



# THE MEETING HOUSE TIMES

January 14, 2018

## Thing You Need To Know from your program staff

Important Things are Happening with Church Finance at First Unitarian!

We are holding 2 workshops for congregants to learn and share information about what's ahead as we plan a budget and set priorities for the next church year. It's an exciting time at church, with a lot going on, a lot that's possible, a lot we want to talk about and get input on. Make sure you come and lend your ears and voices as we look forward to our upcoming Commitment Drive and the next church year!

Workshop dates:

This Sunday, January 14, 12:00 to 1:00p

Sunday, January 28, 12:00 to 1:00p

## TODAY

10:30a in the Meeting House

**MLK Sunday: Looking Beyond Justice**

**Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay**

On this Sunday before Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, our service will look at the challenge and imperative of relationships and commitment between us all, across all our differences, despite all our differences, and maybe most of all, because of all our differences. What do we all gain, as well as give, when we live into what we believe?

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

11:30a **Food Pantry Food Shuttle. Meet in the church basement following service.**

**Coffee Hour in the Parish House Parlors/Atrium**

Newcomers Cafe in the Paneled Parlor

Coffee Hour Baking Sign-up

Women's Alliance Coffee Sale

Atrium Bookstore Closed

12:00p **Commitment Drive in the Auditorium**

12:15p **Chalice Circle Signup & Sampler in the Haynes Room**

**Social Justice Ministry in the Moon Room (3rd floor)**

**Leadership Retreat in the Diversity Room (3rd floor)**

5:00p **Campus UUs resume on Sunday, January 28.**

All college aged young adults are welcome to weekly gatherings in the Parish House. Contact Maria (maria\_ronchi@brown.edu) or Cathy in the church office.

7:00p **UU Men**

In the future someone will ask, "Back in 2017, when courageous women were standing up and speaking out against sexual assault and harassment during the #MeToo movement, what were you men doing to improve male culture?" Facilitator: Burr Harrison (burr\_harrison@yahoo.com)

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**Monday, January 15 - Church Office Closed**

2:30p Food Pantry doors open

7:00p Benevolent Street Zendo

**Tuesday, January 16**

7:00p **Knitting for a Better World**

A weekly gathering for knitting and conversation.

Bring your own project or work on one of our group projects. Yarn, needles, and instruction available.

**Wednesday, January 17**

1:00p **Nominating Committee**

6:00p **Finance Committee meeting**

7:00p **Sanctuary Host meeting**

7:00p **Natural Wisdom and Compassion Meditation**

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

Contact: Ken Bent (kenbent@cox.net)

## NEXT SUNDAY

**Sunday, January 21**

**Significant Other Church Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay**

Do you know we have a partner church? Way over in Romania, a place utterly unlike Providence, with people who lead very different lives and whose Unitarianism is in some ways unfamiliar to us. And yet . . . and yet they are our siblings, related through our faith. They are our benefactors, as they have hand-made gifts for our church spaces. They are our friends, as our journeys back and forth, and the experiences that we've shared, have created lasting and loving bonds. We'll spend this morning cultivating our awareness of the ways First Unitarian has a significant other – more significant, perhaps than we knew, with yet more significance possible for us all.

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

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**For details on these and future programs**

(meeting locations, contact information, etc.),

see the monthly newsletter on the church website at

[www.firstunitarianprov.org](http://www.firstunitarianprov.org)

# PROGRAM NEWS

## COMMUNITY LIFE

### First U Fiesta! ~ Taco Night

**Saturday, January 27, 6:00-8:00p**

What's better than tacos with teens?! Your hosts, the First Unitarian Coming of Age class, their families and mentors, invite you to them for \*A First U Fiesta\* featuring a fun evening with delicious tacos, fabulous pastries, and musical accompaniment. Chase the winter chill away with good company and food. Relax, visit and mingle as this year's awesome eighth graders and their families serve you. We'll also have raffle tickets available for purchase for a chance to take home one of a variety of specialty items. Raffle donations welcome! Email [curryk78@gmail.com](mailto:curryk78@gmail.com). This event helps support the Coming of Age trip to Boston and UUA Headquarters in the spring.

Individual Ticket // \$8.00 or Family Ticket (four) // \$25.00. Tickets will be available today during Coffee Hour.

### 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](mailto:mem@firstunitarianprov.org))

### Women's Alliance Gourmet Coffee Sale

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

### Our Coffee Hour

Happy New Year! Here's a great resolution for the New Year: Sign up regularly to bring food to the Coffee Hour! Remember that our Coffee Hour is a cooperative effort organized by The Women's Alliance with Peanut and Peanut butter free donations from our congregation of 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 8 people bringing donations that serve 24 each. Sign-ups are preferred. Sign up in the first parlor during Coffee Hour.

### 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. Please stop by and browse our selections.

### From the Nominating Committee

Are you interested in being considered for an elected position at First Unitarian Church, such as the Nominating Committee, the Prudential Committee, or as a Deacon? As we develop the slate for 2018, the Nominating Committee would like to hear from or about people, especially those newer to the church, who have been involved in church activities but have never had a governance role.

If you are interested in learning more about these elected positions or to express your interest in being considered, email Marilyn Eanet, Nominating Committee chair ([meanet@cox.net](mailto:meanet@cox.net)) or Jennifer Nardone, Membership Coordinator ([mem@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:mem@firstunitarianprov.org)).

### 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](http://uua.org/bookstore).

Co-facilitators: Cathy Seggel and Beth Anterni

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

### Sr High Youth ~ Ongoing Gift Card Drive for Dorcas International Institute

Our youth are collecting gift cards for Dorcas International Institute to purchase appropriate necessities for refugees who have come to Rhode Island. A tradition of collaboration between our senior high youth and Dorcas International Institute has grown over time. Now, there is a natural connection between the mission of that agency, our Sanctuary effort, and the passions of our teens to actively support immigrants and refugees. Please bring cards to the RE office off of the atrium or directly to our youth in their basement den. Thank you.

## STEWARDSHIP

### Commitment Drive Gets Underway - Learn more today

Welcome to 2018 and the start of a new campaign. In the past few years, this annual effort has borne different titles - pledge drive, annual budget drive, annual canvass and the like. This year we are focusing on commitment and generosity and decided to rename our effort to reflect a new sense of direction.

We are beginning with two workshops on church finance today, January 14th and on the 28th from 12:00-1:00p. We hope to provide all members and friends an opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions and get a better understanding of our financial picture before the official start of the Commitment Drive in February. Lots of your input will help to make our efforts more successful, so please come.

Joe Fisler, Chair

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

### **Training for Sanctuary at First Unitarian**

**Sunday, January 21, 12:15 to 2:30p**

If you haven't been able to attend our other trainings, come find out what becoming a Host entails and learn about other volunteer options. Bring a brown bag lunch, beverages and dessert will be provided. RSVP at [firstsanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:firstsanctuary@gmail.com). Childcare available with RSVP.

### **Items Needed for Sanctuary Space:**

Microwave oven 3 chairs for table.

Contact Max at [sine.max1@verizon.net](mailto:sine.max1@verizon.net)

### **Rapid Response Team Forming**

**Wanted:** People interested in rapidly mobilizing to support immigration emergencies due to ICE. **Requirements:** The ability to hold a sign, gather with a group, and sing or chant to draw attention to an unjust situation. Phone with video a plus. For info. email [firstsanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:firstsanctuary@gmail.com)

### **Neighborhood Social Justice Committee**

**February Meeting on Sunday February 4th**

**Loaves & Fishes Mission on Tuesday February 6th**

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:

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

@ 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

### **Knitting for a Better World**

**Every Tuesday-7:00p**

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

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

## **SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Thinking of Joining a Chalice Circle?**

If you would like to find out more about Chalice Circles, look for the Chalice Circles Table in the Atrium on Sundays, January 14 and 21. There will also be Chalice Circle samplers in the Haynes Room at 12:15p, which will provide a brief experience of what participating in a Chalice Circle is like, as well as an opportunity for questions and to sign-up. If you are pressed for time or plan to attend another program at noon, just pick up an application form after the service in the Atrium at the Chalice Circle table, fill it out, hand it in and we will get back to you about your choices and answer any questions you may have.

Janet Downing Taylor ([jdtaylo39@verizon.net](mailto:jdtaylo39@verizon.net)).

### **Harry Potter and the Sacred Text – First Unitarian Edition!**

**Inaugural meeting, Monday, January 22, 7:00p**

It started with two Harvard Divinity School graduates deciding to take the practices they learned – ways in which you can analyze sacred texts to reveal more – and apply them to one of their favorite series: Harry Potter. It started with two people, then there was a reading group, then there was a podcast (it's phenomenal), and now there are groups like ours popping up all over the world. Now, we are bringing this practice to you!

Please join us with your copy of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's/Philosopher's Stone and brush up on chapter 1: The Boy Who Lived. We will be examining the text through the lens of Hope. Bring a Harry Potter lover with you.

All are welcome! I look forward to meeting all our Potter Heads and shining a new light on texts many of us know and love so well.

Facilitator: Erin Newell ([eenewell@me.com](mailto:eenewell@me.com))

### **Is It Your Turn to Participate in the Wholly Family Service?**

**Wholly Family Service, Sunday, February 11**

This multigenerational service has become an annual tradition, a way to share diverse family stories, connecting us as a community. We are looking for families interested in participating in our Wholly Family Service on Sunday, February 11 – singles, couples, step, adopted, multicultural, GBLTQ – all kinds of families, with or without pets, are encouraged to participate.

Interested? Please contact Cathy Seggel 401 421-7970 [dre@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:dre@firstunitarianprov.org)

### **Benevolent Street Zendo: An Ongoing Zen**

**Meditation Group - Mondays at 7:00p**

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