



# THE MEETING HOUSE TIMES

March 17, 2019

## TODAY

**Sunday, March 17**     **Saints Preserve Us**  
**10:30 am**             **Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay**

As St. Patrick's Day falls on this Sunday, we'll look at some of the character of saints in Irish beliefs – their rootedness in earlier pagan religions, the intimacy of the theological relationship between saints and mortals, some surprising twists and turns in Irish beliefs, and what we might gain from considering these truths and traditions.

*Young people begin in their small groups in classrooms and worship in Chapel. The Theme is Spring Equinox.*

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

*Can you help? We have to move stores of food from the Meeting House to the Parish House, in preparation for Community Food Share on Monday. Right after the service, go to the back of the Meeting House to volunteer. Thanks!*

**12:00 pm**             Nominating Committee (Resource Room)

**12:15 pm**             Membership Committee (Haynes)

**Today at 3:30 here at First U**, Museum Concerts presents "Stylus Fantasticus" - chamber music from 17th century Italy. Seats are still available; a reception will follow.

**5:00 pm**             Campus UUs (Ministers' Parlor)  
All college-aged individuals are welcome to weekly Sunday evening gatherings. Contact Jacinta (jacinta\_clay@brown.edu) or Cathy Seggel in the church office.

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### Commitment Drive Notes

If you did not receive your Commitment Drive materials yet (either by picking them up at our coffee hour table or getting them in the mail), please visit the coffee hour table in the front parlor to get what you need. There you will also find laptops for pledging electronically and for setting up automatic payments (two separate and important steps), hearts for your name tag, several friendly/helpful members of our Commitment Drive Team and a scrolling Thank You Power Point presentation for those who have pledged already. Thank you to all for making our Commitment Drive a success!

### New testimonial series now on website

First U member Tori Smith kicks off a new series of videos on our church website home page. Each video features a First U member sharing their thoughts about what First U means to them. To view Tori's video, visit our church website at [www.firstunitarianprov.org](http://www.firstunitarianprov.org).

# 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](http://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.

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### For details on any of our programs

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

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Monday, March 18

**3:30 - 5:30 pm Community Food Share Pantry**

**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.

**7:15pm 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.

### Tuesday, March 19

**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. First-timers can meet Sean Connor in the Auditorium for some orientation at 6:45.

**7:00pm Knitting for a Better World** (Res. Rm)

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

### Wednesday, March 20

**7:00 pm Meditation**

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

**7:00 pm Spiritual Pathways Team**

### Saturday, March 23

**12:00 pm Y-All Come Community Lunch**

**7:30 pm First U Variety Show**

## NEXT SUNDAY

**Sunday, March 24 Purim**

**10:30 am Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay,  
Cathy Seggel, DRE**

In this lively, multigenerational service, we'll consider the story of Purim using balloons, participation, music, and more to explore our capacities for defiant joy and how we can hold onto it even – perhaps especially – when things are tough. **One Purim tradition is to dress in costume, so feel free to dress up and join in the fun.**

*Come at 10:20a to hear special prelude music by the High Society Hot Jazz Orchestra.*

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

## Community Collections

Applications are being accepted for the 2019 - 2020 Community Collections. On certain Sundays through the year, non-pledge gifts in the Sunday offering are donated to designated organizations. Organizations must be nominated by a church committee or by a group of at least three church members. There are 5 Community Collection Sundays available for the next program year. Contact Administrator Nancy Forsstrom, admin@firstunitarianprov.org, for an application. They are due in the church office April 29. See Social Justice Liaison Nancy Weiss-Fried if you have any questions.

## Path to Membership Class

**Mondays, March 25, April 1, 8 (note date change)**

Are you interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism, the First Unitarian Church of Providence, and membership here at First Unitarian? If so, please join us for our upcoming Path to Membership class on Mondays, March 25, and April 1, 8 from 7:00 to 9:00p.

To register for the class, please fill out a registration form this week. You can find a form on the membership bulletin board in the Parish House hallway, at the Welcome table in the Newcomers' Café, or by emailing mem@firstunitarianprov.org. Questions? Contact: Jenn Nardone, Membership Coordinator (mem@firstunitarianprov.org) or call the office (401.421.7970). Jenn can be found in the Newcomers' Cafe on Sundays.

## Have You Seen Me?



Some preliminary sketches for the new front yard of the Meeting House have mysteriously disappeared from the reception desk in the church office. If anyone has seen them, or scooped them up by accident, please return them right away - they are quite valuable. Thanks!

## First U Variety Show

Join the fun on Saturday, March 23 for a Variety Show featuring many types of entertainment provided by some of your favorite local talent. The show is at 7:30 and is free for First U members and friends.

## Neighborhood Social Justice Committee, (NSJC)

**Our next important mission is the Y-All-Come-Community Lunch: Saturday March 23rd.**

We organize this lunch for the homeless once or twice a year in conjunction with the Beneficent Congregational Church who are hosting it. We need volunteers to cook dishes and/or to help during this meal. For more information and to sign up for tasks, please come to our table after the service.