everyone, including friends, members, staff, visitors, and those associated with the church, on church property, or attending a church-sponsored event that they are entitled to a safe environment in which to explore and experience spiritual growth, as well as freely express their individual views and opinions. By adopting this policy, the Prudential Committee adopted guidelines for civil and appropriate behavior and a procedure to deal with conduct that is detrimental to the church and the greater church community.

In brief summary, the policy:

- defines individual behavior which will not be tolerated or condoned by the church, including abusive or disruptive behavior or sexual misconduct involving adults, children, or youth;
- appoints a committee to inquire into knowledge or complaints of such unwarranted behavior;
- sets up a reporting procedure for anyone wishing to file a complaint regarding the same; and
- creates a procedural mechanism for making a determination of findings regarding allegations of such behavior.

Specifically, the policy creates a Right Relations Advisory Committee, made up of the Minister, President, and a former church official, who will investigate any complaint or incidence of abuse as defined in the policy (see page 5), and report on their conclusions and recommendations to the Prudential Committee. During the process, the complainant and accused will have a reasonable opportunity to be heard. The Prudential Committee, upon final hearing and determination of the complaint, shall determine the appropriate response, remedy, and, if necessary, penalty arising from such abusive or disruptive behavior.

A congregational conversation about the Safe and Civil Church Policy will take place on Sunday, February 18 at 11:30a in the Auditorium. All are welcome.

On another matter of safety, we have begun an assessment of the need for greater security at the church. A meeting was held in December between church officials and church members and representatives of the Jewish Alliance and the Providence Police Department; following the meeting, a request for a security appraisal by the Providence Police Department was requested.

Finally, I leave you with a quote from Michael Mabee, author of a recent book on preparing for catastrophe: "We are not preparing for a world we live in; we are preparing for a world we find ourselves in."

Jay Glasson
President, Prudential Committee
pres@firstunitarianprov.org

Please mark your calendar for the
Congregational Conversation
about the new **Safe and Civil Church Policy**
(more information on page 5)

Sunday, February 18 at 11:30a
in the Auditorium

Treasurer's Report

The new regulations related to the federal income tax had a positive effect for this year's pledge receipts. As of December 31, pledge payments are now 70.7% of the amount budgeted. December saw an increase of 25% in pledge receipts. In addition, nonpledge receipts have gone well over what was budgeted. With 50% of the year completed, we have received 63.8% of the projected receipts.

It is particularly important that we all complete our pledges this year. We have several unbudgeted needs, including a staff replacement, which will mean hiring an individual to work with the current staff member for a period of time (necessitating a double salary).

At this time, spending is within budget.

— Graham Nye, Treasurer

Meeting House Restoration: Upcoming Changes to Access and Parking

On Friday, January 12, the contract for Meeting House restoration by E. F. O'Donnell was signed. Work is scheduled to begin on April 1, 2018.



The work will start with the erection of scaffolding around the entire Meeting House building. Access through the Benefit Street (front) and Parish House breezeway doors will be available throughout the restoration.

However, scaffolding and construction equipment will occupy all the parking slots next to the Meeting House during the entire construction period ending August 1. The remaining two rows of parking will be available for church use on weekends only.

Church staff is making arrangements for their weekday parking during the construction period. On Sundays, all church members are encouraged to park elsewhere (nearby streets, Hope Club lot, George Street Lot) until the restoration work is complete.

After the scaffolding is erected, surface preparation work will begin on masonry, wood, and roof surfaces of the entire exterior. Workmen will take all precautions to ensure that the business of the church can continue during the restoration.

Those with any questions regarding the method or timing of the construction are welcome to contact David House, Meeting House Restoration Coordinator (dlhouse51@comcast.net).



Community Life

Path to Membership Class

Two-part session, Saturday, February 24, 2:00–5:00p and Sunday, February 25, 12:00–2:00p

(On Sunday, a light lunch before history and tour of the church)

The Path to Membership class is for anyone who is interested in membership or in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and First Unitarian. The classes are led by our minister, Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay; our Director of Religious Education, Cathy Seggel; and our Membership Coordinator, Jenn Nardone. Childcare will be provided if requested in advance.

Registration forms are available in the Newcomers' Café and on the Membership Board in the Parish House hallway. Anyone interested in this class but unable to attend should let Jenn Nardone know; there will be at least one more session of classes scheduled this church year.

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 (behind the fireplace).

Our Journey to a New Safe-Church Policy

Join the Congregational Conversation on Sunday, February 18 at 11:30a

The idea of a safe-church policy began several years ago when our interim minister, Rev. Charlie Ortman, encouraged us to begin work on a strong, well-developed safe-congregation policy. In his experience, congregations with clear policies regarding safe and civil behavior are less likely to find themselves managing difficult situations and legal actions.

After reviewing First Unitarian's Policy and Procedure Manual, the Prudential Committee discovered that elements of such a policy existed in various places, including a behavior covenant in the Spiritual Pathways program. Yet, clear guidelines were not collected and organized in one place.

The PruComm then checked with the UUA and discovered that it promotes developing a safe-congregation policy to address three main areas of congregational life:

- addressing professional misconduct complaints
- promoting appropriate behavior
- responding to threats and incidents

Details of UUA recommendations for creating a safe and welcoming congregation for all can be found at the UUA website (<https://www.uua.org/safe>).

With encouragement from both the UUA and Rev. Ortman, a subgroup of the Prudential Committee, led by then-president Cynthia Rosengard, undertook a comprehensive review of our current policy. They researched how other congregations have written their policies and subsequently developed a draft policy for the Prudential Committee's feedback.

The policy ultimately endorsed and approved by the Prudential Committee includes the following important elements:

- clear definitions of "abuse," "sexual misconduct," and "disruptive behavior"
- creation of a Right Relations Advisory Committee that will be tasked with reviewing all complaints, speaking with all parties involved, and making recommendations for courses of action to address complaints
- codification of the Spiritual Pathways policies and procedures regarding safe and civil behavior among volunteer teachers, students, and parents within the larger policy
- procedures regarding how to manage incidents involving adults and incidents involving children and youth
- procedures for addressing disruptive behavior

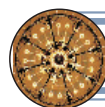
A copy of the completed and approved Safe and Civil Church Policy, can be found on our newly designed website (<http://firstunitarianprov.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/SECTION-3.0-SAFE-AND-CIVIL-CHURCH-POLICY.pdf>)

Newcomers' Café

Every Sunday during Coffee Hour

Held in the elegant and intimate Paneled Parlor, the Café is hosted by a rotating cast of church members and offers coffee, goodies, and fellowship. If you're new to the church, this is a great place to meet people in a less daunting setting than the regular Coffee Hour. If you've been around for a while, this is a great place to help new folks get acclimated.

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



Wheel of Life

Condolences to:

Mary Kollar, whose husband, **Robert**, member since 1992, died suddenly on December 26.

The family and friends of **Paul Webber**, who died on January 6. Paul worked as evening security here at the church for at least 25 years before moving to Florida last year.

The family and friends of **Jeanne Sturim**, member since 2016, who died suddenly on January 9.

Kevin and Mardee Carson, members since 2005, who lost their daughter, Rachel, suddenly on January 13.

Mary Frey, member since 1995, who lost her husband **David** on January 20 after a brief illness.

Healing thoughts to:

Sandy Schacht, who had an accident followed by surgery and is recovering with his brother, Bob.

Lucille Riccitelli who had a successful planned surgery and is at home recovering.

Hats Off to ...

Our Coffee Hour Providers:

Elissa Emerson, Jude Sonder, Bela Teixeira, Cynthia Rosengard, Mary Frappier, Tony Allen, Roberta Groch, Gerry Spremulli, Kim Noble, Anne Connor, Suzanne Frances, the Transylvania Partner Church Committee, Nancy Shand, Rachel Spaulding, Kate Guilbault, Kelly Baraf, and all of you who brought something in to surprise us.



Community Life

Atwater-Donnelly Trio Concert

Friday, February 9, 7:00p

This concert by the Atwater-Donnelly Trio is for the whole family and is sponsored by the Commitment Drive Team as a gift to the church community. The theme for this year's drive is "The Fire of Commitment – The Power of Love."

Save the date for this fun and meaningful event. The concert starts at 7:00p. There will be cookies and hot drinks afterwards.

Note: The concert follows this month's Art in the Atrium opening (see below). Please come early to meet the artists and enjoy the exhibit.



*The Atwater-Donnelly Trio:
Aubrey Atwater, Elwood Donnelly, and Cathy Clasper-Torch*

Art in the Atrium

Opening, Friday, February 9 at 5:30p

Fiber Art is the theme of the February show, sponsored by the Women's Alliance. The show will feature works by Alliance members Temple Fawcett, Nancy Libby Fisher, Carrollyn Grace, Nancy Sherren, Janet Downing Taylor, and others.

The Alliance will host a reception during the show, featuring "heavy" hors d'oeuvres.

If you would like to participate in a future show, please contact Chiara Van Erp (romano-vanerp-design@cox.net) for details about arranging a show.

Annual Cook-Off to Feature Your Best Stew/Hearty Soup!

Sunday, February 11 during Coffee Hour

Sign up to participate on Sunday, February 3

The Membership Committee invites you to cook up a batch of your best stew. During Coffee Hour on February 11, folks will have the chance to taste all entries and vote on their favorite! All are welcome to join in, and last-minute dishes will be accepted.

Sign-ups will take place in the Coffee Hour preceding the event.

A Night at the Theater

Thursday, March 8 at Barker Playhouse

Reception at 6:30p, Performance at 7:30p

Tickets on sale February 11, 18, 25 during Coffee Hour at the Alliance Coffee Table

The Women's Alliance is hosting a Night at the Theater for a performance of *Twelve Angry Jurors*, by Reginald Rose, performed by The Players at Barker Playhouse on Benefit Street. The Alliance has purchased half the house (50 seats) on the evening of Thursday, March 8, and is inviting members of the congregation to join them.

Originally set in 1956 and titled *Twelve Angry Men*, the once all-white, all-male play has been updated to current-day Brooklyn, New York, with a diverse cast of men and women. Few changes were made to the powerful script, and though some details are less than current – there is no death penalty in New York, for example – the basics of the story and characters are timeless (sometimes unfortunately so). When a single juror is the only holdout for an innocent verdict in a patricide trial, what develops is a picture of America at its best . . . and worst.

Discounted, limited-seating tickets are \$20.

There will be a dessert reception before the performance.

Reserving your ticket now helps the Alliance plan for the evening. You will be given a ticket as a reminder. Tickets may be purchased at the Alliance Coffee Sales table during Coffee Hour.

Net proceeds from this event will be included in the Alliance's year-end donations to charities that support women and families.

Happy Birthday to ...

If you see these folks in February, be sure to wish them a warm and happy birthday!



Eva Agudelo
Kelly Baraf
Shirley DiMatteo
Janet Downing Taylor
Nori Duncan
Lisa Garcia-Sampson
Melissa Guillet
Janice Okoomian
Brett Summers
Sadie Swayze

Gourmet Coffee Sales

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

Our February Coffee Hour

Be our Valentine this month and bring treats 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 or bought goodies such as brownies, cookies, fruit, cheese and crackers, sandwiches, coffee cake and more. In order to feed the ravenous crowd each Sunday, we need eight people bringing donations that serve 24 each. Sign-ups are preferred in order to plan for each upcoming Sunday.

Sign up in the first parlor during Coffee Hour and go home with a reminder so you won't forget. And – you just might get a kiss!



Atrium Bookstore

The Atrium Bookstore is open every Sunday during the regular church year in the Atrium during Coffee Hour. Besides the books that we get from the UUA's own Beacon Press and Skinner House, we also offer books from Skylight Paths Publishing, an interfaith publisher of various faith traditions. We have also stocked copies of *Centering*, the UUA Common Read (see page 8). Please stop by and browse our selections.



Community Life

The Women's Alliance Monthly Meeting

Monday, February 5

Business Meeting: 10:00a

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

On Water Quality and Coastal Erosion

Speaker: John Torgan

The ocean and the coast define our way of life in Rhode Island. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) works to protect our valuable resources, including the health of our fresh and salt water. Using the best available science, TNC addresses water quality, coastal erosion, and the effects of climate change through habitat management and coastal restoration.

John Torgan is the RI State Director of The Nature Conservancy. Prior to joining TNC in 2011, John worked for Save the Bay, serving as Narragansett Baykeeper and Director of Advocacy. In addition to guiding TNC activities within Rhode Island, John also works regionally and nationally on TNC efforts around fisheries, coastal resilience, and water quality.

Supporting Camp Street Ministries

Save your grocery receipts from Eastside Marketplace and place them in the collection box at the back table in the Atrium near the Haynes Room. The Women's Alliance collects them for the benefit of Camp Street Ministries.

Saturday Social Supper

February 10, 5:30p

The February supper will be a multigenerational gathering at the home of Louise Sloan and Skip Farinha in Barrington. People new to the church are encouraged to attend; it's a very nice way to meet others from our church family.

Contact Shirley DiMatteo for meal planning and reservations (shirley.dimatteo@yahoo.com).

Volunteer at First Unitarian's Food Share Pantry

Distribution Day: Monday, February 19

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@gmail.com)

Happy News from Transylvania

Our friends at our Partner Church in Szentegyháza have let us know that Orsi, the daughter of one of our visit hosts, Aronka Horvath, was married over the holidays to her boyfriend, Lavante Orban. Orsi translated for her family when Nori



Duncan and Janet Downing Taylor stayed in their home in 2015. They sent this picture of the couple registering to be married. We send them our best wishes with this valentine!



– The Transylvania Partner Church Committee

Spiritual Development

UUMen

Sunday, February 11, 7:00–9:00p

The topic is Gratitude and How One Can Cultivate It and Increase Our Well-being and Happiness by Doing So.

Facilitator: Paul Bazin (pbazin11@gmail.com)

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. You may 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, 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)

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 achieving a fuller appreciation of what religious literacy entails in the twenty-first century.

Leader: Tom Hall (twh2nd@aol.com)



Social Justice

Side with Love

Standing on the Side of Love has a new name!

After nine years and much deliberation and thought, the UUA has decided to change the name of our well-known and nationally recognized social



justice organization to become more inclusive. We will still be identified by that outstanding golden color and the jaunty heart, but we will now proudly Side with Love as we continue to work toward creating a more just, fair and peaceful world. You can still wear your SSL gear, but if you need to be in the new, we are ordering First Unitarian SwL Ts and hoodies and hope to have them in time for Valentine's Day.

First Unitarian was well represented at the Women's March on January 20. A lively group kicked off the march from First Unitarian, heading toward the statehouse to join the crowd there. Check out photos of the march on our First Unitarian Facebook page.

There are many opportunities to be involved with social justice at First Unitarian. Look for updates in the *Meeting House Times*, or attend one of our meetings. We are looking forward to a year of growth and exploration as our minister, Liz Lerner Maclay, works with us to build connections and strengthen our commitment to issues that are meaningful to us as a congregation. We hope you will join with us on our journey, as we Side with Love!

Sanctuary Project

Our Sanctuary Host team continues to meet every two weeks, working to make sure everything will be ready to help someone when the time comes. We also meet with the Executive Committee every two weeks, to keep the Prudential Committee up to date on our progress.

To date we have held three basic volunteer trainings and one non-violent resistance training, with excellent attendance from our congregation. If you know of someone from another congregation or community group that would be interested in helping us with sanctuary, please encourage them to contact us at firstsanctuary@gmail.com

We finally had our meeting with Mayor Elorza mid-January, and he has pledged to help us get what we need from the city to become a sanctuary church. We are hoping that soon we will be ready to publicly declare our space is ready for someone in need.

Around the holidays, we were contacted by someone who is looking for a place to take sanctuary. Plans for a meeting fell apart at the last minute, but it reminded us that this is an important undertaking, and people are looking to us for help.

Knitting for a Better World and The Mitten Tree

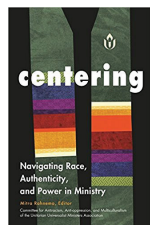
Our Mitten Tree officially opened on the morning of New Year's Eve. It was so cold outside that we gathered to bless the tree beneath the clock in the Meeting House, and then quickly hung items on our tree. Since it has blossomed with warmings, the weather has been in the single digits on several days, and many items have been picked from its branches. To keep our tree well stocked, we need your help. Please bring new or gently used hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and socks to the basket in the Atrium, where we will tag the items and hang them as needed.



UUA "Common Read" Book Discussion

Single session, Thursday, February 1 at 7:00p

Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry is one of this year's UUA Common Read selections. First Unitarian is sponsoring a discussion session on *Centering* on Thursday, February 1. You can purchase a copy of the book at our own Atrium Bookstore on Sundays during Coffee Hour or go to uua.org/bookstore.



Co-facilitators: Cathy Seggel and Beth Anterni

Please contact Cathy Seggel in the church office (dre@firstunitarianprov.org) if you plan to participate.

Neighborhood Social Justice

February Meeting, Sunday February 4

Loaves & Fishes Mission, Tuesday, February 6

Your help is needed more than ever during these cold winter months. Help our fellow Rhode Islanders in need. Join us at Emmanuel House in Providence.

Choose one, two, or all three activities to warm your heart:

- At 12:00 noon we prepare sandwiches for the homeless in Providence.

At 3:00p we distribute the sandwiches to the homeless on the streets of Providence and prepare items to transport to Emmanuel House.

From 4:00–8:00p we assemble a serving Crew to prepare a hot meal and serve the men staying at the shelter.

Serving begins around 6:45p.

Stop by the NSJC table in the Atrium to sign up or request information

February "Y-All Come" Lunch Postponed to April 14

The Y-ALL Come Community Lunch has usually been held at the end of February with NSJC and the Beneficent Congregational Church hosting. This year's lunch has been postponed to Saturday April 14.



Please watch for future announcements if you would like to provide food for the potluck and/or help the day of the lunch. Thank you.

Join the Green Team!

Fourth Thursdays, 7:30p

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

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 UUA Common Read 7:00p	2	3
4 Worship 10:30a at 12:00p Mentor/Mentee at 12:15p Neighborhood SJ History Comm.	5 Women's Alliance 11:00a Zendo 7:00p	6 Loaves & Fishes Mission 12:00–7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	7 Chalice Facilitators 12:00p Prudential Committee 6:00p Meditation 7:00p	8	9 Atrium Art Opening 5:30p Atwater-Donnelly Concert and Reception 7:00p	10 Harvest the Power Saturday Social Supper (Sloan/Farinha)
11 Worship 10:30a at 11:30a Annual Cookoff UU Men 7:00p	12 Worship 6:00p Zendo 7:00p	13 Deacons 6:30p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Reimag. Rel. 7:00p	14 Meditation 7:00p	15	16	17
18 Worship 10:30a at 11:30p Congregational Conversation on Safe & Civil Church	19 PRESIDENTS' DAY Church Office Closed Food Pantry 2:00p–6:00p Zendo 7:00p	20 Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	21 Meditation 7:00p	22 Green Team 7:30p	23	24 Path to Membership Class 2:00–5:00p
25 Worship 10:30a at 12:00p Path to Membership Class Tour Commitment Drive Conversation	26 Zendo 7:00p	27 Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Reimag. Rel. 7:00p	28 Harvest the Power 7:00p Meditation 7:00p			