



## Summer Services in the Meeting House

At First Unitarian, we continue gathering, inquiring, and discovering throughout the summer. Our lay-led services, planned and hosted by the Worship Committee, give us an opportunity to know one another better and to appreciate the amazing talents and rich experiences of members of our church family. Come gather with us!

**SUMMER PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN:** A well-supervised program for children from infancy through age 10 is provided each Sunday on the second floor in the Parish House during the service. Age-appropriate activities and snacks are provided. If there are more than the anticipated number of children, parents may be asked to help with that day's program.

**SUMMER HOSPITALITY:** Welcoming newcomers is an important part of the congregational life of our church. Our summer Fellowship Hour following each service is an opportunity to greet our many visitors. You never know who you may meet! A Welcome Table will have UU pamphlets and a guest registry where newcomers can sign up for a reusable name tag.

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

**Note: Summer Services begin at 10:00a.**

**A Fellowship Hour follows the service (outside, weather permitting)**

**Sunday, June 17      A What? What's That Again?  
10:00a                      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 O'Neil and his wife, Wendy Oliver, 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.*

Music by Nancy Nicholson

Farewell Party for Posey Kooris in the Parish House following the service.

**Sunday, June 24      My Faith May Not Be Your Faith, But That's OK      **Bruce Boucek**  
10:00a**

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 and the importance of bearing witness and seeking alternative frames for understanding and coming to terms with complex problems.

*Bruce Boucek is the Social Sciences Data Librarian at Brown University. He spends most of his work week less than 500 feet from the First Unitarian lectern assisting students, faculty, and staff in scoping their research projects, finding social sciences data, and making maps. He has been one of the senior high youth group advisors for the past seven years. His wife, Maia Bailey, is one of the OWL instructors, and his son, Orson, at one point was the baby Jesus. He is a third-generation Unitarian Universalist and has many thoughts about what that means.*

Music by Kelley Smith and Chris Sanzo



We are a Welcoming Congregation

## I n s i d e

### SUMMER SERVICES

**June 17-September 2**

*Note: Services begin at 10:00a*

Program for Young Children during the service

Fellowship Hour follows the service

(outdoors, weather permitting)

## S t a f f

Rev. Elizabeth Lerner Maclay, Minister  
*min@firstunitarianprov.org*

Rev. Eugene Dyszlewski, Community Minister  
Rev. Gwendolyn Howard, Community Minister

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

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Jaime Durango, Building Manager

Pedro Vasquez & Ruben Delgado, Evening Security & Sunday Building Managers

## N e w s l e t t e r

Nancy Forsstrom, Managing Editor

Susan Fisher, Proof Editor

Deadline for September newsletter is August 15

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Sunday, July 1

**A Free and Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning:  
Why Is This So Hard – and So Worthwhile?**

10:00a

Jim Cowan

Our fourth Unitarian Universalist principle refers to “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” Long before there were Unitarians, there were non-Trinitarians. The heretic Socinus (1539-1604) was one. He proposed the universe is built so that the search for truth and meaning is not optional. It's mandatory. Other thinkers have come to the same conclusion by very different routes. Jim will explore why we should relish this challenge every day.

*Jim Cowan is a retired engineer, physician, and businessman, who tries to use evidence of the senses, fact, and reason to do the right thing. Sometimes he fails.*

Music by the High Society Hot Jazz Orchestra

Sunday, July 8

**Rising to Liz's Challenge**

10:00a

Nancy Shand

In January our new minister, Liz Lerner Maclay, challenged the congregation to pick out five things we want to do to give back to the community. Nancy made her list, but it wasn't until she was asked to participate in the summer worship program that it all came together. So often we have a desire to serve, or have thought about what it means to serve, but don't step up to the plate until someone asks. It's a simple thing and yet very profound. When a friend approached Nancy about getting involved in a program of one-on-one mentorship with a child, she jumped at the chance. She will share her adventures on this journey of mentoring a child for over eight years.

*Nancy has been a member of First Unitarian since moving back home to Tiverton, Rhode Island about 10 years ago. She has made friends here along the way by singing with the choir for several years and working with the Food Pantry on a regular basis.*

Music by Mike Shand

Sunday, July 15

**Grief and Gratitude**

10:00a

Nancy Worthen

Nancy will share poetry and writings that have inspired her in her journey of grieving the deaths of her brother, her parents, and, most recently, her daughter, Margaret, who attended First Unitarian before she died. Nancy will use Thich Nhat Hanh's Five Remembrances as the central theme of her talk.

*Nancy Smith Worthen has lived in Rhode Island all her life. Her spiritual journey moved from Christianity in the Congregational Church to pagan worship and now Buddhist and Unitarian practice. She has worked in nonprofits as an administrator and volunteer coordinator, most recently as AmeriCorps director at the Providence Children's Museum, Ready To Learn Providence, and Providence CityArts! For Youth. She loves gardening, reading, and contra dancing, as well listening and talking with friends.*

Music by Marie Comuzzo

Sunday, July 22

**Some Things Are Up to You; Some Things Are Not**

10:00a

Tony Allen

The title statement of this talk, a famous line from the first-century CE, is central to one of the most enduring ideas from the ancient world of Greece and Rome. Its influence continues into modern times, as a therapy, as a survival skill, and as a guide to the good life. Tony will see how it relates to the UU principles on acceptance, respect, and community.

*Tony Allen's interest in the Classical world began while browsing in his bookstore in Barrington and discovering a book containing the first-century equivalent of articles on living well; that is, a 2,000-year-old reprint. At church, Tony was a member of the Prudential Committee for many years. He served as president, treasurer, and clerk. He assists his wife, Irene, at the Atrium Bookstore on Sundays during the regular church year.*

Music by Gregory Waksmulski and Rachel Meade

## Summer at First Unitarian

### Summer Office Hours

The church office will be open week days from 9:00a to 4:00p from June 18 to September 4. The office will *not* be closed for summer vacation due to construction.

### Ministry Services from Mid-June to the End of August

Nearby ministers will be on call for emergencies during the summer. Speak with staff in the church office (401.421.7970) for names and contact information.

## Social Justice Programs

### Knitting for a Better World

*Every Tuesday at 7:00p*

Come join fellow knitters for a casual evening of knitting and conversation. Work on your own project or join in one of our many group efforts: hats, socks, mittens, scarves, and more.

Beginners are always welcome. We have plenty of yarn and needles to get you started.

### Our Food Share Pantry

*Distribution: Mondays, July 16 & August 20*

The biggest social justice program at First Unitarian is the Food Share Pantry. It takes many volunteers to keep the program going! Volunteer for a shift on Distribution Day:

Set-up: 2:00p–3:00p

Shopping: 3:00p–5:00p

Restock, recycle & clean up: 5:00p–6:00p

### Loaves & Fishes Mission

*First Tuesday of the month year round*

We will continue our outreach mission during the summer months, so please help out if your schedule allows.

There are three shifts:

noon–1:00p: sandwich crew

3:00–5:00p: clothing organizers/supply loaders

5:00–7:00p: delivery crew

Contact: Joe Salvatore (joesuu@gmail.com) for details.

Sunday, July 29

**Media Literacy Now: Modern Media and the Seven Principles**

10:00a

**Pam Steager**

Media literacy is a twenty-first-century approach to education. It provides a framework to access, analyze, evaluate, create, and participate with messages in a variety of forms – from print to video to the Internet. Media literacy builds an understanding of the role of media in society as well as essential skills of inquiry and self-expression necessary for citizens of a democracy. Last year, the General Assembly passed a law requiring the RI Department of Education to consider incorporating media literacy into Rhode Island’s Basic Education Plan. Pam spearheads that effort and thinks it’s not just critical education for our media-saturated times, but also perfectly aligned with the seven UU Principles.

*Pam Steager has been a friend and volunteer at First Unitarian for 20 years and become a Member this year. Her work as an education and prevention consultant, writer, discussion facilitator, researcher, and trainer in the areas of conflict resolution, substance abuse and violence prevention, cultural diversity, and media literacy has taken her to the heart of schools, prisons, police departments, nonprofit organizations, and communities. She has performed as a stand-up comedian, a storyteller, and an event host and talkback facilitator. She is currently Senior Researcher and Writer at the Media Education Lab at URI and is coordinating the Media Literacy Now–Rhode Island effort.*

Music by Jackie and Phip Wheelock

Sunday, August 5

**We Have Met the Choir and It Is Us**

10:00a

**Beth Armstrong**

A summer service in which the congregation does all the music. There will be songs that are familiar, many that are unfamiliar but easily learned, none that are too sophisticated, too stuffy, too hard, too complicated, too "weird." Just fun, pretty, meaningful, silly, memorable, useful, and chosen to be successful. "Everybody should sing" is Beth’s mantra. Singing well is not the point. Just sing! Because it's good for you. Because your serotonin levels rise, your blood pressure goes down, your pulse rate begins to synchronize with the person next to you, and if you sing together, you just have to like each other. Singing is the solution to the world's problems.

*Beth Armstrong, a long-time member of First Unitarian, has been singing since she could talk and clearly remembers getting a thrill singing in a group at the age of five. She's been doing that ever since and, sometime in college, got a chance to direct other singers. There were some twists and turns in her professional and personal life, but singing, harmonizing, and conducting singers has been a non-stop theme that continues to this day. She is the director of the Chorus of East Providence and the Greater Tiverton Community Chorus. She sings in the First Unitarian choir.*

Music by Beth Armstrong

Sunday, August 12

**"We Are the Earth"**

10:00a

**Marilyn Eanet and Kristen Ivy Moses**

The ways we think and talk about our relationship to the natural environment shape the way we behave toward one another and toward the world at large. Marilyn and Kristen will explore the assumptions we make and link our behaviors, not to just the Seventh Principle, but to several other UU principles. They will explore how to fall in love with the earth all over again.

*Kristen Ivy Moses is the Executive Director of Rhode Island Interfaith Power and Light and chairperson of First Unitarian's Green Team Environmental Task Force. Marilyn Eanet has been a member of First Unitarian for over 30 years. She is a past president of the congregation and currently active with the Green Team, Chalice Circles, and the Women's Alliance.*

Music by Greg Moses

## Spiritual Development Programs

The following programs continue to meet during the summer on the dates noted.

### Benevolent Street Zendo: An Ongoing Zen Meditation Group

*Every Monday at 7:00p with the exception of July 9, when Zendo will not meet.*

Benevolent Street Zendo is a member community of the Boundless Way Zen Sangha, an interfaith Zen community that maintains close ties with the Soto Zen Buddhist Association and the American Zen Teachers Association.

Everyone is welcome. Brief instruction for newcomers is available at 6:45p.

Leaders: Cindy Bapties and George Beshers

### Innate Wisdom and Compassion Meditation

*Every Wednesday at 7:00p*

These guided meditations of love and wisdom from Tibetan Buddhism have been adapted 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 within our relationships, service, and social action.

Contact: Ken Bent (kenbent@cox.net)

### Reimagining Religion

*Second and Fourth Tuesdays, 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)



**Sunday, August 19     Transforming Shared Values into Action in the World: Our Mission as a Moral Imperative**

10:00a

**Tiffany Reed**

Tiffany will revisit her Episcopalian roots as she shares the idea of being a missional church and how this concept might apply to a congregation where not all members believe in God. Incorporating her own spiritual journey and her work with faith communities across New England on issues of fundraising and organizational sustainability, Tiffany will examine how faithfully and intentionally living our mission might even be the path toward sustaining First Unitarian far into the future. This service will be part history lesson, part amateur theological discussion, part practical examination of how we live our faith outside of these walls.

*Tiffany Reed found her spiritual home at First Unitarian in 2010. She serves on the Prudential Committee as the Stewardship Liaison and provided counsel to our 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.*

Music by Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly

**Sunday, August 26     Saving the World by Empowering Its Women**

10:00a

**Linda Scott**

In recent years, the world community has learned that empowering women to engage in their community's economy has extraordinary benefits for health, safety, education, and wellness. In this service, we will celebrate how inclusion relieves suffering and brings hope.

*Professor Linda Scott is retired from the University of Oxford, where her work focused on finding ways to enable poor women in rural communities of developing countries to be economically autonomous.*

Music by John Moran

**Sunday, September 2     Let's All Stop Exploiting Women!: Marxist Feminism and Coming Clean in the Age of #MeToo**

10:00

**Gregory Wakszulski**

This service considers a few timely questions relating to the status of women in America. What is the Marxist Feminist interpretation of the current moment in intergender violence and sexual equality? How can it help men – none of us very distant from the repressive power structure – to Come Clean with ourselves and our communities? And how might this become a moment to aid in the transformation to and legitimacy of a new, sustainable power structure for society?

*Gregory Wakszulski hails from Indiana, now residing in Pawtucket with his brilliant partner, Rachel Meade, and their mercurial cat, Ralph, since 2014. They are a UU family. He teaches at Wheeler School and will graduate with a Masters in Library Science from URI in January 2019.*

Music by Neil Bartholomew and Lynda Gulley

**Sunday, September 9     Homecoming and Water Communion: A Multigenerational Service**

10:30a

**Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay**

As the new church year begins, we will celebrate our annual Water Communion. Remember to bring a small sample of water from a meaningful place or time during your summer.

**Note: Our services during the church year begin at 10:30a.**

**Summertime Chalice Circles**

*Wednesdays: June 20; July 11, 25; August 8, 22 from 7:00 to 9:00p.*

*Thursdays: June 28; July 19; August 2, 16, 30 from 7:00 to 9:00p.*

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](http://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 7:00 to 9:00p.*

**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 7:00 to 9:00p.*

Registration required.

For more information, contact: Chalice Circles Registrar, Janet Downing Taylor ([jdtylo39@verizon.net](mailto:jdtylo39@verizon.net))