



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

December 20 - January 2, 2016

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M.

The theme for December is Hope

12/20 - Carol Sing

12/24 - Christmas Eve Services

5:00 p.m. Family Service with the Pageant. Join us for a multigenerational celebration of the birth of Jesus and to sing some favorite holiday carols.

7:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols Service. Join us for this familiar FUSN service with the reading of the nativity story and the singing of traditional Christmas hymns.

11:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. All are welcome to gather together for this service of less traditional readings, music and candlelight. This service will give us all a chance to center ourselves after the rush of the holidays. If you would like to be one of the readers for this service, please contact Erin.

12/27 - Quaker Service

Chime for each baby born in 2015 If you'd like a child acknowledged at our 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve services, please call 617-527-3203, or email Fran at office@fusn.org.

Minister's Discretionary Fund: This Fund exists at the heart of our common ministry. It is used throughout the year to help members of our community, both here at FUSN and the larger community of which we are a part, find a way through difficult times. If this is a year that finds you feeling comfortable with your finances please consider donating to the Fund. As usual the plate at the first two Christmas Eve Services will be designated for the Fund. If you are not planning on attending either of those services please consider sending a donation to the office with a notation "for Minister's Discretionary Fund." Most importantly, if you, or someone you know, are in need, please be in touch with Erin.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Last month, the Member Services Committee had the honor of welcoming 15 new members to FUSN. If you haven't had the opportunity to meet these wonderful individuals, please take a look at our New Member Bulletin Board in the hallway leading to the Parish Hall with their photos and bios. I would like to extend a special thanks to Julie Brody for putting it together as well as Dan Brody for his assistance. We are so glad these new members found a spiritual home with us, so be sure to say hello and welcome them to the vibrant FUSN community!

- Ash Engel

Meet one of our excited new members, Carol

Kunik: I had been a member of the Main Line Unitarian Church in Philadelphia before I moved ten years ago. My spiritual home for the ten years I've lived in Boston has been the Cambridge Insight Meditation Center. On Sunday mornings I did yoga. Last summer a friend took me with her to Star Island where I joined a singing workshop and got to know a few members of FUSN. I came to the August community breakfast and found myself serving eggs to the folks who showed up for that. What a way to feel at home. Greeting the other members and eating breakfast together. I knew I had found the right place when I approached the choir director after the first wonderful church service and said I'd love to sing. Her response was "just come to rehearsal on Wednesday". WOW! So much fun. Even more fun to take the Gospel Workshop and sing Gospel Music that Sunday. I want to continue with cooking breakfast and singing in the choir. The Sources music was a little too difficult for me - but I can't wait til Christmas. I'm a retired Clinical Psychologist turned CEO coach.

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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

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Since retiring a year ago I've joined the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement. I'm enjoying the intellectual stimulation, the community connection and having a place to get up and go to on Monday mornings. I have two grown daughters and six grandchildren. Three of them live in Wellesley so on Sunday morning I can visit after church. I wish they would come to Sunday School with me - but right now Ice Hockey is their temple. I'm busy trying to build a Cohousing Community in Cambridge or Somerville. Since I currently live alone and would like to have companions to share this aging thing with - Cohousing seems like a good way. I'm looking forward to becoming engaged in this Spiritual Community in more ways than I know are possible at this point. Thanks for inviting me to be a member.

FROM THE BOARD, ON GROWING MINISTERS

FUSN recently has been given another opportunity to help grow a new UU minister! In November, the Board approved a request from Mandy Beal to serve as her "sponsoring congregation" in her application to the UUA for full ministerial credentials.

FUSN has a proud history of nurturing and perhaps inspiring future UU ministers. For many years, we've served as an internship site, allowing a divinity student to work under our senior minister for a year or two and get to know and help lead all aspects of FUSN life. We hope to return to this intern tradition at some point soon. We've also seen staff members (e.g., Anne Bancroft) and congregation members (e.g., Cheryl Lloyd, Michelle Walsh, Holly Haynes) who've felt the call to ministry during their time at FUSN and have been supported in their journeys by the congregation in many ways.

You may remember Mandy Beal as last year's Youth Programs Coordinator. She is also a divinity student at Andover Newton Theological Seminary (ANTS) in Newton Centre, expecting to graduate in May of 2016. She is currently serving a 2-year internship with our congregation in Lincoln, and she will be ready for the UUA's ministerial credentialing process in 2017.

Mandy had hoped to continue working with FUSN youth for at least a second year, but that was impossible due to the requirements of her internship. At the same time, however, Mandy felt she'd connected deeply with FUSN, both through her work and in worship and personal conversation. Even though her internship duties will keep her away from FUSN most Sundays, she felt strongly that FUSN was the right "home congregation"

FROM THE BOARD (continued)

for her and she recently became a FUSN member.

I want to share with you, in Mandy's own words, some of the ways in which FUSN has touched and nurtured Mandy in her ministerial development.

In requesting our congregation's sponsorship, Mandy wrote, "I've worked in several Unitarian Universalist congregations over the years, but none of them have impacted me the way that FUSN did, and still does." She particularly mentioned:

- the "theological and ideological diversity of the FUSN community, and the care with which this is treated."
- while recognizing that "the diversity that I found so refreshing and appealing" was also a "source of difficulty for a congregation dealing with a divisive issue," she saw our diversity not as a liability but as an asset; she cited "many conversations with FUSN community members and lay leaders that came from a place of love; love for the people of the FUSN community, and love for the complexity that the congregation stands for."
- "the unflagging level of support I have felt from this community," as she honed existing skills related to RE and emerging skills in pastoral care and preaching. She wrote, "I was very nervous the first time that I stood in the FUSN pulpit, but as I looked out into the pews, I saw the faces of people that I know truly cared about me and wanted me to succeed. My ministerial formation will challenge me in ways that I cannot expect. It would mean so much to me to know that the community that supported me in that moment is supporting me through the years to come."

Although we won't see her at FUSN most Sunday mornings, Mandy has offered to help us out with the occasional service or in other ways, and she's eager to share with us her experience studying interfaith religious education in Israel/Palestine in January 2016, sometime after she returns.

As her sponsoring congregation, our role is primarily to offer her support, feedback, and friendship. We may also have the opportunity to participate in her ordination process a few years from now. We are pleased that Mandy has chosen us as her home congregation from which to launch her career as a minister, and we wish her much growth and success in her journey!

Finally, here's a hearty Happy Holiday wish to all of you from the Board!

Bobbie Sproat, Co-chair, BOT

MUSINGS

Save the Date!! Sunday, Jan. 24, 1:00 p.m.: FUSN Musicians concert, featuring some of our incredibly talented musicians playing music of many styles. Original pieces, music of the great classical composers, and popular songs played by our kickass band. Stick around after the morning service for a light lunch and a great concert.

In this season of joy and sorrow, some thoughts about music – and about singing carols, when even people who “don’t sing” do just that.

"In these divided times as much as ever, we need to do some singing and feeling together, united as both citizens and amateurs." (Karen Loew, *The Atlantic*)

"When we all sing with one voice, the world will stop and listen." (the conductor Robert Shaw)

"The arts may be not the luxury of the few, but the last, best hope of humanity to inhabit with joy this planet." (Robert Shaw)

You have several opportunities to inhabit our particular part of the planet with joy at our Christmas Eve services: We will sing - together - some of our most beautiful carols, in three services on Dec. 24 5:00 p.m., with our children; during the 7:00 p.m., service; and at 11:30 p.m. (when we get to sing the sublime “In the bleak midwinter”).

"Oh rest beside the weary road And hear the angels sing." (Edmund Hamilton Sears)
-Anne Watson Born

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

The Member Services Committee is very excited to be hosting FUSN’s New Years Eve Party. The family fun party will run from 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m., and the adult party from 8:00 p.m. - midnight (or until everyone is too exhausted to party on). Festivities will include music, games, dancing, crafts, food, and much more! Pizza and beverages will be provided during the family fun portion, but please bring either snacks or beverages to the adult party to share! Youth will be available to run activities and watch over the children during both parties. We are currently looking for volunteers, so please email Ash at ash@fusn.org if you are interested in lending a hand! We are especially looking for volunteers to help clean up as well as run an activity during the children's party (i.e. craft corner, limbo, face painting, games, photo booth, karaoke, etc.).

YOUTH MINISTRY BROADCAST

Thank you for tuning into another week of the Youth Ministry Broadcast. We have had an exciting month so far! On Dec. 6, several youth helped out with cleaning up after the Holiday Fair. Then the following Sunday, Dec. 12, the youth helped out at the Unitarian Universalist Holiday Party. The youth cooked breakfast, including a crazy amount of eggs and some awesome pancakes! We also helped with the craft room, making cookies, decorating cupcakes, making chocolate oreos, and chocolate spoons. The youth also handed out presents to all of the children at the party! It was a great volunteer opportunity and everyone had a wonderful time. Thank you so much to everyone who donated or went with us and helped us out!

Sunday, Dec. 20, we will be having a Holiday Party! There will be music, food, games, crafts, and all kinds of things to do from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. On Dec. 27, we will not have youth group. Have a wonderful holiday season! *Best, Dani Negus, Youth Programs Coordinator*

DAYTIME READING GROUP

Daytime Reading Group on Criminal Justice

Forming. At the suggestion of several people, we are considering a Criminal Justice daytime reading group for the winter months of January, February and March. The book we have chosen is “Caught: The Prison State and the Lockdown of American Politics” by Marie Gottschalk, Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania. It is 12 chapters, 250 pages which means reading about 50 pages every two weeks for 6 weeks. Come anyway for the discussion whether you can read all of the assignment or not! I suggest looking for “Caught” on Amazon or Barnes and Noble. It will cost \$20-26, or you may find it in your local library. We plan to meet in the Alliance Room from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., on Tuesdays, every other week. The dates have now been confirmed: Jan. 12, and 26, Feb. 9, and 23, March 8 and 22.

If possible, please do not park in the bank parking lot because it is during their business hours. One lot, not usually filled, is on the western end of downtown West Newton just before you turn left and go over the turnpike. It is unmarked and used for people doing business with the Court. There is a paid lot across from it, used by commuters. Another metered lot is off Elm Street one block from Washington.

Nancy Wrenn, Coordinator, Criminal Justice Task Force, wrennnancy@gmail.com

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us for our next monthly Community Breakfast, the best way to start your Sunday, on Jan. 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 – Feb. 7, Mar. 13, Apr. 10 and May 22.

EVENING SONG

Evening Song is coming Sunday, Jan. 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 Jan. 5, 9:00 a.m.

PLANNED GIVING

Throughout this season of giving - Thinking of FUSN FUSN's Planned Giving Committee encourages you to consider having FUSN a part of your estate plan. Join the nearly two dozen FUSNites who have joined our Legacy Circle and are working to sustain our vision for future generations with bequests to FUSN. You'll find informative "Bequests Brochures" in the back of pews with hymnal books, and in the various church literature racks. If you wish to discuss ways to include FUSN in your estate plans please contact Committee Co-chairs: Beverly Droz, bevdroz@comcast.net or Bill Dusett, Dusett@rcn.com

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Please note, there will be no newsletter over the holidays, that means our last newsletter is Dec. 15. Our next newsletter will be on Jan. 5. We wish you all a glorious winter holiday and a happy and prosperous New Year!

-The FUSN Staff

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