

FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

September 13 - September 26, 2015

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M.

The theme for September is Awe

9/13 - 10:15 a.m. - "Water Sunday"

Rev. Erin Splaine

What is Water Sunday? It has been the custom at the First Unitarian Society, as in many UU congregations, to start the new church year with an ingathering ceremony in which people pool together small amounts of water from their summer adventures, whether close to home or far away. We will continue this tradition during the service on Sept. 13.

9/20 - Rev. Erin Splaine

9/27 - Gospel Sing - Rev. Erin Splaine

Special gospel music

The theme for October is Humility

10/4 - Rev. Erin Splaine

10/11 - Rev. Erin Splaine

10/19 - Guest Minister

10/25 - Wheel of Life service - Lay Ministers

FUSN Music Ensembles are open to all – check us out! The Sanctuary Choir rehearses on Wednesdays (7:30-9:00 p.m.) and Sundays (9:00-10:00 a.m.).

FUSN's Intergenerational Chamber Orchestra rehearses on Sundays (11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) beginning Sept. 27.

The FUSN Band plays 6-8 times/year and usually rehearses on Sunday mornings.

The Flute Choir rehearses Sunday mornings at 9:00.

The Family Choir rehearses on Sundays from 11:30-12 noon.

We are also always looking for soloists, duets, trios, etc. – please let Anne Watson-Born know if you'd like to play in a service: music@fusn.org

A NOTE FROM ERIN

Welcome back and welcome home. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone this Sunday the 13th at our Annual Ingathering Water Sunday Service. Whether this summer had you traveling hither and yon or staying close, please remember to bring a small vial of water from places or events, which had meaning for you these past few months. Upon entering the Sanctuary you will be handed an index card - please be prepared to write a sentence (or two at the most) as to what meaning the water holds for you. Not necessarily from whence the water springs - but why it's important to you. These are a few samplings of years past: "This is from the lake near where my daughter was married in July." "I learned to swim at the pool at the Y." "This is from my kitchen faucet. We stayed home this summer and it was wonderful." "This is from a beach in Maine where we said goodbye to my grandmother." "From my dog's water bowl. I love my dog." The cards will be collected with the Offering and later in the service we will mix our water together as Rowan and I read each of the cards.

I am so grateful for your presence in my life and how each and every one of you is such an important part of the life here at FUSN. When you come to service this Sunday, remember to bring your water but also bring your thoughts, inspiration, energy and hope for our year ahead — a year in which we will continue to tend to each other and our larger world as we tend and nurture our own spirits.

Staff: Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Fran Clancy, *Administrator*, 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, *Youth Representative*

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

FROM THE BOARD

The end of summer and the beginning of a new church year is upon us! I'm looking forward to our coming together after our summer hiatus and the new energy that the fall brings.

Last year, as we worked on building the concept of the Developing Leadership Team, Rowan introduced me to a concept that I found to be very compelling. That concept involves asking ourselves two questions that help us to explore why we are here and what we want to get out of being here. We are drawn to FUSN for a number of reasons, and it is a conscious choice to be here. I've pondered both of these questions over the past year. What do I love about FUSN? And what do I long for at FUSN?

I love the passion of FUSN. We live our values. We strive to make this world a better place. Sometimes our passions spur conflict among us, yet we are resilient as a congregation and we respect one another. I long for our hurts to heal, and I look forward to our continuing to work together to be the best we can be. I suspect there would be a very wide range of responses if I were to ask each of you these same questions (we are UUs, after all) – but I imagine there would be much common ground as well. As we enter this new year, I am excited about working together to shore up that common ground. It is my fervent hope that, as a congregation, we can begin anew and to contemplate what it means to be in community with one another. See you all soon!

-Lesley Sneddon, Co-chair Board of Trustees

THANK UUS

The lay ministers give thanks to care-crew members who offered help to other members of the congregation: Barbara Bates, Kate Carney, Jules Delamar, Judy Friedman, Cris Goldsmith, Allan Hartman, Wendy Haskell, Meg Holland, Bill and Sandy Horne, Doug Kohn, Eileen Kurkowski, Cindy Orrell, Ron Perreault, Kit Ryan, Lois Shapiro, Sue Skoler, Bobbie Sproat, and Nancy Stanton and Doug Kohn. Your generosity is what makes this a community.

YOUTH GROUP BROADCAST

As summer winds down, we celebrate the beginning of the fall season. Pumpkin spice, Monday night football, the first day of school, and my personal favorite, fall means that it's time to celebrate the kickoff of youth group and youth activities! My name is Dani Negus and I am the new Youth Programs Coordinator. I am in my second year of seminary at Boston University and have begun the journey towards UU ordination. I am very excited to work with the youth here at FUSN!

Youth engage in life at FUSN in many ways. This year, we're creating a structure to reflect that. The youth activities umbrella highlights the many ways youth are involved in the congregation. Some of the activities under the umbrella include the youth teachers, who will be helping in the children's religious education classrooms on Sunday mornings, youth board members, youth who help with Coffee House, youth retreat, and youth group. By highlighting all of the areas and ways youth are involved, we can better support, include, and involve the youth in congregational life.

Save the Dates:

Sept. 10 at 7:00 p.m. - Ice Cream Social - The ice cream social will be the kickoff for youth group this year. Youth and their parents/guardians are invited to come together to discuss goals, expectations, and hopes for youth group this year. For the youth, there will be games and we will all enjoy ice cream with one another.

Sept. 19-20 -Youth Retreat, All FUSN youth in grades 9-12 or equivalent ages are welcome, whether or not they have been involved in FUSN youth programs in the past.

I am looking forward to a great year!

Dani Negus, Dani@fusn.org

MUSINGS

The promise is justice,
Together we make it;
The promise is wonder
That flows into praise.
The promise is freedom,
No falsehood can shake it;
The promise is meaning
In our all of our days.

Yes, you can sing it all - join the choir for the November Music Sunday this year as we sing the cantata *Sources* by Rev. Kendal Gibbons and Rev. Jason Shelton. Each movement of the work is in a different musical style: modern classical, Latin groove, meditative chant, gospel, new age, Broadway and hip hop. The work is scored for piano, strings, drum set, percussion, and choir. There are many solo opportunities and much of the music is suitable for all ages.

From UU World <http://www.uuworld.org/articles/the-story-the-sources-cantata> <http://www.uuworld.org/articles/the-story-the-sources-cantata>: "Shelton [had a] conviction that the Sources should have a more prominent place within Unitarian Universalism. "We have this marvelous statement about theological diversity in the Sources, but it largely gets ignored," he says. "Most of our folks can talk about the Principles in glowing terms, but they're a statement of covenant among congregations and how we will be in the world. The statement about what we believe is a statement about diversity, and that's the Sources." Sometimes UUs will omit or speak dismissively of theological traditions that we actually claim as our Sources. That bothers Shelton, the associate minister for music at the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Nashville.

"There are differences between us that are real and substantive, and if we let them, they could tear us apart," he continues. "If we don't engage with what it means to be Christian in a UU setting, or humanist in a pluralist setting, then we are lacking the tools to be in community with one another. Instead of watering everything down to the theological least common denominator, we need to be in integrity with each of our Sources—not watering down Christianity so the humanist feels comfortable with it, or watering down humanism so the pagans feel comfortable with it. Sometimes there will be things that express your theology and make me feel uncomfortable, but I will grow spiritually by being in community with you, who sees things differently."

Rehearsals (on Wednesdays and/or Sundays) begin soon. Email Anne Watson Born for more information: music@fusn.org.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SPEAKER SERIES

Tuesday evenings 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Sept. 15 - RSVP (Resolve to Stop the Violence Project) presented by Charlotte Simpson and Dr. Margaret Seater, attending physician at Mass General and instructor at Harvard Medical School. "Manhood and Violence: Fatal Peril," a film of men engaged in this intense group learning, will be shown. Chapel

Sept. 29 - Detention of Undocumented People – Presented by Gabriel Comacho, American Friends Service Committee. The Trust Act, a bill currently before the Mass. Legislature, will be discussed. 300 are held in detention at Suffolk County House of Correction awaiting trial. Alliance Room

Oct. 13 - Justice Reinvestment – Presented by Ben Forman, research director, MassInc. Massachusetts has adopted an evidenced-based model to deliver a far more cost-efficient way to make policy and decisions regarding programs. A cluster of bills have been filed to address drug sentencing, motor vehicle licenses, job development, bail reform, placement of prisoners in hospice care. Chapel

October 27 - Proposed changes in the Massachusetts Parole Process, presented by Lead Sponsor, State Representative Dave Rogers, 24th Middlesex District. His bill would require the Parole Board to justify the denial of parole after a risk and needs assessment. Prisoners deemed ready would be released six months before they complete their sentence. Chapel

Nov. 10 - Houses of Healing, an emotional literacy rehabilitation program which has been offered in prisons throughout the country. Presented by Robin Casarjian of Boston, who designed the program over 25 years ago. Chapel

Nov. 24 - Evidence-based intervention program for 17-24 year old high risk men, based in Chelsea, Boston and Springfield with 21 statewide centers. Presented by John Ward, public relations officer for Roca. Alliance Room

Dec. 15 - A Restorative Justice Approach to Sex Offenders. Presented by Ros Winsor, criminal justice advocate, social worker. She will describe and show a 45 minute video about Circles of Support and Accountability, a successful method of managing sex offenders used throughout Canada and a number of other countries. She will also report on the work of the Massachusetts Sex Offender Recidivism Commission, which is meeting monthly to study and formulate new policy options. Chapel

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us for our first Community Breakfast of the year on Sept. 13. 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. 4; Nov. 8; Dec. 13; Jan. 10; Feb. 7; March 13; April 10, May 22.

GREATER BOSTON FOOD BANK

Mark your calendar now for this year's volunteer dates at the Greater Boston Food Bank (Saturday mornings; we carpool from FUSN at 8:45 a.m.; back by 1:00 p.m.): Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 20, March 19, April 9, May 14 and June 11. For further information, contact Eric Haas, enhaas@yahoo.com.

Deadline for the first newsletter is Sept. 22.



Gospel Choir Workshop Saturday, Sept. 26 10:00 a.m. -2:30 p.m.

Singers from the workshop are invited to sing in the Sunday, Sept. 27 morning worship.

Sing gospel music with the Boston area artist Rev. Geoffrey Hicks, the Director of Music at the Tremont Temple in downtown Boston. Rev. Hicks is active as a pianist, composer, performer, lecturer, recording artist, arranger and conductor.

Workshop: FUSN members: \$10 (includes lunch) Non-FUSNites: \$15.00 (includes lunch)

To register for the workshop and for more information, email Anne Watson Born at music@fusn.org.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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