



THE MEETING HOUSE TIMES

December 2, 2018

Two Things You Need To Know

from your program staff

Family Winter Holiday Sing Along, Sunday, Dec. 16, during coffee hour, in the Atrium. Small Groups will end at 11:45 am so children and youth can join.

A Celebration of Babies on Christmas Eve

At both Christmas Eve services, we will honor all infants born to families in the church, in the past year, by naming them and lighting a candle for each as we lift up the blessing and hope of their new lives. If you have a baby born in your family whose name you would like shared, contact Cathy (dre@firstunitarianprov.org) by Monday, December 17.

TODAY

**Sunday, December 2
10:30 am**

**Hanukkah for Adults, part II
Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay,
Cathy Seggel, DRE**

Though Hanukkah is commonly thought of as a holiday for children, it holds a lot of lessons for us all. This Sunday we'll kindle Hanukkah lights and sing songs while our children and youth join us for the beginning of the service and the dedication of several children in our congregation. After they depart for Sunday School, we'll explore more aspects of the narrative, including its nature as a true story that happened in recorded history - one that holds flaws and inspiration both - and what we can make of its fallible, fascinating unfolding.

Pre-K and older begin in the Meeting House;

Nursery (infants - 3-yr) meets in the Parish House, 2nd floor.

11:30 am Newcomers' Café in the Paneled Parlor
Women's Alliance Coffee Sale
Atrium Bookstore Open

12:00 pm Mentor/Mentee/Parent Lunch (aud)

12:00 pm **Sanctuary orientation (Atrium)**

There will be two opportunities for Nuts and Bolts training this month. Today, and Sunday, December 9 at 12:15. Meet us in the atrium after church today, or RSVP for 12/9 at firstusanctuary@gmail.com

12:15 pm NSJC (Resource room)

12:15 pm History Committee (History Room)

12:15 pm **Workshop sponsored by the Commitment Drive Committee - Come hear about charitable giving under the new tax laws. Paul Brule will lead us. (Haynes)**

5:00 **Campus UUs**

All college-aged individuals are welcome to weekly Sunday evening gatherings. Contact Jacinta (jacinta_clay@brown.edu) or Cathy Seggel in the church office.

Welcome!

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEWCOMERS AND VISITORS

We are delighted to have you with us today!

Ours is a Welcoming Congregation - which means we are people of many different religious backgrounds, and cultural and sexual identities. From this rich diversity, we build a spiritual home that is open, caring, and respectful. Our programs offer a variety of adult opportunities for spiritual deepening and justice-making. We have a well-staffed and nurturing program for young people, from infants through senior high.

We invite you to read through this weekly Meeting House Times to learn about some of our upcoming services and activities. All are open to everyone. You can also learn more from our web page (firstunitarianprov.org) or our Facebook page (First Unitarian Church of Providence).

To get better acquainted with our congregation, please join us for Coffee Hour, following the worship service, in the Parish House directly behind the pulpit (just follow the crowd!). There, in addition to coffee, tea, and goodies, you will find people who are happy to share information about our many activities and to answer your questions. Our Newcomers' Café (located in the parlor behind the fireplace), offers a more intimate setting for conversation with church members and other newcomers. There you can fill out a Guest Registry form if you'd like to stay in touch.

Call 401-421-7970 to speak to Jenn Nardone with specific questions about programs, membership, or meeting with our professional staff.

For details on any of our programs

(meeting locations, contact information, etc.), see the monthly newsletter on the church website at www.firstunitarianprov.org

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, December 3

11:00 am Women's Alliance program and lunch

7:00pm Benevolent Street Zendo (auditorium)

If you have never attended, please arrive at 6:45p for a brief orientation. Call or text Cindy Bapties (401.573.0881) for more information.

7:15p Harry Potter and the Sacred Text

Take a look at the experience of applying the study of sacred texts to one of the most popular book series of our time. New folks are always welcome. This week, in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, we will work with chapters 13 & 14, Discipline.

Tuesday, December 4

7:00pm Tai Chi

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

7:00pm Knitting for a Better World

Not limited to knitting !! Drop-ins welcome! Contact: katherine.ahlquist@gmail.com

Wednesday, December 5

7:00 pm Natural Wisdom and Compassion Med

A weekly drop-in guided meditation adapted from Tibetan Buddhism. Contact: Ken Bent: kenbent@cox.net

Friday, December 7

6:00 pm Oskar Eustis, in partnership with the

Providence Athenæum. Reservations are A MUST. Please go to the Athenæum website to check on space available.

8:00 pm Fred Jodry conducts Handel's *Messiah*, with the Brown Chorus and chamber orchestra, at Grace Episcopal Church, Providence.

Saturday, December 8

5:00 pm Parish House Pot Luck - note the day

and time - sign up today and come share a family-oriented meal and game night.

NEXT SUNDAY

Sunday, December 9

10:30 am Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay

We know people hold peace as an ultimate goal. But in some ways, perhaps peace is even more a means than a goal. Peace promises safety, comfort, capacity - and then the question is, What opportunities and realizations does peace offer? What art, what understandings, what relationships, what spirit, when we are not defended or anxious or afraid? Amidst all the turmoil in the larger world, we have this congregation where we commit to compassion, comity, relationship, love, aspiration and inspiration... also known as peace. This service will explore what came from our work with Thandeka, and what those ideas and understandings offer us on this shared journey that we shape as we go. We'll also celebrate and welcome a number of new members who have recently joined our congregation.

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

Sixth/Seventh-Grade Recycle-a-Toy Sale

Collection: Sunday, December 9;

Sale: Sunday, December 16, 12:00pm

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 the 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. 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).

31st Global Write-a-Thon for Human Rights, Sunday, December 9, 1 - 5 pm

Everyone is invited to take part in the annual letter-writing campaign to help free people jailed for the "crime" of standing up for freedom of speech and expression.

You'll be joining others in communities throughout the U.S. and the world as you write letters to officials in Egypt, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, and other nations demanding they free prisoners of conscience. Sponsored by Amnesty International, the Write-a-Thon is held every year around December 10 to observe the date in 1948 on which the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

You'll be hearing from Kamal Elias, a Yazidi Kurd who will describe his narrow escape from the 2014 ISIS genocide against his people, and his three-year effort to find a new home in the U.S.

We'll be writing letters at tables set up in the two Parish House parlors, with all materials supplied. For folks who want to participate but aren't free during the afternoon, we've reserved the Resource Room from 11:30 am to 1 pm. Come for an hour or stay all afternoon. Enjoy snacks, prizes and fellowship.

Sandy Hook Vigil

Thursday, December 13, 7:00pm

First Unitarian is hosting our annual vigil in memory of the terrible events at the Sandy Hook elementary school on December 14, 2012. This year we will be receiving and presenting the art made from firearms we took in last spring

as part of our Guns into Plowshares initiative. We're also honored to welcome Scott Lapham, and a number of area youth from the One Gun Gone program, as speakers at the vigil that evening. Please come and bring friends and family to participate in this poignant and powerful observance.





Questions about Sanctuary ? Many members of our community have been asking about Sanctuary, especially now that we have a family. There are many opportunities for you to become involved. Today and next Sunday, we will hold Sanctuary 'Nuts and Bolts' sessions after coffee hour. This is a chance for you to learn all about serving as a Sanctuary Host. Meet us today in the Atrium at 12:15, or contact us to sign up for next week - firstusanctuary@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

Art In the Atrium

December is the month for the First Unitarian Artists' Collective Show. Please join us for the Opening Saturday, December 8, at 5:00 pm. The opening is followed by the Parish House Pot Luck Supper and by Games and Caroling. We are mounting the Collective show this coming Tuesday, December 4th at 10:00 am. Please drop off your art that morning or before in the office.

You have to be a member of the Collective to be able to participate in the show. Dues are \$10.00 per year (payable by check made out to First Unitarian Providence, and with a notation for the Art Collective).

For more information, please contact:

Chiara Romano Van Erp at romano-vanerp-design@cox.net

Amy Webb at amy.webb7@verizon.net

Jim Bartfoot at barfootjim@gmail.com

Neighborhood Social Justice Committee, (NSJC)

The NSJC is providing volunteer opportunities to work beyond our church doors with people socially and economically marginalized.

The first Tuesday of every month, the NSJC sponsors a monthly outreach mission, the Loaves & Fishes Mission (L&FM), delivering food and clothing to Emmanuel House, a homeless shelter in Providence. Other outreach and/or educational programs are also sponsored by NSJC and volunteer opportunities are available.

Our December Loaves & Fishes Mission is Tuesday 4th.

Besides offering a special meal, we try to make it a festive event, with Mr. and Mrs. Santa (David and Gerry Spremulli), distributing presents to everybody. Please come to our table to sign up and to have more information.

The Y-ALL COME Community lunch, our yearly mission in collaboration with the Beneficent Congregational Church, will be will take place in the spring 2019. More information to come.



The NSJC invites you to help feed

'The Homeless Community of Providence'

The Loaves and Fishes Mission sponsored by the Neighborhood Social Justice Committee (NSJC) of the First Unitarian Church of Providence

We meet on the **FIRST TUESDAY** of every month. At noon we make sandwiches and prepare bagged lunch's, we then go out into the streets of Providence to distribute the bagged lunch's to those in need, and we then visit the Emmanuel House to serve a home cooked meal, basic clothing and hygiene products to our homeless brothers in need.

The fundamental mission is to feed the hungry, serving them with compassion and kindness. The broader mission is to empower individuals to serve those in need, thus inspiring a lifestyle of volunteering to serve.

"We provide food and clothing, and promote the dignity to those in need"

HOW CAN YOU HELP---



-Contribute food items, gently used or new clothing of any size and type, toiletries, and/or a financial donation

-Volunteer your time to assist in the mission.

For more information and to sign-up to help out on this great mission, please visit the NSJC table in the atrium after service.

THANK YOU!