



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2019

## Services in the Meeting House

**Sunday, June 2      Spiritual But Not Religious**

**10:30a**

A lot of people these days define themselves as "spiritual but not religious." Some of those people are "nones" – meaning, people check off "none" as their religious affiliation. Some of those people align themselves with various world religions. Some are Unitarian Universalists. What does it mean to be spiritual and what does it mean to be religious and what do we think we are - and can we possibly be ... both? This is our week to recognize and thank our teachers and choir members, so be sure to come and greet them. Also, Lay Ministers will be commissioned, and we will thank our Ministerial Intern for Pastoral Care, Kevin Carson, who is completing his time with us and his preparation for ordination.

*PreK through high school begin in the Meeting House, then go to small groups with teachers.*

**Sunday, June 9      Flower Communion: A Multigenerational Service**

**10:30a**

This richly beautiful UU tradition offers us all a chance to revel in the beauty of flowers and be reminded that people are also beautiful in all our infinite variety. Our worship will feature music, readings, and, of course, our Flower Communion ceremony as we've adapted it in recent years. Please bring at least one flower for every person in your party to the service. A brief thank-you to some very special volunteers will also be part of today's worship.

*Childcare for infants to 3-yr-olds is available in the Parish House*

## Summer Services

*NOTE: Summer Worship begins at 10:00a; child care is available each Sunday.*

Our lay-led summer services, presented by members of our church family, as well as occasional guest speakers, provide an opportunity to get to know one another in a less formal setting and to better appreciate the insights and rich experiences of our diverse community.

**Sunday, June 16      The Search for Happiness**

**10:00a**

In a world where we hear about such awful things every time we tune in to media of any kind, it can feel wrong to be happy. Yet it is important to embrace the little moments of happiness, to revel in the joys of life, to let cheer into your heart and radiate it back into the world. *A Rhode Island native, Erin is a graduate of URI, with a BA in English and a BFA in Theater, who works in the technology industry. She is also a writer, a Ghost Tour guide, a Revolutionary War living history re-enactor, and an active member of this congregation, leading the First Unitarian chapter of Harry Potter and the Sacred Text.*

**Sunday, June 23      Racism as a Rite of Passage**

**10:0a**

John will provide a sense of the personal toll exacted by racism in its many forms. *John and his wife, Nancy, have been members of First Unitarian for around 30 years. John considers himself to be truly blessed to be married to the love of his life and to live on a street named Hope in our fittingly named sanctuary city of Providence.*

**Sunday, June 30      A Taoist Finds His Way**

**10:00a**

How do you find your way, and how do you follow The Way? Claude will talk about his search for a spiritual path throughout his life, describing particular challenges and successes. *Claude LeBoeuf has been a member of First Unitarian for two years. He's also a practicing Taoist, and Taoism is his primary life and world view.*

*More about Summer Services on page 7.*



We are a  
Welcoming Congregation

## Inside

Lately . . . . .	2
Spiritual Pathways . . . . .	3
Sight Lines . . . . .	4
Community Life . . . . .	5
Spiritual Development . . . . .	7
Social Justice . . . . .	8
Monthly Calendar . . . . .	9

## Staff

Rev. Elizabeth Lerner Maclay, Minister  
[min@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:min@firstunitarianprov.org)

Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education  
[dre@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:dre@firstunitarianprov.org)

Frederick Jodry, Music Director

Rev. Gene Dyszlewski, Community Minister

Rev. Gwendolyn Howard, Community Minister

Kevin Carson, Ministerial Intern for  
Pastoral Care  
[kmcarson@aol.com](mailto:kmcarson@aol.com)

Nancy Forsstrom, Administrator  
[admin@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:admin@firstunitarianprov.org)

Walter Sotelo, Administrative Assistant

Jenn Nardone, Membership Coordinator  
[mem@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:mem@firstunitarianprov.org)

Jaime Durango, Building Manager

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

## Newsletter

Nancy Forsstrom, Managing Editor  
Susan Fisher, Proof Editor  
Design Consultant, Amy Webb

First Unitarian Church of Providence

One Benevolent Street

Providence, Rhode Island 02906

Tel: 401.421.7970

Fax: 401.276.4291

Web: [www.firstunitarianprov.org](http://www.firstunitarianprov.org)

Email: [admin@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:admin@firstunitarianprov.org)



## Lately ...

As we wind up this year and begin to prepare ourselves for summer plans, enterprises, and pastimes, I have to say, looking back on this year, how incredibly proud I am of you, First Unitarian, and how good it feels to be your minister. This has been another banner year – your generosity, heart, commitment, care, and capacity are so deep. You have hosted one sanctuary family and are ready for another. You have shown up strongly for regular events and special programs. You have made extraordinary music. You have shared yourselves with each other with vulnerability and courage and great integrity. You have supported your youth and taught your children. You have cared for your ailing members and held your grieving people. You have funded and completed tremendous renovations. You have helped to lead essential community justice initiatives. You have fulfilled a tremendous Commitment Drive. What a year of spirit and faith, of action and care, you have given yourselves and each other! Amazing, truly.

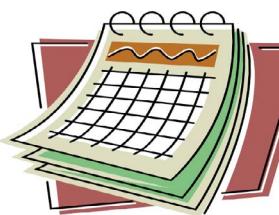
I hope this summer will be a gentle one for everyone, a time with some room for rest and renewal, some time for sun and sea, some time for play and music, a time that will offer us some balm for these abrasive times. May the sun and the light warm you inside and out. May the sea and sky invite you and ease you with their blue beauty. May the abundant life teeming all around us remind us of life's powerful ability to adapt and grow, abilities we too possess. Good people, may these summer days be good to us all. I'll miss you while I'm over in Transylvania and Europe, and I'll be very glad to be back together with you as we begin to start up the new year for the fall.

Lay ministers will be available to help you with pastoral emergencies if they arise while I'm on my summer break, and our Ministerial Intern for Pastoral Care, Kevin Carson, will help cover any pastoral needs through the end of June.

Take good care of yourselves and each other.

See you in church,

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



## Looking Ahead...

The church office will be closed for its summer break,  
July 22 - August 2.

Sunday worship will happen as usual (at 10:00 am, and evening activities will follow their regular schedule. Feel free to contact the office or check the website for more info.

## Looking Way Ahead

Mark your calendars now for a wonderful opportunity in the fall. October 17-20, First Unitarian will host David Smith for an exciting musical experience. Many of us remember David from his participation in Rev. Liz's Installation; he is the executive director of worship at the All Souls Unitarian Church of Tulsa, OK. This time, David will be here to work with singers and musicians to present an amazing worship on October 20. If you sing or play, you can participate, and the weekend is open to members of other churches as well.



## June Birthdays

Tony Allen  
Bruce Amand  
Annette Casparis  
Marilyn Eanet  
Susan Fisher  
Bobbi Fisler  
Mary Frappier  
David House  
Deborah McCoy  
Ethan Nemkovich  
Jean Plunkett  
Nancy Weiss-Fried



Haven't seen your birthday listed? Do we know when it is? Contact the church office (assist@firstunitarianprov.org) if you want your church friends to celebrate your special day with you!



## Wheel of Life

### Our Condolences to...

The family of **Claudia Littlefield**, who passed away under hospice care on May 13. She signed the book in 1985.

**Mark and Matthew Rosati** and their families on the death of their mother, **Lois Rosati Hubert**. She signed the book in 1995, and volunteered in several ways over the years.

The family of **Margaret Evans**, who signed the book at First Unitarian in 1971 and passed away on May 13.

**Michael Lapidés** and his family upon the death of his mother in California.

### Our Congratulations to...

Our Coming of Age honorees, their mentors, and their parents, on their accomplishments this year.

Our wonderful building manager, **Jaime Durango**, and his family, upon the graduation of his son, **Santiago**, from Salve Regina University. Santiago has begun a job with the U.S. Navy.

## Hats Off to ...

Many thanks to our Coffee Hour Providers last month: Lisa Rose, Cheryl Bartholomew, Tony Allen, Jude Sonder, Casey Duckett, Phyllis Cole, Anne Connor, Lucille Riccitelli, Marilyn Eanet, Sine Pounder, Beth Anterni, Elissa Emerson, Lisa Maloney, Lyn Bradford, Suzanne Francis, John Dooley, and all of you who brought something in to surprise us.



# Spiritual Pathways

June is a time when I embrace the warmth and beauty of so much around me. It is also when I appreciate the blessings that our young people bring to my own life, our congregation, and way beyond. The closing recognitions and celebrations are just the energy boost I need to review, evaluate, envision, and move forward in my work when the outdoors is calling.

The Spiritual Pathways Team and I hold responsibility for developing and facilitating Unitarian Universalist faith development experiences that are meaningful, relevant, and accessible for families amid a complicated landscape. We are serious in our efforts to keep our hands on the pulse of cultural challenges and changes, locally, in our Association and our world. Our curriculum is evolving to include more interfaith connections, multiage relational experiences, and service learning.

We know that religious education happens mostly at home and certainly not only on Sundays. Therefore, we see our goal as a family ministry that serves a population ranging from infants to parents and elders. On Sunday mornings we blend worship and small groups that forge caring relationships of support and understanding through real-life issues. When our teens share during worship in Coming of Age or high school services, the gathered congregation is witness to just a snapshot of what our many devoted volunteer leaders and I feel all year long. I am both inspired and challenged by them all.

Sunday, June 2, is the closing day of small-group gatherings, beginning with an appreciation breakfast for teacher teams. Then on to the Meeting House for the beginning of the service with an honoring of the many volunteers who have served the children and youth. Next, there will be time in classrooms to celebrate! I have deep gratitude for the children, youth, and adults who have shared time in our faith community this season!

Don't forget the congregational annual meeting at noon on June 2. On June 9 we will celebrate our Flower Communion with children, youth, and adults in the Meeting House service.

Then my work continues to develop content for the 2019-20 Resource Book; collaborate on the worship calendar; recruit and support teacher, advisor, and mentor volunteers; and curate evolved curriculum. Please contact me in the office this month if you'd like join a team that facilitates programs for children, youth and adults in our congregation.

I hope to take part in our UUA General Assembly as a LREDA delegate in mid-June in Spokane, WA and will serve on the staff of faith development week on Star Island in July. Then, I look forward to spending time with my family this summer.

I hope that you all are able to feel and relish the warmth and beauty of this season.

Take care

CATBY

Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education  
401.421.7970  
[dre@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:dre@firstunitarianprov.org)



Word Cloud created from the eighth-grade Credos presented at the Coming of Age service.

# Spring Highlights

## **Coming of Agers Present a Meaningful Worship Service**

At the annual Coming of Age Recognition Service on May 19, this year's eighth-graders, with their dedicated teachers and mentors, shared some of their beliefs as they transition to senior high and the next stage of Unitarian Universalist faith development. We call it "Credo," or "To This I Give My Heart."

Of course, this meaning making is a lifelong process, transforming ourselves and the world. This year, the Coming of Agers – in their small group with dedicated teachers and monthly with mentors – focused on Relationships and Sexuality, UU Theology, Justice, Leadership, Worship, and Community. They forged strong connections with peers and with adults who care deeply.



*Coming of Agers sharing their musical talents during the service...*



*... and, after the service, celebrating with cake*

Hearty congratulations to this year's Coming of Age class: **Madeline Baxter, Andrew Cappelli, Zoe Corbin, Julianna Dufresne, Eve Grady, Theo Henson, Isabelle Lavalee, Ray Porter, and Elijah Saddlemire.**

And deepest gratitude to teachers, mentors, parents, families, and youth.



## Sight Lines

Hello Everyone:

It's June. The sun has finally decided to come out! The church year is winding down, and so is my year as President of the congregation. During the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 2, we say goodbye and heartfelt thanks to Prudential Committee, Deacon, and ministry committee leaders whose terms are ending, we elect and welcome our new leaders, including our new church President, Cheryl Bartholomew.

We had many accomplishments in a year marked by challenges, transitions, and increased growth. In June, we welcomed and oriented Nancy Forsstrom, our new Church Administrator. We welcomed back the congregation in September, and celebrated the completion of our building renovations, made possible through your generous Capital Campaign contributions. Our parking lot was repaved; new, brighter lights and hand rails were installed; the clock and Paul Revere bell were repaired; the Benefit Street entrance was renovated; security throughout our buildings was improved; and we began to improve our technology infrastructure.

We hosted Rev. Thandeka, who encouraged us to "Love Beyond Belief." Her observations were a catalyst for changes in our worship services and our Prudential Committee and other committee meetings, and were the genesis behind the launch next fall of affinity groups called Soul Circles. We hosted a successful Partner Church weekend. Our Parish Supper program was re-branded and relaunched, and events were well attended.

We hosted a family of four in our newly dedicated sanctuary space. We partnered with the Providence Athenaeum to host some of their larger events and expose their members to our wonderful Meeting House. Through our strong social justice programs, we increased our community partnerships, strengthened our alliances, and provided a variety of opportunities for advocacy and justice work for all ages.

Our Sunday services are now live-streamed on Facebook. We have a new digital photo directory. The church website was revised and revitalized and now serves as the primary information center for members, friends, guests, and anyone seeking a new church. We implemented an electronic payment system for online giving, and we saw more than a \$40,000 increase in pledge commitments due to one of our most successful Commitment Drives.

We are growing – members and children – and our growth posed and will continue to pose challenges to staff, governance, program, and volunteer structures. Kevin Carson joined our staff in January for a six-month period to increase our capacity to satisfy our growing pastoral care needs. We completed a staffing assessment and, with the approval of our FY20 budget, we are funding three of its recommendations: hiring a part-time pastoral care minister, upgrading our technology infrastructure, and conducting a congregation giving assessment.

We started several initiatives that will continue in the new church year. They include hosting Prudential Committee retreats, planning for our 300th anniversary and the return of General Assembly to Providence in June 2020, implementing recommendations for a new sound system, hosting facilitated congregational conversations and strategic planning sessions, and taking steps toward revising our mission and vision statements.

As my presidency concludes, so will the monthly newsletter and the *Meeting House Times*, as we implement new ways to inform you about everything that is happening around our busy church.

I have had an informative and rewarding presidency. I had opportunities to meet you, listen to your concerns, feedback, and ideas, and work with Liz, the staff, the Prudential Committee, and ministry committees to make positive differences in the way you experience everything our wonderful church and church community have to offer.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your President this church year. Thank you.

John Simmonds  
President, Prudential Committee  
[pres@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:pres@firstunitarianprov.org)



## Treasurer's Report

In May, the Prudential Committee completed the proposed budget for FY 2020. The budget was presented during a congregational conversation

after services on May 19. The good-news headline of the presentation was that congregational giving and membership numbers are increasing. However, with increased membership comes increased expense.

Total income for FY2020 is projected to increase by 6%, which will cover the corresponding expense increase required to meet the expanding needs of the congregation. Below is the list of approved expense increases within the proposed budget:

• Existing staff COLA 1.8% increase	\$ 21,271
• New Pastoral Care ¼ time Minister	\$ 17,224
• Building Repairs/equip upgrades	\$ 9,164
• Office Cost Increase	\$ 1,888
• General Assembly Hosting	\$ 3,500
• Chalice/Soul Circle Facilitator Trng	\$ 1,500
• Pledging Credit Card Fees	\$ 750
• Giving Assessment Consult	\$ 4,000
<b>Total Proposed Budget Increase</b>	<b>\$ 59,297</b>

Also presented was a list of funding proposals considered important but for which funding is not currently available. Below is a synopsis of those requests:

• Benevolent Society Expenses	\$ 2,000
• Getting Staff to 3% raise	\$ 5491
• Social Justice Action Funding	\$ 7,720
• Building Security Upgrades	\$ 6,300
• Future Building Restorations	\$100,000
<b>Total Unfunded Requests</b>	<b>\$ 121,411</b>

To address some of these unfunded proposals in the upcoming year, a motion will be presented at the Annual Meeting requesting congregational authorization to use surplus from the fiscal year concluding to fund church mission-critical funding requests for the upcoming fiscal year. The implementation of some of the unfunded requests will depend upon approval of the proposed motion.

This newsletter marks the end of my six year active service tenure for the congregation. Getting to know such a large cross-section of you over these six years is a real blessing. I am constantly amazed at how passionate our members are about the mission and health of our congregation. Your support and love during this period are much appreciated. Thanks to you all for this opportunity to serve.

With love, and see you in church! David



## Community Life

### New Weekly Newsletter Begins This Month

This is the last monthly newsletter you will receive.

Your first new, weekly update from First Unitarian will arrive in your email in a few weeks. The new weekly newsletter will feature a whole new look and feel, with a livelier, easy-to-read format. This electronic newsletter will merge our monthly newsletter and weekly *Meeting House Times* into a single source for everything you need to know about what is coming up and what is going on at First Unitarian. You can view it on any device – smart phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop – from anywhere you may be at any time. Its fresh new look will feature more photos and graphics with brief text and links to more information. Congregational Administrator Nancy Forsstrom will continue as Managing Editor of the new weekly update.

Tuesday noon will be the deadline for submissions (to [admin@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:admin@firstunitarianprov.org)) for Thursday distribution.

Staff members who have spent many hours each week preparing our current communications feel confident that the shift to a weekly electronic update will save a significant amount of staff time. In addition, considerable cost savings will result from less paper used and reduced photocopying. (Please note that the small number of people who do not use email will receive a paper copy by postal mail each week.)

The change comes after many months of conversations with church staff and a Communications Summit in January with church members who contribute regularly to the current publications. The consensus is that our current communications are outdated and have become ineffective, which our own tracking data confirms.

The plan to transition during the summer months will give everyone involved time to iron out any kinks that might arise and prepare for a smooth entry into the next church year.

So watch your email for the first edition of our new, weekly electronic newsletter.

### The Annual First Unitarian Picnic – Is on Hiatus

The First Unitarian Picnic is taking a break this year with plans to revision and plan for a bigger and better event in the future. If you would like to be part of a task force for this event please let us know.

email Jennifer Nardone: [mem@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:mem@firstunitarianprov.org)

### Art in the Atrium

#### Flight Lines, an Exhibit by Amy Webb

The June exhibit features mixed-media paintings by Amy Webb. The work invites the viewer to ponder the visual and abstracted ideas of birds in our environment and culture.

The exhibit will be up through the summer during regular office hours.

Please join us for the opening reception, Thursday, June 20, 5:30–8:00pm, with live music and appetizing tidbits.

For more information, please contact: Amy Webb ([amy.webb7@verizon.net](mailto:amy.webb7@verizon.net)) or Chiara Romano Van Erp ([romano-vanerp-design@cox.net](mailto:romano-vanerp-design@cox.net)).

### Summer Coffee Sales

Women's Alliance coffee sales will continue through the summer, with a different method of placing orders and receiving your coffee. Stop at the Coffee Sales table the first two weeks of June to find out how to keep getting your delicious coffee throughout the summer months.



### The Women's Alliance

#### Monthly Meeting

Monday, June 3

Annual Outing to Blithewold

Tour of the grounds and luncheon in the Blithewold dining room

Alliance members will enjoy a staff-led tour of the Blithewold mansion, gardens, and arboretum along Narragansett Bay. The grounds include nearly a mile of meandering paths, a bamboo grove, a 90-foot Giant Sequoia, and more than 10 gardens of roses, annuals, perennials, wildflowers, and rock garden plants. The tour continues in the 45-room English-style manor house, built in 1908, containing original furnishings and chronicling the lives of one family over a century.

#### Thanks for the Coffee Snacks!

Thank you to all who have donated to our Coffee Hour this past year. Your donations have made for a delicious variety of treats.

With so many events going on in our church now, our Coffee Hour donations may get neglected, so please make the effort to sign up for the final Coffee Hours of this church year.

Sign up in the first parlor during Coffee Hour and go home with a reminder so you won't forget.

#### Coffee Sales Every Sunday

The Women's Alliance sells 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 the Women's Alliance table in the Atrium at Coffee Hour.

#### Newcomers' Café

Held in the Paneled Parlor (behind the fireplace), the Café is hosted in every Sunday during the regular church year 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 comfortable setting. If you've been around for a while, this is a great place to help new folks get acclimated.

The Newcomers' Café will be closed for the summer months, but hospitality for newcomers will continue at summer Coffee Hours (outdoors in the breezeway, weather permitting). There will be a table each Sunday for sign-ups and information.



## Community Life

### A Transylvanian Easter Oratorio

The minister of our Partner Church in Szentegyhaza, Rev. Kelemen Szabolcs, participated in an Easter Oratorio, an inspirational presentation of the Easter story. While Transylvanian Unitarians do not believe in the divinity of Jesus Christ, they do believe he was a prophet who was persecuted for his teaching. Participating in this performance brought together pastors from different denominations and served as a means of building community.

Gyula Péterfi, a music teacher, edited the oratorio that was used as the dramatic lead-in to the Easter season. The pastors formed a choir and began to learn the oratorio that was sung on Good Friday. Each

 pastor sang in clerical garb; the Unitarian pastors wore Rev. Kelemen singing at black capes. Although the pastors admitted that they would not be *the oratorio* confused with a professional choir, their purpose for singing was to provide their followers with a sense of joy and spiritual peace.

– First Unitarian Partner Church Committee



## Building Bridges

### Creating Connections, Nurturing Relationships, and Inspiring Action in Southeastern MA and RI

On Sunday mornings, chalices are lit in over two dozen churches from Canton, to Taunton, Newport, and many others in between. Sometimes, though, the hustle and bustle of our own church lives and secular lives make the distance between us grow, and it's difficult to connect.

"Building Bridges" was inspired by this recognition, and works to build connections between the numerous church communities in SE MA and RI. Building Bridges celebrates and encourages relationship-building and resource-sharing between Southeastern MA and RI churches.

- A fall adult RE program on three consecutive Sundays open to all regional churches)
- A kickball event following the third Sunday RE program
- A Building Bridges Facebook page, to communicate events and encourage participation

#### Kick-off Event: An All-inclusive Retreat on Beautiful Star Island

*Conference Dates: July 11–13 or 11–20*

All churches in the region are invited to the inaugural Building Bridges Conference this summer. Attendees of every age can choose between a 3- or 7-day stay, July 11–13 or 11–20. Most of the Building Bridges programming will take place over the first three days, featuring morning workshops around articulating UU faith, swimming and water activities, games, island-wandering, and evening chapel. Special rates are available to those new to Star Island, so this is a great opportunity to join your Southeastern NE neighbors for this inaugural regional conference!

The conference aims to create a memorable meeting place for UU churches in Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island where we can begin closing the distance, bond in our shared faith and interests, brainstorm collaborations, or simply reflect and recharge with one another. If you are interested in meeting fellow UUs in the SE MA and RI area through the Building Bridges program, you can learn more about the program and the July conference, by visiting <https://starreweek.com/building-bridges-conference/>. You can also register for the conference at this address.

## We're Setting the Dates!

Are you involved with planning activities in the church? Are you on a committee or in a group which hopes to host an event or program in the next year? **We need you to join us for our first All Church Calendaring event. Bring your dates and gather on Monday, June 10, at 7:00 pm.** We will look at the entire year, July 1 - June 30, and go through a process of planning ahead with the hopes of avoiding confusion or conflict.

### Please bring...

- your pre-selected dates, and some alternatives
- information on the type of event, program, or activity
- information on the financial impact, if any

Thanks for your contributions to the life of our congregation.

## Off to Transylvania!

Nine members of our congregation are heading off this month for our church's fourth visit to our Partner Church in Transylvania. The ten-day trip will include four days in Szentegyhaza with old friends from previous visits, as well as touring historic and UU sites elsewhere in Romania. The group will be bringing greetings from our congregation and a gift from the Women's Alliance to the church.

Heading for Transylvania on June 14 are Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay, Neil and Cheryl Bartholomew, Richard Boober, Tom Getz and Betty Finn, Odile Mattiauda and Peter Phipps, and Andrea Mernan. We wish them a safe and enjoyable trip.

## Community Collections 2018-19

On several Sundays during the year, First Unitarian donates its non-pledge Sunday offering to a charitable cause.

Many thanks to those who have contributed so generously to these collections. This year we have donated:

- over \$2,000 for Resilient Power Puerto Rico
- over \$1,600 for Sojourner House in Providence
- over \$2,000 for our Loaves & Fishes Mission
- over \$1,100 for Providence Village
- over \$1,600 for Transylvania Partner Church
- over \$1,400 for Day One
- over \$1,700 for The Girl Effect
- for a grand total of over \$11,400 this year!

The recipients of next year's community collections will be announced later this month.



## Spiritual Development

### Summer Worship Services

NOTE: Summer services begin at 10:00a

A well-staffed childcare program is available every Sunday during the Summer Services.

#### July 7

Kim Noble – “They Will Never Forget How You Made Them Feel”

The opportunity to put oneself in another’s shoes is an essential first step in cultivating greater empathy.

#### July 14

Josh Hyman – “In Search of Harmony”

Notes of the External, the Internal, and the Eternal

#### July 21

Rex Lebeau – “Assignment Fail”

An exploration of identity and discovery using gender as the backdrop.

#### July 28

Alison Green – “The Perils of Perfectionism”

An exploration of how perfectionism can inhibit us from action and creativity.

#### August 4

Katherine Ahlquist and Judy Ortman

“I Thought I Was Just Helping Others . . .”

Hear about the learnings from building a sanctuary space here at First Unitarian.

#### August 11

Cynthia Roberts – “Building Support for Spiritual Growth and Personal Accountability through a Weekly Practice”

An opportunity to think about building accountability into your life and spirit

#### August 18

Phil Gruppuso – “Gender, Sex, and Shame”

Lessons learned by a pediatric endocrinologist

#### August 25

Holly Dobbs – “Touching the Heart”

The ethics of touch in relation to UU Principles

#### September 1

Victoria Richter – “Exodus from Hell, or Saving Lives”

Through a story of saving and sparing lives, the opportunity to reflect on the personal journey of helping others.

*First Unitarian’s Summer Services are planned and hosted by the Worship Committee.*

## UU Men

*Sunday, June 9, 7:00–9:00p*

### Magic and the Man-Box: We’ve Got Magic to Do!

All of our lives have moments of unpredictability and of magic. Some call it “grace.” This will be our final meeting of the church year.

With Burr Harrison



## Prostate Cancer Support Group for Men

*Sunday, June 23, 7:00–9:00p*

A discussion and support group of, by, and for men with prostate cancer.

For information, contact Steve McCloy (401.486.0333 or steven.mccloy43@gmail.com) or visit [www.meetup.com/Prostate-Cancer-Mens-Support-Group/](http://www.meetup.com/Prostate-Cancer-Mens-Support-Group/)



## Ongoing Programs

### Benevolent Street Zendo

*Most Monday nights, 7:00–8:30pm*

The Benevolent Zen practice group has re-affiliated with Greater Boston Zen Center. We continue with guidance from teacher James Cordova, Sensei, who visits twice a month for practice interviews and a dharma talk.

Visit our updated website at [benevolentzen.org](http://benevolentzen.org).

We have a new email address: [benzen.pvd@gmail.com](mailto:benzen.pvd@gmail.com). You can also contact Cindy Bapties by phone or text at 401.573.0881.

### Reimagining Religion

*Second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00pm*

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*

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 7:00pm*

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))

### Atrium Bookstore

The Atrium Bookstore will be open during Coffee Hour for the first two Sundays in June, offering an eclectic mix of titles for kids and adults on meditation, social justice, spiritual paths, inspirations from other religious traditions, and environmental concerns.

The bookstore will be closed during the summer months, reopening on September 8.

– Irene and Tony Allen



## Social Justice

### Our Sanctuary Program Reaches Out

On May 10, in collaboration with Side with Love and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County, First Unitarian welcomed noted author Aviva Chomsky to speak in our Auditorium. Fifty people attended Aviva's deeply engrossing presentation, "The Immigration Debate, From Settler Colonialism to Donald Trump," which was followed by a question and answer session. If you missed the talk, you can find her books in the Atrium Bookstore. The information she presented expands the whitewashed curriculum most of us learned in history class.



Aviva Chomsky

After a well-attended meeting in April, the Sanctuary Committee met with several interested community groups and congregations to discuss the formation of a Sanctuary Coalition. While continuing to discuss how to support the Sanctuary at First Unitarian, we are also trying to determine how a coalition might support the influx of asylum seekers being transferred around the country. After the threat was made targeting Sanctuary Cities as destinations for "dumping" immigrants, our committee agreed we should focus on preparing for that eventuality. In the near future, we may be asking for volunteers who would be interested in housing (hosting) asylum seekers in their homes temporarily.

There is so much work to be done around sanctuary, but we need to take some time for fun, too! We have been invited by our friends at AMOR to participate in their Grill-Off Fundraiser on June 8, 11:00a to 3:00p at Lincoln Woods State Park. Members of our Sanctuary Committee, the Grill Guurlz, will be doing their best to roast the competitors from other community groups. We can't say that we will win, but we can guarantee lots of good food, and great company. Look for the event on the AMOR RI Facebook page to find out more details or buy tickets.

As always, if there is something that interests you, if you need more information, or if you would like to participate, please email [katherine.ahlquist@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.ahlquist@gmail.com)

### Side with Love: Opportunities to Make a Difference

#### Welcoming LGBTQIA+

Are you interested in helping to make First Unitarian Church a more welcoming church for the LGBTQIA+ community? Side with Love is forming a group to research what needs to be done, and how we can get there. Join our Side with Love email list to be kept up to date with what we are working on, and find out about opportunities to participate.

#### PRIDE Festival 2019

We are looking forward to participating in the PRIDE festival and illuminated parade on June 15. The theme this year is Live Your Truth. We will be joined by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County for the festival, as well as other area UU churches for the parade. If you would like to join us for either event, stop by the Side with Love table in the atrium after church to sign up, or email [katherine.ahlquist@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.ahlquist@gmail.com) for more information.

#### Email List of Activist Opportunities

Did you know that Side with Love sends out a weekly email of things you can do as an activist in our community? Each week there are several items listed, some actions and some activist oriented entertainment. If you would like to be added to the list, email Katherine, or stop by the Side with Love table and sign up.

### Knitting for a Better World

#### Knitting for a Better World

As the days grow longer and warmer, we continue to meet! Join us through the summer to knit, stitch, or participate in conversation. If you plan on attending, please email [katherine.ahlquist@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.ahlquist@gmail.com), just to be sure we are gathering. Occasionally we may take a week off.

We will also continue to collect summer hats for our food pantry clients. You can leave gently used hats in the basket in the atrium.

#### Volunteer at

### Our Food Share Pantry

#### Distribution Day, Monday, June 17

We'd love to have you join us as a volunteer for our next food pantry distribution day on Monday, April 15. If you're in need of food, you can join us as a client. Either way, we'll be happy to see you!

Doors open for clients at 2:30p and we finish at 5:30p.

To volunteer, contact Judy Ortman ([judyortman@gmail.com](mailto:judyortman@gmail.com)) or just show up to get food.

### Neighborhood Social Justice

#### Next meeting: Sunday, June 9 (NOTE: second Sunday this month, due to Annual Meeting)

Thank you to all the supporters of the Loaves & Fishes Rhode Island's Fundraiser! First Unitarian is part of the group of RI Churches bound together to help and feed the homeless and working poor.

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 a monthly outreach mission delivering food, clothing, to Emmanuel House, a homeless shelter in Providence.

Next Loaves and Fishes Mission: Tuesday, June 4. Here's how you can help:

- Contribute food items, new or gently used clothing of any size and type, toiletries, and/or financial donations
- Volunteer your time to assist in the mission on the first Tuesday of the month:

11:30a–1:00p - Sandwich Brigade at church

2:30p–4:00p - Outreach Mission

(sandwich distribution)

5:00p–7:00p - Serving Mission

(dinner at Emmanuel House)

# news at First Unitarian

## CALENDAR

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)

# June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship 10:30a Annual Meeting of the Congregation	3 Women's Alliance Annual Outing at Blithewold  Zendo 7:00p	4 11:00a Loaves and Fishes  Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	5  Meditation 7:00p	6	7	8
9 Worship 10:30a Flower Communion  NSJC 12:15p Green Team Mtg 12:15p  UUMen 7:00p	10  Calendar Meeting 7:00p Zendo 7:00p Harry Potter 7:15p	11  Deacons 6:30p Reimagining Religion 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	12  PruComm 6:45 Side with Love 7:00p Meditation 7:00p	13	14	15
16 First Summer Worship Service 10:00a  <u>11:00a</u> Food Pantry Shuttle	17  Food Pantry 3:30-5:30p  Zendo 7:00p	18  Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	19  Meditation 7:00p	20  Art in the Atrium Reception 5:30 - 8:00p	21	22
23 Worship 10:00a	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Worship 10:00 am	Sanctuary Coalition 7:00p Zendo 7:00p Harry Potter 7:15	Reimagining Religion 7:00p Tai Chi 7:00p Knitting for a Better World 7:00p	Meditation 7:00p			