



# FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

August 21 - September 4, 2016

## SUMMER SERVICES - 9:30 A.M

August 21 - Self-actualization in Beethoven - Lois Shapiro

Many consider Beethoven one of the visionaries who significantly shaped our sense of ourselves as “Human” - beings, endowed with a rich and complex inner life, capable of reflection as well as action in the world. In learning about, and listening to one of Beethoven’s last piano sonatas, his Op. 110, we will look at the nature of a musical process that rises to a metaphor for our own consciousness.

August 28 - Marking the Sacred - Mandy Beal  
Drawing on recent experiences in Israel, Mandy Beal will explore the theme of religious symbol and rituals. Mandy is a candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry, and the Ministerial Intern at the First Parish in Lincoln. Mandy is also FUSN's former Youth Program Coordinator, and FUSN is Mandy’s congregational sponsor.

No service on Sept. 4

## SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

Sept. 11 - “In-Gathering Service”- Rev. Erin Splaine

**What is Water Sunday?** It has been the custom at the First Unitarian Society, as in many UU congregations, to start the new church year with an ingathering ceremony in which people pool together small amounts of water from their summer adventures, whether close to home or far away. We will continue this tradition during the service on Sept. 11.

Sept. 18 - Rev. Erin Splaine and Rev. John Nichols

## MUSINGS

Here are a few of the things I’m looking forward to, and – surprise, surprise! – you’re invited to join in the fun.

I’m excited about:

1. Singing, worshipping, and spending time with the **Sanctuary Choir**. “How rare it is, how lovely, this fellowship of those who meet together” (Psalm 133). Join us! Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00 p.m., and Sundays 9:00-10:00 a.m.

2. Rehearsing and fundraising for the FUSN Musicians Tour to Germany. Though this project is large, it provides many opportunities to spend time together – and it is just a boatload of fun to work on. Please plan on enjoying our **Oktoberfest Dinner on Oct. 22**.

3. The Sanctuary Choir, the Band, the Intergenerational Chamber Orchestra, the Family Choir, the Flute Choir, and CreationDance working together on our **Music Sundays**. The service on Nov. 13 will include music and readings contemplating death, life, hope and eternity; on March 19 we’ll present Beethoven’s *Choral Fantasy*, for piano, chorus, and orchestra, with the amazing Lois Shapiro as soloist.

4. The second annual **FUSN Musicians Concert** on Feb. 12, 2017 will showcase our incredibly talented congregants, and we’ll take donations for our Germany tour.

5. **Tour to Germany!** May 26 - June 6, with concerts in Frankfurt, Munich, and Ulm. It is an honor to have been invited to sing and lead worship services at the

*Continued on next page*

**Staff:** Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Fran Clancy, *Administrator*, Rowan Van Ness, *Director of Religious Education*, Beth Walton, *Assistant Director of Religious Education*, Dani Lindstrom, *Youth Programs Coordinator*, Anne Watson Born, *Director of Music*, Carson Cooman, *Organist*, Roberta Humez, *Minister of Music Emerita*, Ruslan Crosby, *Beadle*.

**Board of Trustees:** Gregg DiBiaso, Brian Burba, Josie Greene, Eric Haas, Cathy Morocco, *Chair*, Lesley Sneddon, Sarah Fazli and Becca Lozinsky, *Youth Reps*.

**Operations Council:** Susan Bartlett, *Chair*, John Brennan, Judy Curby, *Treasurer*, Laurel Farnsworth, *Vice Chair*, Andrea Kelley, Kate Mason.

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Europäischer Uniteriertag, the first “General Assembly” of the European Unitarian Universalists (EUU) and the German Unitarians – meeting under the motto: Glaube ohne Grenzen? Faith without Borders? I am coordinating the music for the Ulm conference and am in conversation with my fellow UU music directors in Germany – we’ll be singing and playing a wide variety of music for sure!

I look forward to connecting with you all in the new year!  
-Anne Watson Born

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## THANK UUS

Thank UUs for your generous hearts. I was overwhelmed by the amount of support and love we received from our family and friends. To all of you who sent a card, telephoned or made a monetary gift to help my daughter Agatha Clancy recover from a fire that destroyed her home, their dog, and all of their possessions, I am most grateful. Agatha and my grandson Patrick are settled in a temporary apartment until they figure out their next move. I don’t know how anyone survives such tragedies without the support of a caring community, and that’s what you all are. I’m grateful to have had your support. Thank you.  
-Fran Clancy

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## WORLD RELIGIONS STUDY GROUP

Join us for the FUSN World Religions Study Group (formerly known as the FUSN Bible Study Group). After many years of studying both the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, last year we studied the Koran and then read *Destiny Disrupted*, an eye-opening survey of world history from an Islamic perspective. We have now decided to study Buddhism this fall -- and perhaps go on to other faith traditions after that.

We meet on Tuesday mornings in the Alliance Room, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Usually we meet every other week. FUSN member Sue Allen, a practicing Buddhist, will be our facilitator. Judy Zacek will be handling the administrative side of things (e.g., I’ll be sending out meeting reminders).

We have selected as our text Karen Armstrong’s *Buddha*, which is available in paperback. Note that this is a discussion group, not a lecture class.

Meeting dates: Sept. 13, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, Oct. 25, Nov. 8, Nov. 22, Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Jan. 17. Registration is not required, but please let Judy know if you would like to participate, jzacek@comcast.net.

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## OPERATIONS COUNCIL

**New Accessible Sanctuary Entrance** coming soon. We expect to start construction of a ramp to our Highland Street Sanctuary door from the Memorial Garden entrance the week before Labor Day. This will give us an accessible door from the street without having to go down the driveway to the back door which is precarious in the wintertime. This design has gone through several iterations and has been approved by the Massachusetts Historical Commission as is required for our historic building. The plans are posted on the bulletin board across from Fran’s office. The current set of stairs to that door has to be replaced to make the landing big enough for a wheelchair to turn around and we will add lights to make it even more safe to use at night. One of the issues that has taken quite a bit of time to organize is that we have to use the same granite that was used for the original steps. That comes from a quarry that is no longer in regular operation; it just gets accessed for projects like this. If you would like to see how that works, Treff LaFleche, a member of our congregation, had to get this type of granite for a “This Old House” episode on a house he worked on as the architect. Here is the link.

<https://www.thisoldhouse.com/watch/newton-salvage-progress-and-pink-granite>

We expect this project to take a few weeks, depending on weather and other construction conditions. We will keep you posted as the work goes on. Our thanks to the Women’s Alliance for their contributions to the funding for this project. Other funds came from a building reserve fund. Please send any questions about this project to Laurel Farnsworth, Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee, at df.1876.laurel@gmail.com.

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## DECORATE FUSN’S CHANCEL

Decorate in honor of a special event or memory, or as a way to contribute to the beauty of our worship experience. Choose a Sunday by signing up on the list in the hallway across from Fran Clancy’s

office or email her at [office@fusn.org](mailto:office@fusn.org) with your dedication (deadline for the Order of Service is Thursday at 9:00 a.m.)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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**Aligning Our Being With Our Doing.** Sept. 17, 10:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m. All welcome. Lunch. FUSN Leadership 1:00-3:00 p.m. Join us for the morning to share stories, hopes, and dreams. How has FUSN made a meaningful impact in people's lives? What dreams do you have for our congregation? Where are you finding a sense of connection? We will raise up what is core and unique about FUSN and begin to consider how we can better align our being with our doing.

**Youth Mental Health First Aid Training.** Sept. 11 and 18, 12:30- 4:30 p.m., both days. Help an adolescent who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help a young person. To register go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SeptSundays>

## ABOUT US

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**The FUSN community** sends their condolences to Judy Zacek on the recent death of her brother Marvin Cohen, and to Jason Boyd on the death of his mother Ruth Boyd.

## LAY MINISTERS

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The FUSN lay ministers are available to help members and friends who are experiencing difficulties and could use a listening ear, help with meals in case of illness, rides to the doctor, and the like. If you would like to reach a lay minister, here is the list below. If you would like to be one of those who make up our Care Crew—the cadre of people the lay ministers call on to help—just e-mail for more information or to sign up to be in the Care Crew database.

Margaret Costello, 617-332-3248  
MCostello@partners.org

Cris Goldsmith, 617-969-1638  
crisgoldsmith@gmail.com

Kathy Hearn, 617-965-0938  
kathyhearn@rcn.com

Shawn Konary, 617-332-2783  
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Jud Leonard, 617-969-2623  
jud.leonard@gmail.com

Erin O'Donnell, 303-520-3917  
ejnodonnell@gmail.com

Cindy Orrell, 617-901-6848  
cindy\_orrell@hotmail.com

Ann Woodbury, 617-964-7699  
ann@sulliwood.org

## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

**Join us** for our first Community Breakfast, the best way to start your Sunday, on Sept. 11 at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. The extensive menu includes scrambled eggs, scrambled eggs with vegetables, pancakes, French toast, bacon, sausage, gluten-free corn bread, home fried potatoes, white and whole wheat biscuits, vegetarian sausage gravy, fruit, yogurt, jams and jellies, juices, coffee and tea, and the occasional special treat. It's only \$4 for adults and \$3 for kids. Newcomers eat free. We have high chairs, too. Upcoming breakfasts – Oct. 16, Nov. 13, Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12, March 12, April 9, May 7

## NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

We return to our regular two week schedule in September. Deadline for the first newsletter is Sept. 6.

**Join Vermilion** once again this coming season for Evening Song services beginning Sunday, Oct. 2 at 7:00 p.m. Evening Song at FUSN is a half hour candlelight service of music, poetry, and meditation planned around FUSN's monthly themes. Let the sanctuary welcome you into meditative music, poetry, and silence - even at the end of a full weekend at FUSN - for a bit of quiet music, reflection, and silence to ease into the week ahead, and into our always too busy lives. Join us for your soft opening in to the church and school season of 2016! And the happiest, healthiest, and most peaceful end of summer to you all!

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