



## Services in the Meeting House

Our theme for May is Transcendence and Creativity.

### Sunday, May 6 Life as Quicksand: The More Things Change

10:30a

Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay

As we all may well know by now, change is difficult. Even sometimes change we seek, strive for, commit to, can be difficult. It can be tough for a whole community to make a change or shift; it can be tough for a family, or a couple, or an individual to make a change. And, of course, plenty of change comes upon us unsought, unwelcome, when we are unready. We will explore the experience of change and look at some considerations and perspectives that might help us navigate this perennial challenge.

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

### Sunday, May 13 Guns into Plowshares: Change Is Gonna Come!

10:30a

Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay

We will be taking our part in the Mother's Day weekend wave of worship and action for gun control legislation. Like our Jewish and Muslim siblings who will already have held their services for gun control, and along with our Christian siblings who will be holding similar services this morning, our topic will be gun violence and the need for safe and responsible gun control. Our service will involve many members and friends of First Unitarian and feature the quilt we have used for annual vigils, made from the clothes of children lost to gun violence. Come early to find parking, bring family and friends with you. And stay after the service for a special lunch reception, where we will write letters and cards to our legislators, articulating our clear support for particular gun control bills up for consideration now.

**And mark your calendars** for two days later – Tuesday, May 15 at 4:00p – when people from all the congregations involved in this effort will gather at the State House to share our commitment to this legislation and deliver our cards and letters to our representatives. Your presence, your family's presence, your friends' and neighbors' presence, can make a huge difference in this unique demonstration of faith communities united for gun control. Please make this a priority in your May schedule. Details about places and times to convene and head to the State House will be available closer to the date – stay tuned!

*Children and Youth in sixth–twelfth grades will attend the service.*

*All others will meet in the Auditorium for a special program.*

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

### Sunday, May 20 Coming of Age Service: A Multigenerational Service

10:30a

Eighth-Graders & their Mentors

Cathy Seggel, DRE & Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay

Our annual recognition of eighth-grade Coming of Age honorees will be the centerpiece of the service. With mentors by their sides, the class will share reflections about their individual beliefs, and the congregation will celebrate and affirm the beginning of the next stage of their lifelong faith development. Please join us for this meaningful rite of passage.

*A Community Collection will be taken to support the work of Dorcas International Institute.*

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

### Sunday, May 27 First Unitarian is warmly invited to worship at Bell Street Chapel

10:00a

*No Sunday School classes.*

*Brown University Medical School will hold commencement exercises in our Meeting House.*

*Bell Street Chapel is located at 5 Bell Street, off Broadway, on the West Side of Providence.*



We are a Welcoming Congregation

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## Staff

Rev. Elizabeth Lerner Maclay, Minister  
[min@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:min@firstunitarianprov.org)

Rev. Gene Dyszlewski, Community Minister  
Rev. Gwendolyn Howard, Community Minister  
Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education  
[dre@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:dre@firstunitarianprov.org)

Frederick Jodry, Music Director

Posey Kooris, Administrator  
[admin@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:admin@firstunitarianprov.org)

Jenn Nardone, Membership Coordinator  
[mem@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:mem@firstunitarianprov.org)

Walter O. Sotelo, Administrative Assistant  
Jaime Durango, Building Manager  
Pedro Vasquez & Ruben Delgado, Evening Security & Sunday Building Managers

## Newsletter

Posey Kooris, Managing Editor  
Susan Fisher, Proof Editor  
Design Consultant, Amy Webb  
Next Deadline: May 15

First Unitarian Church of Providence  
One Benevolent Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02906  
Tel: 401.421.7970  
Fax: 401.276.4291  
Web: [www.firstunitarianprov.org](http://www.firstunitarianprov.org)



## Lately . . .

Our theme for May is transcendence, a topic I look forward to exploring across our worship calendar and programs. *Transcendence* is one of those words that can be hard to get ahold of, since it means something that is inherently beyond tangible, ordinary experience – some-

thing sublime, extraordinary, revelatory, beautiful, uplifting, or deeply moving, pointing beyond itself, taking us beyond ourselves. See? There's a there there, but it's hard to wrangle.

So far my musings on this theme are taking me in an unexpected direction: What are the conditions for transcendence? In other words, what circumstances support experiences of transcendence? But as I've begun to ponder it in relationship to ministry and First Unitarian and things uppermost in my awareness, it feels like maybe I actually need to address the *opposite* of transcendence (or, at least, that which makes transcendence possible: giving it room and having time and energy to experience or engender or even just look around and notice transcendence) – that is, schedules and calendars and delineations of time. Because there are two things that are true for me about transcendence. One is that I hope and believe that church life, well done, sometimes can be good enough to offer us some moments of transcendence. The other is that transcendence needs some room and time to manifest. Without room and time, I don't think it happens, at least not in my experience.

As long as I've been a minister, I've had the same weakness – well, perhaps more than one, but always, regardless of others, this one: self-care. When the First Unitarian Search Committee was talking to my references, they heard the same thing from most of them: Liz is “challenged by” or “terrible at” self-care, “the thing she'll need the most help with is self-care,” “if I had to pick her biggest weakness, it'd be self-care” . . . you get the picture.

The first year of a new ministry is always extra busy, because everything is new, and so extra work goes into foundation laying and taking in new information and all the rest. Plus – what a year we're having! I can't tell you how much I am enjoying this time learning about all of you and Providence and Rhode Island, how much I care about all the ministry we're doing together and all the wonderful things happening at First Unitarian. Truly, I love it and I'm fired up about it all the time. And, as usual, my self-care regimen is largely nonexistent.

I have to do better at it; in fact, one of my goals for this year – by far the most unmet of my goals – was to establish a new set of self-care habits and standards as part of beginning this new ministry. But there's so much going on that it's hard to keep up. So I've been having many meetings on my “writing day” and mostly working long, full days on my “day off” . . . and even then, it's hard to keep up!

I'm writing to all of you about this because I have realized that I can't do it by myself. I need to do better about letting you know my schedule, and then keeping to it. And you'll have to know that this will mean some things may lag – or even, worst-case scenario, go undone. First Unitarian is actually understaffed for a church our size, which is an issue we'll need to address in the future. But for now, I have to be honest about my limitations, and do better at keeping to

a sustainable schedule, leaving time for my family and for some time to draw breath and work on my health and all that good stuff. To be clear, I'm not burning out, and my health is fine – but burning the candle at both ends takes a toll, and I want to do better before it starts taking a toll on me and, by extension, First Unitarian.

So, here's my first attempt at it, sharing this weakness with you all, and asking for your support.

My schedule is this:

*Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays:* I am in the office and/or in meetings, available by appointment afternoons and evenings.

*Thursdays:* I am working from home on writing and research for sermons, services, and justice work.

*Fridays:* My day off.

*Saturdays:* Dedicated to services, meetings, gatherings, fine-tuning worship, etc.

*Sundays:* Worship and congregational meetings.

From now on, I'm going to do all I can to keep to it. This means I won't be looking at email on Fridays – maybe even over the weekend. It means I will be working, but not in meetings, on Thursdays. Your understanding will do a great deal to help me manage this. And, of course, if you have an emergency, please let me know. I never want the usual schedule to keep me from being able to help in an urgent situation.

Lastly, as people have pointed out to me, attending to my own self-care allows me also to model it for the congregation. I know there are a lot of folks at First Unitarian who feel swamped by responsibilities. You know – and I have preached it, and will again – that we all need to make time for ourselves, for our own self-nurture and sustenance. So please take this note as an opportunity to consider your self-care, and how you can best attend to your own needs and yearnings. Do it for yourself, because you deserve it. And let me remind you, along with myself, that this is also a form of faithfulness, because the stronger we each are, the stronger we can be for each other.

Thank you in advance for anything you do – or don't do! – in support of this goal. In 2020, I will be marking my 25th year in ministry – seems like a good time by which to have made real progress on this – so I'm starting now. And I hope that, among other things, attending to this will give all of us a long and healthy tenure together, with room and time even for some moments of transcendence along the way.

See you in church,

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



## Spiritual Pathways

### What If?

I have called my work in the month of May the “appreciation, recognition, transition, and visioning dance.” For some of us, the graduation, ceremony, and celebration season is upon us. At First Unitarian, it is also when we look ahead to next year’s themes, programming, and more. All of this as flowers bloom and days are warmer and longer. Many of us yearn for time to rest, regroup, and renew. Not quite yet, I say to myself. There’s a lot to do.

Our Senior High Youth service was an early gift to the congregation, more like salsa, complete with bridging of graduating seniors. Honorees received symbolic life tools: thorny roses, a UU Pocket Guide, and a chalice pendant. This month, the eighth-grade Coming of Age recognition service will showcase youth belief statements and a congregational celebration of the transition to the next stage of lifelong faith development.

In between Sundays, the Spiritual Pathways Team (aka Religious Education Committee) and I have been waltzing through curriculum, policies, practices, and support systems. We are determined to offer meaningful resources and innovative ways to serve our children, youth, and adults that encourage a “full-week faith.” And we are in the midst of harvesting next year’s teams of volunteer teachers. It is just the right time for you to enjoy this opportunity that begins in September. If you have an interest in participating on a teacher team, please let us know by contacting me or a committee member by email, phone, or in the church office. You will be supported in learning how to do that cha-cha.

This month our theme is What Does It Mean to be a People of Creativity and Transcendence? Seems appropriate for the season. I came upon an extraordinary new picture book celebrating the power of the imagination and the resilience of the human spirit! The creative young girl who narrates this story loves to write and draw, but one day she wonders: What would happen if her pencil disappeared? This question launches her on a journey of discovery where she explores the countless forms that creativity and self-expression can take. The book is *What If?*, by Samantha Berger.

So, I am asking myself and all of us, what if we consider our call to be “Love Beyond Belief,” Rev. Dr. Thandeka’s suggested way to describe Unitarian Universalist theology. What if we teach, envision, and make real that we are a faith community that truly lives its values, resisting, supporting, empowering ourselves and others toward justice and peace? And what if we understand and embrace the fact that it will be an uncomfortable dance? The tricky moves fluctuate between awkward, challenging, frustrating, and painful.

And what if we did it together?

Take care,

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



### 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.



For helpful information about this year’s GA, please consult [www.uua.org/ga/](http://www.uua.org/ga/).

I particularly draw your attention to the fabulous program at Star Island Lifespan Religious Education Week in July ([www.starreweek.com](http://www.starreweek.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 talk about the abuse of Facebook and other social media platforms by otherwise normal, intelligent, well-intentioned individuals who take part in Internet communications within their various communities. But first, a story.

When my son was less than a year old and still crawling, I decided one morning to play on the floor with him. I picked up one of his toys – imagine spinning balls on a Ferris wheel attached to a suction cup, which normally attaches to something solid – and stuck the suction cup to my forehead so that he could spin the balls while I was directly in front of him. It was great fun. Eventually he tired of this activity, so I popped the toy off my forehead and went back about my morning routine.

Subsequently passing a mirror – and being as vain as the next guy – I took a look and kept on going, only to return to the mirror, take a longer look, and realize that the suction cup had left a red circle, the size of a half dollar, on the middle of my forehead. That’s right, a giant hickey in the middle of my forehead for all to see. It remained there for a week, a week of going to court, meeting clients and other lawyers, going to the market, and generally raising eyebrows and inquisitive looks from all who saw me. Lord knows what they thought. Embarrassing? Absolutely. And it all could have been avoided by taking a brief moment to think about perhaps peeling the suction cup off my forehead instead of ripping it off.

I am always amazed at what people, seemingly without thinking, are willing to say to one another through social media that they would be unwilling to say directly in person. Too often on Facebook and other social media, people write comments without taking the time to reflect on their content, how they sound, what the intended message is, how the message will be received, how self-righteous or indignant the writer may sound, or how hurtful the message may be. The personal connection is often lost in the Internet connection: no smiles, no frowns, no raised eyebrows, no body language, no irony, no subtlety, no social cues, little sense of understanding for the listener. Just attack, and counter-attack. People say whatever comes into their mind without taking a breath, a minute, a day, to reflect on what they are saying or what their response is. I speak from experience, having sent many lawyerly “nastygrams” over the years, to the point where my assistant delayed sending them out for a day to force me to revisit them once I had cooled down.

My suggestion this month for those of you who continue to interact with your Internet communities is to take a moment, an hour, a day, or however long it takes to communicate your message in a thoughtful, understanding, and compassionate way. Ripping off a comment or response may initially feel good, but peeling off the layers of your position in a responsible manner may be a more prudent and effective way to get your message across. Doing so may save you the public embarrassment and emotional toll your posting may create in the community you love and live in.

Sincerely,

Jay Glasson  
President, Prudential Committee  
pres@firstunitarianprov.org

## A Congregational Conversation on the 2018-19 Budget

Sunday, May 20 at 12:00p



In preparation for the Annual Meeting (on June 3), please join President Jay Glasson and Treasurer Graham Nye for a discussion about the budget for next fiscal year. In addition to several new initiatives being proposed, increases for staff and technology upgrades (which were goals of the Commitment Drive) will be on the agenda.

This conversation is providing an opportunity to view and air concerns around the proposed budget *before* the meeting at which you will be asked to vote on it. Please come on May 20 and get your questions asked and answered before the Annual Meeting.

## Deacons’ Corner

One way the Board of Deacons helps our church community stay healthy and growing is that we are a kind of incubator for new ideas and events. We are always alert to members’ wants, needs, and good ideas. The phone calls we make to you are only one way we try to stay in touch (yes, they are still happening, through May). There is a new Suggestion Box on the corner table in the first parlor. And feel free to let any of us know in person what’s on your mind. We will do our best to make sure your comments get to the right person or committee.



Additionally, individual Deacons are involved in a wide variety of First Unitarian activities. At our April meeting, we discussed what’s going on and how Deacons can participate in: May Breakfast, welcoming visitors and new members, Sanctuary housing, Access for All Task Force, a new picture directory, reviving Parish Suppers, the Plowshares Project, our Alliance Indoor Yard Sale, Spiritual Pathways Team (aka Religious Education), and more.

So bring us your ideas, let us know how we can support you in making this First Unitarian community closer, safer, friendlier, and more fulfilling.

**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

## Remember — Parking Is Restricted Until September!!

The parking spaces in our lot on the south side of the church are *not available on weekdays* during the current renovation project. That means *no parking for the staff or any visitors* during regular church office hours.



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.

Please be respectful of this situation for the duration of the construction.

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



## Commitment Drive

### The Well Isn't Dry Yet!

My understanding when I accepted the challenge of the Commitment Drive last October was that the drive would finish up by the end of March. Who was the snake oil salesman who fed me that line?! And where was my head in believing that any fundraising program really finishes on time? What was I thinking?

It's now inching toward the end of April as I write this, and we are still at it. We had a lot of fun for four weeks in March, horsing around, talking about animals and pledging and raising the funds necessary to support our goals for next year. It was fun – but I'm sad to say we didn't meet our goals by the end of March, so I came back for one more pitch, and on April 15, I gave the following presentation to the congregation:

Very soon, the PruComm will be meeting to discuss priorities among our primary goals for this year's Commitment Drive. Let me remind you once again what those four goals are: • equitable salaries for our excellent staff • upgrading our technology capabilities • spiritual development for our future as a community • greening our facilities.

These goals came from our conversations with you. Achieving them is essential if we are going to practice what we preach and live what we believe. We don't want to force the PruComm to decide between these goals. We want to see all of them achieved. We want it all, and the thing is that all this is actually not a lot to ask. The cost is \$443,000 from pledging – so far we have commitments of about \$387,000, less than was raised last year. The question is how do we get the \$56,000 we need to close the gap? We think there are five avenues to success. Here they are:

**1. Getting last year's pledges renewed.** So far, about 75% of those who pledged last year have committed this year. We set a goal to raise the average pledge by 5%, which is double the rate of inflation. So far the average increase has been 6.3%. That's a tribute to your generosity. But we need those who have not responded yet to step up – now!

**2. Getting new pledges from new members.** We had hoped to add 50 new pledges. So far we have 44 new pledges, totaling about \$25,000. More will come during the year, and we are very pleased to see this level of growth before the new church year has even begun.

**3. There are 37 Voting Members who did not make a pledge last year.** Getting them to pledge was a key element of our goal of achieving 100% participation, and we are continuing that effort as the calling aspect of our campaign begins. Don't take your phone off the hook – just pledge!

**4. We also have 68 Voting Members and Friends who made financial contributions last year but did not pledge.** If they turned their donations into pledges, it would be oh so helpful in planning next year's program. They are on our calling list!

**5. Finally,** we know that Uncle Sam has completed most of his tax-collecting work for the year – at least I hope you know that Tuesday, April 17 was your tax deadline. **If the IRS has been kind to you, maybe you could consider raising the pledge you have already made for the campaign.** Many of you responded wonderfully to our theme of generous and thoughtful giving, but it never hurts to ask one more time!

It is truly gratifying to look out from here and see so many of those small red hearts adorning the name tags you are wearing. Our goal remains to see everyone with that little symbol of giving before we conclude this drive. Please do your part. Join us in telling the PruComm that we believe in this church, in our wonderful new minister, and in our ability to meet or exceed all of those goals we established when we began this campaign. We can do this with your help. Thank you so very much.

Within 24 hours of my making these remarks, an additional 25 pledges came in, and more are coming every day. Indeed, the well isn't dry yet, so we will keep on calling and doing everything in our power to bring our campaign to a successful conclusion.

– Joe Fisler, Co-chair, Commitment Drive

## Treasurer's Report

As the fiscal year draws to a close, it appears that First Unitarian will end the 2017-18 fiscal year within our budget projection. That's the good news.

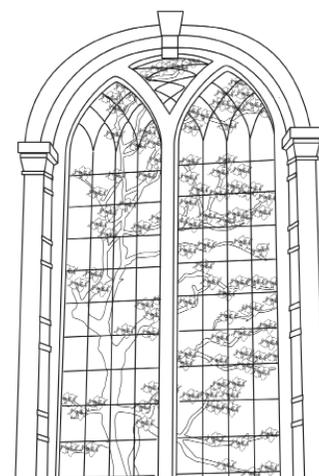
A budget never should be expected to provide an exact number for either income or expenses. Many factors affect what money is received and how it is spent. Areas such as utilities, possible rentals, changes in insurance costs, emergency building repairs, staff changes, and snow removal are always in question. And, yes, the ability of the congregation to meet their yearly pledges also affects the surplus or deficit.

This year, our utilities and snow removal, lower insurance costs, use of medical insurance deductibles, and careful management of other expenditures will provide a balance. In addition, the congregation is on pace to meet the budgeted amount from pledge income.

On the less positive side, as we begin budget development for the fiscal year 2019, it appears that the number of pledges may be lower than last year, which could result in a reduction of programs and full support for the UUA.

If you have not pledged yet, please consider how the loss of a few pledges can affect our church programs.

– Graham Nye, Treasurer



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



## Annual Meeting 2018

### Nominees for Officers, Prudential Committee, Deacons, and Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee submits to the congregation the names of the following Members for election to the positions and for the terms indicated at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 3, 2018. All terms begin on July 1, 2018. (Deacons terms may be begin earlier.)

**The Nominating Committee:** Marilyn Eanet, chair; Martha Cussler, Anne Connor, Lyn Bradford, John Petell, Dianne Mailloux; PruComm liaison: Cynthia Rosengard

**A Note on the Elections for the Presidency:** In accordance with the church by-laws, a President-Elect is chosen each year to serve a three-year term; the current President-Elect (**John Simmonds**) becomes President (1-year term) and the current President (**Jay Glasson**) becomes Past President (1-year term).

**John Simmonds, President** (elected in 2017), has been an active UU throughout his adult life and played myriad roles at the UUA and at each of the congregations where he was a member. He joined First Unitarian in 2007. He has served on the Prudential, Stewardship, Worship, and Ministerial Search committees and has been a long-standing member of one of the more eclectic Chalice Circles. Professionally, John is a software engineer in the financial industry.

**Jay Glasson, Past President** (elected in 2017), and his wife, Tori Smith, joined the church in 1987. He is a past member of the PruComm (two terms) and has served on the Finance, Personnel, Stewardship, and Parish House Building Design committees. He has taught in the RE program, been a Coming of Age mentor, and is part of the leadership team for Harvest the Power. A lawyer by profession, Jay has provided pro bono legal advice to the church for many years.

### Prudential Committee Officers

#### **Cheryl Bartholomew, President-Elect (three-year term)**

Cheryl and her husband, Neil, came to First Unitarian in early 2000, seeking community and a spiritual path with a democratic process, rather than a patriarchal or hierarchical structure. They quickly found a home here and became members that spring. Shortly after her arrival, Cheryl joined the re-forming Membership Committee and later became co-chair. She has also served on the Religious Education Committee and was co-chair of that committee. She spent several years on the Budget Committee and, more recently, has become involved with the History Committee and the Food Pantry. As Cheryl prepares to retire from 20 years of public school teaching, she looks forward to becoming more involved in church leadership.

#### **Claire Rosenbaum, Clerk (one-year term)**

Claire signed the book at First Unitarian shortly after moving to Rhode Island in 1995. She and her three children had attended the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg for a few years prior to that. Jane, Hannah, and John attended RE at First Unitarian through middle and high school, and Hannah has continued as an active adult member. Claire was a charter facilitator for a Small Group Ministry (now Chalice Circles). She served for several years on the Worship Committee. Claire and Hannah sing in the choir, and Claire serves on the Music Committee, including a term as chair. Claire has her master's degree in Piano Pedagogy from Temple University and plays piano for several summer services each year. She taught piano for many years, but since 2001 she has been the Family Supports Coordinator at the Sherlock Center on Disabilities at Rhode Island College, working for the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of society. Claire enjoys reading, walks in the woods or at the beach, cooking, and light gardening.

#### **David House, Treasurer (one-year term)**

David has attended First Unitarian for over 25 years, having joined in 2005. He is a long-time choir member (with his wife June), an occasional summer service speaker/performer, and Community Band Member and has served on the Worship Committee, painted portions of the

### Announcing the Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Church of Providence

*Sunday, June 3, 2018, at 12:00p*

In accordance with the by-laws of the First Unitarian Church of Providence, the Annual Meeting of the Church for the election of officers and members of the Prudential Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the Board of Deacons will be held on the church premises on June 3, 2018.

Five percent of the membership number most recently reported to the Unitarian Universalist Association, or 25 Voting Members, whichever is greater, shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time.

All questions at Church meetings, except as otherwise expressly provided for in the Articles of Incorporation or in the by-laws, shall be determined by a majority of those voting on such questions. Questions may not be voted on by proxy or absentee ballot. However, Voting Members who are disabled or incapacitated may apply for an absentee ballot seven days before a meeting. Absentee ballots must be received by the Clerk or his or her designee prior to the meeting.

Only those who have been Members for more than three months, who are over 16 years of age, and who in some recorded manner within the previous year shall have contributed to the financial support of the Church shall be entitled to vote.\*

If you are not a Voting Member, you may still attend and speak at the Annual Meeting, but you may not vote.

*Robert's Rules of Order* governs all duly called meetings of the Church.

\*You are a **Voting Member** if you meet these three criteria:

1. You signed the church Membership Book on or before March 5, 2018.
2. You are over 16 years of age on June \*\*, 2018.
3. You have made a financial contribution to the church that has been recorded in the office database during the 12 months preceding the Annual Meeting (June 3).

If you have any questions about your eligibility to vote at the Annual Meeting, please call the church office (401.421.7970).

**Prudential Committee Officers (cont'd)**

Parish House, and put on Musicales, Variety Shows, and theatrical performances, with proceeds benefiting the mission of the congregation. Since 2012, David, a retired Amica Insurance Company executive, has applied his career-honed organizing and accounting skills at First Unitarian as Assistant Treasurer (4 years), Capital Campaign chair, Fundraising chair, and Meeting House Restoration Coordinator. Thoroughly familiar with all aspects of the church's financial resources, processes, and challenges, he welcomes the opportunity to serve.

**Roberta Groch, Assistant Treasurer (one-year term)**

Roberta started attending First Unitarian in 1994 and became a member in 2011. She has been chair of the Nominating Committee, served on the Religious Education Committee, and taught in the RE program for six years. She has been serving on the Prudential Committee as Assistant Treasurer for this current church year.

**Prudential Committee Members****Cynthia Roberts, Spiritual Development (three-year term)**

Cynthia was introduced to First Unitarian in the late 1990s by her husband, Jon Speaker, and her in-laws, Mona and Bob Speaker, who have been part of this community for more than half a century. When her son, Kai, was born in 2011, she decided to formalize her association with the church and became a member. Cynthia's UU identity and faith development have grown through participating as a teacher in the RE program, a member of a life-changing Chalice Circle for several years, an RE Committee member, and a participant in the Lifespan Religious Education Week on Star Island for several years. Cynthia is grateful that being UU means one leads a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. A lifelong learner and seeker, Cynthia integrates universal elements into her faith development; she honors her religious heritage, Catholicism; is a student and teacher of Kundalini Yoga, a path which is intertwined with Sikhism; and reads and integrates elements from diverse spiritual and humanities-centered sources. Professionally, Cynthia has a humanities and social science educational background and works as a public health empowerment evaluator to promote community transformation.

**Caroline Mailloux, Strategic Planning (three-year term)**

Caroline and her partner, Robert, came to First Unitarian seeking a spiritual pathway that complemented their social justice beliefs. They have been members since 2011 and have two children in the RE program. Caroline is an organizational development consultant, specializing in diversity as a driver of innovation, and is passionate about strategy, system and culture design, and inclusion in all of its forms. She brings 10-plus years of nonprofit management experience and is looking forward to the opportunity to support the church's strategic planning. Outside First Unitarian, she is a founding curator of TEDx-Providence and the co-founder of an inclusive scout troop, Baden Powell Service Association's 8th Providence. She enjoys distance hiking and cycling, alternative folk music, board games, and travel.

**Deacons****Jim Barfoot (three-year term)**

Jim has been part of the First Unitarian community since 2008 and

has served on the Pledge Drive Committee, the Worship Committee, three years as Deacon, including Senior Deacon this last year, and as mentor in a Coming of Age class. He has displayed his artwork in the Atrium several times, including a one-man show, and has three books of his parents' poetry on sale in the Atrium Bookstore. Jim sings in the choir and the barbershop quartet, has led one summer service and co-led another, and has helped put on the Annual May Breakfast.

**Katy Killilea (three-year term)**

Katy has been attending First Unitarian for 15 years. She knows this because her family began attending when her younger son, Briggs, was a tiny baby, and he is now 15! She also has a 16-year-old son, Jack. Jack and Briggs attend Youth Group. She and her husband, Joe, teach first grade in the Sunday school, and Katy has been a mentor in the Coming of Age program. She has also served as a Deacon, on the Nominating and Membership committees, and has been Membership Coordinator. Her favorite pew is the sunny one. Her dog, Grover, has been blessed by our minister, Liz. Katy works as a nurse.

**Judie Knilans (three-year term)**

When Judie and her husband moved from the Mid-West, she was delighted to find First Unitarian, a progressive church community with quality religious education for their sons. As a clinical social worker with a master's from Boston College, Judie led a busy life for 30 years as a school social worker, working with handicapped children and their families in Central Falls. Since retiring, she has become much more active in the church. She is a strong proponent of our Sanctuary Church and serves on the Sanctuary Host Committee. Active in the Women's Alliance, Judie co-chairs its Gourmet Coffee Sales and the Garden Project with the memory patients at Tockwotten Home. She attends the Harvest the Power leadership course and her Chalice Circle. As a Senior Deacon this year, she is spearheading the Deacons "Access for All Task Force." She hopes to foster an involved, close church community and to further social action.

**Joe Fisler (two-year term)**

Joe and his wife, Bobbi, moved to Providence from Virginia in the fall of 2014 to be closer to their daughter, Kathi, and granddaughter, Tara. They transferred their membership from the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists to First Unitarian shortly afterwards. Joe has been a member of the Board of Deacons for the past two years. This year he has headed the annual Commitment Drive in addition to his work with the Deacons. He also serves as a board member of Providence Village, where he volunteers as the membership manager, as a service coordinator, and on the finance committee. He and Bobbi take classes at the Lifelong Learning Community, love exploring their new home state, and are looking forward to Joe's 55th reunion at Brown.

**Maxwell Pounder (two-year term)**

Max grew up in Canton, Connecticut, and graduated from Syracuse University School of Architecture (B.Arch.) in 1959. He was commissioned in the U.S. Army, reaching the rank of captain. In 1962 he married E. Sine Hansen in Syracuse, where he joined an architectural firm and their son, Evan, was born. The Pounders became Unitarians at May Memorial in Syracuse. In 1968, they moved to Boston, where Max joined a large architectural firm. Daughter Kirsten was born in 1969.

(continued on page 8)

**Deacons (cont'd)**

They renovated a rooming house/row house into their home and were very active in a wonderful and diverse community. When the large firm failed, Max opened a small firm in Boston. They moved to Cohasset and renovated another house. Professionally, Max survived several recessions, doing retail project management, joining a large retail architectural firm, and, when that failed, working as house architect for a hospital and ultimately retiring. He still loves being an architect. He is a Commissioner with the Warwick Historical District Commission. Max is a seven-year cancer survivor.

**Meghan Smith (two-year term)**

Meghan grew up on the Providence/Pawtucket line, attending First Unitarian. She made her way out in the world, moving to Washington, DC for college, where she studied theater, and the years beyond, when she worked in a variety of fields including government contract work, food service, and (one of her true passions) children's theater. Meghan found her way back to First Unitarian as an adult with a family around 2014. Life today revolves around work as a government contractor, being a voracious reader, singing, very occasionally performing improv comedy, and spending time with her family at home and around New England. She and her husband, Derek, live in South Attleboro with their boys, Maximus and Rockford.

**Beth Anterni (one-year term)**

Beth joined the church in 2010 after attending a parish supper/benefit concert she had seen listed in the *Providence Journal*. Impressed by how friendly and interesting the attendees were, she immediately signed up for a Path to Membership class. She is Program Committee chair of the Women's Alliance and a Chalice Circle member. She also volunteers with the Food Pantry, Membership Committee, Amnesty International/Benenson Society, Parish supper group, and Green Team, and this year she is participating in Harvest the Power.

**Peter Gray (one-year term)**

Peter and his wife, Carole, joined First Unitarian about 45 years ago. He has always been proud to call this church his spiritual home, and his life has been enriched enormously ever since. Having the good fortune to become involved in the committee structure here enabled him to meet many interesting people. His most rewarding involvement came from working in the Religious Education program, chairing the Building Committee, serving as President of the congregation during Tom Ahlburn's tenure, and joining the choir. Having served as a Deacon in the past, Peter looks forward to serving in this capacity again with what appears to be a much more active/advisory role.

**Dave Lewis (one-year term)**

Dave returned to First Unitarian about three years ago. He started his church experience at Channing Unitarian in Rockland, MA and spent his childhood in Keene, NH; Portland, ME; Springfield, MA; and Racine, WI. His parents were "very UU" but were almost 100% into the sermons and paid little attention to anything else. Dave raised his kids at Westminster in East Greenwich. He was involved in activities from fundraising to administrative V.P. to President (briefly.) Later he re-engaged with an old friend from the 60s and 50s: Tom Ahlburn. What a surprise! Dave was active with the canvass at First Unitarian in 90s and again more recently. He left for New Hampshire in 1999. When

he returned to Rhode Island, he briefly attended Bell Street Chapel, primarily for their activities supporting the gay community but found his way back to First Unitarian, where he has served as a Deacon and on the Membership Committee and participated in a Chalice Circle.

**Nominating Committee****Ann Boyd (two-year term)**

First Unitarian has been Ann's church home since the late 1990s. Early on, Ann assumed leadership roles in both a food rescue effort and in the initial planning and ultimate implementation stages of our Community Food Share Food Pantry. Ann served on the first Social Justice Alliance, which was established as a standing committee in 2002. Other areas of interest and involvement over the years have included: serving as a Deacon; membership on the Committee on Ministry, the Personnel Committee, the Negotiations Team for the Ministerial Search Committee, and a year on the Prudential Committee; long-time participation in an inspirational Chalice Circle; and, most recently, involvement with the Women's Alliance. Ann's vocational career spanned more than 30 years of nonprofit work as an Information Systems director. She continues part-time work as an adult education instructor. Our mission statement calls us to "transform shared values into action in the world" and that, for Ann, is the piece of our community which first caught her attention and has sustained her interest and volunteer efforts ever since.

**Merritt Meyer (two-year term)**

Merritt and his wife, Susan, began attending First Unitarian in 1994 during Tom Ahlburn's ministry, took a leave for spiritual "home schooling," returned when Diane Miller became Interim Minister, and joined in 2004. At First Unitarian, Merritt has participated in ministerial searches (Ford; Ortman); reviews of facility needs; Parish Suppers; Reimagining Religion; co-chair of Spirituality Matters; Strategic Planning; Capital Campaign; Organ Improvement; Prudential Committee (2010-2015) and President (2013-14). He has degrees in philosophy (Dartmouth); architectural history, planning, preservation, philosophy (Columbia) and the professional degree in architecture and planning (Cornell). His interests in philosophy, religion, music, and architecture help define who he is. Merritt is honored to work in cultivating new leaders for First Unitarian.

**Kelley Smith (two-year term)**

Kelley began attending First Unitarian with her wife, Samantha Cole, and daughter, Carson, about six years ago and became a member soon after. She was raised United Methodist but wanted a faith tradition that was more inclusive in its welcome and more expansive in its theology. She is especially grateful for First Unitarian's community of warm, thoughtful people, its commitment to doing challenging social justice work, and its Religious Education program. Kelley has been a dedicated singer in the Community Band and also serves on the Worship Committee. Some of her favorite moments at First Unitarian include singing a duet of "Stand By Your Man" with David House and designing a summer service and sermon around how being in the natural world helps her live into the Seventh UU Principle. When she's not belting out country standards, Kelley is a public health researcher and academic editor, a creative nonfiction writer, and an avid amateur naturalist.



## Community Life

### First Unitarian's Annual May Breakfast

Sunday, May 6, 8:00a–10:00a

This year, First Unitarian will be hosting its fourth annual May breakfast. Rebecca Alberg, Jim Barfoot, and Mary Frappier will host.

Tickets (\$10 adults/\$5 children) are on sale during Coffee Hour.

If you would you like to cook, decorate, or organize for a couple of hours please talk to any one of the organizers at Coffee Hour. Proceeds will go to fund the work of the Church's Loaves & Fishes Mission.

### Saturday Social Supper

Saturday, May 5, 5:30p

The May supper will be at the home of Dave and Gerry Spremulli in East Providence. 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.

### Save June 17 to Say Farewell to Posey!

Sunday, June 17, after the service

We're all invited to a grand celebration of Posey Kooris's 20 years of service as First Unitarian's Administrator Extraordinaire. There will be refreshments, entertainment, and lots of opportunities to show Posey how much we love and will miss her when she retires at the end of June.



Stay tuned for more details on the celebration. If you would like to help with planning, get in touch with Susan Fisher (susan.fisher42@gmail.com) or Cynthia Rosengard (crosengard@gmail.com) .

### The Women's Alliance

#### Monthly Meeting

Monday, May 7, 2018

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

#### Recent Changes in Rhode Island's Voting Laws

##### Speaker: A Representative from the Office of Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea

A representative from the Rhode Island Department of State–Board of Elections will bring us up to date on recent voting law changes and provide general voter information in advance of the 2018 Rhode Island primary and November general elections.

All are welcome to join the Alliance members for the program and luncheon.

### Meeting House Painting Now Hangs in the Parlor

History Committee monthly meeting, Sunday, May 6, 12:00p in the History Room



The granddaughter of a family that belonged to our congregation in the 1950s–80s has donated this charming oil painting of the Meeting House, viewed from Benefit Street. It was painted by the donor's grandmother, Ragnhild Cheel, who emigrated from Norway in the 1920s. We welcome stories from any long-time members of the church who remember this family.

The painting now hangs on the North wall in the first parlor, along with other pictures and prints depicting the history of the Meeting House.

The mission of the History Committee is to preserve and share the history of First Unitarian. Interested church members and friends are welcome to join the committee to find out more about the ongoing projects.

Contact: Janet Downing Taylor (jdtaylor39@verizon.net)

### 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).

### 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.

### Your Coffee Hour Needs You!

Remember that our Coffee Hour is a cooperative effort organized by The Women's Alliance with peanut butter and peanut 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 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.

#### Save the Date!

#### All-Church Picnic in the Park!

Sunday, June 10, 12:00p–2:30ish at India Point Park

We'll kick off Summer 2018 with our annual Picnic in the Park after the Sunday service. Join old friends and meet new ones during an afternoon of food and fun! We'll celebrate summer and play some games. We usually set up right in front of the playground. Pack a lunch and bring a blanket or chairs. The Membership Committee will provide drinks and watermelon.

Check out the event on our Facebook page (search for "First Unitarian Church of Providence" and click on Events).



## Community Life

### Meeting House Restoration Update

Scaffolding around the main portion of the Meeting House is complete. As a result, workmen will be inspecting and replacing mortar between the stonework as needed during the coming month. By the time you read this, the scaffolding will top the bell tower. Workmen will then remove and

restore the weathervane for reinstallation by the end of May. Bell tower wood repair, scraping, and other paint preparation should be complete by the end of May/early June.

Also during May, the lightning-protection system will be removed, restored, and reinstalled. The roof will be fully inspected, patched, and prepared for resurfacing. North-facing windows of the sanctuary will be prepped for painting. Stone masons will finalize plans for resetting the stone steps leading to the Benefit Street entrance of the Meeting House.

The project is on schedule for completion by August 1, about five months ahead of the date projected during the capital campaign and a month ahead of the recently announced date. This means that payments for completed restoration will be due about five months earlier than anticipated. Anything our generous Capital Campaign contributors can do to complete their pledges earlier than originally requested will be greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions, please contact David House (dlhouse51@comcast.net).



### Getting to Know Our Partner Church Members

This article tells of the aspirations of one of the teenagers we met in our visit to Szentegyhaza in 2012. It is written by her, in English, but has been rephrased in a few places for clarity.

#### Livia Vidám

I'm an almost twenty years old happy girl from a little Romanian town called Szentegyháza.



I am an only child and live in a flat with my mother and father. My mother works as a fitter/cutter, and my dad works making household accessories. They are employed in two different cities, about 30 minutes from our home. Their work schedule is hard for them because of the travel and it is also difficult for me, knowing that they do everything for me.

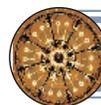
I am studying in the university named Protestant Theological Institute of Cluj-Napoca. I am so happy and thankful, firstly to our minister, Rev. Kelemen, and secondly to my relatives and friends for the big help, support, and love they give me. I have been studying for almost two semesters and I love it very much. The university teaches people of many faiths and we don't have any problems because of it. We look like a big friendly team, who fights for peace, love, and unity.

Sometimes I feel the studies are too hard for me, because I have to learn so many things in so many ways. There are a lot of subjects, and the time which I have for learning is too short. We need to buy the books we use for our studies. It is often difficult because some books aren't available. In spite of these problems, I can say that I am in the best place.

I didn't regret my decision, and I didn't give up my dream: to prove for people that our Father, the Lord, our God, is with us in every moment, and He gives us everything we need. He loves us, looks after our actions, thoughts, decisions. We have to be thankful to Him for our lives, we have to love Him. He is everything for us, and we are everything for Him.

I would like to be a minister to serve Him and people around me. I am grateful for your interest in my studies.

First Unitarian members who would like to correspond with Livia can address an email to her c/o Janet Downing Taylor (jdtaylor39@verizon.net).



### Wheel of Life

**Condolences to:** The family and friends of **Karen Boulanger**, member since 2010; a steady advocate for our Loaves & Fishes Mission and the church Food Pantry.

**A Fond Farewell to:** **Helen Haynes**, who is moving to be near her daughter in Connecticut. Helen signed the membership book on April 18, 1965. She was part of many church activities for many years. She will be missed.

**Speedy Recovery to:** **Phil Lieberman**, who has had knee surgery, and to **Marcia**, who is recovering from a broken arm.

And to **Bob Cox**, who has had surgery.

### Hats Off to ...

#### Our Coffee Hour Providers:

Tom Getz, Isabelle Lavallee, Mary Frappier, Tony Allen, Claude LeBoeuf, Nancy Nicholson, Jude Sonder, Mary Kollar, Maureen Johanson, Marilyn Eanet, Anne Connor, Nancy Weiss-Fried, Roberta Groch, Lucille Riccitelli, Roxanne Stern, Tracy Hands, Liz Palter, Phyllis Cole, Lyn Bradford, Suzanne Francis, Steve McCloy, and all of you who brought something in to surprise us.

**Youth Advisors** Alison Green and Bruce Boucek and parents Cynthia Rosengard, Elizabeth Roche, and Katy Killilea for their presence and support for the youth group sleepover.

### Happy Birthday to ...

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

Jim Barfoot  
Carolyn C. Battle  
Marcia Bubolz  
John P. Braica  
James Corbin  
Darlene Correia  
Peter B. Denison  
Andrea Dougherty  
Alison Duncan  
Suzanne Francis  
Ariadne Greenberg  
Carrollyn Grace  
Tracy Hands



Chris Jeznach  
Katy Killilea  
Mary Kollar  
Wendy Lavallee  
Kim Lee  
Deirdre V. Lovecky  
Brenda Mallicoat  
Ruth Otto  
Erica Perkins  
Martha Rice Sanders  
Cynthia Rosengard  
Barbara Westlake



## Spiritual Development

### UUMen

Sunday, May 6 at 7:00p (note the change to first Sunday)

"A Conversation for Men"

Topic to be determined: might be one; might be several; stay tuned.

Facilitator to be determined: might be one; might be several; stay tuned.

For further information, contact Steve McCloy (dadzone43net@aol.com or 401.244.5321).

### Art in the Atrium

In May, Art in the Atrium will host an exhibition of artwork by *O Studio Women*, a group of four artists: Ann Boyd, Cindy Manchester, Lucille Riccitelli, and Marydale Stevens. Each artist brings her own unique approach to their work by using a variety of mediums, techniques, and styles, resulting in an interesting eclectic exhibit. The opening will be announced at the beginning of the month.

There will be one more exhibit in June, and then we will resume in September.

For further information, please contact Chiara Van Erp at (romano-vanerp-design@cox.net)

### Mindful Grieving Drop-in Sessions

Sundays, 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 sessions will be on 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 (401.433.4365).

### Nine Have Completed the Leadership Training Course

On Saturday, April 28, the sophomore class of Harvest the Power met for a final debrief workshop. They shared fellowship with one another and then broke up into small groups to discuss:



- How UU learning influenced their beliefs about leadership
- How the Harvest the Power program fostered their evolution as leaders/members at First Unitarian
- What leadership challenges they find themselves most drawn toward
- What they see themselves doing within leadership at First Unitarian

On the evening of May 4, the nine participants will celebrate graduation – with valedictory speeches and certificates awarded. The graduates for this class are:

- Beth Anterni
- Annette Casparis
- Sally Caruso
- Michael Currier
- Jess Duckett
- Alison Green
- Katy Killilea
- Judie Knilans
- Derek Smith

If you are interested in learning more about Harvest the Power and potentially interested in being a part of next year's class, please be in touch with Cynthia Rosengard (crosengard@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. 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").

### Tai Chi Resumes

Every Tuesday at 7:00p

A 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)

### 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

### 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

### Youth Lead Congregation in "March for Our Lives" Rally

On March 24, about 100 people stepped off from the parking lot of First Unitarian Church to join the March for Our Lives Rally at the State House in Providence. Carrying signs and chanting as they walked, the group was led by members of the Senior High Youth Group.

The youth had assembled earlier in the day to make signs to carry, and were then joined by the Young Adult Group and friends from our congregation and beyond. As the group approached the State House, they were met by more members from the congregation, at which point the group was absorbed into the crowd of thousands.



### Sanctuary Preparations Continue

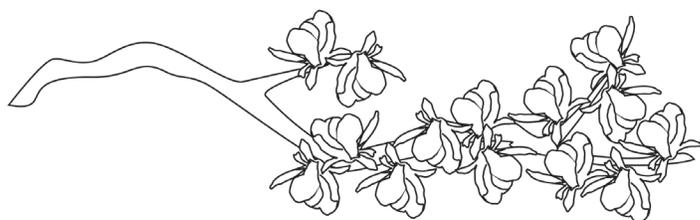
During the first week of April, the Sanctuary Host Steering Committee held another basic training session. About 20 people attended, including students from Brown University. These students are interested in supporting us with hosting, but also with creating a Rapid Response Network, which will be important should we need to respond to protesters. We have been fortunate to have the assistance of Timothy Shea, a student at Harvard University, to make these connections for us.

After receiving the final approvals, the construction of a shower has begun in our Sanctuary Room. With the money that was collected from the congregation during the Share the Love kick-off and a generous loan from some Sanctuary Supporters, we have been able to spring into action without waiting for our Faithify campaign to finish in May.

As is common with many construction jobs, we have encountered additional unplanned expenses. After meeting our Faithify goal well ahead of schedule, we will be hoping to raise additional funds from a stretch goal. Thanks to all who have donated and helped to spread the word. With your help, we have had donations come in from across the country and as far away as Honduras, from Casa Corazon de la Misericordia.

If you haven't had the opportunity to donate or share, go to Faithify.org and look for the account titled *Help Us Build Sanctuary*.

We look forward to dedicating our Parish House and Sanctuary Room sometime in May.



### 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).

### Knitting for a Better World

*Every Tuesday at 7:00p*

The knitters spent the month of March constructing Fairy Houses for the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center Fairy Days event. Led by knitter and gardener Alison Buckser, the group has been participating in this event for the past three years.

With that project behind them, the group looks forward to getting out their needles and getting back to knitting!

### 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, May 6 at 12:15p

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

### Loaves & Fishes Mission

Tuesday, May 1 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.
- 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

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

Distribution Day: Monday, May 21

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.

### A Successful Y'all Come Community Lunch

A heartfelt THANK YOU! to all the volunteers who cooked or helped at the Y'all Come Community Lunch. We fed abundantly 107 very appreciative guests with home-cooked casseroles from both Beneficent Congregational Church and First Unitarian volunteers.

The Neighborhood Social Justice Committee donated saugy hot dogs, grilled outside in the parking lot of the Round Top Beneficent Center and served inside in buns donated by We Share Hope. Guests sat at the festive tables decorated with flowers and baskets of dinner rolls and butter. They ate while soft piano music and songs were played by volunteer musicians Gibson Delgudius and Tom Jones, who always volunteer to entertain during this lunch. At the end of their meal, the guests picked up socks and toiletries bought by Beneficent Church and partly donated by our church, thanks to the collection by Katy Killilea.

Since we had fewer people than usual, there were leftovers for many to take and for the Sunday lunch that the Beneficent Church offers.

Thank you again everybody for helping us to help others.

- Chiara Van Erp for the Neighborhood Social Justice Committee



### 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

The collection for Pets in Need brought in \$1,225. Thank you all for your generous contributions.

#### 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).

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

May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p><b>1</b> Loaves &amp; Fishes 12:00–7:00p</p> <p>Budget Comm. 6:30p</p> <p>Knitting for a Better World 7:00p</p> <p>Tai Chi 7:00p</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Prudential Committee 6:00p</p> <p>Meditation 7:00p</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> Leadership Retreat 9:00a - 12:00p</p> <p>Saturday Social Supper 5:30p (Spremulli's)</p>
<p><b>6</b> May Breakfast 8:00–10:00a Girl Effect Sale Worship 10:30a at 12:00p New Member Brunch at 12:15p Neighborhood SJ History Comm. UU Men 7:00p</p>	<p><b>7</b> Women's Alliance 11:00a</p> <p>Zendo 7:00p Harry Potter 7:15p</p>	<p><b>8</b> Deacons 6:30p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p Reimag. Rel. 7:00p</p>	<p><b>9</b> Side with Love 7:00p Meditation 7:00p</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>
<p><b>13</b> Worship 10:30a at 12:00p Special Lunch &amp; Letters for Gun Control at 12:15p Green Team</p>	<p><b>14</b> Worship Comm. 5:30–6:30p Zendo 7:00p</p>	<p><b>15</b> Gun Control Demonstration 4:00p (at the State House) Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p</p>	<p><b>16</b> Meditation 7:00p</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>
<p><b>20</b> Coming of Age Worship 10:30a at 12:00 Cong. Conv. on the Budget at 12:15p Mindful Grieving Drop-in</p>	<p><b>21</b> Food Pantry 2:00p–6:00p Zendo 7:00p Harry Potter 7:15p</p>	<p><b>22</b> Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p Reimag. Rel. 7:00p</p>	<p><b>23</b> Meditation 7:00p</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>
<p><b>27</b> Worship Service at Bell St. Chapel 10:00a</p> <p>[Brown University Commencement exercises in the Meeting House]</p>	<p><b>28</b> MEMORIAL DAY  Church Office Closed  Zendo 7:00p</p>	<p><b>29</b>  Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p</p>	<p><b>30</b> Meditation 7:00p</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>		