



## Services in the Meeting House

Our theme for November is Gratitude.

### Sunday, November 4 All Souls Day

10:30 am

Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay

Our annual service of remembrance will include a time to name the beloved people we have loved and lost in the past year, from this congregation and also our own lives and families. Our music will range broadly from lush pieces by Fauré to a special performance of a poignant contemporary song by the improbably named popular alternative band Death Cab for Cutie. Joy and woe are woven fine, as the poet reminds us. With words and music, we will explore that weaving, remembering that all of it is the fabric of love.

*If you have lost someone close to you in the past year, you are very welcome to bring a photograph to put on the pulpit table for the worship service.*

*Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel—the worship theme is democracy and our UU 5th principle.*

### Sunday, November 11 Thank You for Your Service

10:30 am

Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay

with First Unitarian members Jean and Bill Dolan

Religious community dwells in one kind of ultimacy. For this service on Veteran's Day weekend, we'll remind ourselves of another kind of ultimacy, the ultimacy dwelt in by those who are in the military, who are driven to protect and serve in the most mortal circumstances. Using the great American folk song "Ashokan Farewell" and a letter from a Rhode Island soldier in the Civil War, we'll explore the love and uncertainty that frame the experience of all those who serve in our armed forces, when sometimes what is required for the life of a nation is life itself.

*Young people begin in their classrooms and worship in Chapel—The worship theme is gratitude, led by Sr.High.Youth.*

### Sunday, November 18 Grateful No Matter What —

#### An All-Congregation Thanksgiving Service

10:30 am

Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay, Cathy Seggel, DRE

with Marcia Taylor & Joyful Noise

It's not always easy to feel grateful these days, truly thankful. But it is possible, no matter what. Our multigenerational service this morning will celebrate the goodness we can hold onto and lift up – for ourselves, for each other, especially now.

*Childcare open for infants – three-year-olds in the Parish House, second floor  
The Community Collection is for our Loaves and Fishes mission.*

*New Member Book signing following the service for those who have completed the Path to Membership class.*

### Sunday, November 25 Transformative Gratitude

10:30 am

Rabbi Yaakov 'Trek' Reef

We have hundreds of opportunities throughout our day to be in gratitude. How often do we give thanks, though? Let's talk about gratitude as a daily spiritual practice.

*Rabbi Yaakov "Trek" Reef walks in the world as a spiritual teacher and is a regionally-recognized speaker, serving as a frequent guest in the pulpit at synagogues, churches, and meeting houses throughout the Northeast. He became a rabbi in 2013 and is now in the process of seeking an M.Div. so he may serve UU congregations as a minister. He lives in Billerica, Massachusetts and is a member of First Parish UU in Billerica. You can find out more at [www.trekreef.com](http://www.trekreef.com).*

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



We are a Welcoming Congregation

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## Newsletter

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## Lately . . .

Our November theme, of course, is gratitude.

To tell the truth, gratitude is one of those experiences I struggle with, mostly because when it comes authentically, it floods me and fills me and I'm right where I should be. But other times – usually when someone is reminding me about feeling grateful – even just that experience of being told or reminded about gratitude actually pushes me further from feeling thankful, though they're usually right and I should be thankful in that moment.

I'll admit it – this sometimes happens at Thanksgiving, when we're all sitting around the table and, in recent years, we take hands and everyone says something they're grateful for. It is a good idea, and I want to feel more present to it than I sometimes do, tired as I tend to be by the time the meal is on the table after all the organizing and cleaning and shopping and cooking and setting up that goes into hosting a large clan for Thanksgiving.

So – we're looking at gratitude this month, and we'll be exploring what real gratitude means, what it offers us on a lot of levels, and, yes, how to access it truly, so that we're able to be grateful and not just "act as if"

In this time of hurt and frustration, I can truly say one thing I am very grateful for is this faith community. You and your commitment to so much that is good, that gives good and seeds good and supports good in and through First Unitarian, is a real gift to many, including me. Thank you for being you.

See you in church,



Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay, Minister  
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday  
min@firstunitarianprov.org

Liz's work days are Sunday through Thursday. She is available for appointments Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (Sunday is, well . . . Sunday, and Thursday is writing/study day). The best way to catch up with her is to make an appointment, even if it is simply a specific time to connect by phone. Contact Administrator Nancy Forsstrom (401.421.7970 or admin@firstunitarianprov.org) and she will find you a time in Liz's schedule.

## "Hello my name is" Name Tags – Say Hello

Imagine coming into a large vibrant community as a new person – you have so many new faces and names to learn. Wearing your name tag is a thoughtful way to help everyone, from newcomers to long-timers, find their way into our community. It helps all of us learn each other's names and reminds us of names we just can't quite remember. It signals that we are welcoming and ready for conversation. If you need a new name tag, you can request one on the sign-up sheet (on the clip board) on the Welcome Table in the Parish House hallway. Thank you for wearing your name tag – and say Hello to someone who is new to you!

## Help Meet the Parking Challenge

Now that we are settled into the church year, it's a good time to remind ourselves that parking on Sunday mornings can be challenging. Let's think of those who have never attended before, cannot walk far, and/or are bringing small people. We all do our best to be considerate, but maybe we can do a little better. Can those of us who are able-bodied walk a little farther, leave the church parking lot open for the elderly and young families among us? And for the newcomer who has never been here? Parking is available at the Hope Club lot (most Sundays) across Benevolent Street and in the Brown University Horace Mann lot on George Street. Street parking means only a short walk. By planning ahead, we can all make the parking challenge more manageable for everyone.

## Deacons' Corner

We want to emphasize the church photo directory. Many of us are there already, and it's so handy to have pictures (of you, not your cat) and contact information that's current. And you can see who is on each of the committees, to make communication better.

So we're including again the instructions for how to get to it. And be assured: your information is safe with us. Nobody but other church members will see it, ever.

If you haven't looked at it yet, it's available to view on your mobile device! Instant Church Directory – the program we use to build our church directory – has a free app for church members to download on their Apple, Android, or Kindle Fire devices.

To download the app to:

- your Apple device, go to: [itunes.apple.com/us/app/instant-church-directory/id589542221?ls=1&mt=8](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/instant-church-directory/id589542221?ls=1&mt=8)
- your Android device, go to: [play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.instantchurchdirectory.members](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.instantchurchdirectory.members)
- your Kindle Fire, go to: [www.amazon.com/Communication-Resources-Inc-Instant-Directory/dp/B00D76604E/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=mobile-apps&ie=UTF8&qid=1371671565](http://www.amazon.com/Communication-Resources-Inc-Instant-Directory/dp/B00D76604E/ref=sr_1_1?s=mobile-apps&ie=UTF8&qid=1371671565)

We'd like to get everybody into the directory. It helps us all.

Additionally, individual Deacons are involved in a wide variety of First Unitarian activities. At our October meeting, we discussed what's going on and how Deacons can participate in welcoming visitors and new members, Sanctuary housing, 'Access For All' Task Force, promoting Parish Suppers, Spiritual Pathways Team (aka RE), and more.

So give 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:** Beth Anterni, Jim Barfoot, Joe Fisler, Peter Gray, Katy Killilea, Judie Knilians, Dave Lewis, Max Pounder, Meghan Smith





## Spiritual Pathways

*Gratitude begins in our hearts and then dovetails into behavior. It almost always makes you willing to be of service, which is where the joy resides. It means that you are willing to stop being such a jerk. When you are aware of all that has been given to you, in your lifetime and the past few days, it is hard not to be humbled, and pleased to give back.*

– Anne Lamott, *Help Thanks Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*

As we navigate the next, darker, colder season, I am keenly aware of anxiety in the air regarding injustices both near and far away from southern New England. I know that we exist in multiple age groups and backgrounds and at varying spots on a continuum of privilege, comfort, hope, power, and pain. A good reason for being in a healthy faith community is to accompany and support each other along the way. Sunday worship and small groups, gatherings to act for justice, learning, and relationship building are all branches of our spiritual development paths.

Fall highlights from our community of children, youth and adults:

- Deep thanks to the more than 60 volunteer teachers, advisors, and mentors serving young people in our Sunday Spiritual Pathways small groups.
- The Coming of Age program has been launched. Parents met for orientation; mentors have been matched with eighth-graders (coordinated by Sally Caruso); and experienced, trained teachers are leading the small-group Our Whole Lives components.
- Worship in young people’s chapel is following the November theme of gratitude, interwoven with current issues, including democracy and elections.
- Eighth-graders will kick-off and facilitate our congregational participation in the UU Service Committee Guest at Your Table project on Sunday, November 18 – a good family social justice opportunity.
- The fourth and fifth grades will lead the congregation’s participation in the RI Buy Nothing Day Coat Exchange.
- Sixth- and seventh-graders will sell holiday goods for the UUSC and facilitate the recycled toy sale. They have been doing an excellent job as chapel worship associates.
- The senior high Youth Group is preparing to lead a worship service in young people’s chapel. And stay tuned for their offering of Coffee Hour Plus Tech Connect, pairing hungry youth with adults who need tech help.

In early November, I attend my annual Liberal Religious Educators Association professional development conference, in Houston, TX. The theme is Changing the Narrative and includes sessions on family ministry, relationships and power, self care, and social justice as we work to dismantle white supremacy culture.

I am very grateful for your family’s connection to our congregation and encourage you to worship with your children and youth at our annual Thanksgiving celebration in the Meeting House on November 18. Community worship, as spiritual practice, is foundational to UU faith formation. Our congregational curriculum is taught when we worship together. Liz Maclay, Fred Jodry, Marcia Taylor, and I look forward to being with your family

Take good care,

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

### Our November Theme Is Gratitude

These are some recommended books to further explore our November theme:

- Stone Soup*, by Jon Muth
- The Table Where Rich People Sit*, by Byrd Baylor (author), Peter Parnall (illustrator)
- Nobiah’s Well* – A modern African folktale by Donna Guthrie
- The Drum* – A folktale from India

### UUA Common Read 2018-19

Discussion: November 15, 7:00–8:30 p

The Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. This year’s selection is *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*. The book features 14 activist ministers and lay leaders who apply a keen intersectional analysis to the environmental crisis.



The book can be purchased on Sundays at the Atrium Bookstore or online.

To join the discussion, call Cathy Seggel (401.421.7970) for more information or to sign up – or just come!!

### Harry Potter and the Sacred Text

Join us as we use methods of sacred text analysis to explore the Harry Potter series. There are groups popping up all over the world. Come experience Harry Potter First Unitarian–style!



We are currently working on *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. Here is the discussion schedule.

November 5, 7:15p	Chapters 9 & 10 Gossip
November 19, 7:15p	Chapters 11 & 12
December 3, 7:15p	Chapters 13 & 14 Discipline
December 17, 7:15p	Chapters 15 & 16 Doubt
January 7, 7:15p	Chapters 17 & 18 Freedom

### Upcoming Child Dedications

Sunday, December 2

The next Child Dedication ceremony will be during the all-congregational (multigenerational) service on December 2. Members of the congregation with a baby or young child they wish to have dedicated should contact the church office (401.421.7970 or admin@firstunitarianprov.org).



## Holiday Happenings Preview

### 'Buy Nothing Day' Winter Coat Exchange

Drop off contributions until Sunday, November 18, at the church  
Led by fourth/fifth-grade small groups and their teachers

The day after Thanksgiving is traditionally the busiest day in the American retail calendar and also marks the unofficial start of the holiday shopping season around the world. On November 23, thousands of activists and concerned citizens in 65 countries will take a 24-hour 'consumer detox' as part of the 21st Buy Nothing Day.

In Providence, as part of the observance of Buy Nothing Day, a winter coat exchange will again be held on the lawn of the State House, directly across from the Providence Place Mall (rain location: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 15 Hayes Street, Providence).

Look for the coat collection boxes in the Atrium.



*Come join First Unitarian members, friends, and their families for our congregation's celebration of Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 22, 2018*

- Social Hour: 1 to 2 pm and the Buffet Dinner: 2pm
- All are asked to bring a side dish for the meal.
- A donation of \$3.00/adult, \$1.50/child is suggested to cover costs
- Four turkeys are needed and must be roasted off-site and delivered to the church midday on Thanksgiving. Please contact the church office if you can donate a turkey and/or roast one (or sign up at church).
- Volunteers are needed to set up, decorate, receive food and to clean up.
- Sign up in order to save your space for the dinner and to tell us what side dish you will be bringing. Please fill out a sign-up form (available on Sundays through November 18) and leave it at the Thanksgiving table at Coffee Hour. Be sure to take home a reminder so you won't forget. You can also call the office with your reservation and food contribution.

Remember: the deadline for reservations is Sunday, November 18.

### Sixth/Seventh-Grade Children's Recycle-a-Toy Sale

Collection of Toys: Sunday, December 9

Toy Sale: December 16, 12:00 pm - Auditorium

Our Children's Toy Sale offers a way for young people to buy gifts for family and friends on a very small budget. Prices range from 25 cents to \$2. We hope that our children will seize the spirit of the season and shop for those they love. The sale is open to the church community.

Please help by donating gently used, or even new, toys, games, and books for preschool- through high school-age children. Our goal is to encourage children to recycle their toys and help their community. Through a democratic process, our young people will choose the recipient for the funds raised. All toys not sold will be donated to Camp Street Ministries in Providence.

The sixth/seventh-grade class is organizing this event, with help from teachers.

If you have questions, contact John Dooley (dool@cox.net).



### The Girl Effect Holiday Sale

Sunday, November 18, 10:00a-12:30p

**One Sunday only!** Mark your calendar now for the Girl Effect Task Force's sale to benefit girls' education.

Here's your chance to do some early holiday shopping! Beautiful, unique fair-trade gift items from around the world will be on sale in the Atrium before, during, and after church on November 18.

We donate the proceeds from the sale to non-profits committed to girls' education. So your purchases help twice - first by supporting those who create what we sell and, second, by helping girls stay in school. Educating girls is one of the most important tools to alleviate poverty.

Contact Polly Walker if you would like to join this effort. (polly41walker@gmail.com)

### Guest at Your Table

Distribution of boxes, Sunday, November 18

Collection of boxes, early January

Guest at Your Table is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. Since UUSC works in over 25 countries, with over 75 grassroots partners, there are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work that UUSC members make possible.



The program is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these thousands of individuals - the "guests" in Guest at Your Table this year.

2018-2019 Theme: Justice Across Borders

From the Northern Triangle of Central America to deserts of Mexico and Arizona to detention centers in the United States, the road away from danger is paved with injustices. Partnering with grassroots allies along the Central American migration trail, UUSC addresses root causes, supports migrants in transit, and protects the right to seek asylum. Join with UUSC for Guest at Your Table to learn more about UUSC's and our nation's involvement in Central America - historically and presently - and our courageous Migrant Justice partners.

Boxes will be distributed at the Thanksgiving Service on November 18, or stop by the church office to pick one up.



## Sight Lines

Hello, Everyone:

The intense week of Love Beyond Belief™ activities is over. I want to thank all who attended for your active participation and for making this a successful program. I also want to thank the staff, Beth Armstrong, the many volunteers, and the food preparers. Your contributions really made a difference.

Now that the Love Beyond Belief™ program has ended, what happens next? We explored that question along with our observations and impressions during our October Prudential Committee meeting. The critical next step for the church is to review and refine our Chalice Circle program. Many of you are currently in Chalice Circle groups, those gatherings of 10 to 12 members who form around a particular activity, interest, or affinity. They meet regularly to discuss a topic or to work on service projects. Meetings are facilitated by one of the members. They are, in essence, small communities where members get to meet and know more about one another, share, listen, and build deep friendships and connections to our church that create “awe, care, and joy” – words heard frequently from Rev. Thandeka during her workshops. Chalice Circles are one of the primary ways to revitalize our church.

Have you noticed? The church clock is now working! (There’s more on the final Meeting House restoration work in the sidebar.) Also, look for information in the coming weeks as we implement the ability for you to make pledge and other payments online. Work will begin soon to increase lighting in our parking lot. Once the bidding process is complete, parking lot prep work and paving will begin. You can find additional updates in the approved Prudential Committee meeting minutes, which are posted on the Prudential Committee bulletin board or on the church website.

November is a transition month for me. It’s the time of year when winter clothes and shoes reappear and summer ones disappear; lawn tools and deck furniture are stored; plants are prepped for the colder months ahead; and holes start appearing in my backyard as squirrels start burying their nuts. They never seem to remember where they hide them . . . November is also a month where we lift up and thank our veterans for their service, and travel long and short distances to celebrate Thanksgiving with our families and friends, or our First Unitarian family.

Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving!

John Simmonds  
 President, Prudential Committee  
 pres@firstunitarianprov.org

## Keep Those Photos Coming!

Our Year in Photos project is gaining steam. We’ve already received photos from homecoming Sunday, water communion, worship, ice cream social, coffee hour, our first potluck dinners, and even a Prudential Committee. Let’s keep going!

Any small or large gathering presents an opportunity to capture that moment in our church year – Sunday school classes, committee meetings, Alliance, Chalice Circles, food pantry, Parish House suppers, Love Beyond Belief, and much more. We especially welcome photos of people connecting with each other and in action doing any of the many things we do together.



Please help our new photo library continue to grow. Overwhelm us! Please send your photos to FirstUYearInPhotos@gmail.com. The photos will go into our new photo library and may be used in our publications and other communications. Thank you in advance.

–The Communications Team

## Meeting House Renovations

All Meeting House Restoration exterior work on the E. F. O’Donnell contract is complete. Final payment will be issued by mid-November, fully paid by pledges and grants collected to date.

The remaining \$175,000 in Capital Campaign pledges should be in by spring of 2019. Plans for restoring the Meeting House Benefit Street entryway will be finalized once all the pledges have been received.



Meanwhile, examination of the Religious Education wing rear roof peak and the Atrium glass wall facing Benevolent Street revealed major wood rot. In addition, work on the steeple bell-support frame during the restoration revealed severe bell-clapper damage and broken damper pieces. To avoid risk of cracking our historic Revere bell, both dampers and clappers must be replaced. Fortunately, three years of year-end budget surpluses (from unused employee medical expense reimbursement) enabled growth of our major repair fund to \$108,000.

The Prudential Committee has approved moving ahead with the repair of the bell and the religious education building rear peak repair. Contracts to complete these two projects were signed for a total of \$44,000.

Estimates to repair the glass wall in the Atrium will be in our hands by December. This work must be done as soon as possible to avoid the sheets of glass from popping out of the frames. Estimates will be reviewed with the Prudential Committee for their approval prior to proceeding. The glass wall repair is not expected to exceed the \$64,000 remaining in the major repair fund.

Nancy Weiss-Freid and Fred Jodry continue work on their landscape design for the “green way” leading to the Meeting House Benefit Street entrance. Design and implementation costs are expected to be complete by early spring for review and cost approval.

Finally, the bell tower clock and bell-striking mechanism are in working order. However, gears turning the clock-face hands have broken teeth, causing the clock hands to get stuck. Research on replacing the gears will be completed by December, with cost estimates for the replacements due at that time. Anyone knowing of brass foundry operators who would enjoy a gear-casting challenge for next-to-no pay, please contact me via email at DLHouse51@comcast.net. –David House, Restoration Coordinator



## Community Life

### Conscious Grieving

*Drop-in session, Sunday, November 18, 12:00p*

Conscious Grieving invites anyone who is experiencing grief to a drop-in gathering on Sunday, November 18 at 12:00 noon in the Auditorium on the second floor of the Parish House. We will break into small groups, share our stories, and ask our questions. If indicated, we will talk about options for the coming year.

Please let us know if you are coming, or have questions, by contacting Nancy Worthen (nancy.worthen4815@gmail.com or text 401.487.9713) or Carol Adams (carol.adams6@cox.net or call 401.433.4365)

Hope to see you there.

### Parish House Pot Luck Supper

*Friday, November 16*

Everyone, young and old and in between, is welcome at these monthly gatherings of members and friends of the congregation for food, fun, and fellowship.



**Time:** 5:45 Reception in the Atrium

6:00 Pot Luck Supper in the Parish House parlors: Bring a dish to share that serves eight to ten people – a main dish, vegetable, salad, or dessert.

7:30 Program in the Auditorium

**Reservations:** Use the sign-up form to indicate how many will be in your party.

**Food Donations:** Use the sign up-form to indicate what food you will be bringing.

**Volunteer Task Force:** Be sure to check off on the sign-up form where you want to help.

**Donation:** \$2 per person / \$5 per family for the dinner at the door

**Program:** Protecting Pillars of Our Democracy

The program will feature Edward Fitzpatrick, Roger Williams University's Director of Media and Communications and a former *Providence Journal* columnist, who will provide comments about the attacks on some of the pillars of our democracy – the free press, an independent judiciary, and law enforcement agencies such as the FBI and the Department of Justice. Ed is on the board of the New England First Amendment Coalition, so much of his focus will be on free press and free speech. He has also been alarmed by the criticism and attacks on peaceful protesters.

Sponsored by The World Affairs Committee

Reservations for the dinner are strongly requested. Please fill out the tear-off sign-up form handed out by the Deacons and take it to the Parish House Pot Luck Suppers table in the Atrium during Coffee Hour or call the church office in advance (401.421.7970). Childcare for infants and children to age 10 will be available for parents who request in advance.

### November Birthdays

- Cindy Bapties
- Lenny Bento
- Janet Bralove
- Tim Burns
- Phyllis Cole
- Emily Conner
- Patricia Cotoia
- Martha Cussler
- Sarah Gleason
- Lynda J. Gulley
- Erica Hanson
- Philip Swayze
- Tom Terceira



Haven't seen your birthday listed? Do we know when it is? Contact us in the church office if you want your church friends to celebrate your special day with you!

### The First Unitarian Art Collective Membership

Thank you to all the contributors from last year!

Just a reminder that we started collecting dues for the new year in September. Artists who want to show their work must be members. We also thank for their contribution all those artists and non-artists from our congregation who just want to support the shows in our Atrium Gallery, and the volunteer work to make it happen.

Dues are only \$10 per year (payable by check made out to First Unitarian Providence, with a notation for the Art Collective).

Thank you for your support!

– Chiara Van Erp for the Art Collective

### Community Collections 2018-19

On several Sundays during the year, First Unitarian donates its nonpledge Sunday offering to a charitable cause. Many thanks to those who have contributed to these collections.

This year's donations to date are:

#### September

We donated over \$2,000 for **Resilient Power Puerto Rico**.

#### October

We raised over \$1,600 for **Sojourner House**.

The **November 18** collection will benefit our **Loaves & Fishes Mission**.

#### January 27

**Transylvania Partner Church**

#### February 10

**Providence Village**

#### March

**The Girl Effect**

#### April 14

**Day One**

### 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).



## Community Life

### A History Note

*History Table, Sundays, November 11 and 18 in the front parlor*

*History Committee meeting, Sunday November 4 at noon in the History Room*

The History Committee will be selling note cards and framed images of the Meeting House, such as: the Revere bell, the chandelier, the pulpit and chalice, organ pipes, a balcony bench, and more, photographed by Richard Boober and Janet Downing Taylor. The cards are blank inside and suitable for holiday greetings or notes to family and friends. They also make a great gift!

The History Committee table will also feature booklets for sale on church history. Come talk to us about our church history.

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



## Getting Ready for the Commitment Drive

*GIVING TUESDAY, November 27*

*Workshop on new charitable giving regulations, Sunday, December 2, 12:00p*

Although there are still six months to go before the official kickoff of our annual Commitment Drive in March, our committee has been hard at work preparing for this important challenge. We are pleased to announce two new initiatives this fall which will help to pave the way for everyone to participate.

First, get ready for GIVING TUESDAY, November 27!

The Commitment Drive is pleased to announce that the Prudential Committee recently approved a new online and mobile giving platform, which will make giving to First Unitarian easier than ever before! To commemorate the occasion, First Unitarian will celebrate GIVING TUESDAY for the first time this year! GIVING TUESDAY kicks off the end-of-year giving season on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, Black Friday, and Cyber Monday. It's a "global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration" (from [givingtuesday.org/about](http://givingtuesday.org/about)). Nonprofits around the world use GIVING TUESDAY as a way to generate necessary philanthropic funding and excitement about their mission. Stay tuned (to your email, First Unitarian's Facebook page, Instagram @firstuprovidence, our NEW hashtag #firstupvd, and even snail mail!) for more information about what aspect of First Unitarian's mission our GIVING TUESDAY effort will support!

Second, the new IRS tax codes have a significant impact on charitable giving in 2018. Some of the questions taxpayers must face include:

- Can I still deduct my giving as I have done in the past?
- How can I utilize my IRA to make charitable donations more effectively?
- What things can I no longer deduct from my taxable income?
- What else can I do to protect my assets over the long term?

On Sunday December 2, the Commitment Drive will be sponsoring a workshop at 12 noon in the Haynes Room to address these and other questions which impact many of us. Please join in for an informative (and maybe valuable!) session.

– Joe Fisler, Commitment Drive Chair

## Newcomers' Café

*Every Sunday during Coffee Hour*

Held in the 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)

## Fall Coffee Hours

November reminds us that it is time to think of all things for which we are thankful as we harvest our bounty into delicious food donations for Coffee Hour at First Unitarian. Indeed, our Coffee Hour is a cooperative effort, organized by the Women's Alliance, with donations from our congregation of peanut- and peanut butter-free baked goods, brownies, cookies, fruit, cheese and crackers, sandwiches, coffee cake and more. We welcome donations made at home or bought at a store. Each Sunday we need eight people to bring 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. Our Coffee Hour is thankful for you!

## Atrium Bookstore

The Atrium Bookstore is open every Sunday during Coffee Hour, offering an eclectic mix of titles for kids and adults on meditation, social justice, spiritual paths, inspirations from other religious traditions, and environment concerns, including *Justice on Earth*, the UU Common Read.

– Irene and Tony Allen

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## Hats Off to ...

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Thanks to our Coffee Hour Providers last Month: Jessica Dolan, Tracy Hands, Elizabeth Roche, Hillary Salmons, Mary Frappier, Suzanne Francis, Beth Anterni, Barbara Westlake, Ralph Mero, Joyce Boober, Lucille Riccitelli, Roberta Groch, Tony Allen, Emily Connor, Kelly Baraf, Betty Finn, Jude Sonder, Roxanne Stern, Dianne Mailloux, Gerry Spremulli, Jamie Poca, Cynie Linton, Elissa Emerson, Mary Kollar, Phyllis Cole, Mimo Gordon Riley, and all of you who brought something in to surprise us.

## Community Life



### Treasurer's Report

Our congregation has much to be grateful for as we head toward Thanksgiving season. Our Meeting House is once again watertight and protected against the elements. Congregational programs are thriving. Our membership is growing.

From a financial perspective, income from various sources is meeting all of our routine expenses. However, our recent experience with Meeting House restoration prompted an overall look at the congregation's financial health. In late August, the Prudential Committee reviewed a "Fiscal State of the Congregation" report. The PowerPoint slides from that report are available by request from the church office. Here are the highlights of that report:

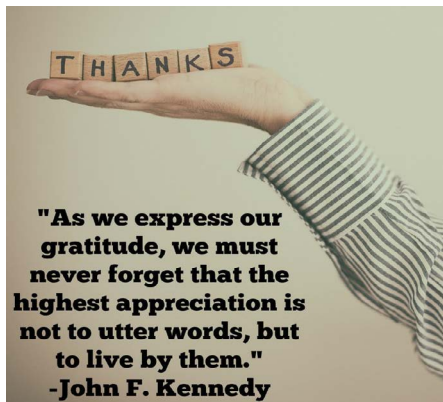
1. The congregation is asset-rich. – Our investment capital totals about \$5.1 million. The value of the congregation's land and buildings ranges from \$5 million to \$8.6 million, depending upon real estate market values at time of sale. Our total assets are valued from \$10 million to \$13.7 million.
2. Yearly income barely covers operating expenses. – Fiscal year 2019's \$730,000 budget comprises 60% congregational giving, 9% facility rental, and 31% investment income. Of that income, 73% pays for staff salaries and benefits; 10.5% pays for routine building and ground expenses, such as utilities, insurance, etc.; 12.5% pays for UUA support, office costs, coffee hour supplies and church programs. This year, only 0.17% of our budget is allocated for long-term major building maintenance/repairs.
3. Real estate, our greatest financial asset, receives the smallest yearly budget allocation. – For the congregation to properly care for its property, our annual income needs to increase to \$915,000 per year. This 25% income increase would cover major building maintenance set-asides for future restoration/repair. The major repair set-asides should be about 20% of our annual budget rather than 0.17%.

These facts explain why our congregation must run major building maintenance/restoration capital campaigns every decade or so. We have been fortunate that capital campaign requests are met with such generosity. And we can continue using that financial model. However, a more prudent method of preparing for large-scale care of our property would be preferable. The Prudential, Finance, and Stewardship committees are examining income improvement options. We will keep you informed of the options as they are developed.

In the meantime, thanks to the generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure by the entire congregation, the mission and work of the church continues. It is a joy to be part of this loving, vibrant community.

In that spirit, should you have any questions or suggestions regarding the financial operation of our congregation, please contact me at dlhouse51@comcast.net.

In the meantime, see you in church! – David House, Treasurer



### The Women's Alliance

#### Monthly Meeting

Monday, November 5

Business Meeting: 10:00a

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

#### Providence After-School Opportunities

Speaker: Hillary Salmons

The Providence After School Alliance (PASA) has provided quality after-school, summer, and other learning opportunities for more than 1,500 Providence youth through a public/private partnership. Its year-round programs – which emphasize hands-on learning – teach academics, collaboration, and problem solving in ways that excite students, stimulate their curiosity, and connect them with new experiences.

*Hillary Salmons, Executive Director of PASA, oversees the Alliance's mission, with primary responsibility for community engagement and fundraising. She previously worked in programs that encouraged middle school students to study math and science and to attend college, and that facilitated the health and education of Providence's children. She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma and a Bachelor of Arts from Harvard University.*

All are welcome to attend the Women's Alliance monthly programs.

### Women's Alliance Fall Cheese Sale

November 4 & 11 during Coffee Hour

Just in time for Thanksgiving – everyone's favorite cheddar cheese from Vermont will be for sale at the Women's Alliance Coffee Sales Table on Sundays, November 4 and 11. Cheese is a perfect hostess gift, but remember to treat yourself.

### Camp Street Ministries

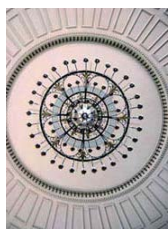
Save your grocery receipts from Eastside Marketplace and place them in the collection box at the back table in the Atrium near the Haynes Room. The Women's Alliance collects them for the benefit of Camp Street Ministries.

### 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.







## Spiritual Development

### Greetings from Our Partner Church in Transylvania

Dear Friends, beloved siblings,  
Greetings with great love from Szentegyháza.

It's a great pleasure every time we get to contact you. It feels good to know that we are not alone in this world, and there are many, even across the ocean, who find it important to dream and work and love, who are joined together.

What does brotherly love mean? A person who has a sibling can understand this. This sibling can be near or far; in our loving hearts, we are always close to each other.

We came a long way. There were many difficult moments in both congregations, and there were happy moments that gave peace. There were moments when we were worried, because our sister congregation was looking for a minister, and we were hopeful that you would find the best one for your congregation. There were times here when we felt we could not carry the weight anymore, because the laws and the finances were against us, but we felt the beating love from our sister congregation, who helped us through our difficulties.



There were major Christian and non-Christian celebrations when we couldn't be together, but we celebrated together in our hearts. There was also a Fourth of July celebration when a delegation from the sister congregation was here, and we really felt that was the day of freedom, because we were able to greet each other with free emotions.

There were times when we received financial support. We were able to accomplish many things from it. With your financial support and with other supporters and with the help of our community members we were able to build the two guest rooms and the belfry with a small bell. We also rebuilt our small church, so we can fit more, and finally during Christmas we were able to provide a small gift for our children.

There were times when we were able to provide something for you. The *kopjfa* that was raised in the Memorial Garden or the candle holder that you use during your service were things we were able to offer to you with great love when you had a chance to come visit us. We shared our homes with you, our food, so we can get to know each other better, and to deepen our relationships. We were able to share so many intimate moments. I hope we will share more moments like that.

There are some doctrinal differences between us, but even siblings don't always think alike on every topic. We aren't looking for things that separate us, but the moments when we are able to share love with each other. For this reason, we are not rejecting the differences, because we value love. We believe in conservative Christian values which open its arms and says that love is the greatest treasure that exists between people.



Let this love be what connects us together and leads the way toward the future.

With lots of love:

v. Kelemen Szabolcs, Minister of the Unitarian Church in Szentegyháza

## UU Men

Sunday, November 11, 7:00p in the Haynes Room

The Man-Box: Sit and Be. Mindfulness as a tool to maybe break out of the Box.

For 26 years, we have met for personal exploration and intimate conversation. Please join us!

Claude LeBoeuf will be our facilitator.



## Ongoing Programs

### Benevolent Street Zen

Most Monday nights, 7:00–8:30p

We continue to practice with monthly visits from resident teacher James Cordova Sensei and occasional guest teachers for talks.

We co-sponsored the showing of a short film, *A Plastic Ocean*, along with The Green Team.

We have a book group reading Larry Yang's *Awakening Together* and many of us got to hear him speak and join in a discussion about how to better welcome diversity in our community.

All are welcome. For an orientation please arrive at 6:45PM on Monday evening, contact us at [benevolentstreetzen@gmail.com](mailto:benevolentstreetzen@gmail.com) or 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](http://www.boundlesswayzen.org) Benevolent Street Zen.)

### 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 21st century. Leader: Tom Hall ([twh2nd@aol.com](mailto:twh2nd@aol.com))

### Tai Chi

Every Tuesday at 7:00p

Tai Chi class for beginners to advanced, children to seniors. All inclusive. Instruction and performance. Make the connection between mind, body and spirit in a manner that embodies the concepts of Taoist philosophy with the practice of an old internal martial art.

Contact: Al Tringali ([altringali@mac.com](mailto: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 ([krbent108@gmail.com](mailto:krbent108@gmail.com))



## Social Justice

### Sanctuary at First Unitarian

*Training Sessions, Thursdays, November 8 and 15, 7:00–9:00p*

It has been two years since our Sanctuary Committee started working toward building a space in our church to help keep a family in our community from being torn apart by unfair and unjust immigration laws.

Our space is finally ready, and as we wait to be called, we invite you to help us celebrate our journey thus far.

During the month of November, unless we have a Sanctuary Guest during this time, we encourage you to stop by the Sun Room on the third floor during Coffee Hour to see our Sanctuary Room.

We invite you to our next series of Sanctuary trainings, which will focus on nonviolence. There are two sessions, November 8 and 15, both on Thursday nights, 7 to 9 pm. The Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence will go over the principles of nonviolence embraced by Dr. Martin Luther King, and we will practice responding to people who try to provoke violence. This training is encouraged for anyone who is interested in helping out with Sanctuary, but is open to the entire congregation.

Donations to the Institute will be collected at the training.

Please RSVP at [firstsanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:firstsanctuary@gmail.com).

### Side with Love: Election Aftermath

*Monthly meeting, Wednesday, November 14, 7:00p*

How will the outcome of the election affect us as Rhode Islanders and Unitarian Universalists? Join us for our next meeting, Wednesday, November 14, to talk about where we need to focus our energy for the coming months.

### Knitting for the Mitten Tree

*Every Tuesday, 7:00–9:00p*

Time to ramp up your knitting! On the first Sunday after Christmas, our Mitten Tree officially opens for the season. That gives us time to knit a few warmings to don our tree. We will be collecting mittens, hats scarves, gloves, and socks for our tree starting the first Sunday in January. Items need not be hand knit – gently used is fine. So while you are sorting through your winter items for the inevitable cold weather, keep our Mitten Tree in mind when you cull your stock.

Anyone who would like to learn to knit is welcome to join the Knitters for a Better World on Tuesday nights, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, most often in the Resource Room. Other crafters are welcome, too!

### First Unitarian Food Share Pantry

*Distribution Day, November 19*

The Food Pantry only works as well as it does because of our wonderful volunteers.

Curious? Come and see it in action the third Monday of every month between 2:00 and 5:30. We are especially looking for people with strong backs and some muscle power to help with clean-up. If you're looking for a leadership role, we can train you for that, too.

You can 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

And if you are in need of food, we welcome you to come to the Food Pantry. After a brief intake session, you'll be able to get groceries for the week. No eligibility requirements.

Questions? See Martha Manno, Amy Grant, Ann Boyd, or Judy Ortman or email the church office.

### Neighborhood Social Justice

*Monthly meeting, November 4, 12:15p*

*Loaves and Fishes, Tuesday, November 6*

The Neighborhood Social Justice Committee (NSJC) was founded to provide volunteer opportunities to work beyond our church doors with those who are socially, economically, or legally marginalized. The NSJC sponsors a monthly outreach mission to Emmanuel House, a homeless shelter in Providence; we meet on the first Tuesday of every month to deliver food, clothing, and respectful companionship.

The NSJC also sponsors various other outreach and/or educational programs, including the "Y'All Come Community Lunch" for the homeless, held in collaboration with the Beneficent Congregational Church.

Many volunteer opportunities are available. We have recently become members of Loaves and Fishes Rhode Island, an organization of various churches of different faiths coming together to help those in need.

### Loaves and Fishes

*First Tuesday of each month*

The monthly Loaves and Fishes mission is set-up as follows:

- The Sandwich Brigade meets at noon at the church to make sandwiches and prepare the bags for distribution to the homeless community living on the streets of Providence.
- The Outreach mission meets around 3:00p to prepare to distribute the lunch bags to those in need in Providence.
- The Serving Crew gathers at Emmanuel House (239 Public Street) around 5:00p to prepare the meal and then serve the homeless men staying at the shelter.

Please stop by the NSJC table in the Atrium any Sunday after worship service to find out how you can help us to help others!

### Green Team


*Sunday, November 11, 12:15p*

Please join the Green Team for a debrief of the recent showing of *A Plastic Ocean* and to help plan for future activities. All are welcome!



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)

## November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3  Turn Clocks Back...
Drop off winter coats for the Buy Nothing Day Coat Exchange at the church by Sunday, November 18.						
4 Worship 10:30a  Alliance Cheese Sale NSJC 12:15p History Comm. 12:15p Campus UUs 5:00p	5  Women's Alliance Program 11:00a Luncheon 12:00p  Zendo 7:00p Harry Potter 7:15p	6  Path to Membership 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	7  Sanctuary Host Steering Comm 7p Meditation 7:00p	8  Sanctuary/ Non-violence training 7:00p	9	10
11 Worship 10:30a Cheese Sale History Table Mentor/Mentee lunch 12:00p Green Team 12:15p Campus UUs 5:00p UU Men 7:00p	12  Zendo 7:00p	13  Deacons 6:00p Reimagining Religion 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	14  PruComm 6:45p Side With Love 7:00p Sanctuary Steering Comm 7:00p Meditation 7:00p	15  Common Read 7:00p Sanctuary Non-Violence Training 7:00p	16  Parish House Pot Luck 6:00p Program 7:30p	17
18 Worship 10:30a Membership Book -signing 11:30a Girl Effect Sale History Table Conscious Grieving 12:00p Campus UUs 5pm	19  Food Pantry 2:00-6:00p  Zendo 7:00p Harry Potter 7:15p	20  Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	21  Meditation 7:00p	22 Thanksgiving Day CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  Church Community Thanksgiving Dinner, 1:00-4:00p	23  Buy Nothing Day Coat Exchange at State House  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	24
25 Worship 10:30a  Campus UUs 5:00p	26  Zendo 7:00p	27 Spiritual Pathways Team 7:00 p Reimagining Religion 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00pm	28  Sanctuary Steering Comm 7:00p Meditation 7:00pm	29	30	