



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

April 3 - April 16, 2016

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

The theme for April is Justice

4/3 - Rev. Erin Splaine and Multicultural Ministry

This Sunday's Special Collection - In Boston the poverty rate is 21.6%. Please consider donating generously to Boston's Womens' Lunch Place, which provides women and kids nutritious meals, a safe resting place, medical and legal help, and assistance to find lodgings and jobs. Make checks out to Womens' Lunch Place. Thank you.

4/10 - Youth Service

4/17 - Dani Negus, Youth Programs Coordinator

4/24 - Rev. Erin Splaine

NEWCOMER POTLUCK (*NEW LOCATION*):

If you are new to FUSN or still feel new, you are cordially invited to a potluck dinner at the home of Julia and Chris Gaebler on Saturday, April 9 at 6pm. It's a great, low-key way for newcomers and recently new FUSNites interested in UUism and FUSN to meet and spend time with one another. There will be time to ask questions, discuss our congregation's services and activities, as well as time to just get to know one another. Please RSVP to Ash Engel, ash@fusn.org, with the total number of attendees (children are very welcome) and what dish you would like to bring. We will provide beverages. We look forward to having this opportunity with you!

A NOTE FROM ERIN

It really does take a village to run an Annual Budget Drive — just as it takes a village to keep FUSN running. Thank you to Tom Bean, Saul Lookner and Ellen Metzger for heading up our Budget Drive this year. Thank you to all of you for all that you give of your time, talent and treasure so that FUSN can continue to be the amazing village that it is.

Reverend John Wolf, retired Senior Minister at All Souls in Tulsa, OK wrote the following several years ago about why supporting communities like FUSN is so important.

“There is only one reason for joining a UU Church! That is to support it. You want to support it because it stands against superstition and fear. Because it points to what's noblest and best in human life.

You want to support a UU Church because it has a free pulpit. Because you can hear ideas expressed there which would cost any other minister his or her job. You want to support it because it is a place where children can come without being saddled with guilt or terrified of some 'celestial peeping Tom,' where they can learn that religion is for joy, comfort, for gratitude and love.

You want to support it because it is a place where walls between people are torn down rather than built up. Because it is a place for the religious displaced persons of our time, the refugees from mixed marriages, the unwanted freethinkers and those who insist against orthodoxy that they must work out their own beliefs.

You want to support a Unitarian Universalist Church because it is more concerned with human beings than

Continued on next page

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 Chaisson, Judy Curby, Laurel Farnsworth, *Vice Chair*, Andrea Kelley

First Unitarian Society in Newton • 1326 Washington Street • West Newton, MA 02465 • <http://www.fusn.org>
office tel: 617-527-3203 • fax:617-964-5409 • Religious Education: 617-332-3438 • e-mail address: office@fusn.org

with dogmas. Because it searches for the holy, rather than dwells upon the depraved. Because it calls no one a sinner, yet knows how deep is the struggle and how great is the hunger for what is good.

You want to support a Unitarian Universalist Church because it can laugh...because it insults neither your intelligence nor your conscience, and because it calls you to worship what is truly worthy of your sacrifice..."

I am honored to be a part of this community, a community so infused with enthusiasm, openness, good heartedness, and a generosity of spirit. The FUSN we create together is where isolation becomes community, where we have a chance to join our lives — our hopes — our fears — our joys — our sorrows — all parts of us — together so that we may feel the strength, the care and the support of many.

FROM THE BOARD

This is the season of FUSN's Annual Budget Drive (ABD) and our financial contributions are tied to how personally fortunate we each have been this year. We all pledge what we can. The rewards of our generosity can be seen in the commitment of our new staff. This past year we have welcomed a new membership coordinator, Ash Engel, a youth programs coordinator, Dani Negus, and children's music and family choir director, Ellie Foster. Each of them has integrated beautifully into our community, and FUSN is much richer because of them. FUSN sets a monetary goal each year and we keep our fingers crossed in hopes of achieving that magic number. Do I have concerns? Yes. So our household is pledging more this year because we can — a small price to pay for what FUSN gives our family.

But there is more than just funding needed to keep our mission on track. Can I do any more for FUSN? The answer is yes, I can volunteer and in doing so, write you this letter. With your help, your gift of time — you can be a part of what it takes to keep the FUSN community thriving and continuing on a path to positive change. Volunteering can be as simple as a day helping at an event, or as committed as teaching in our RE program or taking on a leadership role in one of our many initiatives. Regardless of what your able to contribute volunteering opens the door to new relationships and a deeper connection with the FUSN community.

To the dozens of volunteers at present, to those who have served in the past and to those of you who are willing to give of their time in the future, we thank you.

-Gregg DiBiaso, Board of Trustees

RE CONNECTIONS

As spring comes underway and we are approaching the end of the year, we are planning some exciting worship services. On Sunday, April 10, FUSN's Youth will lead the congregation in a worship service on "Kids These Days." On May 15, our Coming of Age youth will be sharing some of their beliefs with us in the Coming of Age worship service. Their work on their credos is underway, and I hope you will join us for this special ritual.

Please save the date for our multi-generational Lifespan Religious Education Sunday on May 22! This year we're trying something new and different — kids, youth, and adults will share some of the hymns and ideas they have learned about. We're going to have people of all ages lead the different hymns and songs that they have learned this year, as well as share their thoughts and reflections. It is sure to be a meaningful service, with the traditional worship elements brought to light by hearing from some of the voices you don't always hear on Sunday mornings.

-Rowan Van Ness

MULTIGENERATIONAL PASSOVER SEDER

All FUSNites and your friends/family are invited to a **Multigenerational Passover Seder** on Saturday, April 23, 5:00 p.m. On this joyful holiday, we gather to retell the

ancient story of liberation that Passover commemorates and to consider its contemporary meaning for Unitarian Universalists. We munch on soup and matzoh; we dip our herbs twice and recline; and we read from a Unitarian Universalist Haggadah (a book of blessings, rituals, story and song). Then we eat! Fun and learning for all ages — children will participate in all aspects, including finding the Afikoman — a special treat. More details coming soon! For information or to find out how to help and plan, contact Deborah Bennett at dbennett@berklee.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BLM Panel Discussion-Monday April 4, 7:00 -9:00 p.m., in the Alliance Room. Come hear from leaders from First Parish Brookline and other local UU congregations, who have made the decision to publicly install a Black Lives Matters banner. What led up to their decision? What process did they engage in? Q & A will follow discussion.

Tickets are on sale during coffee hour for the upcoming Benefit Concert for Project STEP on Sunday April 10, 3:00 p.m. Project STEP is an organization that provides musical training to children in under served communities. "We envision a world in which the classical music profession reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of our communities."

The Spring Criminal Justice Speaker Series begins April 12. The Hon. Mary Elizabeth Heffernan, First Justice of the Newton District Court, will be our first speaker of the spring term, on Tuesday evening, April 12, in the Alliance Room, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Judge Heffernan serves on the Massachusetts Sentencing Commission with Commissioner Edward Dolan of the Probation Service, Carol O'Brien, Commissioner of the Mass. Department of Correction, and several other high level criminal justice officials. Other speakers in the coming weeks are Susan Sered, professor of social studies at Suffolk University and Senator Cynthia Creem. As speakers and dates are confirmed, a full listing will be posted. The public is cordially invited.

Mothers Day Walk for Peace Info Session: Sunday, April 3 immediately after the service in the Alliance Room. Come get you're questions answered about the May 8 Mother's Day Walk for Peace. Staff of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute and past participants from FUSN will answer your questions!

Speaker Shay Stewart-Boulet's Talk: Now's Not the Time to Be Silent: What White People Can Do to Dismantle Racism: on Tuesday, May 5 in Parish Hall. Please note this new date.

TRIP TO GERMANY

Faith without Borders? Glaube ohne Grenzen? In June 2017, several musicians from FUSN – and maybe YOU – will go to Germany to participate in the Assembly of Unitarians in Europe. We are so honored and thrilled to have been asked to present a concert at the assembly and to help provide music at the worship services during this event (which is similar to our General Assembly). To learn how you can participate and/or support our musicians, come to a meeting on Sunday April 10, in the Chapel from 12-1pm. And we look forward to welcoming Karsten Urban back at FUSN – we will be speaking with Karsten about the Assembly on Sunday April 24 – save the date!

FUSN GARDEN PROJECT

The FUSN Garden Project is ramping up for this summer and we need you! For those of you who are new to the Garden Project, we at FUSN have a magnificent opportunity to enact our love of nature and our desire to do some hands-on social action in one fell swoop! Thanks to the 4H project of a couple of FUSN kids, now in college, we are the beneficiaries of a magnificent 10'x80' plot at Waltham Community Field: A very sunny, fertile piece of land which has provided, over the past two years, about 800 lbs. of produce to the Newton Food Pantry, through the efforts of many of us at FUSN who have enjoyed the experience of getting our hands in the soil, caring for the beautiful plants, shepherding them through their life cycles, working together in a delightful camaraderie, and then, with great satisfaction, taking the produce each week to the Newton Food Pantry and enjoying the expressions of delight on people's faces as they see the big fat zukes, juicy cherry tomatoes, luscious, spritely peas, frilly lettuces, luxuriant and outrageously colorful chard, and much more.

Well, now that we have "whetted your appetite" all interested gardeners should join us for a meeting at FUSN after service this coming Sunday, April 3 at noon in the Headstart room. If you are not available then, don't worry, we will have another meeting later in the spring. Questions? Lois, 617-923-9412 or Paul, 617-923-8450.

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Is this Service for you? We are pleased to announce that, beginning Sunday, April 10, FUSN will start its free van transportation program to and from Sunday FUSN services. The program has been approved by the Operations Council and is being conducted on a trial basis through the end of the RE calendar year.

So, who can use this service? Anyone wanting to come to Sunday services that would appreciate not having to drive themselves or rely on others to get them to FUSN. Don't like hunting for a parking space at 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning...in the rain? Want to reduce your carbon footprint by leaving your car at home? Have a medical condition that limits your ability to drive? We can help.

How to schedule a ride: If you would like to be picked up by the Van and driven to and from Sunday services, contact Barry Goldberg no later than Friday, 6:00 p.m., 781-252-0179. If you need to leave a message, clearly state your name, address and telephone number. For more information or questions related to this program, contact Cris Goldsmith, crisgoldsmith@gmail.com or 617-877-3030. You will receive a confirmation call back with the approximate pickup time by Saturday 6:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us for our next monthly Community Breakfast, the best way to start your Sunday, on April 10 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 – Apr. 10 and May 22.

EVENING SONG

Evening Song this Sunday, April 3, at 7:00 p.m.! FUSN's Vespers service sung by Vermilion, a quartet directed by Amelia LeClair, has a new Name, a new Time, a new Date! Our monthly service of contemplation with music and poetry chosen by FUSN poets continues every FIRST Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Deadline for the next newsletter is April 12, 9:00 am.

HEALTHY CHOICES

Wondering about the ingredients in personal care products your family uses? Looking for healthy alternatives to products with parabens and other nasties? Drop by the Alliance Room during Community Breakfast on April 10 for information and some healthy alternatives. Coconut oil, almond oil, sesame oil are among the products you can try out. Chemist Doris Lewis can help with your concerns, or you can just experiment to see what you like. All ages welcome from preschool to octogenarians and beyond. Sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee.

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First Unitarian Society in Newton
1326 Washington Street
Newton, MA 02465

