



# FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

September 11 - September 25, 2016

## SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M.

Sept. 11 - "In-Gathering Service"- Rev. Erin Splaine  
**Childcare for nursery and preK, all other classes begin on Sept. 18.**

Sept. 18 - Rev. Erin Splaine

Sept. 25 - Rev. John Nichols

### The theme for October is Prayer

Oct. 2 - Rev. John Nichols - Special Collection

Oct. 9 - Guest Minister

Oct. 16 - Rev. John Nichols

Oct. 23 - Rev. Mary Margaret Earl

Oct. 30 - Wheel of Life

## SAVE THE DATE

In-FUSN: Aligning Our Being With Our Doing. 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 at the core of and unique to FUSN and begin to consider how we can better align our being with our doing. FUSN leadership will then meet to make a plan about how we will continue this sacred conversation.

## 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.)

## A NOTE FROM ERIN

And just like that summer is over. Whether you stayed close to home or traveled far and wide, I hope that the summer afforded you a chance to slow down, relax a little and have some fun. After some time away it has been good these last few days to be back in the building and reconnecting with the rest of the staff. Yet, as we try to finish up some planning for the year it is a bit odd to also be preparing for my sabbatical.

The traditional ministerial pursuits of study and reflection are often shortchanged or overlooked in the day-to-day rush of a modern ministry and a busy, thriving faith community such as FUSN. I'll be using my sabbatical time to engage with places and experiences that sustain my spirit and my vocation as a minister and hopefully to garner some inspiration and return to FUSN feeling renewed physically, emotionally, and spiritually — ready to make a new beginning with all of you in our shared ministry.

FUSN is blessed to have a strong staff and lay leadership team; I know you will do well while I am away. In addition, I am so happy that my friend, Rev. John Nichols will be returning to FUSN as your Sabbatical Minister. Some of you will remember John who served as your Interim Minister for two years just prior to my arrival in August of 2010. John, who is coming out of retirement to be with you all for the next five months, will have more to say when he arrives later this month about his role and how being a Sabbatical Minister is very different than being an Interim Minister.

Between now and then we have two weeks of connecting and sharing. I'm looking forward to seeing you all here this Sunday — first for community breakfast and then for our Sunday Service. Please don't forget to bring your water!

**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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## THE GOODNESS OF ERIN'S SABBATICAL

In mid-September, Erin will begin her six-month sabbatical. After five months, in mid-February, she will return to support our Annual Budget Drive launch, and will take her sixth month starting in late May. Sabbaticals are standard practice in Unitarian Universalist congregations. Erin's time away will offer her a chance for study, meditation and renewal. Erin's many roles—preparing sermons, planning with staff, counseling, working our governing groups, the Board and Ops Council, officiating at memorial services, working with other ministers in our larger network, engaging with our vibrant initiatives—leave her little time for spiritual and professional renewal. In addition, her sabbatical will nudge us to try things in new ways and recharge our own leadership batteries.

Erin has brought a special set of leadership qualities to these first six years. She is able to sense issues simmering under the surface and to lift them up to the congregation—a *felt vision*. In September of 2014 the Board and several other FUSN members participated in a workshop that Erin organized with Parisa Parsa, to heighten our understanding of how multicultural competency develops. Participants took an assessment to see where they felt on a continuum. Conversations about the gap between where we aspire to be and where we are now spurred several members to take Jacqui James' suggestion to read Deborah Irving's *Waking Up White*, invite Deborah to speak, then organize small group discussions of white privilege. An emerging group of leaders developed a four-session *Waking Up White* curriculum and facilitator training. Erin was a support throughout this stream of work, which has become the Multicultural Ministry Initiative and has generated study groups for over 80 FUSN members. *Erin releases and focuses energy for deep sharing.*

Erin is able to envision a next step in an ongoing growth area. As we emerged from difficult conversations about inclusion two years ago, she lifted up the UUA Welcoming Congregation Renewal program as a way to move forward. The working group she assembled has completed its assessment, and a new team has volunteered to help us think through next steps in the Renewal process. And while Erin pushes for study and depth, she also encourages us toward action. When some members of the Board expressed angst about raising a Black Lives Matter banner, after the BLM had engaged in extensive conversation with the congregation, Erin urged, *At some point we have to be bold.*

A cascade of good work and leadership has emerged from Erin's six years with us. We have much to carry forward. Now is our turn to invest in *her* spiritual and professional renewal. Erin, we wish you well, as you step away from us for this time of regeneration.   
*-Cathy Morocco, for the Board*

## RE-CONNECTIONS

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer; our new year is already getting under way. As the cooler weather sets in, I hope that people feel a sense of freedom and relief in the routines that come with autumn.

Sept. 11 is our opening, multigenerational worship service, and nursery care will be available. Sept. 18 is our first day of Sunday School for all children, from nursery-8th grade. Our Coming of Age candidates will be meeting monthly on Sunday mornings with their mentors this year, kicking off their program that same morning. You can see the full calendar online here: [fusen.org/content/lifespan-religious-education-calendars](https://fusen.org/content/lifespan-religious-education-calendars).

If you have not yet registered your children for RE, please do so online! You can find the form here: <https://goo.gl/forms/JtDndW3qo5gzZegH3>.

Your RE Staff all spent time over the summer training--attending the UU General Assembly in Ohio, learning about leading multigenerational worship at Ferry Beach, studying Youth Ministry Fundamentals and Adult Religious Education on the Jersey Shore. Be sure to ask us what we learned, and hopefully you'll see glimmers of our new tools in action.

Also, be sure to take a peek in the Youth Room--the ceiling, walls, and floor were just repainted, we got a new rug, ditched old furniture, and set up a new TV screen to allow us to incorporate modern media into our programs. The furniture in both the youth room and the nursery and the rug and toys in the nursery have all gotten cleaned up for a new year, and we're collaborating with Dorshei Tzedek in new ways to share our downstairs classroom spaces more effectively. Moving forward, we will be storing some of our own RE supplies in their cabinets, so our RE teachers won't need to haul as many supplies up and down. We hope you're excited for these new changes as well!

*Rowan Van Ness, Director of Lifespan Religious Education*

## THANK UUS

Every month there are many, many acts of kindness big and small from one person in our congregation to another. Among them are the things the FUSN Care Crew did during August. We would like to thank these members of the Care Crew for rides to appointments, meals, and visits: Barbara Bates, Bart Wright, Carrie vanderLaan, Eileen Kurkowski, Greg Sullivan, Jonathan Lilienfeld, Judy Friedman, Karen Burns, Karen Fink, Kate Carney, Kate Mason, Kim Shanks, Linda Rinearson, Margaret Costello, Marylou McArdle, Sheila Ardery, and Sue Skoler.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Join Newton Police Chief David MacDonald** on Thursday, Sept. 15 at 7:00 p.m., in the Alliance room. Through our Black Lives Matter work we want to develop a better understanding of the work of our police in Newton. Chief MacDonald will talk about his philosophy of policing and welcomes this opportunity to engage in conversation.

**Over 60 Club Fall Sessions** are now open for new participants. Ten FUSN adults participated in a six week pilot program this summer for people facing life changes in our sixties and seventies. With positive feedback, the organizers, Wendy Haskell and Nancy Wrenn, have organized two new groups, one on Thursday evenings, the other a Wednesday afternoon group. Those who have been on a wait list are now confirming their interest and we are inviting others to join. Each group will have ten members in order to allow for active participation. Important issues related to our stage of life will be chosen and explored in the groups, providing opportunity to learn and share with each other. **Wednesday afternoon sessions** will be held in the Alliance Room from 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Sept. 21, Oct. 5, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, Nov. 16 and Dec. 7. Co-facilitators will be Nancy Wrenn and Kate Mason. **Thursday evening sessions** will be held in the chapel from 7:00-9:00 p.m. on Sept. 29, Oct. 13, Oct. 27, Nov. 10, Dec. 1, and Dec. 15. Co-facilitators will be Wendy Haskell and Connie Adkins. To join one of these groups, please contact Nancy Wrenn, wrennnancy@gmail.com and Wendy Haskell, hasskellwendy@gmail.com

**Columbus Day Weekend**, Oct. 7-10, at Ferry Beach is the best start for the FUSN year!

Meet new friends, greet old friends, connect and get into the spirit of the new FUSN year! Who should go? Families, singles, couples, empty-nesters, parents of adolescents wanting a weekend away, parents of young children wanting someone to take a turn holding the baby—the group seems to blend in a sweet, amicable, pleasant way. Many important friendships begin at Ferry Beach. Applications are available in the latest newsletter, on the web and from Fran. Learn more on the Ferry Beach Info page and then sign up. Mail it ASAP, space is limited! Questions? Contact Vern Ellis at 617-686-9123 or email him at, vellis@ellisdesign.net.

## MUSINGS

The Sanctuary Choir returns to the chancel Sunday Sept. 11 and as always, we welcome new members. Whether you can sing every Sunday or once a month we'd love to have you join us. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Chapel and Sundays 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Our schedule is posted on the Music bulletin board and on the Music page of [www.fusn.org](http://www.fusn.org).

The FUSN Band, our Intergenerational Chamber Orchestra, and our Flute Choir are all beginning rehearsals as well - contact me at [music@fusn.org](mailto:music@fusn.org) for more information.

And...plan on coming to the Oktoberfest Dinner on Saturday Oct. 22! 6:00-10:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.



Germany Tour Meeting Sunday Sept. 25, 12:00 p.m. in the Chapel

Wollen nach Deutschland zu gehen? If you're considering traveling to Germany with many of our fine FUSN Musicians, this is the meeting for you! The hard-working Tour committee will present the hard facts, the nitty gritty, the quintessence, the meat and potatoes - you get the idea - of the trip. We are finalizing the budget and the itinerary and will be happy to tell you all about everything and answer your questions. And we'll have some Brezeln!

*-Anne Watson Born*

## FIGCO IS STARTING SOON!!

The fall is here, fresh and new, musical dreams have been haunting you; take out your fife, your viol, your flute, Bring them to FUSN, we're here to recruit For FIGCO, our intergenerational band. We inspire at services, now isn't that grand?! We rehearse starting soon, right after service. Don't worry, it's natural to be a bit nervous.... Sept. 25th is the day we begin. You have several weeks to get that violin under your chin! You'll enjoy the community, the musical sharing; for Nov. 13th we will be preparing. It's Music Sunday! our first chance to shine! Please come and join us, you'll have a great time! Questions? Contact Lois Shapiro, [lshapiro@wellesley.edu](mailto:lshapiro@wellesley.edu)

### 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

### EVENING SONG

**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!

### WELCOME BACK AND WELCOME HOME

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone this Sunday the 11th first at our Community Breakfast and then our Annual Ingathering Water Sunday Service. Whether this summer had you traveling hither and yon or staying close, please remember to bring a small vial of water from places or events, which had meaning for you these past few months. Upon entering the Sanctuary each will be handed an index card - please be prepared to write a sentence (or two at the most) as to what meaning the water holds for you. Not necessarily from whence the water springs - but why it's important to you. These are a few samplings of years past: *"This is from the lake near where my daughter was married in July."* *"I learned to swim at the pool at the Y."* *"This is from my kitchen faucet. We stayed home this summer and it was wonderful."* *"This is from a beach in Maine where we said goodbye to my grandmother."* *"From my dog's water bowl. I love my dog."* The cards will be collected with the Offering and later in the service we will mix our water together as Rowan and I read each the cards.

**Next Newsletter Deadline** Sept. 20 at 9:00 a.m.

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