



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2018

Services in the Meeting House

Our themes for April are **Emergence and Transformation**

Sunday, April 1 Easter Sunday: A Multigenerational Service

10:30a

Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay, DRE Cathy Seggel

Join us at this multigenerational celebration of Easter, as we tell and honor its grave and glad story with special music and guest musicians. Children will be dedicated, songs will be sung, an ancient tale will be recounted and renewed among us.

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

Sunday, April 8 Love Beyond Belief

10:30a

Thandeka & Fred Jodry

Let's explore how our faith as Unitarian Universalists gives us the fortitude, stamina, and courage to practice what we preach: love beyond belief.

Thandeka is the creator of the Love Beyond Belief™ initiative for progressive congregations and the founder of Contemporary Affect Theology, which is designed to explain emotional development in religious settings and terms. Her new book, "Love Beyond Belief: Finding the Access Point to Spiritual Awareness" will be published by Polebridge Press in 2018. She is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and congregational consultant, and an Emmy award-winning television producer.

Grades Pre-K through seventh grade begin in the Meeting House for the first portion of the service and return to classes with their teachers.

Childcare for infants to three year olds room open on the Parish House second floor.

Sunday, April 15 Beatitudes, Redux

10:30a

Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay & Fred Jodry Music Director

Our service today turns on the beautiful musical composition Beatitudes by Arvo Pärt. In worship comprised of song and reflection, we'll explore the Beatitudes, that central statement of Christian faith, and look at how it might fall to others - even Unitarian Universalists - to safeguard the sacred, compassionate heart of Jesus' teachings.

Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in chapel.

Sunday, April 22 "Greed, Lust, Envy, Pride, Grumpy, Sneezy, and Doc"

10:30a

Rev. Gwendolyn Howard

This will be a personal reflection on the nature and history of the concept of "sin."

Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in chapel.

Sunday, April 29 Annual Senior High Youth Service - A Multigenerational Service

10:30a

Members of the Senior High Youth Group

Youth are the shapers of our UU living tradition. Current times call for youth empowerment and embodied faith. Please come and experience this creative worship service, including recognition of graduation seniors.

Childcare for infants to three year olds room open on the Parish House second floor.



We are a
Welcoming Congregation

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Next Deadline: April 15

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Lately . . .

Our themes for this month of April are Emergence and Transformation. As soon as I started thinking of that, I remembered this passage from the writing of Nikos Kazantzakis.

"I remember one morning when I discovered a cocoon in the bark of the tree, just as the butterfly was making a hole in the case and preparing to come out. I waited a while, but it was too long appearing and I was impatient. I bent over it and breathed on it to warm it. I warmed it as quickly as I could and the miracle began to happen before my eyes, faster than life. The case opened, the butterfly started slowly crawling out and I shall never forget my horror when I saw how its wings were folded back and crumpled; the wretched butterfly tried with its whole trembling body to unfold them. Bending over it, I tried to help it with my breath. In vain. It needed to be hatched out patiently and the unfolding of the wings should be a gradual process in the sun. Now it was too late. My breath had forced the butterfly to appear, all crumpled, before its time. It struggled desperately and, a few seconds later, died in the palm of my hand.

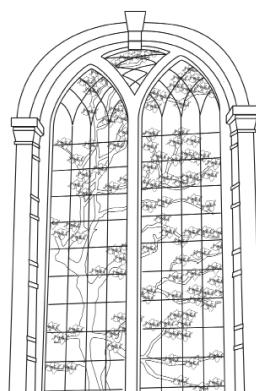
That little body, I do believe is the greatest weight I have on my conscience. For I realize today that it is a mortal sin to violate the great laws of nature. We should not hurry, we should not be impatient, but we should confidently obey the rhythm of people and things."

Especially lately, so much feels, is, urgent, that it's hard for me to be patient about any of it. I don't figure anything will be easy, but it's not the difficulty that feels like too much to bear, it's the passing of time, while great needs, great opportunities, important deadlines, come closer and closer, and sometimes even pass by. That, in particular, the passing by, is terrible to bear.

So it's a good time for me to remember Kazantzakis' wisdom – that I can't control everything, that things will not happen in my time, no matter how important, no matter my own urgency, no matter even, sometimes timetables and deadlines. I may not be able to get as far as confidently obeying the rhythm of people and things, these days, but I can remember that not everything happens best when it happens quickly. May that help me – and us – reconcile ourselves to patience, to the long game, and may it help us even to remember that sometimes time will be on our side.

See you in church,

Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay, Minister
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday
Home study: Thursday
Day off: Friday
min@firstunitarianprov.org



*Our lovely magnolia tree
blossoms every year in late April.*

Deacons' Corner

Every year the Deacons reach out to each member and friend to check in and take the pulse of the congregation. Sometimes we ask very specific questions and other times, such as this year, we ask broader questions. This year we are talking with you about how you interact with First Unitarian in each of our four ministries – Spiritual Development, Community Life, Social Justice, and Stewardship – those activities in each ministry in which you participate, how they nourish you, and what might be improved. We will summarize what we learn and share it with the Prudential Committee.



These calls and meetings deepen our community, and we learn so much from you. Many thanks to those who have responded to our request to interact with you! Deacons Calling will continue into April, so that more of you can be reached.

Please feel free to speak with any one of us about what's going on anywhere in our community with questions, comments, or things that need attention. If we don't know the answer, we'll do our best to find it.

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

Happy Birthday to ...

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



Suzanne Alden	Kate Menard
Bruce Boucek	Erin Newell
Len Cabral	Wendy Oliver
Michael Cappelli	Gaby Petruck
Samantha Cole	Sine Pounder
Holly Dobbs	Cynthia Roberts
Jim Estey	Meghan Smith
Kathi Fisler	Mary Snowden
Martha Manno	Willa Summers
Kate Mashburn	Alison Weber
	Kersti Yllo



Spiritual Pathways

Spring Transformation – Budding before Blooming

I love this month of anticipation and emergence. The weeks are officially spring, but the weather may not be quite there, yet. I try to remind myself of the delicate dance that is going on, in work, play and the natural cycle.

In our Spiritual Pathways program, this season means careful review of goals, curricula, staff, and budget, while looking forward to renewing and enhancing our vision and programming. After mindful consideration of the foundational elements anchoring our faith development programs for children and youth, we are at the point in our annual cycle when the Spiritual Pathways team and I seek out and assess valuable constituent feedback. We invite volunteer teacher teams to a breakfast, where connections and camaraderie are blended with the gathering of recommendations for program evolution. This evaluation process comes at a point in the year when we remember to hold up accomplishments as well as challenges. Highlights will include the Senior High Youth Group worship service and the annual Coming of Age Boston UU heritage trip. Easter, Passover Seder, Child Dedication, Earth Day, and recognition services are on the horizon.

As we recover from winter chores and remain focused on our responsibility to actively resist hate and injustice, there is a hopeful feeling in congregational life at First Unitarian. As I write this, the Community Food Share Pantry crew is preparing for distribution and many efforts are under way, including updating security practices, organizing youth and adults for gun control advocacy and action, and continuing to work toward providing immigration sanctuary.

I understand the many other events and programs that compete for your family's time and commitment. Please consider that nurturing spiritual lives can be well worth the trade-offs. Our times call for being informed and practiced in various ways. Soul work can be a healthy foundation for all of it. There are plentiful opportunities here for you and your families to appreciate and support the fresh buds of spring. I look forward to being with you.

These words of Rev. Terasa Cooley inspire my springtime focus:

In this time of anticipated spring, let us allow ourselves to extend the anticipation – to value the time of budding before blooming, of seeding before sprouting.

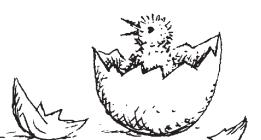
This is a time of revelation: the revealing of that which is eternal, which we see every year, but still need to be reminded to see it in a new way.

There is also the revelation of that which is new. Every spring we encounter something never before seen. It is that very newness which embodies hope and potential for the wholeness which is yet to be.

Let us allow spring to unfold slowly, that we may appreciate the true mystery of rebirth and renewal.

Take care,

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



Child Dedications

Easter Sunday, April 1

The next child dedication ceremony will take place on Easter Sunday, April 1, during the service. Church members with a baby or smaller child who needs dedicating can contact the church office (401.421.7970).

Interested in Volunteering on a Teacher Team?

Some team-teaching opportunities, beginning in September, are available for interested adults in the congregation. Our Sunday school is a cooperative venture, with parents and non-parents sharing their time and gifts with our children and youth. Current volunteers have first choice to remain on class teams.

Spring is when we explicitly seek interest from those who might like to teach. The RE Committee and I are happy to connect at any time. We look forward to your involvement. To learn more, stop in to the RE office during Coffee Hour or contact Cathy Seggel (dre@firstunitarianprov.org or 401.421.7970).

Is This Your Year?

It's time to sign up for General Assembly and Star Island!

There are wonderful opportunities for individual adults or youth and families to attend UU gatherings this summer. These settings, like Star Island off the New Hampshire coast in July and UUA General Assembly in Kansas City, MO in late June are wonderful ways to nurture your spirituality, while having fun and making new connections.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

For helpful information about this year's GA, please consult www.uua.org/ga.

I particularly draw your attention to the fabulous program at Star Island Lifespan Religious Education Week in July (www.starweek.com). The theme is "Me to We: Building Spiritual Communities that Value Relationships and Nurture Spiritual Transformation." This summer treat is a perfect way to enjoy a magical, beautiful island experience that is relaxing, inspirational, and fun! There is plenty of time to explore island treasures, sing, play, and rest. New friendships are forged and relaxing rejuvenation happens.

Funding is available for first-time attenders and others. Please contact me soon for details and help in navigating registration and funding. Or talk with folks like Michael Currier, Cynthia Rosengard, Sadie and Owen Swayze, Cynthia or Kai Roberts, Ellen Anderson, or Adele Andrews who have fallen in love with Star.

– Cathy Seggel, DRE



Sight Lines

This month I would like to introduce you to a new Stewardship ministry at First Unitarian: The Benevolent Society. In 2016, the Prudential Committee approved the creation of this legacy giving program to encourage members to provide financial support to the church through provisions in their wills or through other planned giving arrangements. For years, Bob Schacht and Herb Fried have advocated for such a program, and last September, Ralph Mero and Tony Allen assembled a team to make the program a reality. To date, eleven individuals/families have made end-of-life donations or long-term charitable gifts to the church.

You may ask yourself why endowments such as the Benevolent Society are important. Besides providing a safety cushion in lean times, endowments provide a way to offset annual operating expenses of the church. For example, if our endowments totaled \$1.0M and returned an annual investment return of 5%, the church could prudently use a portion (3–5%) of the total endowment to help fund operational needs; the greater the endowment, the more money can safely be deducted from the endowment to meet those needs. Today, our endowment stands at about \$5.0M, which seems like a lot of money, but is really rather modest, given the church's 300-year existence. Each year, we take about \$250K from the endowment to pay the difference between the amount raised during the pledge drive and our actual expenses; some years we dip into the principal of our endowment, some years our investment income barely covers the spread. The principal way to overcome this dilemma (assuming we don't want to slash programming and employees) is to grow the endowment. The best way to grow the endowment is through legacy giving as represented by the Benevolent Society.

The benefits to growing the endowment are many: weaning ourselves off of paying today's bills with tomorrow's dollars; placing less pressure on the Commitment Drive to fund our annual obligations; growing the church by meeting our personnel needs – a new Assistant Minister, additional administrative staff, and increased salaries for employees; upgrading technology and sound equipment; and fostering new congregational programs.

For those of you capable of doing so, becoming a member of the Benevolent Society is a relatively pain-free way to contribute to the long-term financial stability of the church. Future generations of fellow Unitarians will thank you for your generosity.

Jay Glasson
President, Prudential Committee
pres@firstunitarianprov.org

Treasurer's Report

Making a pledge is particularly important for those developing First Unitarian's budget! Every year a number of members make no pledge but give regular donations. This year we have received over \$11,000 in non-pledge donations. If these donations were included as a pledge, they could be budgeted to pay for an upgrade for our sound system or pay for an increase in our staff compensation. We begin the budget process in April, and the results of the Commitment Drive must be available for an accurate budget, so please make your pledge now!

— Graham Nye, Treasurer

Restoration Project Has Begun! Parking Restricted!

Please remember that the parking spaces in our lot adjacent to the south side of the church will not be available *on weekdays*. That means *no parking for the staff or any visitors*; please be respectful of this situation for the duration of the construction.

Until the project ends around September 1, staff and members of the congregation **must use street parking on weekdays**. The lot is available for church parking any evening after 6:00p and all day on weekends.

If you have any questions, please contact David House (dlhouse51@comcast.net).



Commitment Drive Off to a FLY-ing Start

During the Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday, March 18, I offered the following message on behalf of the Commitment Drive team. We all enjoyed a good chuckle and decided to share it with those of you who missed the original presentation.

MEOW, BOW-WOW, OINK-OINK, AND GOOD MORNING:

Here's a quick animal story about the Commitment Drive from the collective imaginations of our family: Bobbi, Kathi, Tara, and yours truly. Now BEE a good listener and pay RAPT(or) attention:

DEER friends:

We want to give you a CATBIRDS'-eye view of our current PET project. We have a LOBSTER POT slowly growing full of your contributions to CROW about, and we see lots of red hearts out there. But most of you are FLOUNDER-ing around and haven't ANT-ied up yet! Now we aren't LION about our need for your support. Our PORPOISE is to fill our KITTY so First Unitarian can soar like an EAGLE. We're not being PIGGISH about our requests for support or ROBIN your purses either, but too many of you are still on the LAM(B) and we can't BEAR not hearing from you! We are trying to GOOSE up our efforts and start OTTER new initiatives in this church.

So don't be an OSTRICH and FERRET yourselves away! Please, please save us from PARROTING this same DOG-ed message until we are HOARSE from BADGER-ing you and CRAB-bing at you. PIG up your pen, PONY up, and send us a WHALE of a pledge! Don't be SHEEP-ish! OINK you going to fill out your pledge card? If you stop MONKEY-ing around, you'll be the CAT's meow! And that my friends is talking TURKEY – no BULL!

— Joe Fisler, Commitment Drive Chair

P.S. All kidding aside, we need everyone's support to move First Unitarian forward. If you haven't pledged yet, it's not too late to get into the game! You can make your pledge during Coffee Hour at the pledge table in the Atrium, at the church website (firstunitarianprov.org), or by mailing in your pledge card today.

Please TERN in your pledge card now. You'll BEE making a MAMMOTH difference!



Community Life

Path to Membership Class

Tuesdays, April 3, 10 & 24, 7:00–9:00p

The Path to Membership class is for anyone who is interested in membership or in learning more about Unitarian Universalism or about First Unitarian. This three-session course is offered three times during the year; this is the last series for this church year. (Note: there is no session on April 17.)

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.

If you have questions or to register, contact Jenn Nardone, Membership Coordinator (mem@firstunitarianprov.org) or call the office (401.421.7970). Jenn can be found in the Newcomers' Café behind the fireplace on Sundays.

Saturday Social Supper

Saturday, April 7, 5:30p

The April supper will be at the home of David and Doris Bridgehouse in Smithfield. Please contact Shirley DiMatteo for meal planning and reservations (shirley.dimatteo@yahoo.com).

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

The Women's Alliance

Monthly Meeting

Monday, April 2, 2018

Business Meeting: 10:00a

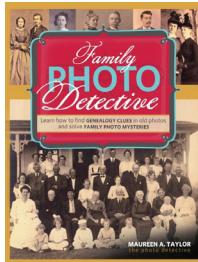
Program: 11:00a followed by luncheon (\$10)

Photo Detecting 101

Speaker: Maureen Taylor

Maureen offers an entertaining and informative lecture exploring clues found in family photographs, from photo types to identifying the person. Every photo really does tell a story. What's yours?

Maureen Taylor, aka The Photo Detective, is an internationally recognized photo history and family history expert. She is the author of several books including The Family Photo Detective and the two-volume Last Muster: Images of the Revolutionary War Generation.



Women's Alliance Antiques & Uniques – Annual Indoor Yard Sale

Saturday, April 28, 10:00a–2:00p

Put aside things now for donating to the Alliance Indoor Yard Sale. We are looking for household goods, small working appliances, toys, furniture, dinnerware, kitchenware, domestics,

hard cover books, art, etc. Better items will be sold in the Panelled Parlor.

You can drop items off at the church Thursday, April 26th all day or Friday, April 27 until noon. For the benefit of the congregation, items will be for sale at reduced prices on Sunday, April 29 after the church service in the panelled parlor and the atrium. Sponsored by the Women's Alliance, the proceeds from the sale after expenses will benefit local charities supporting women and families.

Antiques & Uniques

For questions or further information, contact Janet Downing Taylor (jdtaylor39@verizon.net).

Newcomers' Café

Every Sunday during Coffee Hour

Held in the elegant and intimate Panelled 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)

Gourmet Coffee Sales

Why settle for any old coffee? You can create your very own unique coffee with 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 Coffee Hour

April showers won't spoil our Coffee Hours this month, thanks to the generosity of those bringing delicious donations for our enjoyment. 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.

Hats Off to ...

Our Coffee Hour Providers:

Mary Frappier, Tony Allen, Melissa Guillet, Elissa Emerson, Amy Donadio, Amy Swayze, Suzanne Francis, Anne Connor, Trand Morra, Hillary Salmons, Steve McCloy, Edie Warren, Van Lavallee, Lucille Riccitelli, Phyllis Cole, Aida Wilby, Erika Rusley, Emilia Carrillo, Joyce Boober, Jess Dolan, Sine Pounder, Maureen Pryor, and all those lucky leprechauns who brought something in to surprise us.



Community Life

Strong Interest in the Partner Church Program

The Transylvania Partner Church Committee wants to thank all who expressed interest in the Partner Church project on the First Unitarian Census. We received many responses and we hope to hear from more of you soon because we want to schedule an orientation session providing information on the history of this partnership and plans for a 2019 trip.

This being the Easter season here and in Transylvania, we're sharing a picture of decorated eggs that we saw at the Folk Arts Museum in Szentegyhaza, the village of our partner church. The craft of egg decorating has been handed down for generations, with pagan symbols blended into Christian symbols.

—The Transylvania Partner Church Committee



Can You Help Put On Our Annual May Breakfast?

Sunday, May 6

This year First Unitarian will be hosting its fourth annual May Breakfast on Sunday, May 6. Rebecca Alberg, Jim Barfoot, and Mary Frappier will again be hosting. For it to be successful, they need at least 20 others to join them. Would you like to cook, decorate, or organize for a couple of hours?

To be part of this fun event, please contact Jim Barfoot (barfootjim@gmail.com).

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.



Welcome New Members

After taking the Path to Membership class this winter, ten people signed the Membership Book on March 4. Please make sure to greet these newest members when you see them at Coffee Hour.

Kristen Aber



Kristen grew up in a Congregational church in Connecticut, then a Methodist church in New Jersey. She went to a Catholic college in Baltimore, spent a brief year in LA, then three years in Ontario before coming back to New England to teach. All of her moving about allowed her to avoid making any kind of a decision about spirituality. Her first visit to First Unitarian was prompted by her husband, who had asked her to find something for both of them to do that was outside of their comfort zone. This was last April during the youth-led service, and both of them were so deeply moved by the work by the young people and the response by the adults that they knew this place was worth exploring.

Kristen has a special place in her heart for teenagers; she teaches biotechnology to grades 9–12 at Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School in Taunton, MA. She absolutely loves spending her day with her students and helping them understand various scientific research methods. In return, the students teach her the lyrics to the latest pop songs and what various slang words mean.

At home, in Warren, Kristen loves to spend time with her husband, Eric, and their two daughters, Velia, 4, and Julia, 3. She loves to run, garden, cook (then eat), do yoga, read, play piano, and perhaps most of all, nap. She especially loves the warm community of Warren and her friends there.

Tim DeChristopher



Tim is originally from West Virginia and was formerly a member of the First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City, Utah. He moved east to attend Harvard Divinity School in 2013, and he now resides in Pawtucket with his spouse, Meghan. Tim has been a climate activist for about 10 years and spent two years in federal prison for an act of civil disobedience. In addition to activism, Tim enjoys cooking, chopping wood, and spending time in the wilderness.

Svetlana Goretya



Svetlana is happy to join First Unitarian! Emigrating with her family from the former Soviet Union when she was a year old and settling in Rhode Island, Svetlana was brought up as an Evangelical Christian. She began questioning many strict and dogmatic teachings in her late teens/early twenties and began looking into different religions and for a different type of church experience. She loves the intellectual and social justice traditions within Unitarianism, which align well with her professional values as a social worker.

Svetlana is in her last year of graduate school at Rhode Island College and will graduate this coming May. She's currently doing clinical (cont'd on next page)

New Members (*cont'd*)

Svetlana Goretaya (cont'd)

work with teens at a nearby charter school and loves it. In her future career, she hopes to infuse mindfulness, spirituality, art, and holistic modalities like yoga. She's passionate about women's empowerment and social justice and very excited to engage in the social justice work the church is part of. She is also very much looking forward to meeting more people in this wonderful and accepting community.

Chris and Lily Jeznach



Chris and Lily both grew up in central Massachusetts and met while getting engineering degrees at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. They moved to Rhode Island in the summer of 2016 and currently live in Edgewood. Chris works for SPIROL International as a Sales and Customer Service Manager and Lily is an Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering at Roger Williams University. They enjoy traveling, reading, being outside, and trying out new restaurants. Lily also plays the trumpet with her family brass quintet. They are excited to get to know this wonderful community of diverse people and to continue learning new things every week.

Sorrel Devine



After relocating to Providence from her home town of Portland, Oregon, in the 1980s, a strong interest in Eastern religions, particularly Buddhism, led Sorrel to the First Unitarian Church when Tom Ahlburn was the minister. Most Sundays, her then-young children attended religious education classes, while she took advantage of the quiet, meditative atmosphere and beautiful music in the Meeting House. Her attendance lapsed in the 1990s when, first, her children became resistant to getting up on Sunday mornings and, then, having completed a Masters in Public Administration, she embarked on her career (from which she will soon retire!) as Director of Resident Services for the Providence Housing Authority – a job which has kept her inordinately busy for the last 25 years!

After retirement, anticipating more time for other pursuits, Sorrel is excited by the opportunities available through the UU community to explore her spirituality and to become more involved in social justice initiatives. She is particularly looking forward to joining the UU delegation attending the Revolutionary Love conference next month in New York City.

In addition to participating in community-building events, Sorrel enjoys promoting Celtic culture through a small online business she recently founded – Celtic O'Ccasions – which serves as a clearinghouse for Celtic-themed entertainment. She finds her true bliss, however, singing with friends (and sipping a nice glass of red wine) as part of the a cappella group Sally Racket.

James Lyons



Jim was born and raised in Warwick, Rhode Island. After graduating from Toll Gate High School in 1982, he enlisted in the US Navy as a Nuclear Machinist Mate. He served his country honorably, earning a Navy Achievement Medal as well as serving during the Gulf War. After two tours, he returned to Rhode Island in 1991 to attend URI. In 1995 he graduated with a BS degree in Civil/Environmental Engineering and has worked for IGT (Gtech) for more than 20 years.

Jim is thankful to be here because he had searched for a long time to find a place to fill his heart and feed his soul; First Unitarian Church of Providence is that place. He thrives on activism for social justice, and from his first visit more than a year ago, he knew this was the place for him. He looks forward to building community and friendships with the people here, as they so obviously share his drive for personal growth and love for "fighting the good fight." Love and Peace!

Fred and Jamie Pocai



Fred and Jamie are both native Rhode Islanders who currently live in East Providence. Fred is a network engineer and Jamie is a full-time stay-at-home mom to their one-year-old son, Carter. After having a baby, they decided to search for a community that shared their beliefs and values in which to raise him. They were each brought up Catholic, but after realizing that the Catholic Church and its views were not in line with their own, together Fred and Jamie discovered their spiritual match in First Unitarian. They are vegans who love being outdoors, animals, traveling, theater and music. They are happy to be new members of the church and look forward to meeting everyone and making new friends.

Pam Steager



Pam has been a Friend and volunteer at First Unitarian for 20 years and decided it was high time to become a Member. Raised a Lutheran, Pam spent decades as a spiritual seeker before landing at the corner of Benefit and Benevolent in Providence. Her work as an education and prevention consultant, writer, discussion facilitator, researcher, and trainer in the areas of conflict resolution, substance abuse and violence prevention, cultural diversity, and media literacy has taken her to the heart of schools, prisons, police departments, nonprofit organizations, and communities. She has performed as a stand-up comedian, a storyteller, and as an event host and talkback facilitator. She lives in Providence and has raised two strong women who have gifted her with four above-average grandchildren.



Spiritual Development

First Unitarian Passover Seder!

Monday, April 2 at the church, 6:00–8:00p

Passover is around the corner and we're having a seder! Our First Unitarian seder. This multigenerational event welcomes people of all ages – singles, families, kids, elders, neighbors, and friends. We'll tell the story of Passover, sing songs, pray some prayers, light candles, drink wine and juice, eat matzah and maror, and enjoy a full, potluck dinner. Seder recipes available. It's a great way to honor this essential story in human history, eat great food, drink great bad wine (Manischewitz Concord Grape, anyone?) and enjoy a fun evening of participatory story and ritual. Last-minute RSVPs at firstunitarianseder@gmail.com



Spirit in Life Worship

Wednesday, April 4 at 5:00 (originally scheduled for March 21)

Please join the Spirit in Life group in a worship service on Wednesday evening, April 4. This service is our way of connecting our ongoing group explorations back to the congregation. Come if you are curious about the group or just would like a worship service in the early evening to calm down your day. The service will be followed by a reception in the Hope Club.

Because refreshments will be served, please let Rick Richards or Pat Gifford know if you plan to attend the reception (pgifford1259@gmail.com).

UUMen

Sunday, April 8, 7:00–9:00p

The discussion will be based on the book *Losing My Religion*, written by William Lobdell, a former religion reporter for the *Los Angeles Times*. The basic idea of the book is about the author's extensive reporting on various scandals with religious organizations, causing him to lose faith in organized religion in general., in turn, caused him to be more deeply thoughtful and spiritual.

Facilitator: Claude Leboeuf

Art in the Atrium

Opening, Thursday, April 12 at 5:00p

The April Atrium show will be a Collective Exhibit from the congregation on the theme of Social Justice. It's a broad palate touching on immigration, poverty, race, gender, politics, environment, etc.

May and June are booked by a group of artists and a solo artist show. The June exhibit will be the last one for the church year. Art in the Atrium will resume in September.

For further information, please contact Amy Webb (amy.webb7@verizon.net) or Chiara Van Erp (romano-vanerp-design@cox.net).

Mindful Grieving Drop-in Sessions

Sundays, April 15, May 20, June 17, 12:00–12:45p

In response to several requests, a trial drop-in version of our Mindful Grieving Group has begun. Meetings are being held on the third Sunday of the coming months. The first one was on March 18; the next ones will be on April 15, May 20, June 17.

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, or experiencing another serious loss, please join us from 12:00 to 12:45p for our next meeting. The primary facilitator will be Nancy Worthen.

If you have questions, feel free to call Nancy (401.487.9713) or Carol Adams at (401.433.4365).

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. 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 Besher 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)

Tai Chi Resumes

Every Tuesday at 7:00p

Tai Chi class for beginners to advanced, children to seniors. All inclusive. Instruction and performance.

For information or to sign up, contact Al Tringali (altringali@mac.com)





Social Justice

Side with Love Update

Over 200 people attended SisterSong on March 9, cosponsored by Side with Love. The crowd, which was mainly women, was captivated by speaker Monica Simpson, one of the founders of SisterSong.

Monica spoke about the reproductive justice movement, and how important it is for White allies to remember, when speaking about health care in the United States, that it is not equal for everyone. Often the needs of Black, Brown and Indigenous communities are ignored when medical policy is written. We can help reconcile this by being mindful of the needs of all communities when working toward reproductive rights and healthcare for all.

During Coffee Hour on March 11, Side with Love was proud to team up with our Senior High Youth Group for a gun-safety letter-writing campaign. After a sermon from Rev. Gene Dyszlewski on gun violence, the congregation was encouraged to stop by the table in the Atrium to sign letters to the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader. The youth helped people find letters to bills they were concerned about, including an Assault Weapons Ban and the Safe Schools Act. After the letters were signed, members of the youth group delivered them to the State House on March 14, one month after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Sanctuary Host Preparations Continue

Sanctuary Host Training, Thursday, April 5

We continue to work on making preparations for a guest to enter Sanctuary at our church. We are still awaiting approval for our updated shower plans, and will start our Faithify campaign as soon as we know what we need. On March 18, Mayor Elorza visited our sanctuary room, and committed to continue helping us get things in order with the city.

We will be holding an additional Sanctuary Host training on Thursday, April 5, for anyone interested in finding out more about hosting and other opportunities to help out when we have a guest.

Volunteer at First Unitarian's Food Share Pantry

Distribution Day: Monday, April 16

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)

The Pantry Is Open to All

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 of the month and fill out a brief registration form.



Knitting for a Better World

During the month of March, the knitters took a break from knitting to construct fairy houses for the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center's Annual Fairy Days. Visit the garden between April 13 and 29 to see our creations!

You will have noticed by now that our beloved mitten tree is gone! It was taken down to make room for the scaffolding that now surrounds the church. While sad that it is gone, we are sure we will find another place to hang our mittens next year. We weren't able to keep our tree stocked for the entire season this year, but we did have warmings available for the Food Pantry days in January and February. Just over 100 items were plucked from its branches.

The Girl Effect Mother's Day Sale to Benefit Girls' Education

Sunday, May 6, before and after church

Stop by the Girl Effect table in the Atrium on Sunday, May 6, before or after church, to choose something special for your mother! It's a triple-impact gift: Your mother (or a special woman in your life) will enjoy beautiful scarves, jewelry, and other gifts made by artisans in less-developed countries. The women who make these items gain dignity and income. And we donate the proceeds to help girls stay in school. Educating girls is one of the most important tools to alleviate poverty.

– First Unitarian Girl Effect Task Force



Join the Green Team!

Second Sundays monthly at 12:15p

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)



Social Justice

Neighborhood Social Justice

Monthly meeting, Sunday, April 8 at 12:15p

The Neighborhood Social Justice Committee needs you! Join us at our monthly meeting. Volunteers are always welcome!

Loaves & Fishes Mission

Tuesday, April 3 from 12:00p

We're not out of the woods yet with the winter weather! 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 12:00noon 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 to 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

Y'all Come Community Lunch

Saturday, April 14 at Beneficent Church, Downtown Providence

First Unitarian is again collaborating with the Beneficent Congregational Church for the Y'all Come Community Lunch for the homeless that we organize together twice a year. This is where we feed the people that feed the people!

Please save the date and stop by the Neighborhood Social Justice table to sign up either to bring food or to help serve or both. We need many volunteers preparing healthy food for this potluck.



Call for Community Collections 2018-19

Submissions due by May 30

One Sunday each month, First Unitarian donates its Sunday offering to a charitable cause, a practice we have been following for several years. Any member of the church can submit a proposal to support either a program sponsored by our church or an organization in which a church member is actively involved.

The Community Collection Committee will entertain proposals from church members for Community Collections during the 2018-19 church year. Submissions must be received by the end of May. A very simple proposal form needs to be completed. Selections will be made by the end of the church year.

Forms are available from the church office (admin@firstunitarianprov.org or 401.421.7970).

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

The collection for the First Unitarian's Loaves & Fishes Mission brought in \$1,905. Thank you all for your generous contributions.

January 21 – Transylvania Partner Church

The collection for assistance to our Partner Church in Transylvania for expansion of their worship space brought in \$2,513. Thank you all for your generous contributions.

February 25 –

Sojourner House – A comprehensive domestic and sexual violence agency

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

The collection for Sojourner House and Day One brought in \$2,074. Thank you all for your generous contributions.

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

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, send an email to Membership Coordinator Jenn Nardone (mem@firstunitarianprov.org) or contact the church office (401.421.7970).

news at First Unitarian

CALENDAR

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

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 EASTER SUNDAY Worship 10:30a Child Dedications	2 Women's Alliance 11:00a Passover Seder 6:00–8:00p Zendo 7:00p	3 Loaves & Fishes 12:00–7:00p Path Class 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p	4 Spirit in Life Worship 5:00p Prudential Committee 6:00p Meditation 7:00p	5 Sanctuary Host Training 7:00p	6	7 Saturday Social Supper 5:30p (Bridgehouse)
8 Worship 10:30a at 12:00p Mentor/Mentee at 12:15p Neighborhood SJ Green Team UU Men 7:00p	9 Worship Comm. 5:30p Harry Potter 7:15p Zendo 7:00p	10 Deacons 6:30p Path Class 7:00p Budget Comm. 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p Reimag. Rel. 7:00p	11 Harvest the Power 7:00p Meditation 7:00p	12 Atrium Art Opening 5:00p	13	14 Y'all Come Lunch at Beneficent Church
15 Worship 10:30a at 12:15p Mindful Grieving Drop-in History Comm.	16 Food Pantry 2:00p–6:00p Worship Comm. 5:30p Zendo 7:00p	17 Budget Comm. 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p	18 Finance 6:00p Meditation 7:00p	19	20	21
22 Worship 10:30a	23 Harry Potter 7:15p Zendo 7:00p	24 Budget Comm. 7:00p Path Class 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p Reimag. Rel. 7:00p	25 Meditation 7:00p	26	27	28 Women's Alliance Indoor Yard Sale 10:00a–2:00p
29 Worship 10:30a at 12:00p Mentor/Mentee	30 Zendo 7:00p					