



THE MEETING HOUSE TIMES

January 13, 2019

TODAY

Welcome!

**One thing you need to know,
from your program staff...
Coffee Hour - TechConnect Sunday,
January 27, 11:45-1:00**

A message from our youth: The First U Senior High Youth Group is hosting a TechConnect. Adults can receive assistance with cell phones, tablets, laptops etc. We will offer basic services, only, for those who are technologically challenged.

Sign-up at the RE table in the Atrium during coffee hour or email Cathy dre@firstunitarianprov.org

Please be sure to have needed passwords in order for us to better help you. First to sign up will surely be served. If this event is successful we plan to repeat in the spring.

In exchange for our help we would love for those assisted to bring baked goods for the youth. Hope to be with you.

Sunday, January 13

**Blessing of the Animals –
A Multigenerational Service**

10:30 am

**Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay,
Cathy Seggel, DRE**

It's time for our annual, multigenerational worship service where we honor and share the animals who share our homes, lives, and families. All pets are welcome! Last year, we had cats and dogs, fish and lizards, even a chicken! So come one, come all – just please make sure your pets are appropriately leashed, crated, or otherwise contained. If you can't bring your pet, virtual pets (stuffed animals, photos, etc.) are also welcome as proxies.

If you lost your pet in the past year, feel free to bring a framed photo that we can stand on the pulpit table during the service, to honor those loved and lost.

And last, invite your friends and neighbors to bring their pets for a blessing, too! All are welcome for this morning of music and readings, consecration and celebration.

*Childcare open for infants to three-year-olds
in the Parish House, second floor*

Community Collection for the Providence Village

11:30 am

Newcomers' Café in the Paneled Parlor
Women's Alliance Coffee Sale
Atrium Bookstore Open

Taco Fiesta tickets on sale in the Atrium!

12:15 pm

Green Team (Resource)

12:15 pm

PruComm (Haynes)

12:15 pm

Partner Church Committee

7:00 pm

UU Men (Haynes)

A continuation of our immersion in the "Man Box." Charlie Sweigart will be our facilitator. Thus far, he has held the topic very close to his chest - Come and be surprised!

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 would 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, January 14

5:30 pm **Worship Committee**

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.

Tuesday, January 15

Please Note - Tuesday Tai Chi will resume in April

5:30 pm **Finance committee**

7:00 pm **Communications at First U**

All those who are interested in how Communication works at First U should attend this meeting, hosted by members of the Communication Team and the Staff. We are going to be making some changes in how we share information, and it will be important for EVERYONE to know how it will work.

7:00pm **Knitting for a Better World**

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

Wednesday, January 16

6:45 pm **Commitment Drive Team**

7:00 pm **Side With Love / Sanctuary**

7:00 pm **Natural Wisdom and
Compassion Med**

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

Thursday, January 17

2:00 pm **World Affairs Committee**

7:00 pm **UUA Common Read discussion -
Justice on Earth**

NEXT SUNDAY

Sunday, January 20

Grace and Tortillas

10:30 am

Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay

In honor of Dr. King, and his vision of beloved community, our MLK, Jr. Sunday service will explore our own experience of Sanctuary with the family we just sheltered, what it meant to stand for compassion and justice, and the unexpected abundance of gifts and grace we ourselves received, as individuals and as a church, along the way.

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

Neighborhood Social Justice Committee, (NSJC)

The NSJC was founded to provide volunteer opportunities to work beyond our church doors with those who are socially and economically marginalized.

The first Tuesday of every month, the NSJC sponsors an outreach mission 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. For more information please stop by the NSJC table in the Atrium any Sunday after worship service.

Meetings are First Sunday of each month at 12:15

Next meeting: Sunday February 3rd

Next Loaves and Fishes Mission: Tuesday, February 5th

The Coming of Age community invites you to the annual Taco night fiesta! Saturday, January 26, 6:00–8:00pm.



The 8th Grade of The First Unitarian Church of Providence invites you to:

**First U Fiesta!
Saturday, January 26, 2019
From: 6:00– 8:00 pm
With Entertainment!**

ADMIT ONE

\$8 individual/ \$25 family

See you there!

Your hosts, the First Unitarian Coming of Age class, their families and mentors, invite you to be with them for a fun evening with delicious tacos, fabulous pastries, a variety show and raffle. Chase the winter chill away, relax and mingle as awesome 8th graders and their families serve you. Raffle donations are welcome! To donate an item, email Kevin Porter (Kporter651@gmail.com). This event helps support the COA trip to Boston UUA headquarters. Tickets are available during Coffee Hour.

Single tickets: \$8; family tickets (four+): \$25

The Green Team Wants to Hear from You!

Monthly meeting, Sunday, January 13

This week you'll receive a survey from the First Unitarian Green Team Environmental Task Force. The survey should take less than five minutes to complete. Your answers will help the Green Team evaluate your energy and water usage, recycling habits, food choices, and other elements of sustainability. Understanding your interests will help us create projects to improve environmentally friendly practices and habits in our congregation. Watch your inbox!

An Opportunity for Our Community - Mindful Self-Compassion

Jorge Armesto, a member of our congregation and of the Community of Mindfulness, is offering a 10-week class in Mindful Self-Compassion. Self-Compassion helps answer the question, "How can I comfort and care for myself in this moment?"

Jorge is a clinical psychologist with a private practice in Providence. He is a graduate of the foundations in Buddhist contemplative care training through the New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care, and is a trained Mindful Self-Compassion teacher. He offers this opportunity on a donation basis to members of our congregation.

Meetings will be on Thursdays, beginning February 7, 6:00 - 8:30 pm, with a retreat on Saturday, March 30, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. You can find more about Mindful Self-Compassion at their website: www.centerformsc.org. Contact Jorge with questions or to sign up: dr.armesto@gmail.com.

Knitting for a Better World - Mitten Tree Fence

Please bring warmings in for our Mitten Tree Fence. New or gently-used mittens, gloves, hats and scarves, store-bought or handmade are welcome.

Please leave items in the basket in the Atrium, and we will tag them and put them on the fence as needed.

There is a lot going on with Partner Church activities. Here are some dates that the Partner Church Committee would encourage all who are interested to attend.

1. Committee meeting, January 13th at 12:15, in the History Room at the top of the stairs near the auditorium. We will be planning for Partner Church Sunday to be celebrated on February 3, and an update on other committee work.
2. Meeting of travelers on January 20th in the Haynes Room at 12:15 to discuss the upcoming trip to our partner church and other places of interest in Transylvania being planned for this summer. There is still room for more travelers to join us.
3. Sunday, February 3, 2019, is Partner Church Sunday this year where both Unitarian Churches will celebrate our partnership with readings, stories, and song.

After worship on February 3, at 12:15 in the Auditorium, the committee will provide a light lunch consisting of two delectable options, a typical pork stew or a bean soup, (you can have both!), along with other interesting food from the area. Following lunch we will show a video about the early years of the Unitarian religion that had its start in Transylvania. Following the film we will answer any questions about our upcoming trip plans and provide an update of activities for the next few years.

Be sure to visit the Transylvania Partner Church table in the front parlor during coffee hour to sign up for this event. Sign-ups tell us how much food to prepare.

Ask the PruComm

The Prudential Committee, which is the governing body of this church, invites the congregation to stop by the "Ask PruComm" table in the Atrium at coffee hour today. Representatives of the Prudential Committee will be available during coffee hour one Sunday each month to share information and welcome questions about what is happening at First U. Please stop by to chat about church matters or to ask about church business or events!



A New Year of Coffee Hour!

Happy New Year! Here's a great resolution for the New Year: Sign up regularly to bring food to the Coffee Hour! Remember that our Coffee Hour is a cooperative effort organized by The Women's Alliance with Peanut- and Peanut butter-free donations from our congregation of baked or bought goodies such as brownies, cookies, fruit, cheese and crackers, sandwiches, coffee cake and more. In order to feed the ravenous crowd each Sunday, we need 8 people bringing donations that serve 24 each. Plan on bringing something you like to eat at coffee hour. 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.

Path to Membership Class

Two-part session: Saturday, February 9, 10:00 am–1:00 pm

Sunday, February 10, 12:00–2:00 pm

The Path to Membership class is for anyone who is interested in membership or in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and First Unitarian. The classes are led by our minister, Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay; our Director of Religious Education, Cathy Seggel; and our Membership Coordinator, Jenn Nardone. Childcare is available if requested in advance. Registration forms are in the Newcomers' Café and on the Membership Board in the Parish House hallway.

There will be a two-session class in February, on the morning of February 9 and after the service on February 10. A tour of the church will follow each session (a light lunch will be served before the Sunday tour).

For questions, contact: Jenn Nardone, Membership Coordinator (mem@firstunitarianprov.org) or call the church office (401.421.7970). On Sundays, Jenn can be found in the Newcomers' Cafe in the Parish House (behind the fireplace).

Art in the Atrium

"As Seen by a Wandering Eye, Philip Lieberman, 1990 – 2012"

The current January exhibit displays unique photographs taken by Phil Lieberman in his several trips with Marcia in Tibet, Nepal, Myanmar, and the Himalayas, documenting a world that is disappearing. There are also a few images taken in Europe in special light moments.

All the months for this Church year are taken for exhibits, but the schedule for next year is open.

We remind you that you have to be a member of the First U. Art Collective to show your art in the Atrium gallery. 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 Barfoot at barfootjim@gmail.com

Are You Looking for Your Stuff ???

There are many misplaced items which have found their way to the Lost and Found bin in the church office... Scarves, hats, glasses, and all sorts of things. Joyce Boober has been kind enough to sort through, match sets, and organize. See her today at the table in the Atrium to see if she has your Stuff. Anything not claimed will be donated...

Can You Help ??

We are looking for a lighter-weight, newer, more stable extension ladder than the huge wooden one we currently have. Our building managers often have to climb up to fix things, and our current ladder is too ungainly, and a bit aged... If you have, or know someone who might have, an aluminum extension ladder which could be donated to the church, please call Nancy in the office - 401-421-7970. Thanks!!