Meet the Staff

The church staff serves the congregation and its mission, leading worship, providing pastoral care, encouraging faith development for children, youth and adults, administering, maintaining the physical campus, and supporting volunteers, committees and programs.

**Reverend Elizabeth Lerner Maclay**
Minister

Raised Unitarian Universalist in Newton, MA in a family with both Jewish and Catholic roots, Liz earned a Master of Divinity and advanced Master of Theology from Harvard Divinity School. Her academic interests are ancient Greek religion and culture, Hellenistic Judaism and early Christianity, as well as the history of women in western religion. She has served UU congregations in Lexington, MA, Mt. Kisco, NY, and Silver Spring, MD.

Liz is deeply invested in her connections with members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA and in building multicultural, multiracial community within and beyond our congregations. She lives in Lincoln with her husband Tim Maclay and three friendly flat-coated retrievers. Liz and Tim have two adult children.

min@firstunitarianprov.org

**Cathy Seggel**
Director of Religious Education

Cathy has served as the religious educator at First U for over 20 years. A graduate of UConn with a BS in Nursing, she earned a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School in 2007. She is Immediate Past-President of the Liberal Religious Educators Association, the professional group for UU religious educators. Cathy lives in Providence with her husband, Norm. They have three children and four grandchildren.

dre@firstunitarianprov.org

**Nancy Forsstrom**
Congregational Administrator

Nancy joined our staff in 2018, and is happy to be part of the First Unitarian family. She recently moved back to Rhode Island after 20+ years in Connecticut, where she served as the senior minister of 2 American Baptist churches. She is also an experienced fund-raiser, and combines creativity with organizational skills. Nancy keeps track of the day-to-day life of the church, working closely with the minister, prudential committee, and staff team to keep things running smoothly.

admin@firstunitarianprov.org

**Walter O. Sotelo**
Administrative Assistant

Walter came to First U in 1998. He oversees all financial aspects of the church, maintains the database, and provides technical office support. He is originally from El Salvador and has lived in Providence since he was 16. He has two daughters.

assist@firstunitarianprov.org

**Jennifer Nardone**
Membership Coordinator

Jenn has been attending First Unitarian since 2000 with her husband Jon, and their two sons. She has served on the Membership Committee for as long as she can remember. Jenn has also taught in the Church School, participates in a Chalice Circle, and volunteers when she can with her son at the Food Pantry.

mem@firstunitarianprov.org

**Frederick Jodry**
Music Director

Fred began his work at First Unitarian in 2000. He holds a BA in Organ Performance Music and a Master of Early Music Performance from New England Conservatory. He is founder and director of the A cappella ensemble Schola Cantorum of Boston. He has been the Director of Choral Activities at Brown University since 1991 and is a harpsichordist, organ recitalist, and singer. Fred lives in Providence.

fred_jodry@brown.edu

**Ruben Delgado**
Evening Building Manager and Evening Security

Ruben has been with the church since 2009. He is married with grown children and lives in Pawtucket.

**Pedro Vasquez**
Sunday Building Manager and Evening Security

Pedro has been with the church since 2009. He is married with grown children and lives in Pawtucket.

**Rev. Eugene Dyszlewski**
Community Minister

Gene is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. He is a religious leader and community activist.
edyszlewski@cox.net

Affiliated Community Minister
Ministers who perform creative and inspirational ministries beyond the walls of a UU congregation.
First Unitarian has several ways to keep the community informed about news, opportunities, activities, and changes in scheduled programs.

First U Times - Weekly E-News
The church distributes a weekly email, to all on our contact list, with the up-to-date info on church events and activities. Here you can find details on worship and faith development opportunities for children, youth and adults, messages from church leaders, and details about programs and ministries. Coming soon are video screens in the Parish House with all announcements.

Spiritual Pathways News
Weekly e-messages sent to volunteer teacher teams, the RE Times, relays the nuts and bolts and themes in the Spiritual Pathways Program for Children and Youth.

The Church Website - www.firstunitarianprov.org
The church website provides general information about the church, its staff, and programs, as well as postings of the weekly e-news and recent sermons.

The Congregational Directory
An online e-directory of staff and church members is sent through the office by request. An online photo directory for members is now available. You can gain access by logging in with your email address. Contact Bill Koteff – bill.koteff@gmail.com.

Facebook
Our church public Facebook page has updates, useful links, photos, and more! Type: First Unitarian Providence, in the search box and “like” us. Also our Side With Love Facebook page, SWL, is Side With Love - First Unitarian, Providence.

Parking
Our parking lot entrance is on Benefit St. Three marked visitor spaces are adjacent to the Parish House. The majority of lot spaces are rented during the week, M - F, 9 - 5pm and open on Sundays. See below for handicap parking.

Accessibility

Handicap Parking Spaces
Available in our lot in marked spaces next to the Meeting House and on Benevolent Street.

Hearing Enhancement Devices
Available in the Meeting House – ask Ushers.

Large Print Hymnals
Available in the Meeting House – ask Ushers.

Gender Neutral Bathroom
Located in Parish House on second floor, accessible via elevator or stairs.

Wheelchair Access
Meeting House & Parish House.

Accessible Bathrooms
Located in the Parish House.

The First Unitarian Church of Providence
Resource Book 2019-2020
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Welcome to the First Unitarian Church of Providence and an exciting and rich year ahead. This church lives at the junction of history and the present day; in the coming year we will begin celebrating the 300th birthday of the congregation. We honor the long sweep of history this church has been part of, and at the same time we respond to the justice and faith issues of these days in which we live. These qualities, rich history and a vital present, two sides of the same coin, continue to shape our evolution as we look forward.

We're in good and growing circumstances, with lots of people coming to visit and staying to belong here. Our giving is increasing, our generosity is making new things possible for us, and longtime needs are being met. We'll be starting some new programs, including Soul Circles, to offer more ways for everyone, newer people and longtime attendees both, to connect with each other and deepen together, sharing spiritual experience and building new friendships.

We welcome Beth Armstrong in her role as Sabbatical Music Director for the first part of our church year, and we'll welcome Fred Jodry back into his longtime role as Music Director when he returns in January (with a couple of visits back here along the way.)

This is a time when the strength and help of community is really apparent, and really matters. Having this beloved congregation to share with each other, hold us when we need holding, celebrate with us when we need to celebrate, is a gift we keep giving each other. It’s good to be together. May we make the very most of this year we have been given. See you in church!

– Reverend Elizabeth Lerner Maclay, Minister

Welcome to this faith community where children, youth and adults are loved and supported on their paths of spiritual development. Lifelong learning is at the core of the living tradition of Unitarian Universalism and we affirm the importance of that journey. Our ministry to families is guided by a collaborative team of professional staff and volunteer leaders who focus on building relationships through heart-felt community worship, nurturing spiritual practices, guiding small group learning and leading justice-making. The foundation for our programming is based on theme-based resources that are relevant and accessible. We aspire to provide a full week faith with effective communications and opportunities for the generations to connect and share meaningful experiences together.

I am prepared and inspired to partner with you as we live our Unitarian Universalism in an era that clearly needs our individual and collective attention, voices, actions and care.

– Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education
From the President of the Prudential Committee -

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the First Unitarian Church of Providence. We hope that you will take advantage of the many opportunities this liberal religious congregation offers to become involved in the work and life of this church. We will be celebrating our 300th Anniversary in 2020 and look forward to sharing the history of the past 300 years with you, as well as contemplating what the next 300 years hold.

As our church year begins, we are excited about the expansion of our lay ministry and parish care crew ministries. This fall we welcome a new part-time Pastoral Care Minister who will work with our Senior Minister, Liz Lerner Maclay, to provide pastoral support and services to our members. Thanks to the efforts of our minister and others in the congregation, we remain a strong voice in the community and our membership numbers continue to grow. We will be hosting facilitated congregational conversations this year to discuss important questions arising from our growth and development as a congregation. We hope to see you there.

This promises to be an exciting year for all of us. A few things to look forward to are:

- celebrating our 300 years as a congregation through participation in events and festivities.
- adding “Soul Circles” to our Chalice Circle programs. Look for the roll out of the Soul Circles program in October/November 2019.
- continuing efforts toward technological improvements around our campus including increasing our bandwidth, improving wifi service in the Parish House, and upgrading our sound system in the Meeting House.
- working on forming a coalition with other religious and community organizations around Sanctuary.
- moving forward with our work on reviewing our mission/vision statements, as well as formulating a strategic plan.
- hosting UU General Assembly in Providence in June.

We are a vibrant community able to accomplish much as a result of the talents, efforts, and commitment of you - our members. Thank you for all that you do. I look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Cheryl Bartholomew, President Prudential Committee  
pres@firstunitarianprov.org
Sharing Worship, Wisdom & Coffee!

In the Meeting House

Our worship draws wisdom from a variety of spiritual traditions, creating lively, meaningful gatherings. Our Minister, Rev. Liz Lerner Maclay, leads most services with occasional guest worship leaders. Music plays a central role in worship. Our Music Director, Fred Jodry, creates a varied and inspiring musical program, performed by our volunteer choir and by Fred and guest musicians.

All Congregational Worship

Our worship year is a blend of adult and all-congregational services. All-congregational services are co-led by Rev. Liz Maclay, Cathy Seggel, DRE, and lay leaders. Like adults, children learn spiritual practice by experience. Young people are valued and welcomed as they participate in services, and young people are expected to respect adult needs in the Meeting House. The goal is to create a peaceful, lively atmosphere, child-friendly and comfortable for all ages.

Themes

Our theme-based ministry provides a focus for multiple layers of congregational life for all ages. A monthly theme will be used in worship in the Meeting House and young people’s chapel, for some small groups for adults, children, and youth, in reflection topics, communications and in resources for a full week faith. The themes will guide but not restrict us in our congregational faith development.

Music Opportunities

Music plays a central role in the worship at First Unitarian. The Senior Choir is a dedicated group which meets most Sundays in the academic year at 9 am, and performs several pieces each week in the 10:30 service.

If you have a strong choral background, and want to commit to singing at least three times a month, this is the place for you! We have lately sung the Fauré Requiem, Britten’s Ceremony of Carols and the occasional Bach Cantata. A more informal singing group for youth and adults, Joyful Noise, meets periodically throughout the year. The Community Band adds spice to our services from time to time. In the summer months, we showcase a great deal of our own musical talent.

For the fall of 2019 Fred Jodry will be on sabbatical. Our music program will be in the very capable hands of Beth Armstrong, Sabbatical Music Director, and Organist Jay MacCubbin. If you would like information about joining the choir, contact Beth.

Be involved on Sundays

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee works with the Minister to foster our shared worship experience, and is responsible for planning and hosting Summer Services.

Contact: Neil Bartholomew, ngbart@gmail.com

Ushers

Ushers greet congregants, distribute orders of service, answer questions, assist with special needs, collect the offering, and take attendance. Everyone is invited to share in this welcoming experience.

Contact: Lyn Bradford, lbavery@gmail.com

Celebration Flowers

Flowers bring our pulpit to life each week. If you would like to donate flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact the church administrator. Donors are acknowledged in the order of service.

Sunday Office Volunteer

A volunteer staffs the main office on Sunday from 10:00a to 12:00p to provide assistance.

Contact: admin@firstunitarianprov.org
Coffee Hour & More

Coffee Hour in the Parish House after each Sunday service is social time. Delicious treats supplementing the coffee/tea service are provided by members and friends in the congregation and are much appreciated! Sign up during coffee hour.

But it’s not just Sundays. Small groups, including Chalice Circles, Soul Circles, meditation opportunities and more, gather throughout the week in the Parish House, offering unique spiritual development opportunities in small personal settings. (See pages 14 & 15)

In Chapel & Small Groups for Young People

Worship for young people is the anchor of our Spiritual Pathways Program, blending time in church and chapel with adults, children, and youth. Most Sundays, young people, Pre K to 7th grade, worship in the auditorium chapel. Chapel services are created and led by our Director of Religious Education, Cathy Seggel, and the Youth Music Director. Themes are drawn from the common threads of our shared ministry with a focus on faith development through a multicultural, anti-oppression lens and integrate music, art, meditation, stories, celebrations, and listening in interactive rituals. Young people worship together in the Meeting House for All-Congregation services on holidays and at other important times.

During the school year, there are small groups for children and youth, from infancy to young adulthood. The Spiritual Pathways program is in session from 10:30a to 12:00p most Sundays. In the summer, a program for young children is provided each Sunday at 10am.

In the Parish House

Coffee Hour & More

Coffee Hour in the Parish House after each Sunday service is social time. Delicious treats supplementing the coffee/tea service are provided by members and friends in the congregation and are much appreciated! Sign up during coffee hour.

But it’s not just Sundays. Small groups, including Chalice Circles, Soul Circles, meditation opportunities and more, gather throughout the week in the Parish House, offering unique spiritual development opportunities in small personal settings. (See pages 14 & 15)

Our Shared Ministry

First Unitarian embraces the notion that the professional minister, religious educator, music directors, administrator, membership coordinator, staff, and congregants are all essential contributors to the health and growth of the congregation in a shared ministry. In addition to Sunday worship services throughout the year, the mission of the church and its activities are organized around four ministries, as described in this Resource Book:

Spiritual Development (see pages 8 - 15)
Lifelong Religious Education, newborns to adults

Community Life and Heritage (see pages 16 - 18)
Connections within the congregation and community

Social Justice (see pages 19 - 21)
Values into Action for our community and beyond

Stewardship (see pages 22 - 23)
Health and Growth of our Congregation

All are welcome and encouraged to participate. There are many opportunities waiting for you!
About Membership and Support of the Church

Becoming a member means that you have chosen First Unitarian Church of Providence as your faith community. As members, we enter into a covenantal bond to be present to one another, to help each other by learning and engaging in this congregation where we commit, grow, and participate through the available opportunities. There are many ways to take part in this community outlined in this resource book. Members steer the priorities of the church: they vote on the budget, elect church officers, establish social justice goals, call new ministers, and chair committees. Members are eligible to have rites of passage (e.g. child dedications, weddings, memorial services) in the church by the minister, can rent building space at a discounted rate, receive UU World magazine and serve as delegates to the UUA General Assembly.

What are the requirements of voting membership?

Voting members must be over sixteen years old, have signed our membership book, and have made a pledge of financial support. Those who have been members more than three (3) months, and have made an annual pledge of financial support to the church, paid in full or in part during the previous twelve (12) months, are entitled to vote. Although there is no required amount mandated, all members are expected to make an annual contribution to support the work of the church. During our yearly spring Commitment Drive, members and friends are asked to commit to as generous a pledge as they are able, for the coming year and encouraged to participate in congregational life by sharing their time, energy, and talents.

Path to Membership Class

The Path to Membership class is for anyone interested in membership at First Unitarian. It offers insights into Unitarian Universalism and our congregation. Classes will be offered at least three times this church year. There will be scheduled sessions offered in the fall, winter, and spring. Dates will be posted in all church communications, or you may contact the membership coordinator. At the end of each class, there will be an opportunity to sign the membership book and to make a financial pledge of support to the congregation.

Path To Membership Class: 1st session - Tuesdays, October Oct 2, 9 & 16 7-9 pm

Questions? please contact Jennifer Nardone, mem@firstunitarianprov.org or call the office, 401.421.7970
Spiritual Development Ministry

The Spiritual Development Ministry offers a nurturing community that facilitates a lifelong journey of Unitarian Universalist faith development through communal worship, music, religious education, and spiritual practices.

Opportunities to Get Involved:

Dave Spremulli: dspremulli@cox.net

- Volunteer team-teach for children, youth or adults
- Mentor an 8th grade Coming Of Ager
- College Student? Check out a Campus UU meeting
- Join a Joyful Noise performance - children, youth & adults welcome
- Join a new Soul Circle or ongoing Chalice Circle
- Adult choir (tryouts and ability to sight-read music required)
- Propose or lead an adult faith development program
- Usher or Donate flowers for a Sunday Service
Worship & Music for Young People
Worship for young people is the anchor of our program, blending time in church and chapel. Adults, children, and youth worship together in the Meeting House for multigenerational services on holidays and other important times. Young people begin with adults in church on appropriate occasions, leaving for classrooms with teachers. On most Sundays, young people worship in the Parish House auditorium chapel. Chapel services are created and led by our Director of Religious Education and Youth Music Director. Themes focus on faith development and introduce UU spiritual practices from many sources, integrating the arts, meditation, stories, celebrations, and listening.

Joyful Noise Community Music
Joyful Noise, led by the Youth Music Director, creates inclusive, all-age musical sharing opportunities for young people’s chapel and for multigenerational services in the Meeting House. Community Band and Senior Choir join in the fun.

How Our Sunday Cooperative Works
All aspects of the Religious Education program for children and youth are implemented through contributions of time and energy from about 100 generous volunteers. Parents choose how they will help when registering children in September. Non-parent adult volunteers welcome.

The Spiritual Pathways Team - The Religious Education Committee for Children & Youth
This group holds congregational responsibility for the program for children and youth and support adult offerings. They meet monthly during the academic year, facilitate and support family and multigenerational gatherings and events.

Volunteer Teachers
Volunteer teachers, on teams of four, are guided in leading meaningful connections and experiences with our young people in small groups. Rituals and opportunities through the arts, sharing of food, and time together are considered priorities here amidst our hurried world.

Young People
Young people are valued members of our congregation, bringing enthusiasm and gifts to our community. The expectation is that children and youth come with a willingness to be themselves and to share in a safe, welcoming, supportive atmosphere.

Parents
Parents are responsible for the supervision of their children at all times other than class hours. Parents must remain on church grounds while children participate in all programs.

Cost
Our program has no fees. Funding comes from the church operating budget. We encourage families to become voting members of the congregation, generously contributing to the annual budget. For info on how to become a member, see page 7, or contact any staff in the church office.

The Director of Religious Education, DRE
Cathy Seggel provides leadership and acts as a spiritual resource for the community. She is responsible for planning and leading the program and worship for children and youth, providing staff support and guidance in adult faith development. She works collaboratively with the Minister, staff, and lay leadership to fulfill the congregation’s mission and goals.

The Minister
Reverend Liz Lerner Maclay provides spiritual leadership, vision, pastoral care, guidance, and teaching to the entire congregation. She works collaboratively with the DRE, other professional staff, and lay leadership to fulfill the congregation’s mission and goals.

The Religious Education Assistant
The DRE Assistant, Anna Van Ness, part-time staff, provides support for the Spiritual Pathways Program, supporting the program including administrative tasks, communications, resource management, worship and other Sunday morning responsibilities.

The Youth Music Director
The Youth Music Director works with the DRE, Music Director, and Minister. They advocate for music in the RE program and in the congregation at large, leading songs in young people’s worship and directing Joyful Noise Community Music or other multigenerational musical opportunities.
Policies and Practices

Safety is a priority in our community of children, youth, and adults. We conduct annual evacuation drills with volunteer teachers, have a code of ethics, background checks, and safety education for volunteer teachers and staff.

Policies are summarized, below. Complete policy information is given to families at registration and is available through the church office.

Arrival and Departure
Parents must remain on church property at all times when children and youth participate in all church programs. If not, the Director of Religious Education must be notified in writing prior to participation. Specific guidelines for each age group for drop-off and pick-up on Sunday mornings are communicated with parents at registration.

Guests
Guests of registered students are welcome, but must complete a guest slip from the office before visiting.

Health Issues
In order to promote and maintain a healthy environment for our multigenerational community, children and youth with a fever, active cough/cold symptoms, or any sign of infectious disease should remain at home. Basic first aid is provided for accidents. Parents are informed of any injury or illness. A Bathroom Policy for Assisting Young Children is posted in age-appropriate rooms.

Nuts: To protect children, youth, and adults, no food containing nuts is allowed in classrooms.

Immunizations
Unless medically contraindicated, we expect that children and youth participating in the Spiritual Pathways Program at First Unitarian Church of Providence are vaccinated according to Center for Disease Control guidelines, https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html. Questions or concerns about this expectation may be directed to the Director of Religious Education.

Special Needs
We welcome all children and youth, including those with special needs, and make every effort to accommodate everyone in our small groups. All parents are expected to share the strengths and weaknesses of their children with our volunteer teachers so that various learning styles can be honored. Parents of individuals with special needs should discuss arrangements for accommodations with the Director of Religious Education.

Childcare for Congregational Events
Childcare is available for most adult events. Information for the sponsoring committee, staff or congregational leader regarding safety issues of sign-in, caregiver expectations, compensation and procedural support is available in the church office.

Conduct
The Spiritual Pathways Team for Children & Youth of the First Unitarian Church of Providence is committed to providing a nurturing and safe experience for all who participate in our faith community. We recognize that people come to our congregation with a variety of emotional, cognitive, medical, and social issues that impact their lives and involvement in their community. In this spirit we recognize that people of all ages may present challenging behavior that could be disruptive to the community or pose a risk to the safety and security of themselves or others.

We promote respectful and civil behavior among all who participate in our programs. People of all ages are expected to behave in a safe manner towards all others at all times. Behavioral guidelines and promises will be explained, posted, and promoted in all small group rooms and maintained at all Spiritual Pathways events. Volunteer teachers, staff, and leaders are expected to communicate conduct expectations and consequences. All teachers and staff must sign and uphold the 1st Unitarian Code of Ethics. The DRE and Minister abide by their professional codes of practice.

Promises:

A Behavior Covenant
Children and youth reaffirm these promises with their teachers each year.

We take turns so that all have a chance to speak and participate in activities. We listen to one another. We don’t call people names or interrupt when someone else is talking.

We speak up and get help when we notice someone being treated unfairly.

We share snacks and supplies, leaving something for the next person. We show that we care when someone is hurt.

We participate in group activities to the best of our abilities. We help new people.

We apologize when we have not treated someone the way we would like to be treated.

We encourage everyone to share their thoughts and feelings. We listen to others and ask questions to help discover what is true and right. We support asking questions and exploring the things that have meaning for each person, without judging or making fun.

Adult church members vote for leaders and make important decisions, including justice and community projects, and how the church’s budget money is spent.

We settle our disagreements in honest, caring, peaceful ways. We do not bring dangerous items to church, or play in violent ways, like fighting or pushing. Using hurtful words or talking meanly about others is not allowed. We respect the church property.

We recycle all possible products, reuse supplies, and reduce energy consumption. We do not waste food or supplies. We help keep our classrooms and church clean and safe.
The Five Faith Skills
Foundational to our program

Cultivating Spiritual Practices
Navigating the UU Sources
Articulating Your Faith
Worshiping with your Life
Serving the World

Themes
Overarching Themes for each age group help guide our path.

Newborns - Kindergarten: Welcoming Love
1st - 6th grades: Exploring Community
7th - 8th grades: Creating Connections
9th - 12th grades: Empowering Passion
Campus & Young Adults: Discovering Pathways
Adults - Seniors: Supporting Lifelong Learning & Transitions

I am grateful to my colleague, Tim Atkins & Laura Beth for their work in adapting concepts from “Think Orange” by Reggie Joiner, & Beacon family ministry, that have informed my work. Cathy

Spiritual Pathways Program for Children & Youth

The Spiritual Pathways Program supports and inspires Unitarian Universalist faith formation through creating connections, empowering passions, and discovering pathways for personal transformation and to serve the world.

A Message from the Spiritual Pathways Team

The Religious Education Committee for Children & Youth

Welcome to Spiritual Pathways faith development religious education community for children, from infancy into young adulthood. We seek to provide our children and youth with a secure and nurturing environment to explore their spirituality and grow in their UU faith. We strive to support families as they negotiate the challenging and joyful stages of parenting in complex times. The Spiritual Pathways Team works closely with Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education (DRE), to evolve, plan, and implement the program, which draws from UUA curricula and other resources. Cathy, staff assistants, and committee members collaborate with volunteer teachers and staff to execute, assess, and advocate for the program. We encourage and support lay leaders and professional staff offering adult faith development opportunities.

An important focus of our Spiritual Pathways program is forging connections across grades and generations through shared monthly themes and common spiritual practices. We foster these connections by planning and facilitating multi-generational and community events like seasonal sing-alongs, inspirational guest visitors, and other social and family happenings. Finally, we strive to invent and refine ways for children, youth and families to engage together in meaningful and relevant social justice projects.

We look forward to an exciting and enriching Spiritual Pathways year!

Ellen Anderson & Meghan Smith, Co-Chairs


REGISTRATION begins onsite on Homecoming Sunday, September 8, beginning at 10:00a. Registration forms are also available through the church office and on the website, firstunitarianprov.org

All students – returning as well as new – must be enrolled each year!

TIME AND ATTENDANCE: Groups meet from 10:30a to noon. A light snack is served. Regular attendance is recommended to support community building.

TEACHERS AND ROOMS: Room assignments and volunteer teacher teams for small groups will be available in September.
A Faith Community - Sharing & Learning

Sunday mornings follow from Chapel or Meeting House worship into small groups of young people and volunteer teacher teams. Small groups or classes for children, youth and adults meet to build connections and deep relationships. Gatherings include time for sharing joys and concerns, discussion of relevant life and current issues and community snack in a respectful, inclusive, relaxed atmosphere. Each group has a theme with associated goals, listed with group descriptions. Our curriculum is all we do and how we do it. Our family ministry inspires collaborative learning and UU faith development. We look forward to being together.

**Welcoming Love**

**Newborns - K**
Goals: Loving and welcoming ourselves. Loving each other and our church home. Loving our world/earth.

**Origins Playcircle: Newborns – 3 years**
Location: Ocean Room (second floor)
For Babies: A loving, safe environment, staffed by experienced childcare providers for sharing stories and gentle playing. Please bring bottles, diapers and personal comfort items. Parents welcome and may assist.

For Younger Preschoolers: The Celebrating Me and My World curriculum serves as a guide as children grow a sense of trust and caring.

**Staff:** Sally Ann Diorio, Coordinator
Karen Barbato, Rosemary Marra, Doreen Coleman

**Exploring Community**

**1st - 6th grade**

**1st Grade - Treasure Hunting**
Location: Peace Room (second floor)
Treasure Hunting explores the UU Principles as an expression of the shared values of our living faith tradition, helping children create an atmosphere that encourages a sense of reverence, awe, gratitude, and wonder. Includes games, stories, songs, and crafts. Discovered treasures are saved in group and individual treasure chests.

**3rd & 4th Grade - Soul Matters**
Location: Star Room (third floor)

**5th & 6th Grade - Soul Matters**
Location: Diversity Room (third floor)
We are happy to announce the launch of an exciting, fresh approach in two of our small groups. The 3rd and 4th graders and separately, the 5th and 6th graders, will experience theme-based curricula from the Soul Matters Sharing Circle, a network of Unitarian Universalist congregations who follow monthly themes and share small group material, including worship, music and religious education resources. It is a web of support and connection that will serve our volunteer teachers, children, youth and families. There are session plans and building blocks to create theme-based environments.

Many of the resources are curated from the UUA Tapestry of Faith curricula, like Toolbox of Faith and Moral Tales. Cathy and the Spiritual Pathways team have chosen this direction in order to best provide current, relevant, accessible programming to our faith community. Parents of children in these groups will receive monthly communications that share information about Sunday morning theme-based programming as well as family resources.
Creating Connections  
**7th - 8th grade**

Goals: Creating interfaith communication, connection and partnership. Creating loving, courageous and mindful leaders. Creating healthy identities, and relationships.

**7th Grade**

**Our Living Tradition/Neighboring Activist**

*Location: Moon Room (third floor)*

This group continues to develop their spirituality and UU identity by exploring UU ritual, practices, social justice issues and actions, and playing community-building games. They build relationships in this congregation and in neighboring interfaith communities, broadening their understanding of their world and our living UU faith tradition. They work on justice centered projects including the Girl Effect Task Force.

**8th Grade - Coming of Age**

*Location: Haynes Room (first floor)*

Students transitioning to senior high and the next stage of their spiritual journeys are helped to clarify their faith development on the way to becoming lifelong Unitarian Universalists. They explore religious heritage and personal beliefs through group and individual experiences. The themes: relationships, spiritual exploration, UU heritage and identity, and social responsibility are developed through Our Whole Lives (OWL) comprehensive sexuality curriculum and social justice efforts. Adult mentors from the congregation provide support and friendship. There is a spring trip to Boston UUA headquarters and a recognition ceremony, when participants share faith statements and affirm their beliefs. Detailed information is sent to families in August. A required parent orientation is scheduled in early fall.

Empowering Passion  
**9th - 12th grade**

Goals: Empowering youth to take leadership and their place in our faith community. Supporting teens as they move forward on their lifelong spiritual journey.

**Senior High Youth Group**

The Youth Group uses UUA curricula and other sources to explore the nature and meaning of their evolving spirituality. On their paths to adulthood, youth are encouraged to have an intentional role in the congregation and their communities.

Youth and advisors share leadership responsibilities, goal setting, and support. Participation in regional and denominational events is encouraged. Youth have opportunities to co-lead and participate in many congregational activities and actions.

Discovering Pathways  
**Campus & Young Adult Ministry**

Goals: Discovering friendship in faith community. Discovering opportunities for congregational connection, leadership, service, worship and fun.

**Campus UUs**

Formerly named Brown University Unitarian Universalist Group (BUUUG) this group offers college-agers from diverse schools and backgrounds a place to find friendship and to explore their spiritual journeys in a faith community. Students from Brown, RISD, and other neighboring colleges, as well as all young adults in the region, are welcome. Group members attend and participate in worship services, social action and more. They meet weekly in the Parish House. Activities include fireside worship, games, multi-faith forums, parties, trips, and overnights. Everyone is encouraged to help with ideas and planning. This UU campus group is co-affiliated with the Office of the Chaplain & Religious Life at Brown University.

*Student Facilitator: Jenna Tishler*

*Advisor/Brown Religious Life Affiliate: Cathy Seggel*

**Young Members Group**

There is great potential for various gatherings of younger members, beyond undergraduate college age. Some might include social events, social action efforts, study and support. All church programs, interest groups, committees, and task forces, are welcoming to young adult participation. This group gathers for activities, at church and off-site at local spots. Stay tuned to church publications for kick-off gathering and other updates.

*Interested? Contact Cathy in the church office.*
Adult Faith Development: Supporting Lifelong Learning & Transitions

The goal of adult faith development is to support opportunities for spiritual growth, foster a sense of community in and beyond the congregation, explore issues of social justice through a multicultural, anti-oppressive lens, enrich and expand intellectual horizons, develop and encourage creativity, and have fun. Limited-session & ongoing programs are offered through our ministries. Occasionally, members and friends offer programs directly to each other (Peer to Peer) and in those cases, information and interest should be sent directly to those leaders. Updates are posted in church communications. Programs meet in the Parish House.

Contact: Minister, Reverend Liz Lerner Maclay or Cathy Seggel, DRE

Soul Circles - New Offering
In response to the desire expressed by many First U folks, newer people and long-time members alike, for more opportunities to become connected/engaged here at church, we are expanding our small group ministry program. We’ll be offering additional groups, including affinity groups, and shared activity groups. Together we will shape opportunities to know and be known more deeply and to enrich participation in our spiritual community. Soul Circles will be starting in the fall. We’re looking forward to building this into the fabric of our congregation and believe it will offer an exciting range of ways to plug in further to First Unitarian. Groups will meet twice per month at various times and locations and will be facilitated by trained volunteers. Groups will also participate in service projects together. Stay tuned for a kick-off Sunday after church in September.

Questions can be directed to Cynthia Rosengard at firstsoulcircles@gmail.com

Benevolent Street Zendo: An Ongoing Zen Meditation Group
Every Monday 7:00p
Leader: James Myosen Cordova, Sensei

Benevolent Zen is a meditation group jointly presented as an activity of our congregation and the Greater Boston Zen Center. The community is an ongoing group offering meditation in the Zen tradition. Dharma talks, and opportunities for spiritual direction are provided monthly by our resident teacher James Myosen Cordova, Sensei, and occasional guest teacher. The practice leaders are Cindy Bapties & George Beshers. The sangha meets (nearly) every Monday at 7pm, if you have questions email benzen.pvd@gmail.com or call/text Cindy Bapties at 401-573-0881 so we will be ready to greet you at 6:45 when brief instruction can be provided. Please visit benevolentzen.org for more information.

Harry Potter at First U
Leader: Erin Newell, eenewell@me.com

Every other Monday, beginning September 9 7:15pm

It started with two Harvard Divinity School graduates who decided to take the practices they learned in school, ways in which you can analyze sacred texts to reveal more, and apply them to one of their favorite series—Harry Potter. It started with two people, then there was a reading group, then there was the podcast (which is phenomenal), and now there are groups like ours popping up all over the world. Please email Erin for a detailed schedule of chapters, topics, and dates. We will be reading Harry Potter & the Goblet of Fire this year. New folks welcome any time!

Sustainable Compassion Practice
Every Wednesday 7:00p
Leader: Ken Bent, kbent108@gmail.com

This is a drop-in group, with guided meditations of wisdom, love, and sustainable 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, within our relationships, and in our service to others. No previous meditation experience is required. However, before attending, it will be helpful to visit our website foundationforactivecompassion.com and listen to the audio practice on Identifying & Communing with Benefactors. You may email Ken with any questions about our practice group.

UUMen
2nd Sundays September - June 7:00p
Contact: Steve McCloy, steven.mccloy43@gmail.com

UUMen has been meeting for twenty-eight consecutive years. We welcome men of all ages and stages in life. We help each other to deal creatively with the issues of being male in our culture. We meet to confront gender injustice, homophobia, racism, loneliness, and distrust between men, against women and children, themselves, and the Earth. In 2018-19 we spent the entire year examining from many sides the “Man Box” of culture-driven expectations and its physical, social, and biological effects on us. Unless otherwise announced, we meet in the Parish House in the Haynes Room. Monthly topics are defined by the facilitator. We rotate and share the role of facilitator. We enjoy occasional Saturday breakfasts and other social events.

Men with Prostate Cancer – a confidential support group
4th Sundays 7:00p
Contact: Steve McCloy, steven.mccloy43@gmail.com

A group for men with prostate cancer who support men with prostate cancer. Our members are in all stages of disease, some for decades, others for weeks. We share what is happening to us. We share the frustrations and pains and joys of dealing with the health care system. We share ideas on self-care, on self-advocacy, on survival, and we celebrate our caregivers and support system.
Adult Faith Development

Tai Chi
Every Tuesday 7:00p  
Leader: Al Tringali, altringali@mac.com
Tai Chi helps to improve balance and suppleness; once the movements are adequately learned, Tai Chi can become a form of spiritual practice – a meditation in motion. Each person may join the class at any time as movements are repeated in every session, though repetition and consistency enhance the experience. Tai Chi is generally offered year round on Tuesday evenings at 7, schedule is determined by the leader’s availability.

Spring 2020 Offering - Stay Tuned in midwinter

ANCIENT ROOTS: The Feminine Face of Western Religion
Part I: Goddesses, Priestesses & Women in the Ancient
Leader: Rev. Liz Maclay
We will explore the first part of Ancient Roots, a three-part curriculum. Ancient Roots is a Unitarian Universalist adult religious education curriculum that explores the history of the female in Western religion from around 3,000 BCE to the present, grounded in the belief that archetypes and understandings from long ago have remained important in the development of religious ideas and roles right up to our own time.

The curriculum is broken up into 3 classes of four sessions each. This year Rev. Liz will be offering Part I: Goddesses, Priestesses and Women in the Ancient. (Followed up annually with Part II: Women and the Sacred in Judaism and Christianity and the Part III: Modern Roles for Women in Religion: The Middle Ages to the Present.)

Though Ancient Roots focuses on the female, this course is not meant to affirm women over men, or women’s religious history over men’s, and as Unitarian Universalists our ethos ought to stand for and uphold all of us, always.

Stay tuned for more details, themes and goals, in upcoming communications.

Peer to Peer Offerings

Reimagining Religion
Second & Forth Tuesdays Monthly  7:00p  
Leader: Tom Hall, twh2nd@aol.com
In his autobiography, Wrestling with God, Lloyd Geering observes that the longevity of the Jewish and Christian theological tradition has resulted from its brilliant mythological description of the human condition. “But because we have now moved into a radically new age and express ourselves in a non-mythical medium,” he argues, “it has now become necessary to enunciate a completely fresh world theology, drawing appreciatively from all religious traditions, the light of our new knowledge of the universe.” 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.

Spirit In Life
Meeting Times TBA
Leaders: Pat Gifford, Ellie Sordoni & Rick Richards
The Spirit in Life group discusses experiences that stand out as important to us as humans. Our discussions center on how we experience our core selves, our relationships with others, our families, community, and society and, as we narrate these experiences, we spark insight and understanding in each other about our innermost motivations and purposes. The group strives to practice deep listening and careful speech.

Leaders: Pat Gifford, pgifford1259@gmail.com or Ellie Sordoni, crescenziocox.net
Rick Richards, rickarichards@gmail.com

Harvest the Power
Leaders: Cynthia Rosengard, Cathy Seggel, Michael Currier, Katy Killilea
Beginning late Fall
Many Unitarian Universalists experience a deepening commitment to their faith and congregation as a call to step into a position of leadership. Harvest the Power helps lay leaders grow in spirit as they develop as leaders. Six workshops, weaving strands of spiritual, ethical, and UU faith development through an anti-oppressive, multicultural lens offer opportunities for new and experienced leaders to enrich the skills they bring to their leadership and to experience their leadership journey as a Unitarian Universalist faith journey. Do you feel called to a deepening sense of identity and leadership here at First Unitarian? The exploration will begin with a dinner and Saturday retreat and regularly-scheduled monthly sessions (TBA).
If interested contact Cynthia Rosengard, crosengard@gmail.com

UUA Common Read 2019-20
A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations. Each year, the Unitarian Universalist Common Read is chosen by a committee including both headquarters and field staff of the UUA. Anyone may nominate a book for the next year. Go to UUA.org for details. Stay tuned for the book title to be announced in late August. Cathy Seggel will facilitate a discussion group to be scheduled for late fall.

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Leaders: Pat Gifford, pgifford1259@gmail.com or Ellie Sordoni, crescenziocox.net
Rick Richards, rickarichards@gmail.com
Community Life & Heritage Ministry

The Community Life and Heritage Ministry develops and maintains a culture that fosters strong and authentic connections within the congregation and a sense of belonging to our larger community.

Opportunities to Get Involved:

Samantha Cole: scole1@gmail.com  
Prudential Committee Liaison

- Attend the Parish House Potluck - all are welcome
- Historical Tours of the Meeting House
- Caring Network Volunteers
- Join the Women’s Alliance
- Provide baked goods for Coffee Hour
- Join the Community Band
- Take part in the Art Collective or attend an Art Opening
- Learn about our Partner Church in Transylvania
First U Art Collective
Reflecting the arts and aesthetic vision of our creative community, the Art Collective coordinates individual artist and group exhibits monthly in the Atrium. Our hope is to support and nurture a healthy spiritual community by giving the gift of beauty and offering a window into an artist’s visual sense of meaning and search for truth. Collective members pay $10 yearly dues per church year.
Contact: Amy Webb, amy.webb7@verizon.net Chiara Romano, romano-vanerp-design@cox.net

Our Caring Community
At First Unitarian, we offer support for the members and friends of this congregation in the form of spiritual support in times of illness, stress, or transition, as well as practical assistance with transportation or other daily needs due to special circumstances. In addition to our Senior Minister and other staff, we have two groups of volunteers who assist with this important work, the Lay Parish Care Program and the Lay Ministry Team. Each has a unique role though there are sometimes overlapping needs.

Parish Care Program provides help with logistical needs: rides, meals, and errands. Parish Care volunteers do not receive special training. They are simply folks willing to help others in times of need in concrete ways. It is a ministry of “doing” rather than simply being present.

Lay Ministry Team is a small group of volunteers who have been invited and trained to assist the Senior Minister and other staff with the pastoral needs of the congregation. Their work is intended to complement, and not replace, the pastoral care offered by our ordained Ministers. The Lay Ministry Team is a confidential ministry grounded in being present and listening, rather than doing or fixing. Lay Ministers are not professional counselors or therapists but trained individuals who understand that all of us need help at times, whether it is an important life transition, a serious health condition, or some other personal struggle.

Parish House Potluck
Friday evenings (usually the second) monthly, beginning September 20
This is a casual opportunity for fellowship with First U members and friends. Bring a dish to share and drinks for your own party. We appreciate different food options, vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free items are welcome, as well as more standard fare. Each month will offer some post-supper opportunity for family fun or learning. Cost: $2 per person or $5 for a family plus a dish to share. Contact: Samantha Cole, scole1@gmail.com

The Women’s Alliance
Business meeting and program: First Mondays, Oct - May, with June event
Established in 1882 and incorporated in 1904, the Women’s Alliance has, since 2014, been affiliated with the First Unitarian Church of Providence. The mission continues to be to serve the community, both locally and at large; to provide friendship and spiritual and cultural stimuli for its members, and to support the church and its denomination. The Alliance meets on the first Monday of the month from October through May, with an annual outing in June. Monthly programs, which are open to the community, feature inspiring speakers followed by a delicious optional luncheon ($10). Membership dues ($35) support the programs and business expenses of the Alliance; all fundraising profits after expenses benefit selected charitable organizations that support women and families. The Alliance conducts fundraisers throughout the year such as selling organic coffee and cheese, and a night at the theater event. Their major fundraising event of the year is an annual “Antiques and Uniques” indoor sale. The Alliance also partners with the residents of the Tockwotton Courtyard Memory Unit for a garden project. Contact: Gail Brule, Alliance President gailbrule@gmail.com

Women’s Alliance Coffee Hour Co-op
Coffee Hour is a cooperative congregational effort organized by the Women’s Alliance. Never underestimate the power of delicious food for community spirit. In order to feed the ravenous crowd each Sunday, we need 8 people bringing nut-free donations that serve 24 each. Sign-ups (at table in parlor) are appreciated to plan for the upcoming Sunday.
Transylvania Partner Church Committee
As part of the UU Partner Church Council, we support the partnership between First U and the Unitarian church in Szentegyhaza, Transylvania (Romania) through communications and visits with the community. The kopjfa, or memorial post, in our meditation garden and the wooden candlestick, used for our “Joys and Sorrows” ritual, are gifts made by our partner church. Through fundraising efforts our church helped fund the construction of their church bell tower and a loft apartment to house future visitors. First Unitarian congregants traveled to Transylvania in 2006, 2012, 2015, and June of 2019.

The committee welcomes all who wish to be part of this mutually enriching partnership with another congregation halfway 'round the world.
Contacts: Tom Getz, thomas1getz@prodigy.net
Janet Downing Taylor, jdtaylo39@verizon.net

First U Community Band
We make community through music. We meet both at Church and each other’s homes to sing, make music and eat together. We connect by learning folk and roots music, spirituals, or songs with a positive social message with the goal of performing in a church service or church event several times a year. We focus on projects one at a time, each participant decides whether they have time/availability to participate on each project.
Contact: Kate Bowden, kbowdenesq@gmail.com

Atrium Bookstore
Open during Coffee Hour most Sundays, the Atrium Bookstore table offers books on a wide variety of subjects: Unitarian Universalism, inspiration, daily meditation, Buddhism, Bible studies, environmental concerns, children’s stories, poetry, family life and rituals, and more. Recent titles from Skinner House, Beacon Press and Skylight Paths as well as the annual UUA Common Read project are available. Irene & Tony Allen make this possible. All profits benefit the church.
Contact: Kate Bowden, kbowdenesq@gmail.com

Social Events
Ice Cream Social
Sunday, September 8, 12:00p
Our annual Welcome back event on the front lawn with music, friends, and sweet treats. Come make connections, dance, clap, and eat with us.

Annual First Unitarian Thanksgiving Dinner
Thursday, November 28, 1:00 - 4:00p
Members, friends, and their families are invited to join with other First Unitarians in our annual celebration of Thanksgiving in the church parlors.
Contact: Nori Duncan or church office

Winter Cook-Off
Sunday, February 23 - During Coffee Hour
Put your culinary talents to the test, and see who in our congregation will get top honors at this year’s food tasting extravaganza!

All Parish Picnic
Sunday, June 14, 12 noon
Celebrating the close of another church year. A gathering to picnic together, play games, and enjoy (if the weather cooperates) the outdoors.
For information contact Jenn Nardone, mem@firstunitarianprov.org
Social Justice Ministry

The Social Justice Ministry moves our values into action within our community, city, state, and the world.

Opportunities to Get Involved:
Greg Kniseley: mkniseley@me.com
Prudential Committee Liaison

Social Justice & Young People

Efforts through the RE Program include:

- Coat Drive - Buy Nothing Day
- Peace Flag Workshops
- Supporting Side With Love initiatives
- UUSC Guest at Your Table
- Food Pantry Support
- The Mitten Tree
- Neighboring Activist Projects
- Holiday Gift Drive

Dorcas International Institute

Programs & Committees

Community Food Share Pantry & Committee
Girl Effect Task Force
Green Team Environmental Task Force
Knitting for a Better World
Neighborhood Social Justice Committee
Loaves & Fishes Mission
Y’All Come Community Lunch
Peace Flag Project
Side With Love
Sanctuary Church
UU Service Committee
World Affairs Committee
Global Write-a-Thon for Human Rights

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Social Justice Programs

Program updates are posted on our website, and the weekly First U Times. Unless otherwise noted, groups meet in the Parish House and registration is not required.

Community Food Share Pantry

Distribution day: Third Monday, monthly, in the Parish House Atrium

The First U Community Food Share Pantry, CFS, has been continuously operating a food distribution site for over 20 years on the third Monday afternoon of every month. As an Agency of the Rhode Island Food Bank, CFS provides free food and household products to low-income families in the greater Providence community. Other services have included health care talks, free flu shots, and information about the SNAP (food stamp) program. The Community Food Share Committee oversees and operates the CFS Pantry. The committee purchases food from the RI Food Bank and We Share Hope, and also accepts donations from individuals and community groups. The CFS Committee recruits a large team of volunteers who procure, set-up and present the food, and coordinate the distribution each month. Children and youth from our congregation also assist the program. The Pantry is endowed through a generous bequest from the late Dino Germani.

Contacts: Judy Ortman, jortonman@aol.com
Amy Grant, amyinprovidence@yahoo.com

Sanctuary At First Unitarian

Upholding our Unitarian Universalist Principles, in November 2018, we welcomed a family into our Sanctuary space that was living the trauma of family separation. While the father of the family was held in detention and fearful the mother might also be picked up, we held them in safety until they were able to make a decision about what they would do. With the help of hosts from several different organizations and congregations, Including Brown Immigrant Rights Coalition, The Sisters of Mercy, AMOR, RI UU’s, Temples and other congregations, we were able to provide round-the-clock hosts to help our guests feel safe and protected. As we await our next guests, we are exploring how we can help those who are coming over the US border seeking asylum. If you are interested in getting involved, contact the Sanctuary Steering Committee: Contact: firstusanctuary@gmail.com

Side With Love

A denomination-wide social justice advocacy and public witness campaign, we are inspired and guided by Unitarian Universalist principles. Side with Love works to use those principles to affirm unconditional, universal love as a foundation and grounding for our actions in the world. We strive to be of service to our communities and advocate for change on local, state, national, and international levels. Through our Side with Love campaign we amplify the voices of the oppressed through online media; show up in partnership at justice events in our state; lobby local and national leaders on immigration reform, racial justice, equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people, religious freedom, and more; and work to make love real in the world. Events we have participated in over the past year include: PRONK!, The Woman’s March, Anti-Marxism counter rallies, March for Our Lives, PRIDE, Guns to Plowshares, We Will Not Be Erased: a March for Trans Lives, a letter writing campaign and two post card campaigns encouraging the passage of the RI Women’s Healthcare Act. We have supported the AMOR network and have participated in rallies and programs to support immigrant rights. In the coming year, we will be working on making our congregation more LGBTQA+ welcoming, and discussing the intersectionality in the Black Lives Matter movement.

Contact: Kathy Ahlquist, katherine.ahlquist@gmail.com  Facebook: Side With Love at First Unitarian, Providence
All people, not just UUs, are invited to join, speak, worship, march and live on the side of love.
**The Girl Effect - Task Force**
The Girl Effect Task Force raises funds to support girls’ education where it is most needed and has the greatest impact. We are inspired by the guiding principle of the global non-profit, Girl Effect, “Girls are the most powerful force for change on the planet.” Education gives a girl more control over her life, helps delay marriage and improve future earnings, her own health and the health of her children. Our most recent donations were to RefuSHE (in Kenya); the Kibera Girls’ Soccer Academy in Nairobi, Kenya; The Malala Fund’s Gulmakai Network; San Lucas Toliman Scholars in Guatemala; and Save the Children’s “Save Every Last Girl” program in Afghanistan. This year, we are happy that 7th grade youth will help the Girl Effect Project.
*Contacts: Polly Walker, polly41walker@gmail.com, Pam Steager, psteager@gmail.com*

**Knitting for a Better World**
*Every Tuesday 7-9:00p*
Come join us for an evening of knitting and conversation. Work on your own project or knit for one of First U’s social justice projects, including our Mitten Tree. Drop by any Tuesday evening. Beginners are always welcome. We have plenty of yarn and needles to get you started. We are welcoming group, and will cheer you on, no matter your craft or ability.
*Contact: Kathy Ahlquist katherine.ahlquist@gmail.com*

**World Affairs Committee**
The World Affairs Committee serves to provide presentations regarding humanitarian concerns. There have been some 22 programs and presentations over the past several years. The committee has sponsored programs on wars in the middle east, immigration, climate change, Native Americans, and similar topics. The WAC is also co-sponsor of the Global Write-a-thon.
*Contact: John Petell, picskate@aol.com*

**Global Write-a-Thon for Human Rights**
*Open House: Sunday, December 8, 1:00–5:00p  Snow date to be announced*

The Global Write-a-thon for Human Rights is the world’s largest letter-writing event. In celebration of International Human Rights Day, Write-a-thons are held all across the US, and in over 50 countries. The Providence celebration is held at First Unitarian and sponsored by the World Affairs Committee in collaboration with the international human rights organization, The Benenson Society. The event is free and open to the public, and suitable for young people and families. There will be refreshments, prizes and an inspirational guest speaker. No registration necessary.
*Contact: Marcia Lieberman marcia.lieberman@gmail.com*

**The Peace Flag Project**
The Peace Flag Project provides an opportunity to create flags about our deepest hopes for the world. Our major events focus on the September Month of Peace, expanding our celebration of the UN Peace Day, and unites peacemakers all over Rhode Island. First U hosts a peace art exhibit as part of the MOP. We are an all-volunteer organization, and we would love to have you involved with our efforts to build peace. Ginny visits many Sunday small groups of children and youth to teach and make peace flags.
*Contact: Ginny Fox, thepeaceflagproject.org*

**First U Legislative Ministry**
Our Legislative Ministry is a member of the UU Legislative Ministry-RI, involved in supporting social, economic, and justice causes in the RI General Assembly and the US Congress. One of ten UU Legislative Ministries, guided by UU Principles, we serve as a visible force in the “public square.” UULM-RI advocacy and actions include letter-writing campaigns, rallies and marches, meeting with local legislators and lobbying at the RI General Assembly. Some current priorities are gun control, environmental justice, and women’s rights. There is much to do. Please join us!
*Contact: Derek Smith, dsmith0813@gmail.com*

**Neighborhood Social Justice Committee**
The NSJC was founded to provide volunteer opportunities to work beyond our church doors with those who have been socially, economically, or legally marginalized. The NSJC sponsors a monthly outreach mission to Emmanuel House, a shelter in Providence, meeting on the first Tuesday of every month, delivering food, clothing, and respectful companionship. The NSJC also sponsors various other outreach and/or educational programs including the “Y’All Come” lunch for the homeless held in collaboration with the Beneficent Congregational Church. We are also an active member of the Loaves and Fishes Rhode Island (LFRI). All are welcome!
*Volunteers are needed, please consider helping us help those in need. Please stop by the NSJC table any Sunday.*
*Contact: Joe Salvatore, joessuu@gmail.com  Chiara Romano, romano-vanerp-design@cox.net*

**Green Team Environmental Task Force**
The Green Team Environmental Task Force promotes environmental issues and sustainable living within and outside First Unitarian. We care for our environment so that it may sustain life for generations to come. Creating a sustainable way of life is central to our view of a just and compassionate world. We invite all who share these values to join us on this journey of connection, sustainability, and hope. Get involved and join our broad and growing movement for climate justice.
*Contact: Kristen Ivy Moses kristenivymoses@gmail.com*

**UU Service Committee @ First U.**
The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee advances human rights through grassroots collaboration. In more than a dozen countries throughout the world, UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression. This congregation supports and participates in programs including the annual Guest At Your Table effort, College of Social Justice, and more.
*Contact: Cathy Seggel in the church office*
Stewardship Ministry

The Stewardship Ministry focuses on generosity in support of the health and growth of our congregation and its mission.

Opportunities to Get Involved:

Tiffany Reed: tiffanyereed@gmail.com
Prudential Committee Liaison

• Volunteer to work on the Annual Commitment Drive
• Help run or attend a fundraising event
• Help out with grounds or building projects
• Join a Stewardship Committee

Programs & Committees

Annual Commitment Drive
Finance and Investment Committee
Planned Giving
Pastor’s Fund
Minister’s Discretionary Fund
Meeting House Capital Campaign
Building and Grounds
The Congregation
PAST - PRESENT - FUTURE

Today, First Unitarian Church of Providence serves over 600 children, youth and adults. The congregation draws from Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts communities. We are a growing, healthy, faith community that seeks and welcomes newcomers.

The church is governed within a system of congregational polity. An elected board, the Prudential Committee, oversees church operations in collaboration with the minister and professional staff. In 2017, we welcomed Reverend Elizabeth Lerner Maclay as the 18th called minister.

The church traces its beginnings to 1720, when a small group of Congregationalists began inviting visiting ministers from Massachusetts to preach in Providence. The congregation erected its first meeting house in 1723 and called its first minister in 1728. In 1795, land was purchased at the corner of Benefit and Benevolent streets and a second house of worship was built; it was destroyed by fire in 1814. The third and present Meeting House was built on the same site and completed in 1816. Designed by Rhode Island architect and member John Holden Greene, it is on the national register of historic places.

The congregation formally affiliated with the Unitarian movement in America in the 1820s. In 1953, the congregation voted to change the name to The First Unitarian Church of Providence.

We are a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations which serves approximately 1,000 UU churches in the United States. Unitarian Universalism is a liberal living tradition with Jewish-Christian roots. It is a covenantal faith with no creed, that affirms the worth of all people and the interconnected web of all existence, committed to being an open, supportive, multi-cultural, anti-oppressive community.

Annual Commitment Drive
Year-round, but most active March through April
Members and friends of First Unitarian are urged to make a fair share commitment of their financial support for the church in the upcoming year (July – June). The amount pledged during the Commitment Drive becomes the basis for the Budget Committee’s recommendations for support of church staffing, ministry activities, and infrastructure for the year ahead. This year-long effort engages the entire congregation through church leadership strategic planning, visiting steward one-on-one conversations, small group cottage talks, and targeted communications. This year we continue a strategic effort to reduce our reliance on the endowment to support our annual operations. Through collective ownership of this goal we can achieve long-term financial health and sustainability for this congregation and honor our responsibility to those who will inherit it next.

Planned Giving
Our congregation has a long tradition of planned giving. The first bequest to our congregation was in 1803, and generous members have been following in that tradition ever since. We encourage all supporters to consider including the church as a beneficiary of their retirement plan, life insurance, or Last Will and Testament, thus automatically becoming a member of our Benevolent Society. A booklet with more information is available from Administrator Nancy Forsstrom, admin@firstunitarianprov.org.

Finance and Investment Committee
The Finance and Investment Committee oversees the investment of the First U’s endowment funds, and advises and supports the church’s planned giving programs, such as the Benevolent Society. The church Treasurer and/or Assistant Treasurer are always members. Chair: Tony Allen

Building & Grounds Committee - Opportunities for All
This religious community has the stewardship responsibility for maintaining one of the most iconic, historic structures in the state of Rhode Island. In continuing that responsibility this committee is preparing to enlist the many technical and skilled talents of our membership as a “B & G Resource Group” to consult in this task, including safety, comfort, energy efficiency, and green efforts. A B & G Volunteer Coordinator will help the congregation appreciate and participate in hands-on opportunities that maintain the physical symbols of this community.

Contact: Max Pounder AIA EM, sine.max1@verizon.net

Financial Assistance for members, friends and neighbors of First U
Thanks to generous donors from our church, we have two funds that help those in need.

The Pastor’s Fund comes from a longtime endowed donation. It is available to provide financial assistance to folks with ties to the First U community who might need emergency funds to cover basic food or shelter, for instance help with a grocery bill or coverage for a rental payment or winter fuel bill. If you are in need, don’t hesitate to let us know; we are glad to help. Please contact Rev. Liz directly through the church office or min@firstunitarianprov.org.

The Minister’s Discretionary Fund depends on ongoing donations from current members or friends of First U as well as special collections such as the Christmas Eve offering. This confidential source has a broader range of uses at the minister’s discretion; it might help with the costs of attending General Assembly, or a medical bill or an urgent, unexpected family expense. If you have a need this fund can help with, let us know. And if you’d like to donate to the fund, donations are always needed and very welcome. For requests or donations, please contact Rev. Liz directly through the church office or min@firstunitarianprov.org. In either case, if Rev. Liz is away or unavailable, please contact church administrator Nancy Forsstrom for assistance, admin@firstunitarianprov.org
Governance
The Congregation Decides - You Lead!

Congregational Governance and Lay Leadership
The congregation operates under a system of congregational polity as defined in the church’s constitution and by-laws. Voting members* of the congregation hold the right and responsibility to decide major issues which affect the church including calling a minister, electing members to leadership positions, and adopting an annual budget. The congregation conducts its business at an annual meeting in June when it elects board members, officers, and deacons, and approves an annual budget. Special meetings are called as needed. (see pg. 7 on voting members)

These volunteer teams help provide leadership to hold the congregation’s mission and vision.

Prudential Committee
The Prudential Committee (PruComm) is the governing board of the church. It is composed of six officers (President, President-elect, Past President, Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer) and six other voting members of the church. PruComm members are elected to three-year terms; officers are elected annually to one-year terms (Clerk, Treasurer, and Assist. Treasurer are renewable). Four committee members serve as liaisons to the four ministries of the church: Spiritual Development, Community Life and Heritage, Stewardship, and Social Justice. They gather the ministry around common goals and support groups and leadership. The PruComm sets policy, long-term goals, establishes committees, hires professional staff other than the minister, manages the operating budget in accordance with the by-laws, and performs other necessary duties.

Contact: Cheryl Bartholomew, President, pres@firstunitarianprov.org

Nominating Committee
The six-member Nominating Committee is responsible for identifying and developing church leadership. Members are elected for two-year terms. In addition to recruiting for elected positions, the committee helps identify committee chairs. Committee members have an understanding of the structure and work of the organization, specific leadership needs, and special qualifications needed for elected and appointed positions.

Deacons
The Deacons develop activities and programs which realize the principles outlined in the church mission statement and help foster a sense of welcome and belonging among newcomers, friends, and members. Past activities have included assisting professional staff with new member orientation, phoning members and friends annually to greet and solicit comments about their relationship to congregational life, assisting the Minister in preparing and leading communion services, and monthly ushering. The Deacons promote participation and aid in an open governing process by encouraging congregational polity as part of the expression of spiritual and community life. Deacons are elected by the congregation to three-year terms.

Personnel Committee
The Personnel Committee is composed of a liaison from the PruComm, at least two other church members approved by the PruComm, and the Minister as ex-officio. They review Personnel Policies and Procedures annually and recommend changes to the Prudential Committee. In consultation with staff, appropriate committees, and the Minister, the committee oversees non-ministerial employee evaluations and recommends salary increases. Committee members may assist in the selection process to fill vacant, non-ministerial staff positions.

Church Leadership

Prudential Committee:
Cheryl Bartholomew, President
Michael Cappelli, President Elect
John Simmonds, Past President
Claire Rosenbaum, Clerk
Roberta Groch, Treasurer
David Francis, Asst. Treasurer
Samantha Cole, Community Life
Greg Kniseley, Social Justice
David Spremulli, Spiritual Development
Tiffany Reed, Stewardship
Caroline Mailloux, Strategic Planning
Edie Warren, Personnel
Youth Rep - Carson Cole

Nominating Committee:
Ann Boyd
Paul Brule
Elissa Emerson
Merritt Meyer
Lisa Rose
Kelly Smith

Deacons:
Tony Allen
Jim Barfoot
Nori Duncan
Joe Fisler
Judie Knilans
Max Pounder
Karen Silva
Meghan Smith
We are people of all ages, people of many backgrounds, and many beliefs. We are brave, curious and compassionate thinkers and doers. We create spirituality and community beyond boundaries, working for more justice and more love in our own lives and in the world.

Unitarian Universalism affirms and promotes seven Principles, grounded in the humanistic teachings of the world’s religions. Our spirituality is unbounded, drawing from scripture and science, nature and philosophy, personal experience and ancient tradition as described in our six Sources.

We are diverse in faith, ethnicity, history and spirituality, but aligned in our desire to make a difference for the good. We have a track record of supporting the call to make a difference for the good. We have a track record of supporting the call to make a difference for the good. We have a track record of supporting the call to make a difference for the good.

On the forefront of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer inclusion for more than 40 years, we are people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

We seek to welcome you: your whole self, with all your truths and your doubts, your worries and your hopes. Join us on this extraordinary adventure of faith.

- www.uua.org

Denominational Connections

The UUA

Unitarian Universalist Association

The First Unitarian Church of Providence is a member congregation, New England Region, of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. The UUA devotes its resources to and exercises its corporate powers for religious educational and humanitarian purposes. The primary purpose of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new congregations, extend and strengthen UU institutions, and implement its principles. Supported by our contributions, the UUA strengthens Unitarian Universalism by advancing social justice through raising our collective voices, training and equipping religious leaders, and creating tools and curricula for local congregations and beyond. Read about UU values in action with books from Beacon Press and Skinner House, and find inspiring stories in UU World magazine. Learn more at uua.org or facebook.com/theluua.

Unitarian Universalist Association
24 Farnsworth Street, Boston, MA 02210
617.742.2100 www.uua.org

New England Region of the UUA
Woullard Lett - wlett@uua.org
Acting Regional Lead
UUA, 24 Farnsworth St, Boston, MA 02210

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
130 Prospect St., Cambridge, MA 02139
617.868.6600 www.uusc.org

UUA Commission on Institutional Change

At UUA General Assembly in Spokane, WA, the Commission on Institutional Change presented an important report. We are grateful for the work of this group of wise, generous and dedicated leaders: Rev. Leslie Takahashi, Cir L’Bert, JR, Mary Byron, Dr. Elias Ortega-Aponte and Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore. They introduced a conversation on “Re redeeming the Promise of Our Faith.”

How does “The Power of We” deepen our faith as a source of liberation and transformation for all? Together we will build a common vocabulary, share perspectives on institutional and cultural barriers to diversity, equity and inclusion and share our stories as part of the Commission on Institutional Change’s work. We are asked: What sustains you and your faith community in efforts towards inclusion, equity, and diversity? What limits you from living out our faith’s promise towards liberation and transformation? What should we expect of ourselves and one another in living out our covenantal relationships. Find resources related to the Commission’s work on the UUA website.

A Message from UUA President – Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

As a people– a people of faith– that say we are committed to justice, compassion, and equity– we have a critical role to play in this time. Two things that are absolutely clear. This is no time for a casual faith. As Unitarian Universalists, we are first and foremost religious communities that practice love as our foundation–and we are living in times of heartbreak, violence, struggle, and pain. In this time, we need communities that remind us of our humanity in this very inhumane time. We as individual congregations cannot be in this struggle alone. Now is the time to build stronger relationships, deeper partnerships and commitment with those most impacted, on the front lines of campaigns for liberation.
## Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September 2019</th>
<th>October 2019</th>
<th>November 2019</th>
<th>December 2019</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 10a Last Summer Service</td>
<td>6 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
<td>3 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
<td>1 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 10:30a Homecoming All Congregation Service</td>
<td>12 5-9p (Fri) Art Opening &amp; Parish House Potluck</td>
<td>8 5-9p (Fri) Animal Blessing All Congregation Service</td>
<td>8 Sh Worship - Child Dedications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 7-9p (Thursday) Volunteer Teacher Orientation</td>
<td>13 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
<td>13 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
<td>1p Global Write-a-thon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Sh Worship &amp; Small Groups Begin</td>
<td>17-20 David Smith Musical Weekend</td>
<td>17 A Thanksgiving All Congregation Service</td>
<td>13 5-9p (Fri) Art Opening &amp; Parish House Potluck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children &amp; Youth begin in Meeting House</td>
<td>20 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
<td>24 A Thanksgiving All Congregation Service</td>
<td>15 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 5-7p (Fri) Peace Exhibit Opening-Bissett</td>
<td>27 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
<td>28 (Thurs) Thanksgiving Dinner</td>
<td>11:45a Sing-A-Long in the Atrium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 TBA (Sat) Peace Fest, India Point Park</td>
<td>29 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
<td></td>
<td>29 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
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### January 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 (Thurs) Church Office Opens</th>
<th>5 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups resume</th>
<th>10 5-9p (Fri) Art Opening &amp; Parish House Potluck</th>
<th>12 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19 MLK Service - TBA</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>11:45a Sing-A-Long in the Atrium</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25 (Sat) COA Supper Fundraiser</td>
<td>26 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
<td>22 A Winter Solstice All Congregation Service</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>24 (Tues) Christmas Eve Services 5p &amp; 9p</td>
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<td>25 (Wed) Church Office Closed to Jan. 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>29 10:30a Worship - Atwater-Donnelly</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>No Small Groups for Young People</td>
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### February 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 A Wholy Family All Congregation Service</th>
<th>9 10:30a Partner Church Service &amp; Small Groups</th>
<th>14 5-9p (Fri) Art Opening &amp; Parish House Potluck</th>
<th>16 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
<td>12p Winter Cook-Off</td>
<td>18 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
<td>20 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
<td></td>
<td>21 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
<td>27 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
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### March 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</th>
<th>8 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</th>
<th>13 5-9p (Fri) Art Opening &amp; Parish House Potluck</th>
<th>15 10:30a Music Sunday &amp; Small Groups</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
<td>16 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
<td>17 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
<td>22 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
<td>11:45a Sing-A-Long in the Atrium</td>
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<td>29 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
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### April 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5 A Senior High All Congregation Service</th>
<th>10 (Fri) Passover Seder Dinner</th>
<th>12 A Easter All Congregation Service Child Dedications</th>
<th>17 5-9p (Fri) Art Opening &amp; Parish House Potluck</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
<td>25 (Sat) Antiques &amp; Uniques Sale</td>
<td>26 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
<td>28 (Thurs) Thanksgiving Dinner</td>
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### May 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</th>
<th>8a May Breakfast</th>
<th>10 10:30a Mother's Day Service - TBA</th>
<th>15 5-8p (Fri) Art Opening &amp; Parish House Potluck</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 8p (Fri) Musicale</td>
<td>17 A Coming of Age Recognition</td>
<td>All Congregation Service</td>
<td>24 Service time &amp; location TBA (No Small Groups)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Brown Med School Commencement in Meeting House Memorial Day Weekend</td>
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<td>31 10:30a Worship &amp; Small Groups</td>
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<td>12p New Member Brunch</td>
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### June 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7 Sh Worship - Teacher Recognition</th>
<th>12p Annual Congregational Meeting</th>
<th>12 5-7p (Fri) Art Opening</th>
<th>14 A Flower Communion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12p Annual Congregation Service</td>
<td>12p Annual Picnic</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20 10a First Summer Service</td>
<td>21 10a First Summer Service</td>
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**Wednesday June 24 - Sunday June 28**

**UUA General Assembly in Providence**

### Summer Services 2020

Summer worship services and childcare begin at 10:00a and are held each Sunday, June 21 to September 6, 2020

### Weekly & Monthly Events

- **Every Sunday 11:30a** Newcomers’ Café
- **3rd Monday 2:00-6p** Community Food Share Pantry
- **1st Tuesday 12-7p** Loaves & Fishes Mission
- **1st Monday 11:00a** Women’s Alliance
- **2nd Fridays or TBA** 5p Art Opening & Parish House Potluck

See our website & e-news for full listings

### KEY TO CALENDAR

During the regular church year, Worship and Small Groups begin at 10:30a. Dates listed are Sundays unless otherwise noted. Changes in themes or dates will be announced in church publications.

#### A ALL CONGREGATION SERVICES

Children (grades pre-K and older) and adults worship together in an All Congregation Service. Origins nursery room is open.

#### Sh SHARED OPENING SERVICES

Young people in Pre-K and older begin in the Meeting House for worship, then go to their small groups. On all other Sundays, children begin in their small groups and worship in Chapel.
Unitarian Universalist Principles

As Unitarian Universalists, we share a value system expressed by a set of principles and purposes affirmed and promoted by the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Unitarian Universalism draws from many sources:

Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;

Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;

Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;

Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;

Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;

Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

These principles and sources of faith are the backbone of our religious community.