



# FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

October 12 - October 25, 2014

## SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M.

The theme for October is Evil

Oct. 12 - Rev. Aaron Stockwell

Oct. 19 - Rev. Erin Splaine

Oct. 26 - Wheel of Life Service

## LUNCH WITH ERIN AND MEGHAN

Wednesday, Oct. 15, noon in the Alliance Room. Yes, there is such a thing as a free lunch! Any and all are invited to join Erin and Meghan for soup and conversation at noon on the 15th in the Alliance Room.

Long-time members of the community and those who are retired are especially invited. Please let Fran know if you plan to attend so we will know how much soup to prepare. Also, let us know if you need a ride.

## WHEEL OF LIFE SERVICE

The lay ministers are planning our annual Wheel of Life service. The date is Sunday, Oct. 26, and we will be celebrating life transitions of our FUSN community that have occurred in the past year. The service will also include meditation, poetry, and music. We will be honoring family births, deaths, weddings, graduations, engagements, and notable life changes (new job, big move, etc.) We welcome your contributions for the service. If anyone in your family has had a life transition during this past year, we would like to include it in the service. Please call Judy Friedman at 617-325-9886 or email [judyfried@verizon.net](mailto:judyfried@verizon.net)

## NOTES FROM MEGHAN

Fall Greetings!

I am so enjoying my first autumn in New England! It is an absolute pleasure to experience this glorious time of year with you all. Lots of new people are visiting us each week, and the religious education classes are bursting with kid-energy! There are so many magnificent programs and events underway at FUSN these days, so many ways to become more involved, learn, grow in spirit and deepen your connections with the other people here.

- The **Chalice Circle Covenant Groups** are still open for registration. If you think you would enjoy meeting with a small group of folks each month to share your thoughts and experiences around the congregation's monthly theme please get in touch with Jules Delamar ([jl\\_delamar@hotmail.com](mailto:jl_delamar@hotmail.com)).

- **Dinners for 7** are returning to FUSN! These popular events are a fun opportunity for a small group to share an informal potluck dinner in someone's home. (If you would like to host a dinner in your home between Oct. 24 and Thanksgiving please get in touch with me ASAP!) Once we have the dates and locations set sign ups will begin at the Welcome Table in coffee hour following the Sunday services.

- **Soup Lunch with the Ministers** is a monthly FREE lunch (yes, there is such a thing!) especially for our retired members and friends will be Wednesday Oct. 15 at noon. Please RSVP to Fran in the church office and let her know if you will need a ride.

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**Staff:** Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Meghan Cefalu, *Assistant Minister*, Fran Clancy, *Administrator*, Rowan Van Ness, *Acting Director of Religious Education*, Beth Walton, *Assistant Director of Religious Education*, Anne Watson Born, *Director of Music*, Carson Cooman, *Organist*, Mandy Beal, *Youth Coordinator*, Roberta Humez, *Minister of Music Emerita*, Madison Crosby, *Beadle*.

**Board of Trustees:** Gregg DiBiaso, Cathy Morocco, Bobbie Sproat, *Chair*, Jacki Rohan, Lesley Sneddon, Jonathan Reuman, Alison Costello and Becca Lozinsky, *Youth Reps*.

**Operations Council:** Susan Bartlett, *Chair*, Jeannie Chaisson, Judy Curby, Laurel Farnsworth, *Vice Chair*, Anne Hess-Mahan, Andrea Kelley

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office tel: 617-527-3203 • fax:617-964-5409 • Religious Education: 617-332-3438 • e-mail address: [office@fusn.org](mailto:office@fusn.org)

If you are ready to make it “official” and formally become a member of FUSN now is a great time to do so! Though you can join at any time, we’ll be formally welcoming new members to the congregation on November 2nd. If you would like to be among those welcomed on that day please be in touch with me ASAP.

Many blessings, *Meghan*

**Dinners for 7** are returning to FUSN! If you would enjoy hosting an informal potluck dinner for seven people in your home sometime between Oct. 24 and Thanksgiving please get in touch with Meghan Cefalu ASAP (Meghan@fusn.org or 617-620-5464). If you can host a family-friendly dinner let me know that too.

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## FROM THE BOARD

### **Our Culture of Leadership**

I find myself in an interesting situation - but more about me later. In the 18+ years that I have been at FUSN, I estimate that over 60 individual members have served as Trustees on our Board. That is probably three times as many volunteers in leadership positions than at any of the other congregations that I have served and worked with. And that's just the Board. I'm not even counting our Operations Council leaders, committee chairs and countless other volunteers in leadership positions. That's impressive testimony to our culture of leadership here at FUSN. We take turns as stewards of our beloved community and teach each other along the way. I can count on one hand the number of leaders who have served our board for more than a single three-year term since Pat and I arrived in 1996. And those folks - former Board chairs - were filling in for unexpired board terms. Which brings us back to my interesting situation. After an eleven year hiatus, I'm back on the Board for one year to finish Charlie Watts' term after he and Holly moved away this summer. And I find myself in awe of our elected leaders. As a governance geek, I have closely watched the evolution of our leadership going waaaaay back to the 90s. Policies that my predecessors dreamed of are now standard operating procedure here at FUSN (in writing! with institutional memory systems in place!) We have a governance structure that is studied as “best practice” by other congregations. It's a wonderfully healthy leadership culture thanks to the hard work of many dedicated leaders. And best of all, we have a myriad of experienced volunteers to teach and to be taught. Maybe you?

*-Jacki Rohan, FUSN Board of Trustees*

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## FUSN GARDEN PROJECT

The FUSN Garden Project has donated 488 lbs. of produce SO FAR this season to the Newton Food Pantry! Tomatoes, chard, squash, eggplants, peppers, cukes, potatoes, fennel, etc. We are hoping to top 500 pounds by the end of the season! Please come and help us. Thanks to all of you gardeners who have helped all summer to nurture this abundance. But, it is not over yet! There is still more to go--particularly delicious cherry tomatoes! Please join us either on Tuesdays for harvesting--around 5pm--or Saturday mornings--10-12. If you are planning on coming to the plot one of those times, please let us know, in case the time has needed to be tweaked a bit. Questions? lshapiro@wellesley.edu or paul@albertiswindow.com

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## PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

**Interfaith tour of West Newton houses of worship:** Sunday, Nov. 9 (afternoon): FUSN and three other houses of worship will come together for an interfaith sanctuary tour, highlighting how each faith tradition has used stained glass to create sacred space. The afternoon tour (bus transportation available) will include Temple Shalom, Myrtle Baptist Church, and Second Church.

This is a unique opportunity to learn about the stained glass and other features of the sanctuaries, and also to build fellowship among the members of our four congregations.

The tour is expected to start at 2:30 p.m., ending with refreshments at Temple Shalom at about 5:30 p.m. A fee of \$5 per head/\$10 per family will be charged to help defray costs.

Advance registration will be required. Registration forms should be available soon, but in the meantime, please feel free to contact Gayle Smalley – 617.332.7075; gaylesmalley@mindspring.com

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## THANK UUS

**Thank you** to the care crew people who helped out in September: Clare Kastner, Jeanne Chaisson, Kim Shanks, Kate Carney and Allan Hartman

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## MUSINGS

“Every morning I want to kneel down on the golden  
cloth of the sand and say  
some kind of musical thanks for  
the world that is happening again—another day—”  
(Mary Oliver)

The worship arts ensembles at FUSN – the Sanctuary Choir, the Family Choir, the Intergenerational Orchestra, the Flute Choir, CreationDance, the Band – will join together on Music Sunday to “say some kind of musical thanks.” This service, on Nov. 16, will feature music and dance and readings – a kind of glorious mishmash of musical styles (classical, gospel, folk) and texts (from the Psalms, John Murray, Maya Angelou, Martin Luther King, Jr.).

We welcome anyone who would like to participate, either by singing, dancing, playing an instrument, or reading. The Sanctuary Choir rehearses Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00 p.m., and some Sundays (Nov. 2 and Nov. 9). The Family Choir rehearses Sundays, 11:35-12 noon; CreationDance on Saturday afternoons. The Intergenerational Orchestra rehearses on Sundays, around 11:45am to 1:00 p.m.

If you are interested in reading during the Music Sunday service, please email me at [music@fusn.org](mailto:music@fusn.org). We will include some group readings in the service in addition to hearing individual voices.

The professional chamber musicians of Triple Helix, including FUSNite Lois Shapiro, will present an hour-long benefit concert for Project STEP in our Sanctuary, 7:30-8:30 p.m., on Saturday, Oct. 18. There is a special price for FUSN families with children under 12 (\$35/family). Regular prices: \$35 and \$25 seniors.

The hour-long concert will feature young musicians from Project STEP playing with Triple Helix; you will also hear an original composition by one of the students. There will be a reception following the concert where you can meet these talented youth.

Project STEP (<http://projectstep.org/>) was founded in 1982 with support from the BSO; their vision statement reads, “We envision a world in which the classical music profession reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of our communities.” The proceeds from the October 18 concert will go towards the Judith Sandler Scholarship Fund.

More information at [www.projectstep.org](http://www.projectstep.org), or contact me at [music@fusn.org](mailto:music@fusn.org). Hope to see you there!

*Anne Watson Born*

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## YOUTH GROUP

**We’re off to a good start in Youth Group!** I’m writing to let you know about some changes to our schedule over the next few weeks.

Oct. 12 – No Youth Group due to Ferry Beach retreat

Oct. 17 – HIKE directly after church instead of Youth Group (12:30-2:30ish) – please RSVP and bring a bottle of water

Oct. 26 – pUumpkin carving – BYO Pumpkin (we’ll have a few extras handy)

If your youth is interested in going on our hike Oct. 17, please make sure they bring a lunch to church so they can eat, then go take a hike. Also PLEASE let me know if your youth is planning on joining the hike, as I need to arrange transportation. Please email any questions to Mandy Beal: [mandy@fusn.org](mailto:mandy@fusn.org)

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## 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.

Rowan Van Ness, Acting Director of Lifespan Religious Education Ministries is typically off on Mondays.

Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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

Beth Walton, R.E. Assistant

Tuesday and Sunday, call for appointment.

Mandy Beal, 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, Director of Music Ministry

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

Wednesday, 12:00-7:00 p.m.

## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

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**Join us** for our Community Breakfast on Nov. 9. 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: Dec. 14; Jan. 11; Feb. 8; March 8; April 12, May 17.

## VESPERS AT FUSN

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Second Sundays, Nov. 9, Dec. 14, Jan. 11; 7:30 -8:00 p.m. Director: Amelia LeClair. This is the fourth year for Vespers at FUSN. If you haven't found it yet, we encourage you to come discover this hidden treasure.

Deadline for the next Newsletter is **Oct. 21**.

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