



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

January 12 - January 25, 2014

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M.

1/12 - Rev. Erin Splaine and Rev. Meghan Cefalu

1/19 - Rev. Erin Splaine

1/26 - Rev. Erin Splaine

LAY MINISTERS

If you or anyone you know at FUSN needs help this month with rides to medical appointments, meals, visits to your home, or if you want to talk, please call or email Jay Flynn.

You are also welcome to reach out to any of the other lay ministers:

Jay W. Flynn, [see online directory for contact info]

Judy Friedman, [ditto]

Cris Goldsmith, [ditto]

Kathy Hearn, [ditto]

Jud Leonard, [ditto]

Cindy Orrell, [ditto]

Thom Theara, [ditto]

Gail Yeo, [ditto]

Deadline for next Newsletter: Jan. 21 at 9:00 a.m.

A NOTE FROM MEGHAN

Happy New Year!

I love the way it feels to hang up a fresh, crisp calendar each January. The sight of those rows of blank squares always makes me pause a moment to consider the year to come, to re-commit to my goals and think carefully about how I truly want to spend my time. Those blank squares quickly fill up, of course, but for me this New Year brought the rare blessing of an almost completely clean slate. I have said my tearful goodbyes to the members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains, my nearby colleagues, my mother and in-laws and other family and friends in the San Francisco Bay Area. I turned in the keys to the church, sold my car, and gave the house keys back to our landlord. With an empty key fob and a sense of adventure my husband Chris and I boarded the plane for Boston early in the morning on Jan. 2.

I cannot tell you how excited I am to be starting 2014 with the good people of the First Unitarian Society in Newton! I am thrilled to be living in a world-class city filled with food and music and art and (ahem) stellar sports teams. I'm ready to start setting up my office and settling in to the rhythm of congregational life and I'm eager to begin working with such an amazing staff team. But most of all I can't wait to get to know each of you and the church community as a whole. In the coming weeks and months I look forward to learning your names, and the names of the ones you love, to hearing what your hopes and visions are for FUSN, and beginning the conversation that will become our ministry together.

Blessings,
Meghan Cefalu

Staff: Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Meghan Cefalu, *Assistant Minister*, Cheryl Rubin Lloyd, *Community Minister*, Fran Clancy, *Administrator*, Perry Montrose, *Director of Lifespan Religious Education*, Beth Walton, *Assistant Director of Religious Education*, Rebecca Hinds, *Youth Programs Coordinator*, Anne Watson Born, *Director of Music*, Carson Cooman, *Organist*, Roberta Humez, *Minister of Music Emerita*, Maura Hess-Mahan, *Beadle*.

Board of Trustees: Cathy Morocco, Jonathan Reuman, Bobbie Sproat, *Vice Chair*, Strom Thacker, Charlie Watts, *Chair*, Ann Woodbury, Michael Costello and Maura Hess-Mahan, *Youth Reps*.

Operations Council: Susan Bartlett, *Chair*, Jeannie Chaisson, Alan Cody, Laurel Farnsworth, *Vice Chair*, Anne Hess-Mahan, Andrea Kelley
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FROM THE BOARD

Welcome to the New Year! Your Board is looking forward to tackling various ongoing projects and new initiatives with renewed vigor this month. And we hope you all will experience a similar renewal of energy for doing the important work of our FUSN community!

Our first task is to offer our warmest and most heartfelt welcome to Rev. Meghan Cefalu, our new Assistant Minister for Congregational Engagement and Pastoral Care. She arrives in the building this week and will share the pulpit with Erin this coming Sunday, Jan. 12. We look forward to having her support in so many aspects of our life as a community of faith over the coming years.

After the service on Jan. 12, please be sure to come to the Parish Hall for coffee hour, where we'll have Cake and Celebration and an opportunity to let Meghan know how pleased we are to have her among us! The following Sunday, Jan. 19, Meghan will be available in the Alliance Room during coffee hour, ready to chat with FUSN folks in a quieter, less crowded setting.

We are a growing and vibrant community, and there is much for our many hands to do. It's not all work and no play, though; sometimes the jobs that need doing are to help make it possible for us to play together, as well as to worship, make music, serve the greater good, and manage our own Society. On a personal note, I've found that working together with other FUSN folks has been the best way to get to know people here and to feel like I'm really a part of the community – and that's what gives me the most sustenance and joy! So, if a call comes your way to pitch in, we hope you'll find a way to say "yes!" I think you'll be glad you did. *-Bobbie Sproat*



So Delicious! Homemade!
Frozen Food Sale by the COA Class
January 26 after the service during
coffee hour
Dinner was never so easy.

CELEBRATE



Don't miss out on the best celebration since 1924! Join us to celebrate Jackie Colby's 90th birthday – Saturday, Jan. 18, at 6:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall.

RSVP by Jan. 14 to Valerie Sherman, [see online directory] and leave a message. Yes, bring something: A-M – finger food; last names N-Z – alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Your presence is your gift but, if you wish, make a monetary donation to the Newton Food Pantry.

STAFF OFFICE HOURS

Erin Splaine, Minister

Erin is usually in and around FUSN Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for daytime and evening appointments/meetings. She tries to keep Friday and Saturday reserved for sermon writing and preparation for Sunday service. Monday is her day-off. Please let Fran know if you would like to make an appointment.

Meghan Cefalu, Assistant Minister

Meghan is usually in and around FUSN Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for daytime and evening appointments/meetings. She tries to keep Friday and Saturday reserved for sermon writing and preparation for Sunday service. Monday is her day-off. Please let Fran know if you would like to make an appointment.

Perry Montrose, Director of Lifespan Religious Education Ministries is typically off on Mondays.
Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

He is happy to speak or meet with you anytime, please call or email to make an appointment.

Beth Walton, R.E. Assistant

Monday, Tuesday and Sunday, call for appointment

Rebecca Hinds, Youth Coordinator

Sundays 4:00 p.m. call for appointment

Fran Clancy, Administrator

Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Sunday - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Anne Watson Born, Music Director

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 11:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 12:00-7:00 p.m.

MUSINGS

For last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice.
And to make an end is to make a beginning."

(Little Gidding) — T.S. Eliot

Your FUSN musicians are preparing new music for the new year – in January and February the choir will sing music ranging from a great Mavis Staples tune (on Jan. 12), to a welcoming song by UU composer Clif Hardin (Jan. 19), to the Civil War song "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground" (Feb. 16). As always, we love to have new singers join us. We rehearse Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., in the Chapel and Sundays at 9:00 a.m., in the Sanctuary. No experience is necessary and all are welcome.

FUSN's Intergenerational Orchestra, a group of children and adults playing beautiful music together, will begin rehearsals after the service on Jan. 12.

Other groups that contribute to the music here include: the Flute Choir, the Men's Choir, CreationDance, the FUSN Band – all of these ensembles welcome your participation.

The various ensembles will also be preparing for Music Sunday on March 23, when we will explore the worship theme of Vision. Expect some very cool music!

Hope Out Loud 3

Want to sing some rousing music and support the good works of the UU Urban Ministry? On Jan. 19, Hope Out Loud 3 will be held at 4:00 p.m., at First Church in Roxbury (10 Putnam Street, Roxbury). The performance at the UUUM will feature the Boston Community Choir, young dancers and singers from Union United Methodist Church, and the UUUM children's choir, along with a parade, drumming, and much group singing. This year will also include a presentation from the Youth of Massachusetts Organizing for a Reformed Economy (<http://ymorema.squarespace.com>).

Contact Anne Watson-Born for more information:
music@fusn.org

CONNECTIONS

Food Bank - Our next visit to the Greater Boston Food Bank is this coming Saturday, Jan. 11. Any interested folks from the FUSN community are encouraged to volunteer. Join us for an lively morning sorting salvage and donations. We meet up to car pool from the FUSN lot by 8:45 a.m. sharp. Back by 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. Please let me know if you are planning to come -- Eric Haas

The Climate Advocacy Group will meet on Thursday, Jan. 16 from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Please join us for a presentation by Mark Sentesy of 350MA.org, presenting on the subject of the Deval Patrick Climate Legacy Campaign. There will be discussion following the presentation and a short business meeting to plan upcoming events in February and March. The Climate Advocacy Group focuses on education about the risks presented by climate change and on ways to thoughtfully dialog with policy makers and their staff to encourage enactment of local, state, and national measures to address those risks.

Active Hope - Reviving your connection with nature and the web of life. Are you discouraged, overwhelmed, or worn out about climate change? Are you feeling powerless in the face of the enormity of our global situation? How would you like to find new energy, tell a new story? Join us as we explore Joanna Macy's approach, "The Work that Reconnects." The central goal is to help people uncover and experience their innate connections with each other and with the systemic, self-healing powers in the web of life, so that they may be enlivened and motivated to play their part in creating a sustainable civilization. Our group will also draw on recent material from Mary Pipher. This new group is for anyone who is already active in climate advocacy work and wants to recharge and renew themselves. It is also for anyone who is considering becoming active in climate change advocacy for the first time or returning after a break. We will meet on two Saturdays, Feb. 1 and 8, from 9:00 -1:00 p.m., in the nursery (the room behind the stage). RSVP one of the leaders: Wendy Haskell, [see online directory], Holly Zeeb, [see online directory]; Jeff Baker, [see online directory]

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on Jan. 12 for our FUSN Community Breakfast at 9:00 a.m., in the Parish Hall. Toddlers welcome, we have high chairs available for them. The menu (eggs, eggbeater omelets, fried potatoes, pancakes, biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee) is great and the price (\$4) is unbeatable. Clean-up help appreciated. Upcoming Community Breakfast dates: Feb. 9, March 23, April 13, and May 18.

VESPER SERVICE

The monthly Vespers service with the Vermilion Quartet, Amelia LeClair, director, will be Sunday, Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. The service is designed for diversity of spirit and thoughtful meditation. This is a unique monthly service of music led by the Vermilion Quartet and poetry — written or chosen — read by FUSN’s poets. Vespers will last just half an hour—a way to set aside the noise and stress of daily life and to spend some time in stillness and mystery.

TRAVELING TO ZAMBIA

Attention to all those who are interested in traveling to Zambia with Communities Without Borders during the summer of 2014. The trip committee is planning an introductory meeting for friends, families, and others who want to find out more about the trips. We hope you can join us on Sunday, Jan. 12, at noon in the Children’s Chapel. Feel free to spread the word to others and let us know if you plan on attending by emailing Amy Archibald [see online directory]

The trip committee can provide additional information to those who may be unable to attend but strongly encourage you to come to the meeting if possible. Applications will be available at the meeting.

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