



# FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

November 22 - December 5, 2015

## SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

### The theme for November is Belonging

11/22 - Rev. Erin Splaine - Welcome New Members

**UUSC Guest at Your Table boxes** will be distributed Sunday Nov. 22 and collected Sunday Dec. 20. This supports UUSC, The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee which defends workers' rights, the right to safe affordable water, and provides disaster relief. Gifts of \$125 or more are matched by the UU Congregation in Manhasset, NY.

11/29 - Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service

### The theme for December is Hope

12/6 - Rev. Erin Splaine

12/13 - Rev. Rebecca Hinds - Special Collection

12/20 - Carol Sing

12/24 - Christmas Eve Services

5:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

11:30 p.m.

12/28 - "Quaker Service" - Rev. Erin Splaine

## FUSN'S NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

The Membership Committee is excited to announce that it will be once again hosting its annual New Years Eve Party! Festivities will include music, games, crafts, food, and much more! We are currently in the planning process, so please email Ash Engel at [ash@fusn.org](mailto:ash@fusn.org) if you want to help, volunteer, or have any ideas and suggestions. We will be providing more information and details in the upcoming weeks!

## FUSN'S HOLIDAY FAIR

**Call for Volunteers!** Sign up is this Sunday to work at a Holiday Fair Table. We need your hands and hearts to make this event a success. Volunteer to help out.

Projects include: fair set up, working at a table or cleaning up, the more hands the merrier! Tables include books, baked goods, wreaths, jams and jellies, jewelry, fair trade coffee, gifts, silent auction, toys and games, children's activities, sit-down hot lunch, quilt raffle, attic treasures, and live music! To volunteer contact Bonnie McDonald, [bonnie314t@aol.com](mailto:bonnie314t@aol.com) or sign up during coffee hour. Watch the FUSN list serve for more event updates.

**Dec. 5 - Come to the Fair! 9:30 to 3:00.**

**Dec. 6 - Fair continues for FUSNites only  
Trader Jackie's gourmet meals will be sold.**

### Holiday Fair Donation Dates:

Sunday, Nov. 29 - Last date for Silent Auction items.

Sunday, Nov. 29 - (after service) - Donations for attic treasures, books & gift table accepted.

Thursday, Dec. 3 - Last date for appraisal of jewelry.

Friday, Dec. 4 - Set up begins.

Saturday Dec 5 - Bring in your donated baked goods. Yummm!

Come one come all to our annual community event right here in the parish hall. Enjoy a hot lunch with your FUSN friends. Stop by the wreath table and bring home a fresh green wreath decorated with bright bows. Who can resist the delicious baked goods, colorful gingerbread houses or unique cookies and cakes? Browse the gifts, jewelry and books. Tell your friends, your family and your neighbors to stop by. What a wonderful way to enjoy a crisp December day together. Mark your calendar.

**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](mailto:office@fusn.org)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

---

To Belong...

For almost 30 years now I have been actively involved in a sport that by any measure relegates all other forms of competition to mere games... Motorsports, specifically road racing. Maybe I've remained involved because it's the great equalizer, the only sport in which age is not a factor. Literally you can pit a 58 year old up against an 18 year old and not be able to predict the outcome. How does this relate to Universal Unitarianism you might ask... Well many years ago I asked a fellow friend/competitor, "Just how far do you drive into that corner before you hit the brakes?" His answer was, "I stay on the gas until I see the face of God." So I figure with that statement there must be some connection to faith.

Every time I compete, within the first few laps of pre-race practice. Whether on a track that I've logged thousands of laps on such as New Hampshire International Speedway or a scary fast, undulating circuit like Palmer's brand new Whiskey Hill road course I ask myself, "Do I still belong? Or have I lost my edge and become old and (more importantly) in the way?" The answer has always been, "you've been lucky enough to discover your passion, pursue it" but the day that changes is the day I shall retire. Essentially what I'm saying is that it is important to understand that I do belong.

Being an individual that believes self-inventory is paramount, the question of whether or not I belong in the FUSN community comes up from time to time. Perhaps without the same degree of gravity the answer has always been yes. My wife and I began attending services when - at the tender age of fifty - our children came into our lives. We felt that we wanted to expose them to some sort of faith, not one as dogmatic as Catholicism in which Valerie and I were brought up. Universal Unitarianism seemed an appropriate fit then, and continues to feel that way for us. Along with the racing community, a group of people who have on many occasions shared joys and sorrows, this is as close to a group of cherished and devoted individuals and families as we've ever come across. We believe in what we've found within the seven principles.

Although I came into racing and FUSN later than many, I intend to remain for life. So with this month's theme of belonging... I can't speak for everyone, but a society that (among other wonderful practices) occasionally makes reference with reverence to Dr. Suess is most certainly a place where my family and I belong. I'm hoping you all share similar sentiments.

Until next time...

*Board of Trustees member, Gregg DiBiaso*

## A WORD ON MEMBERSHIP

---

These past few weeks have been very exciting for the Membership Committee. On Nov. 7, we had our New to UU retreat where individuals shared their unique spiritual journeys and were able to learn a bit more about UUism and all that FUSN has to offer. It was wonderful to hear about everyone's experiences at FUSN so far and how welcomed they already feel by the congregation. On Nov. 14, FUSN members Barbara Niles and Jay Flynn graciously opened their home to us for a newcomer potluck in which newcomers and recently new members were able to talk, connect, and share stories. While I have only been at FUSN for a few weeks, I feel as though that night was reflective of FUSN's core - full of warmth, connection, and a sense of belonging. Both the New UU class and the potluck have now led us to our New Member Sunday celebration on Nov. 22. We are thrilled to announce that several individuals have decided to make an official commitment to the FUSN congregation and become members. I am very pleased to feature one of our new members, Eric Moore, who agreed to offer a brief bio about his reasons for joining as well as his experiences at FUSN.

Eric Moore - Eric's wife, Julia Wolfe, has been a FUSN member for several years. He began attending FUSN about four years ago, as part of a larger negotiated family agreement that resulted to their son Theo Moore's attendance at COA classes. He came to realize since that time that he feels at home at FUSN and has now decided to join. Eric and Julia's daughter, Naomi Wolfe, is in sixth grade. Eric mentored Jacob Wang in 2015's COA class and recently joined the Holiday Tree Committee.

To get to know Eric better along with all of the other new members, I encourage you to come to coffee hour after Sunday services and introduce yourselves!

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES BROADCAST

---

Thank you for tuning into another week of the Youth Activities Broadcast! On Oct. 25, the youth headed out to Honey Pot Hill Apple Orchards and picked over 60 pounds of apples! The next youth trip will be on Dec. 12 and we will be going to the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry to cook a pancake breakfast and help out with their Holiday Party. More information about the trip and about opportunities to help will be coming out soon. Then, on Sunday Nov. 22, the youth teachers will have another meeting to continue their discussion on their experiences as leaders in the classrooms. Finally, please keep an eye out at the Holiday Fair for the youth group's contribution of handmade Holiday ornaments!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about the youth activities at FUSN please email me at [dani@fusn.org](mailto:dani@fusn.org) or call/text at (517) 881-5485.

## MUSINGS

---

'Tis concert season, and there are wonderful events coming up – too bad we can't be in several places at once:

Commonwealth Chorale (formerly Newton Choral Society) sings Handel's *Israel in Egypt* ("and there came all manner of flies" -!) this Saturday, Nov. 21, 8:00 p.m., at Church of the Holy Name in West Roxbury. FUSN choir member Neil MacGaffey will be singing!

**Communities Without Borders** Fundraising concert, with Triple Helix Piano Trio (FUSNite Lois Shapiro playing) on Sunday Nov. 22, 3:00 p.m., at First Church in Boston.

Metropolitan Chorale will perform Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, with FUSN's Deborah Selig as the soprano soloist, this Saturday, Nov. 21, 8:00 p.m., at All Saints Parish in Brookline.

Spectrum Singers: *Praises and Prayers*: World premiere of Different Ways to Pray, a personal Abrahamic prayer for a cappella Choir by Mohammed Fairouz plus works from the Judeo-Christian tradition. Saturday Nov. 21, 8:00 p.m., First Church Congregational in Cambridge.

Handel & Haydn Annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* at Symphony Hall, Friday-Sunday Nov. 27-29.

And...Save the Date! FUSN Musicians Concert on Sunday Feb. 7, 2016, 3:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary. Many of our wonderful musicians will be making music together (contact Anne Watson Born at [music@fusn.org](mailto:music@fusn.org) if you'd like to perform) – put us on your calendar now!

## SECRET SANTA

---

It's Secret Santa time again! Next Sunday, Nov. 22 and the following Sunday, Nov. 29, you can sign up at coffee hour to give a gift to a low-income child living in Boston who's enrolled in the UU Urban Ministry Explorers Club program. We will be collecting the gifts on Sunday, Dec. 6, and they will be distributed at the UUUM Holiday party the following Saturday. Your gift will make a child very happy. Please look for our Secret Santa table at coffee hour on the next 2 Sundays. For more information contact Judy Friedman (617) 325-9886 [judyfriedman57@gmail.com](mailto:judyfriedman57@gmail.com) or Josie Greene (617) 527-7468 [josieg49@gmail.com](mailto:josieg49@gmail.com)

## BLACK LIVES MATTER

---

"How could FUSN support the Black Lives Matter movement?" Sunday Dec. 6 After Services.

In her Oct. 4 sermon on the theme of humility, Erin invited the congregation to consider how we will we answer the call to support the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement. A group of people who expressed interest after that sermon met to discuss this topic on October 29 and came up with a variety of ideas and learning objectives, including:

- Study the BLM movement calls for solidarity and discuss their implications for FUSN;
- Glean lessons learned from other UU congregations with relevant experience (including initiatives that have fostered authentic sustainable relationships across various experiential and power divides);
- Request that the FUSN Multicultural Ministry Initiative develop relevant programming for the FUSN community (e.g. on the history, culture, and demands of the BLM, and on being an anti-racist ally).

The group plans to meet again and would love you to attend if you are interested. BLM and FUSN Discussion: Sunday Dec. 6, from 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Alliance Room at FUSN. To be included in email communications about this initiative, please let Naomi Olson know, [note2naomi@gmail.com](mailto:note2naomi@gmail.com)

## ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

---

FUSN'S Alternative Gift Fair is Sunday, Dec. 13, in Parish Hall from 11:30 to 1:00 pm.

Please save the date of Dec. 13 following the Sunday Service to explore and consider giving contribution(s) to those charities we sponsor and care about. A contribution in the name of a loved one not only honors them, but nurtures our own holiday spirit and can ease gift buying stress.

How it works: When you make a donation towards a specific charitable organization, you receive a card to give to your recipient which details your gift contribution in their name. It provides a perfect opportunity to buy for those folks who have what they need. Organizations represented at the different tables in the Parish Hall will include international and major FUSN charitable efforts. Tax deductible gifts start at \$10.00.m.

## THANK UUS

---

**The lay ministers** would like to thank the following Care Crew members who helped out in October: Allan Hartman, Helen Jordan and Kit Ryan

## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

**Join us** for our next monthly Community Breakfast, the best way to start your Sunday, on Dec. 13 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 – Jan. 10, 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 Dec. 1, 9:00 a.m.**

## CHRISTMAS TREES



This December, FUSN will again be selling cut balsam firs for holiday decorating. For any newcomers reading this: we set up a lot in the backyard of the church and sell trees to FUSNites and the general community.

All the set-up, sales, and clean-up are handled by volunteers from the congregation. It's a lot of work, a lot of fun, and a significant fundraiser for the church.

The trees—400 of them—are scheduled to arrive this year on Tuesday, Dec 1. Mark that date on your calendar, because we need every able-bodied person we can get to help unload the truck. We will be open for business starting the weekend of the Holiday Fair.

We have a table at coffee hour every Sunday for the rest of the month, where folks can order and pre-pay for trees—receiving a \$5 discount in the process—and sign up for a shift on the sales lot. Additionally, the Tree Team is looking for another permanent member. No experience necessary—although a certain tolerance for cold weather is helpful.

The Tree Guys: *Barney Frieberg-Dale, Eric Haas, Bill Horne, Jonathan Lilienfeld, Ron Mayville*

Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Boston  
Massachusetts  
Permit No. 8900

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

