



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

June 12 - June 25, 2016

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

June 12 - 10:15 a.m. - "Flower Sunday"
Intergenerational service - Rev. Erin Splaine

SUMMER SERVICES - 9:30 A.M

Summer Services at FUSN Sunday Services continue at FUSN from June 19 through the entire summer except for July 4 and Labor Day. Many enjoy the informal quality of summer services, held in the Parish Hall and attended by 50 – 70. Each service is coordinated by a member of our Lay Services Committee and might include a story presentation, visiting musicians, an ethical conversations, or a spiritual exploration. Lois Shapiro will provide music for each service.

June 19 - Mindfulness is Heartfulness - Betsy Simmons and Journey Songs
Compassion Practices including gentle breath awareness, chair yoga, simple singing, loving kindness meditations, poetry, reflection and partner sharing. Come with an open heart and spirit of exploration
JourneySongs, our hospice choir, will accompany us.

June 26 - Foreign Intrigue - Kate Carney
They say "travel broadens one." Whether it's the pleasure of sharing insights with a new friend from another culture, the exasperation of trying to communicate with no language in common, or the sheer adventure of travel, it deepens us. Come hear - and share - your own stories of travels which affected you deeply.

July 3 - No Service

MESSAGE FROM ASH

As I prepare to leave FUSN next week, I want to thank you all again for such a wonderful past year. It has been such a rewarding experience collaborating with and getting to know each and everyone of you. I want to also express my gratitude to you for all of your incredibly kind messages and well wishes as I plan my next chapter in California. Your sincerity, encouragement, and loving words mean so much to me, and I wish you all the very best. I also want to take this time to thank the hardest-working staff I have ever come across. It has been incredible working with you, and I am so grateful for your kindness and support throughout my time at FUSN.

Before I leave, I hope to see everyone Friday at the Pre-Pride Poster-Making Party at 5:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall and Saturday morning for the Arlington Street Church's annual Pride service and the Boston Pride march! It's a great opportunity for us as a community to express our commitment to the inherent dignity of all individuals, no matter their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. If you're unable to attend, I look forward to having a final opportunity to spend time together and say goodbye at this Sunday's flower service.

With gratitude, Ash

Staff: Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Fran Clancy, *Administrator*, Ashley Engel, *Membership and Communications Coordinator*, Rowan Van Ness, *Director of Religious Education*, Beth Walton, *Assistant Director of Religious Education*, Dani Negus, *Youth Programs Coordinator*, Anne Watson Born, *Director of Music*, Carson Cooman, *Organist*, Roberta Humez, *Minister of Music Emerita*, Ruslan Crosby, *Beadle*.
Board of Trustees: Brian Burba, Gregg DiBiaso, Eric Haas, Cathy Morocco, Bobbie Sproat, *Co-Chair*, Lesley Sneddon, *Co-Chair* Julianna Lakomski, Becca Lozinsky, *Youth Representatives*
Operations Council: Susan Bartlett, *Chair*, John Brennan, Jeannie , Judy Curby, Laurel Farnsworth, *Vice Chair*, Andrea Kelley

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Title: What Does it Mean to be a Youth Representative on the Board of Trustees?

As the school and church year ends, I wanted to share some thoughts about what FUSN has meant to me over the last few years.

This community gives opportunities for children and youth or young people to express the different parts of themselves that their peers may not recognize or appreciate. FUSN allows them to expand their identity, and learn more about themselves. As a Youth Representative to the Board of Trustees, I have been able to put both my analytical and creative skills to use. While on the Board, I have learned about how an organization works, and many important skills including how to listen to various points of view, how to participate in difficult conversations respectfully, and what is involved in running a large organization or business. When I first joined the Board, I thought that my opinions and ideas would not be considered. I was very wrong. The Board has shown the Youth Representatives that our ideas are valued. We bring a different perspective, one that represents our future. As youth, we often do not have the background knowledge on each issue that many of the other Board members have. I have found that this can actually be a good thing because our perspective is free of the baggage from the past. It can be intimidating to present an idea to a group of very smart and experienced adults. Although it was not always easy, I spoke up when I had an idea and asked a lot of questions. I quickly figured out that the other Board members valued my participation and my willingness to contribute.

As I prepare to head off to college, I realize how grateful I am for this community. FUSN took me in and gave me a place where I could play to my strengths and work on my weaknesses. It has been a place where I could bring my whole self. I am so grateful and lucky to have been able to work with such an amazing group of people who have taught me so much. The end of senior year presents us with many lasts, ends, and goodbyes. Saying goodbye to FUSN is probably one of the harder goodbyes. As Winnie the Pooh said, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." FUSN is an important part of who I am, and I will miss it very much. I am very excited that I will still be close enough to come to services and events next year.

Becca Lozinsky

POSTERS AGAINST INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSE

With the approval of the Operations Council, the FUSN lay ministers have planned to install signs in each of the building's adult restrooms assuring users that they are entitled to freedom from domestic violence and abuse, and identifying resources which can offer support and protection to anyone who experiences it.

We recognize that bringing up such an uncomfortable topic may be troubling to children and adults who want to see this as a place where one needn't even consider such a distasteful possibility, so we are taking this opportunity to lay out our reasons for putting up the signs, and to offer to discuss the decision with anyone who is concerned or unhappy about it.

Domestic violence, abuse, and intimidation occur in all communities, irrespective of race, class, or national origin. Therefore, we feel that it is possible, perhaps likely, that some users of our building either experience it or know of family or acquaintances who do. We feel called upon to support and speak up for them.

We understand that those who experience domestic violence typically feel alone, and are often so intimidated by their abusers that they're afraid to be seen taking steps that might lead to relief or rescue. Therefore, we need to put the posters in places where they can be read privately; restrooms seem the logical choice.

Children who see the posters may be puzzled or curious, and may ask for explanations of what it's about. We think the appropriate response is to explain that there are some people who can be mean or cruel, and we want everyone to know that that's wrong, and there is help for anyone it happens to.

If you have concerns or questions, please get in touch with any of the FUSN office staff or one of the lay ministers:

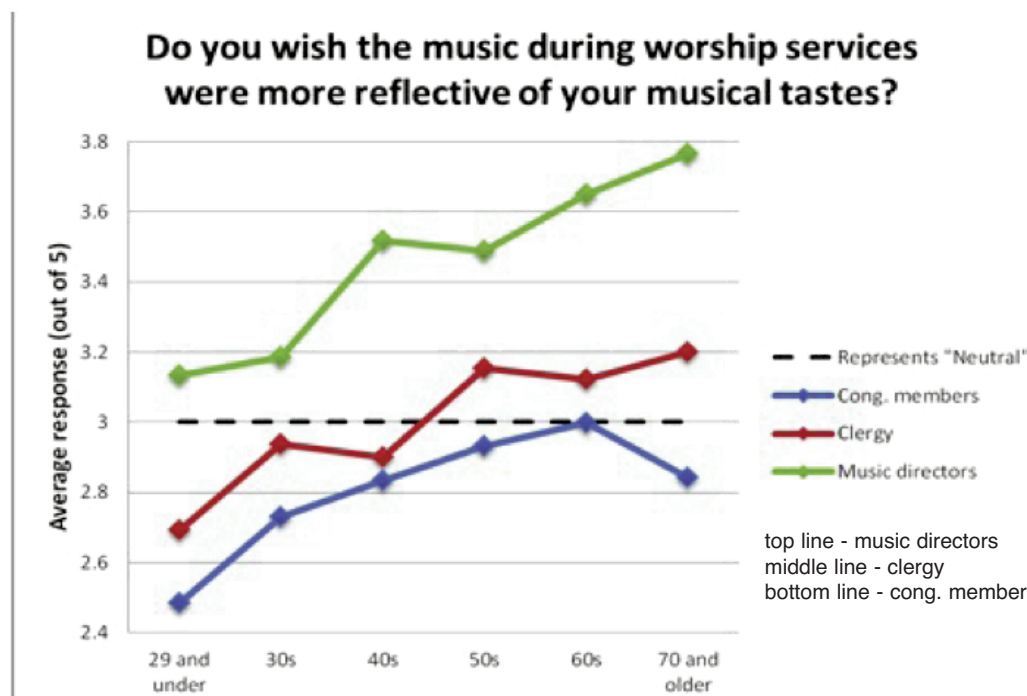
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MUSING

The end of the worship year is a time to look back at what worked, to think about what music touched people and what pieces were merely wallpaper in a service. Of course, the great thing about what we do and the context in which we do it is that each piece of music can be both of those things at the same time.

I often hear, usually after our fantastic band plays, “We should have that music every week!” But what is the purpose of each piece of music? Is it to whip us into a joyous frenzy? To give us a quiet moment with some “wallpaper” around our thoughts? To facilitate moments of community– what some might call the actual “work” of the worship service – through singing? Or perhaps even to challenge us, stretch us a bit, when a piece of uncommon music might make a less-obvious and perhaps more inward connection to the message of the service?

Along these lines, here are two interesting tidbits from a survey done in 2011 by the Church Pension Group for the Episcopal Church [www.cpg.org]. The first certainly reveals something about music directors :



The second item from the survey brings up the recurring argument over what “young people” want and, by extension, how to get them to come to worship services:

“I think there is a huge assumption made that the younger generation wants guitar- and piano-based praise and worship music....What we want to hear in a Sunday [service] are the classic hymns played on organ. And occasionally we want to chant. Church is the one place where our musical taste is not based upon fad, but instead links us with a much more important, more elegant tradition. If I wanted to listen to acoustic guitar and piano, I’d pick up Dave Matthews...If I wanted rap, I’d listen to Lil Wayne....For worship, I want music that connects to me a world outside of the in and out of my daily life.”

-22-year-old congregation member respondent

This is clearly one person’s specific viewpoint, and again, I think the only way to represent the goal of each service is to find the style of music that is the best fit. But what I love about this quote is first, the idea of a liturgical tradition, and second, the closing line, “...I want music that connects to me a world outside of the in and out of my daily life.”

-Anne Watson Born



A Big Day of Events - Just a reminder about the year end events at FUSN on Sunday June 12. Right after services will be the Annual FUSN Barbeque, which will be combined with the RE sponsored Sundaes on Sunday. And last, but not least, at 12:30 we will be having our Annual Meeting to elect officials for next year, vote on the budget and conduct other impor-

tant FUSN business. Childcare will be provided. So you can enjoy some tasty (and free) treats, and then participate in the Annual Meeting where members get to vote on key FUSN decisions. Even if you are not a member, come and see our democratic society in action.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

There will be one more Newsletters going out in June. Deadline for the June newsletter is June 21. Our next newsletter deadline will be August 16. We return to our regular two week schedule in September Deadline for the first newsletter is Sept. 6.

YOUTH MINISTRY BROADCAST

Thank you for tuning into the final week of the Youth Ministry Broadcast. It has been a busy and fantastic year for youth ministry! Through all of the different youth programming, including youth group, youth teaching, overnights, and service projects, over thirty five youth participated.

Seventeen youth participated as youth teachers, substitutes, and provided childcare for church events throughout the year. They were essential parts of the classroom team through their dynamic leadership and relationships with the children. They had monthly bagel meetings where they shared their experiences with one another.

The attendance for youth group varied based on the time of year and the activities. Youth group activities included baking together, service projects, and meaningful conversation. Planning was also a large part of youth group, as both Coffee House and the youth Sunday service were planned during this time.

As we look onto next year, we will continue to develop and grow the youth teacher program. We have started to plan for youth group and the fall retreat. Our goal is to continue to create fun, engaging, justice-oriented, spiritual, and meaningful experiences to engage the diversity of youth in our congregation and support the many different and wonderful ways they are involved.

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