



FUSN*ews*

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

June 1 - June 14, 2014

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M.

6/1 - R.E. Sunday - Rev. Erin Splaine
4:00 p.m. - Rebecca Hinds' Ordination
6/8 - Flower Sunday

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE

All services at 9:30 a.m., in the FUSN Parish Hall, tea and lemonade after the service

June 15 - "Dancing in the Spirit" - Helena Froehlich will show how sacred dance moves her and CreationDance. Nancy Hair, Lois Shapiro and an acapella group from Newton North will bring music. Join us for a unique opportunity and experience this form of moving meditation.

June 22 - "Decluttering and Sprituality" - Need to downsize? Decluttering is an ongoing practice -- and letting go is hard, spiritually. Have compassion for yourself. It's practice, not perfect. Storytellers: Kate Carney, Linda Rinearson, Mystery Man. Music: Bobbie Sproat, Jud Leonard.

June 29 - "Make a Joyful Noise" - Join us as we celebrate the joy of song! Reconnect with the childlike wonder of singing while reconnecting with ACTUAL children as Neal Klinman and Deborah Bennett welcome children to be at the center of this service. Grab your maracas and make a joyful noise with us!

July 6 - No Service

July 13 - "The New Jim Crow" - Nancy Wrenn and Andrea James of Families for Justice as Healing lead a discussion of what our criminal justice system has become and what can be done about it.

July 20 - "The Grandfather's Way" - Curt Lamb, Jim Emerson and Walter Graham share thoughts on being a grandfather - its joys, challenges, higher and lower purposes, secret techniques. Bring a memory of your own grandfather. Hear a modern perspective on an ancient role. Music by Chris Welles.

SUMMER SERVICE (continued)

July 27 - "Gardening as a Spiritual Practice" - Not only do we harvest veggies and fruits when we garden, but also we harvest our selves in connection to, and communion with, nature, the spiritual in our lives, and each other. We cultivate our gratitude, our sense of wonder, our capacity to think like plants, and we develop our flexibility to cope with the evanescence of our lives. Join Paul Antonucci and Lois Shapiro as we explore and revel in the lessons that we learn from working in the FUSN garden this summer.

August 3 - "The Gerry Krick Years: FUSN in the 80's and 90's" - Gerry was our minster for almost 18 years. During his tenure outreach activities increased, retreats and community events became more frequent and services more inspirational, while at the same time, new controversies arose as costs grew and building needs increased. In this service, Allan Hartman will lead us in sharing memories, thoughts and feelings about these times.

August 10 - "Bringing GA Home" - FUSN sends delegates every year to General Assembly, the UUA National Conference. Carolyn Mapes, a seminarian, and several other delegates will bring it home to you.

August 17 - "Seeing Again for the First Time" - When we create or view art, it helps us to see with fresh eyes - a sort of meditation. Lynn Holbein and Betsy Leavitt will help us explore this idea, try a little sketching, and share about art as a way of taking a short "mental vacation".

August 24 - "Moving from Mind to Heart" - Based on a lifetime of musical experience, Amy Tai will reflect on moving from mind to heart through music and share some exercises that encourage connection through music.

August 31 - No Service

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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A NOTE FROM MEGHAN

Yesterday I returned home from my first ever FUSN Sandy Island retreat. It was a fantastic experience! In the afternoons I joined people of all ages on the deck of the lodge while side-by-side we made some nifty crafty things: buttons, lanyards, crochet, friendship bracelets. There is a certain, special way of relating that people enter into while their hands are busy with a creative task. We laughed and told stories, playfully teased and helped one another with our various projects. There was a group singing folk songs, another singing a capella harmonies and rounds, and some people learning to salsa dance. Music and birdsong filled the air all weekend long. The more active kids and adults splashed and paddled around in kayaks, some played softball, disk golf, tetherball, ping-pong and the wild ones danced into the night after the talent show.

One of the aspects that impressed me the most was the way that the children and teens mixed and bonded with one another and with the adults in our FUSN community. Multigenerational friendships are a beautiful thing and increasingly rare in our society. A number of parents told me what a relief it is to know that they can let their kids out of their sight because all the adults will help keep an eye on them. Seeing the kids run free, all muddy and joyful and laughing, was a true highlight of the weekend.

Of all the fun activities the very best part for me was having the chance to talk with and get to know a number of people I have not had a chance to yet – especially some of the children and youth. I am now feeling more and more knitted into the FUSN community and I wish the same for everyone, especially those newer to the congregation. Nothing builds community more than an extended shared experience in the woods. If you have not yet had a chance to go to Sandy Island I hope you put it in your calendar now for Memorial Day weekend next year. I am already looking forward to our fall retreat at Ferry Beach Oct. 11-13, 2014 – I hope you put that on your calendar today!

In the mean time know that you will get back much more than you invest when you let yourself become embedded in your community. I am here, in part, to help make that happen for every member of our congregation. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me and let me help you find your niche. *Blessings, Meghan*

MUSINGS

We have two more worship services in our Sanctuary before the summer services in the Parish Hall begin, and please feel free to join the choir and the orchestra in bringing music to those services. The choir will sing at both, on RE Sunday and Flower Sunday, and our intergenerational orchestra will play on June 8. Please contact me at music@fusn.org if you want to sing or play on those Sundays.

SAVE THE DATES:

The annual **Summer FUSN Chime Concerts** will be held on Friday July 11, and Thursday August 21. All concerts are from 7:00 -8:00 p.m.m on the front lawn.

Masterworks Chorale Summer Sings schedule:

Date	Composer	Music	Conductor
June 17	MOZART	<i>Requiem</i>	Steven Karidoyanes
June 24	VAUGHN WILLIAM	<i>Dona Nobis Pacem</i>	Holly MacEwen Krafka
July 1	HANDEL	<i>Judas Maccabaeus</i>	Joshua Jacobson
July 8	BERNSTEIN	<i>Chichester Psalms</i>	Anne Watson Born
July 15	FAURÉ	<i>Requiem</i>	Steven Karidoyanes
July 22	BRAHMS	<i>Ein deutsches Requiem</i>	Steven Karidoyanes

Go to <http://www.masterworkschorale.org/cms/index.php?page=summer-sings> for more information.

And here are some timely words from the 2012 New England Conservatory commencement speaker Eric Booth (<http://necmusic.edu/eric-booth-2012-commencement-speech>):

“The liminal zone is important in the arts; it’s not just some intellectual concept. It is the place where the stuff that makes for art happens. The audience has to reach out from themselves toward us, and you reach out toward them with your performance, and if good things are happening in the liminal zone, people do what I describe as the single most important thing in the arts: they make personally relevant connections. They don’t just admire, or recognize, or appreciate (all good things, but side benefits); they meet you in the liminal zone, and they are changed in some way by the encounter. They enter the world you are offering with your best heart and skill and make a connection that matters to their lives. Look at the idiom, they “make” a connection, it is the world’s smallest creative act, and yet an act of consequence. They enter into artmaking with us in an improvisation in the liminal zone....

... Art...happens outside of what we already know. Inherent in the artistic experience is the capacity to expand our sense of the way the world is or might be. The art isn’t in the noun you are looking at. It lies in the amazing human capacity to expand the sense of the possible. The art lies in the verbs..So I am introducing you to the verbs of art, which you know experientially in your art making, and my definition of art, which I am hoping you carry away today, isn’t about creating fantastic, technically impeccable Bartok. It’s about making things you care about—in the medium of Bartok but in other media as well, applying the verbs of art throughout your life.” *Anne Watson Born*

FAREWELL

When I first arrived at FUSN three years ago I walked into a strong, vibrant, and spiritual community. Since then this community has shown me time and again one of the best models of “doing” church that I have ever seen. So, as I prepare to say goodbye to you all at the end of June to move on to a full time ministry position at the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry in Roxbury, I would like you all to know that you have been a marvelous gift in my life. I will miss FUSN and be forever grateful for our time together.

Of course this won’t come as a surprise to any of you, but the youth of FUSN really are outstanding. It has been an honor and a joy to work with such a thoughtful, talented, and fun group of young people. Together we have continued to grow a strong youth program that is now on the verge of becoming even more full and comprehensive. My hope for FUSN youth programming in the years to come is that this trend continues. The Coming of Age program is strong. Youth Group is strong. Teenagers are engaged in a variety of ways at FUSN. From my perspective, this is rare and wonderful and I encourage you to keep it up. Teenagers are not a separate species; they are full humans with a diversity of needs and desires for their spiritual community—just like adults! FUSN “gets” this. And for that, I am grateful for the future of our faith.

So, when the new Youth Programs Coordinator comes in the fall you won’t see me, but I will be cheering from afar as you all help that person and the youth continue to develop the best youth programming possible at FUSN. I invite you to stay committed, take risks and try new things, and always think multigenerationally.

FUSN youth, thank you for everything! Thank you for trusting me and accepting me. Thank you for teaching me how to play “Manhunt,” dancing with me to “Mickey Un-Rapped,” and demonstrating for me fierce compassion and kindness in all you do. And even though I never let you play “Wink,” I still think we had a pretty good time these last few years. Sending you all so much love and hoping for the brightest possible futures for every single one of you. Peace be with you.

In faith, Rebecca

FROM THE BOARD

As another FUSN year comes to a close, we have so much to celebrate: the powerful and loving leadership of Erin and Meghan; a dedicated staff; tireless RE teachers and lay leaders; new and old friends; and a promising future. As we navigate this particular transition as a community, let us remember to cherish all we have and work to be ever more true to our mission. We invite you to come to summer services for continued fellowship. Have a relaxing and fun-filled summer!

-Ann Woodbury

R.E. UPDATE

We are making progress in our goal of lining up next year’s teaching teams, mentors, and other RE volunteers by the end of May, but we need 21 more people to join teaching teams for Children’s RE. Our new model of 4 teachers per class, teaching less than twice a month, is easier on your schedule, gives you more support, and is deeply rewarding in many ways. Please come by the RE Table during coffee hour this Sunday, pick up one of our new brochures, and get your name on our RE tree. We can’t do it without you! Questions? Contact Kim Shanks (kashanks@comcast.net) or Beth Walton (reassist@fusn.org)

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

Coming this fall:

Chalice Circles: These groups are a fantastic way to get to know a small cluster of people in a meaningful way. Each month throughout the church year, at various days and times, groups of 6-8 people gather to share their thoughts and experiences around the monthly theological/philosophical topic in a somewhat structured facilitated conversation. In the fall we’ll be creating brand new Chalice Circles. Sound intriguing? Watch for sign-ups to begin in early September.

Dinners for 7: Starting in the fall we’ll bring back the popular program that brings together seven people for a casual pot-luck dinner. These family-friendly events are superb opportunities to get to know other FUSNites in a one-off, bite-sized gathering. Watch for more information in September.

CLOSING OUT THE YEAR

A Big Day of Year End Events - Just a reminder about the year end events at FUSN on Sunday June 8.



Right after services will be the Annual FUSN Barbeque, which this year 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 important 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.

Deadline for next Newsletter is June 10 at 9:00 a.m.

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Sunday, June 1 is Bridging Sunday at FUSN! During our morning worship service we will be honoring all of this year's high school seniors. There will be a bridging ritual (welcome to young adulthood!!) and all seniors will receive a small gift. We encourage ALL seniors and their families to attend this special service, those of you we see every week, those we haven't seen in years, and everyone in between. All seniors will be honored. If you have any questions please contact Rebecca at ypc@fusn.org

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us for our first Community Breakfast of the year on Sept. 7. 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: Oct. 5; Nov. 9; Dec. 14; Jan. 11; Feb. 8; March 8; April 12, May 17

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