



Services in the Meeting House

Sunday, June 3 **Blessing and the Space Between Us**

10:30a

Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay

We think of blessings as lofty, as religious, as formal; sometimes also as immediate, secular, and intimate – the blessing of a child, the blessing of a reprieve with a good medical result. But between the sublime and the mundane is another space and another form of blessing: our ability to bless each other when we pay attention to how we are with each other, when we think about interactions that bless us and one that just leaves us as we were – or, much worse, oppresses us. We'll look at stories from real life, examples like the Dalai Lama, and consider whether it doesn't have to be exhausting, one more thing to attend to in our busy days, whether it can be simple and just part of how we are – and real.

Grades Pre-K–Senior High begin in the Meeting House, then go to classes with their teachers.

Childcare open on the second floor of the Parish House.

Annual/Financial Meeting of the Congregation follows the service at 12:00p.

Sunday, June 10 **Flower Communion: A Multigenerational Service**

10:30a

Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay, Cathy Seggel, DRE

As we round out the regular church year, we'll celebrate the great UU tradition of Flower Communion (please bring a flower). We'll learn its history, explore what it meant and what it means, and share the joy of the season with each other in this multigenerational service that lifts up the essential relationships between nature and humanity, between beauty and hope.

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

All Church Picnic in the Park at India Point Park starting at 12:00p

Summer Services

NOTE: Summer worship services begin at 10:00a.

Childcare is provided every Sunday.

Our lay-led summer services are planned and hosted by the Worship Committee. Presented by members of our church family, as well as occasional guest speakers, they provide an opportunity to get to know one another in a less formal setting and to better appreciate the insights and rich experiences of our diverse community.

Sunday, June 17 **A What? What's That Again?**

10:00a (Note the earlier start time)

Cy O'Neil

We frequently don't know how to do something until we do it. And then there are those times when we don't know what we are creating until we've created it. Cy will share his experiences as a founding member of the Providence Village, a community of mutual support for Seniors who want to stay in their homes and neighborhoods as they grow older.

Cy and his wife, Wendy, joined the church in 1992. Their daughter, Shannon, and son, Lincoln, grew up in the church school. Cy has served in a variety of leadership roles in the congregation.

Farewell Party for Posey Kooris in the Parish House following the service (please RSVP, see page 5)

Sunday, June 24 **My Faith May Not Be Your Faith, But That's OK**

10:00a

Bruce Boucek

Bruce will explore the contradictions of being a Unitarian Universalist and examine what he sees as failures and successes in the UU tradition and how they have molded his faith development over the years. He'll also address story telling, the importance of bearing witness, and seeking alternative frames for understanding and coming to terms with complex problems.

Bruce is the Social Sciences Data Librarian at Brown University. He has been one of the senior high youth group advisors for the past seven years. A third-generation Unitarian Universalist, he has many thoughts about what that means.



We are a
Welcoming Congregation

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Lately . . .

As we enter the summer season, I am looking back on the richness and goodness and gladness for me of this first year with you. The softness of the days, the verdant landscape, reflect a softness and a fullness I feel in myself. Much as I am glad to be heading off to time off for vacation and study leave, renewal with family and friends and beloved places, I am glad also to anticipate the fall – coming back together, the energy and excitement of the beginning of another church year.

This time last year I was working to wrap up 17 years in Silver Spring and trying to prep a house for sale and trying to look for places to live here and it was a fairly intense time. So much has changed. We sold our beloved home and gained another, also one I love to come home to every day. We lost a beloved dog, and gained another, Blue, who I am so glad to come home to – along with our dearest Quin, who seems to be doing just fine at almost 11.5 years.

Your warm welcome to me, and also to Tim and Rachel and all our family, has made us feel like we are setting down deep and happy roots here. The happiness of the fall; the gladness of the installation; the beauty of the winter; the joy of Christmas; our long-delayed spring, with our high schoolers bridging and our youth coming of age; our passion for sanctuary and gun control; weddings we’ve done together and are planning together; memorials that left us stricken and sorrowing; many pastoral care meetings that have, I hope, helped; many new members who have joined the church; and a commitment drive that has enabled us to pay all our staff within guidelines – what a year it has been!

May this summer be gentle on us all. I hope we’ll all get some sun, some water, some relaxation, some renewal. The strength and goodness of First Unitarian will be there for us all, over the summer, again in the fall.

Take care of your selves and those you love. See you soon.

In faith,

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



Dozens of church members gathered at the State House on May 15 for the rally in support of gun safety legislation. Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay addressed the crowd, as did Rev. Jamie Washam of the First Baptist Church in America (with microphone) and Rabbi Howard Voss-Altman. Rev. Gene Dyszlewski (second from right) is the Social Justice Community Minister at First Unitarian.

Deacons’ Corner

We have been very fortunate to have Jack Killilea, a representative from the First Unitarian Senior High Youth Group, join the Board of Deacons. He has brought a much needed “younger viewpoint.” We hope that he (or another of his First Unitarian classmates) can continue working with the Deacons. Below is Jack’s statement.

– Judie Knilans, Senior Deacon

For the past two years, I have had the pleasure of representing the First Unitarian Youth Group on the Board of Deacons. During this time, I have developed a new appreciation for the work many members of our congregation do behind the scenes to make each service possible. Knowing that so many members of our congregation, through numerous committees and groups, have dedicated time from their busy schedules to improve the church is something that I didn’t fully understand before my involvement with the Deacons.



During this time, I’ve learned a lot. While watching meetings, I’ve noticed the lengthy thought process and discussion that goes along with every decision volunteers make. I’ve seen every choice carefully considered and every project meticulously crafted. This dedication to improve the church is part of what makes our congregation special. Without the work of committee members and volunteers, we would be unable to create the impact in social justice and spirituality which we strive for. The work behind the scenes ultimately propels us forward.

I would like to use this as an opportunity to thank the Deacons, not only for welcoming me to their ranks, but also for all the good which they and other church committees work toward all year long.

– Jack Killilea

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



Spiritual Pathways

June is full of celebrations, closings, and envisioning the future. This month's congregational theme, "What does it mean to be a people of Blessing?" has been pointing me to inspirational stories connected to my work. I feel good about the progress we have made, leaning into our spiral of faith skills: Cultivating Spiritual Practices, Navigating the UU Sources, Articulating Faith, Worshipping with our Lives, and Serving the World.

We will continue to evolve and grow. The Spiritual Pathways Team (aka RE Committee) are collaborating with me to continue to transform curricula to be the most relevant and accessible to families. Expanding offerings for adult faith development is also important. We are on our way to supporting lifelong learning and transitions.

Children, youth, and adults have been blessings in many ways, from the birth of precious babies to celebrating the lives of friends who have died. Our volunteer teacher teams have graced the Spiritual Pathways program, forging relationships and connecting people with their wisdom and love. The senior high youth advisors have been ever-present, empowering the passion of the teens, in worship, service, friendship, and fun! Youth involvement in all aspects of congregational life is alive and growing. Ideas are bubbling up to connect the generations more and more.

I want you to know that I am very thankful for our staff team. A shared ministry with professionals and volunteers is how we best serve this congregation. I have felt great about blending my faith development calling with the fabulous energy of our minister, Liz Lerner Maclay, and our excellent musical director, Fred Jodry. Each day, I am assisted and supported by Walter Sotelo, Jaime Durango, Pedro Vasquez, Emily Yaruss, Marcia Taylor, and others. The blessing I hold up is my 20-year listening, sharing, laughing partnership with Posey Kooris, our Congregational Administrator, who has shown me friendship and collaboration beyond measure! I know that her next chapter will be full of adventure and fun.

Sunday, June 3, is our closing Sunday school day, beginning with an appreciation breakfast for teacher teams. Then, on to the Meeting House for the beginning of the service, with Joyful Noise performing and an honoring of the many volunteers who have served the children and youth. Next, there will be time in classrooms to celebrate! I have deep gratitude for the children, youth, and adults who have shared time in our faith community this season!

My work is far from done. I will complete content for the 2018-19 *Resource Book*, plan the worship calendar for next year, recruit and support volunteers, and develop new curricula. Please contact me in the office this month if you'd like to be part of our programs for children, youth, and adults.

I look forward to some spending time with my family this summer. I hope that you soak in the season in ways that you love.

Take care,

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

A colorful scarf hung from the pulpit during the Youth Group service on April 29. Youth Group Leader Adele Andrews explains:

"This is a scarf I have been knitting every Sunday in our senior high youth group since ninth grade. When I graduate this year, I will finish it and it will stay in the youth group room as a communal scarf. It's significance is that I have had it growing with me, and now it becomes part of the ongoing community instead of just my project."



Coming of Agers Present a Moving Worship Service

At the annual Coming of Age Recognition Service on May 20, this year's class of eighth-graders, with their dedicated teachers and mentors, presented their credo statements. Their program focused on Relationships and Sexuality, UU Theology, Worship and History, Congregation and Community, and Leadership and Justice. Equally important – they forged strong connections with peers and with adults who care deeply.

Deepest gratitude to teachers, mentors, parents, and youth.



The Coming of Agers, their teachers, and mentors gather around the celebratory cake after their May 20 Recognition Service.

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).





Sight Lines

As my term as President of the congregation comes to an end, I look back at a year of goals achieved and those remaining on the horizon, and a greater appreciation for the hard work of the Minister, RE Director, our staff, lay leadership, and the myriad volunteers that make our church a special place.

In the last year, we as a congregation have accomplished much: installed Liz Lerner Maclay as our new minister; created the Benevolent Society, a legacy giving program for the church; implemented a Safe Congregation policy; set the stage for becoming members of RI Mobile Loaves, the RI State Council of Churches, and Interfaith Power and Light; begun construction renovation of the Meeting House, after a successful capital campaign; built on the work of Jim Estey by reimagining the Parish Supper; hired a new Administrator to replace our beloved Posey Kooris; run a successful commitment drive and begun the work of changing to a culture of giving; completed a congregational census; introduced a new website and internet technology assessment for the church; had a successful leadership retreat focused on strategies for our future; begun the work of upgrading safety and security within the church; and, after a staggering amount of work, we are close to realizing our goal of becoming a Sanctuary Church.

These goals were met because so many of you in the congregation volunteered your time and resources to make our goals a reality; for that I am forever thankful to all of you. Having said this, we still have much to do to make ourselves a more welcoming, spiritual congregation focused on social justice; every day, marching forward, one step at a time.

The leadership of First Unitarian is not one person, but a collaborative effort of people who truly love this church. I could not have served as President without the help, support, and encouragement of John Simmonds, Cynthia Rosengard, Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay, DRE Cathy Seggel, members of the Prudential Committee, Posey Kooris, Walter Sotelo, Jaime Durango, Pedro Vasquez, and our amazing committed volunteers. I owe them all so much for their counsel, assistance, fortitude, and grace under pressure.

I was honored to be your President this past year, and leave you with a favorite quote of mine from Will Rogers: "We come here for just a spell and then pass on. So get a few laughs and do the best you can. Live your life so that whenever you lose, you are ahead."

Be well. Enjoy your summer. Blessings on all of you.

Jay Glasson
President, Prudential Committee
pres@firstunitarianprov.org

Annual Meeting Reminder – Sunday, June 3 at 12:00p

The Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Church of Providence will be held on June 3 in the Parish House Auditorium for the purpose of electing Officers and members of the Prudential Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the Board of Deacons; approving a budget for the upcoming fiscal year; and acting on other questions that may be raised during the meeting.

Questions raised at church meetings are decided by a majority of those present and voting on such questions. (No proxy or absentee voting.) **Voting Members** are those who signed the Membership Book at least three months before the meeting (i.e., by March 5, 2018), are over 16 years of age on the day of the meeting, and in some recorded manner within the previous 12 months have contributed to the financial support of the church.

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

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

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

Treasurer's Report

My five years as First Unitarian's Treasurer have passed quickly. It has been my pleasure to serve in this capacity. During that period, we have seen growing congregational financial support through a successful capital campaign and growing pledge drive. Because of this support, we have been able to create a balanced budget for FY 2018-19 that includes full support for our UUA commitment and to begin to gradually make the case for setting aside funds from our Property Endowment for capital repairs.

None of the above would have been possible without Posey Kooris's work to develop and control a workable budget. David House has provided expertise in controlling both property and health insurance costs – this in addition to his management of the Capital Campaign and the subsequent restoration work on the Meeting House.

While the Finance Committee gets little attention from the general congregation, Jennifer Laurelli has provided good leadership in overseeing the endowment. In addition, the development of a planned-giving program will continue to build a strong endowment that helps to maintain a vibrant church.

– Graham Nye, Treasurer

Addendum to the Nominating Committee Report

(for action at the 2018 Annual Meeting)

Prudential Committee Member

Tiffany E. Reed, Stewardship

(for two-years to fill an unexpired term)

Raised Episcopalian, Tiffany found her spiritual home at First Unitarian in 2010, becoming active and attending more regularly in 2015. She has previously served as chair of the Side with Love Committee and as a facilitator for Harvest the Power. Tiffany also provided counsel to First Unitarian's recent capital campaign. A graduate of Bryn Mawr College, she spends her days providing strategic support to a team of consultants as well as working directly with nonprofits across New England to help them reach fundraising goals and fulfill their missions. She loves to read, practice yoga, run short distances, and visit places she's never been before. Tiffany lives in the Mount Pleasant section of Providence with her daughter, Margaret.



Twenty Years, Ten Ministers

As this is my final newsletter, I wanted to share a few reflections. I knew little about what I was getting myself into when I came here to First Unitarian Church. Kent Gladding is a friend of mine and was the Treasurer of the church at the time (1998). He informed me of the job and encouraged me to apply, as he thought I would be a perfect fit. When he shared the job description with me, I couldn't imagine that it would be the place for me. He assured me that I was the one for the job, and here I am 20 years later! I don't know if I should thank Kent or curse him – just kidding.

This job has taught me patience and understanding that there are so many different kinds of people in this world and at this church, and no one kind is the right kind. To do my best, it served me well to have a keen sense of humor and even a bit (or maybe more) of cynicism. Some situations are easy, some more difficult, and some are impossible – but in this job all must be addressed. After all, you are all my bosses. All 600-ish of you! If I said yes to all requests, I was doomed to be frustrated; but if I said no, I was doomed to be un-liked. Does that pertain just to Unitarians? I think not. It is life, and certainly church life. All is fine once one learns to avoid the pitfalls. The challenges become part of each day and part of the job and, once accomplished, can be very rewarding. One becomes part of the solution, not part of the problem, and it can feel good.

My job starts every morning with the phones ringing at 8:58a, even though we open at 9:00a. Sometimes Wally and I know exactly who it is, just by the ringtone, but I'm not telling who. Wally and I are connected at the hip. For those of you who don't know, I brought him here with me from my former place of employment. That was quite a while ago. Please be good to him when I'm gone. Cathy was here before me and had a lot of past history to help as I got my feet entrenched. We are a tag team. Fred received the nickname of Houdini, as he is here one minute and totally gone the next. But I can always find him (much to his dismay). Jaime came just a bit later. I have tried my hardest to help him learn the word "no" when needed, but it's not

in his DNA. Jaime brought Pedro here, and he has saved me from weekend duty as he is a self-starter, an awesome and kind man. Jenn is the calm one, who goes with the flow. Thank god there's one in the mix!

And now to the ministers. Just to reiterate, there were ten in my 20-year tenure. It has been an interesting journey all by itself. With each one, there was a re-adjustment period. Just a side note: It's very interesting to be supervised by a person who is brand new to the church, to the geographical area, and so forth. Each minister brought their own flavor to the mix. Please remember that only the ministers were new; all other employees have been here for most of the 20 years. Some highlights included:

One who received a book each day, delivered by UPS, with the word "God" in the title who wrote the most inspiring sermons as a result. Even if that word is not well used at First Unitarian.

One who locked the car, with the keys in it, with the motor running, and need one of us to give a ride home to get an extra set of keys.

One who was humorous and totally consumed by the bathroom-scale and always shamed into being on a diet. That one also cried "Wolf" regularly on imaginary illnesses. It was entertaining.

I could write a chapter on each one. Stayed tuned as a book may be forthcoming.

As this chapter comes to an end, being one who thrives on high energy and chaos, I would have had it no other way. Until we meet again, I wish each and every one of you my very best, and would like to share one of my favorite quotes from Hunter Thompson, which sums up my attitude toward life and my time at First Unitarian:

Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming "Wow! What a Ride!"

Thanks for the ride,

Posey 

Wish Posey a Fond Farewell!

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 her and appreciate her and will miss her when she retires at the end of June.

Watch your email for an invite to the party. Please RSVP if you plan to come, so we can accommodate everyone.

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

Welcome New Members

After taking the Path to Membership class in April, eleven people signed the Membership Book. Please make sure to greet these newest members when you see them at Coffee Hour.



Amy Donadio is originally from Middleboro, MA. She is a graduate of Marymount Manhattan College in Manhattan with a B.A. in Communications and a RISD Continuing Education graduate with a Certificate in Advertising. She spent four years living in Brooklyn and working in New York before moving to Los Angeles. While in LA, Amy worked

in film and television production before working for two years at Warner Brothers. Returning home to Massachusetts, Amy interned for The Spiral Foundation, where she illustrated a children's book. Today Amy lives with her mother and foster son, Jayden, in Somerset. Raised Catholic, Amy left the Church as an agnostic after making her confirmation. She joined The Beginners Mind Center in Northridge, CA in 2008, where she made her Rakusu and made a commitment to the Buddhist Precepts. In January 2016, Amy met Ethan Nemkovich, who asked her to attend church with him in the fall of 2016, and they have been attending ever since.



Molly Garrison lives in Oak Hill in Pawtucket with her husband, Justin, and two daughters, Loulie and Georgia. She grew up in the First Unitarian Church in Worcester and is pleased to now be a member of First Unitarian of Providence. Molly is currently the Director of Advancement at Lincoln School in Providence and serves on the school's

Administrative Council. She is a 2010 graduate of Leadership Rhode Island and a 2014 Women's Fund policy fellow. She serves on the Board of Visitors at Worcester Academy and is a long-time admission volunteer for Union College. She is a passionate advocate for women and girls through her membership in women's organizations and her service on the Board of Directors for The Lady Project, headquartered in Providence (Mayor Elorza mentioned the organization when he visited us at First Unitarian). She looks forward to meeting members and finding a place to serve the church.



Tracy Hands was brought up in the Catholic Church in York, PA and moved to Rhode Island with her family from Los Angeles 17 years ago. She is the proud mother of two daughters; the oldest will be a senior in college next fall and her youngest is graduating from high school next month. Tracy has

been a Girl Scout leader for 15 years and became a volunteer facilitator at Friends Way, a family bereavement center, in Warwick last year. She works for Santander Bank as a mortgage underwriter. Tracy started attending services last fall and is happy to call Rhode Island and First Unitarian home.



Cynie Linton came to Providence a couple of years ago via Boston, New York City, and Washington, DC. She was raised Unitarian and attended Silver Spring Unitarian Church as a child, and All Souls as a teenager. Cynie is trained as a printmaker, educator, and architect and works as an architectural specifier. She is proud that the majority of her projects have been public schools. Cynie enjoys gardening, feeding the birds, yoga, and learning foreign languages for fun. She is happy to have come to the First Unitarian Church, to have taken the leap to join. She looks forward to becoming an active member and working for social justice in the community and the world.



Ethan Nemkovich is originally from southern Vermont but has lived in Rhode Island since 2009. Since 2010, he has worked in the Information Technology Department at Roger Williams University in Bristol. It is a work environment that avidly promotes discussion about social justice and opportunities for community engagement. It only made sense to seek a church with similar pursuits. The last book he read was *The Art of Happiness* (Dalai Lama/Howard Cutler) and he is trying to incorporate many of the teachings in that book into his daily life. He's also an avid Star Wars fan.



Erika Blauch Rusley has become a member after attending services at First Unitarian since September. A native of Connecticut, her life and many moves have taken her to Maine, Boston, Providence, back to Maine, down to Baltimore, and finally back "home" to Providence, where she and her family hope to stay for a long while. Raised Roman Catholic, Erika and her husband, Jack, sought a liberal and inclusive spiritual community that was more in line with their values. They became members of First Parish Unitarian in Portland, Maine, where their daughter Meg was dedicated. Erika's younger daughter, Josephine, was dedicated here at First Unitarian earlier this year. Erika is a middle and high school English teacher who currently works with graduate students as an online instructor at the Johns Hopkins School of Education. She enjoys jogging outdoors, cooking with her husband, dancing with her little girls, striped shirts, springtime, and coffee.

(New Members continued on page 7)



First Unitarian Church of Providence

Our revised and redesigned website features Recent News, Upcoming Events, Past and Future Services, as well as information for first-time visitors, ways to get involved, and much, much more.

Visit our new website at the same old address: firstunitarianprov.org

New Members *(cont'd)*



Blossom Segeloff, 88, first learned about UUism when her mother sent her and her two daughters to a Quaker retreat, and UUs there sold her a red T-shirt labeled "Jobs, Not Jails" (she still has it!). Before she was a UU, she belonged to the Washington Ethical Society, whose motto was "We spell God with Two O's." She attended Northeastern Law School at the age of 48, specializing in prisoner rights. She was proud to be homeless for five years rather than defend jails against their prisoners, the only law job available to her under Reaganomics, which she refused to do. She proudly spent a night in jail protesting the government minimizing the danger of nuclear bombs. She wrote letters to senators defending a wrongly accused Black man to prevent his return to a chain gang. Blossom was a "closet UU" till she found the real thing!



Court* Tanzi was born and raised in Warwick, RI. After graduating from Vets High School, they moved to New Hampshire to work for the Bernie Sanders campaign. It was while working there that they stumbled upon a Unitarian Universalist church for the first time. After moving back to Providence, they tried quite a few new churches and felt totally at home at First Unitarian. Court is a vegetarian who loves animals, camping, vinyl collecting, and being a lifetime member of the Girl Scouts. They have a plethora of allergies and chronic illnesses, but they still maintain a positive outlook. They are devoted to activism and social justice.

and chronic illnesses, but they still maintain a positive outlook. They are devoted to activism and social justice.

*Court is their preferred name, and they use they/them pronouns.



Lisa Tuck is a Registered Nurse who was raised in Rhode Island in the '60s and '70s in an Italian-Norwegian Catholic family. She began questioning early on, strayed from the faith as a teenager, and began a long search for a spiritual life that felt like the right "fit." She attended First Unitarian for a few years, back in the mid-2000s, but then moved west, where she spent nine years living, working, and playing in Colorado and northern New Mexico. She and her husband, Sean, moved back to Rhode Island last year when her mom took very ill. She is so happy to be part of this UU community

and now an official member of First Unitarian, where she experiences that sought-after "fit" with her principles, personality, and inspirations for social justice. Lisa has five children, eight grandchildren, and two dog-children and is loving being back in New England. She is a school nurse-teacher who loves picnics, hiking, yoga, and attending live cultural events.



Ray Zelinsky and Lorin Pratt live on the East Side with their two dogs, Hazel and Herbie. Lorin grew up in North Attleboro, MA and is currently a Special Education Teacher in her hometown. Ray grew up in Brooklyn and teaches English Language Learners in Worcester. After being together almost seven years, they are finally getting married this summer, in Narragansett. In their free time, they love being outside with their dogs,

exploring Rhode Island, and being with friends and family. Ray and Lorin joke that they knew First Unitarian was right for them after their first two visits: Visit one being the "Blessing of the Animals" and a room full of dogs. The second being the reverse-giving day and receiving one-hundred, no-strings-attached dollars. But, really, they are so excited to have found a religious space that shares their values and look forward to meeting new friends and raising their children among this kind, open, and supportive community.

Transylvania Partner Church Marriage Equality and the Hungarian Unitarian Church Edict

Discussion, June 14 at 7:00p

The Transylvania Partner Church Committee was dismayed to hear that the Hungarian Unitarian Church has declared that marriage is only between a man and a woman. Our partner church in Transylvania supports this edict, yet we in this country do not.

While other differences exist between our two congregations, this one affects us more than we would like. We have drafted a letter in English and Hungarian to  our partner church with our concerns. The reason the letter is also in Hungarian is to enable it to be shared with the whole congregation.

We will not send this letter until we meet with the groups in our congregation most impacted by this edict. We have received guidance from the UU Partner Church Council as well. We keep in mind that our country was facing this question not long ago, with the upshot that we embraced marriage equality as a civil right. Perhaps this will happen in Hungary, as well. In fact, we have been informed that if a same sex couple is married by a civil marriage contract, a church may perform a religious ceremony.

Before we continue with plans for a visit to our partner church next year, we intend to hold a discussion on this issue to get congregational input as we decide our next steps in the partnership. Please consider attending this discussion on Thursday, June 14 at 7:00p in the Auditorium. We will report on information that we have gathered to that point.

Janet Downing Taylor and Tom Getz
Co chairs of The Partner Church Committee



Community Life

Meet Nancy Forsstrom – Our New Congregational Administrator

Sunday, June 10 during Coffee Hour

Even as we bid farewell to our long-time Administrator, we welcome her successor. Thanks to Posey Kooris, our congregation is blessed with a strong administrative base. Posey's dedication to passing on the clear administration procedures and contacts she has developed over her 20-year tenure will serve us in good stead as we welcome Nancy Forsstrom as our new Administrator.

Nancy will officially join us on June 11. She and Posey will be working together during June to get Nancy up to speed on the Administrator's position. Nancy will begin full-time work as sole Administrator July 2.

As you might imagine, Nancy has a lot to learn in a short period of time. Fortunately, she brings a wealth of church administrative experience after years of pastoring liberal American Baptist parishes in Connecticut. A large part of her pastoral duty was overseeing and, in many cases, acting as the Administrator for the congregation. Nancy is looking forward to applying her experience as full-time Administrator at First Unitarian.

Our congregation will officially welcome Nancy to our staff family at the last regular service of the spring on June 10. Please join us at the service and afterwards at Coffee Hour for our official meet and greet with Nancy.



Nancy Forsstrom

The Women's Alliance

Annual Outing at the RISD Museum

Tuesday, June 5

Tour: 10:30–11:30am – Guide: Kate Gillis

Dutch treat lunch at a nearby restaurant

The RISD Museum is a treasure trove of sacred images of women. We will seek out images of goddesses from Egypt, Asia, Greece, and Europe. Contemplating the makers and users of these treasured images will add a deep, rich layer to our own spiritual journeys.

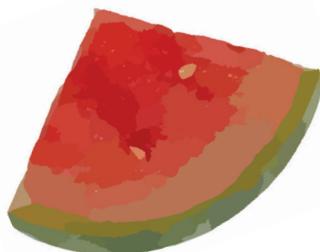
Our guide, Kate Gillis, a life-long UU, is currently co-president of Bell Street Chapel in Providence. She is also a member of the Women's Group at Westminster Unitarian and president of Womensphere.

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).



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.

Supporting Camp Street Ministries

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

Your Coffee Hour Needs You!

For these last Sundays of our church year, don't forget to sign up and bring donations for our Coffee Hour. With so many events going on in our church, our Coffee Hour donations have been sparse. Remember that our Coffee Hour is a cooperative effort 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.



Community Life

Meeting House Restoration Update

The Restoration project is now on track for completion on August 31.

Scaffolding now completely surrounds the building to the tip of the steeple. As the scaffolding was erected, masons, painters, roofers, glazers, and woodworkers examined and began the patching/repair process on crumbling mortar, rusting metal, decaying wood, and peeling paint surfaces that naturally occur after 20 years of no maintenance.

As the prep work progresses, additional damage not easily viewed prior during the estimate process has been discovered, especially in the pointing of mortar between stones. Fortunately, the cost to repair this additional damage is within the estimated contingency amount in our contract, so the project is still meeting the contract schedule and is within the budget.

Work in June will include resurfacing the weather vane (already removed from the tower tip), complete inspection and repair of the steeple above the bell tower, removal of the steeple scaffolding, replacement of the lightning protection system, repointing the stonework on the main building, preparation of all entry ways to the Meeting House, and final preparation for resurfacing the roof.

Here is where we stand on the financing of the project:

Capital Campaign pledged total:	\$1,180,000
Total contract amount due 9/30/18	\$1,140,000
Pledges received to date	\$ 790,000
Pledges due to cover total project cost:	\$ 350,000

If you have an outstanding Capital Campaign pledge balance, you will soon receive a letter from the Prudential Committee asking you to consider making your final contribution before September 1, 2018. We realize that honoring this request accelerates the three-year pledge payment schedule suggested during the Capital Campaign. We do have bridge financing available, if needed, to cover the period between final project payment due date and the original pledge payment schedule. However, any amounts paid by September 1 will eliminate interest charges that could be better applied to actual Meeting House maintenance costs.

In the meantime, congratulations to all for caring so deeply about our Spirit's Home. The generosity of this congregation allows the Meeting House to remain a symbol of our mission and presence in our community. Thanks for all you do to promote our continued work.

– David House, Meeting House Restoration Coordinator



Dates found inside the large gilt ball, part of the weathervane



Weathervane awaits regilding



Some of the damage on the steeple



Planning the 300th Anniversary of the Church in 2020

History Committee monthly meeting, Sunday, June 10, 12:00p in the History Room

Our congregation will be 300 years old in October 2020, and the History Committee is pleased to announce that Meghan Smith has been appointed by the Prudential Committee to chair the Task Force planning this great event. Anyone interested in being part of the that team, please contact Meghan (meghan.mac.smith@gmail.com).

The History Committee will have a table of booklets, books, note cards and photos available for sale at the Annual Meeting on June 3 in the Auditorium. Come talk to us about our church history.



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

Hats Off to ...

Susan Fisher, newsletter editor extraordinaire for her dependability and attention to detail.

Sarah Cappelli and her crew – Michael, Matthew, and Andrew – for helping our children create drums for the rally at the State House for gun control.

Willa Summers for doing her senior project with our children.

Marcia Taylor and Joyful Noise for sharing their music this year!

Max Pounder and Sam Cole for their invaluable work on the Sanctuary Room

Our Coffee Hour Providers:

Court Tanzi, Louise Sloan, Joan Rollins, Elissa Emerson, Lynda Gulley, Rachel Spaulding, Kelley Smith, Marilyn Eanet, Joyce Boober, Anne Connor, Hillary Salmons, Suzanne Francis, Lyn Bradford, Jude Sonder, Lucille Riccitelli, Beth Anterni, Tracy Hands, Nancy Shand, and all of you who brought something in to surprise us.

Happy Birthday to ...

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

- Tony Allen
- Bruce Amand
- Annette Casparis
- Marilyn Eanet
- Bobbi Fisler



- Susan Fisher
- Mary Frappier
- David House
- Deborah L. McCoy
- Jean Plunkett
- Nancy Weiss-Fried



Spiritual Development

Summertime Chalice Circles

Wednesdays: June 20; July 11, 25; August 8, 22 from 7 to 9p.

Thursdays: June 28; July 19; August 2, 16, 30 from 7 to 9p.

Chalice Circles, First Unitarian's Small Group Ministry program, is for those seeking connections to our church community through active listening and speaking from the heart on topics that inspire and reflect on our daily lives.

This summer, from June through August, there will be two Chalice Circles meeting on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00p about every other week in the cool Haynes Room off the Parish House Atrium. These groups will be more casual than regular groups, because participants can drop in and come back or not. We only ask that interested members contact our Registrar (see below) for the dates they want, to insure space availability. These groups are open to church members and friends to experience what a Chalice Circle is all about before signing up to join a group in the fall. Our two facilitators, while new to the program, have facilitating skills and are also members of existing groups.

The facilitators for the summer sessions will be:

Susan Hurd, MA, CAGS, LMHC



Susan is a licensed Mindfulness-based psychotherapist with her own private practice, The Mindful Living Center (www.mindful-livingcenter.com). She became an official member of the church this year but has participated at the church over the last 20 years.

Susan's group will meet on Wednesdays: June 20; July 11, 25; August 8, 22 from 7 to 9p.

Aida Wilby, MS, CRC



Aida moved to Rhode Island from Los Angeles in 2014 and joined the church in the fall of 2017. She enjoys the community at First Unitarian and wants to find ways to contribute. Most of her career has been in student support services within the higher education system, most recently providing academic counseling to students with disabilities.

Aida's group will meet on Thursdays: June 28; July 19; August 2, 16, 30 from 7 to 9p.

Registration required. For more information, contact: Chalice Circles Registrar, Janet Downing Taylor (jdtaylo39@verizon.net)

UUMen

Sunday, June 10 at 7:00p

Topic: Men in Caring Conversation

UU Men final meeting of the year. We find that we have much to say to each other. We have much to hear. What topic do YOU want to raise?

Art in the Atrium

In June, Art in the Atrium will host an eclectic exhibit. The opening will be announced at the beginning of the month.

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

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

Sanctuary Update

Dedication Ceremony: June 7, 2:00p

This has been a busy month for the Sanctuary Committee. Several of our members attended a rally in Plymouth, MA to protest the detainment of Cuthbert Bonnie, who had come to our church seeking Sanctuary but was detained before we could house him. Although he is still being held at the Plymouth County jail, his family was appreciative of our show of support.

Our Faithify fundraiser was successful, raising enough money (\$7,814.) to complete the installation of a shower in our Sanctuary Room, as well as an upgrade to the electricity, purchase of a counter, and help getting everything ready to house someone in danger of being deported. Many thanks to Max Pounder and Sam Cole, who have been busy working their construction magic on our room. This endeavor would have cost much more without their help.

You should have received an Eventbrite invitation to the Sanctuary Dedication Ceremony in your email. Please RSVP *through the site*, so we will know how many people plan to attend. We hope you will be able to come help us dedicate our Parish House to the service of Sanctuary.

RI PrideFest 2018: Louder & Prouder

Location: South Water Street, Providence, RI

Date: June 16, 2018

Time: 12:00p to 7:00p

Price: Free

Help is needed to staff the tent during the festival and march in the Illuminated Parade. Stop by the Sanctuary table during Coffee Hour to sign up.



Neighborhood Social Justice

Monthly meeting, Sunday, June 10 at 12:15p

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

Loaves & Fishes Mission

Tuesday, June 5 from 12:00p

We're not out of the woods yet with the unpredictable 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, June 18

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)

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

The collection for Dorcas International Institute brought in \$1,512. Thank you all for your generous contributions.

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

June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worship 10:30a at 12:00p Annual Meeting	4 Zendo 7:00p Harry Potter 7:15p	5 Women's Alliance Outing at RISD Museum 10:30a Loaves & Fishes 12:00-7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p	6 Prudential Committee 6:00p Meditation 7:00p	7 Sanctuary Dedication 2:00p	8	9
10 Worship 10:30a at 11:30a Meet Nancy Forsstrom at 12:00p Picnic in the Park at 12:15p Neighborhood SJ History Comm. Green Team UU Men 7:00p	11 Zendo 7:00p	12 Deacons 6:30p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p Reimag. Rel. 7:00p	13 Meditation 7:00p	14 Transylvania Partner Church Discussion 7:00p	15	16 RI PrideFest (www.prideri.org) 12:00-7:00p So. Water St. Providence
17 Summer Worship 10:00a at 11:00a Posey's Farewell Party	18 Food Pantry 2:00p-6:00p Zendo 7:00p Harry Potter 7:15p	19 Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p	20 Summer Chalice Circle 7:00p Meditation 7:00p	21	22	23
24 Summer Worship 10:00a	25 Zendo 7:00p	26 Knitting for a Better World 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p Reimag. Rel. 7:00p	27 Meditation 7:00p	28 Summer Chalice Circle 7:00p	29	30