



# FUSN*ews*

First Unitarian Society in Newton

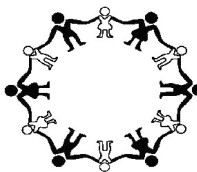
Unitarian Universalist

September 16 - September 29, 2012

## SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

### Upcoming Services

9/16, "And We Are Off...Together" - Rev. Erin Splaine  
9/23 - "A Sacred Pilgrimage" - Perry Montrose  
9/30 - "Promises, Promises" - Rev. Erin Splaine  
10/7 - Ferry Beach Weekend - Christian Schmidt  
10/14 - "That Nice Man" - Rev. Erin Splaine



### This Sunday, Sept. 16

Children and Youth RE begins  
Preschool - Grade 7

9:15 a.m. - Open House for newcomers  
(Please invite a friend)  
10:15 a.m. - Worship with story  
10:30 a.m. - Classes begin  
11:30 a.m. - Conversation with Perry in the  
Classroom  
6:00 p.m. - Youth Group  
Sunday, Sept. 23 - 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. - 8th Grade  
OWL Orientation -

**Decorate FUSN's Chancel** in honor of a special event or memory, or as a way to contribute to the beauty of our worship experience. Sign up for a Sunday by going to [fusnsignups.ivolunteer.com/worshiphelp](http://fusnsignups.ivolunteer.com/worshiphelp) or by signing up on the list in the hallway across from Fran Clancy's office. If you would like some help decorating, talk to Chancel coordinator Betsy Leavitt (see FUSN directory for contact info).

## NOTE FROM ERIN

Last Sunday was wonderful. It was great to see so many familiar and new faces together for our Ingathering Service. We are embarking on our year together with energy and enthusiasm and that is a very good thing indeed. As we did last year, we are gathering on Sunday mornings with full hearts and a full Sanctuary — which brings me to this — one of the most challenging newsletter columns I have written in a long time. It is so because I need to raise a concern about how we do Joys and Sorrows in our Sunday worship service.

The moment in our service when we share the personal joys and sorrows of our lives is a moment that allows us the opportunity to celebrate and support each other. Joys and sorrows have been an integral part of FUSN's worship service for several years yet for the last couple of years they have made it difficult to plan our Sunday morning service. Primarily because Joys and Sorrows have grown to be much longer than the 5-7 minutes for which we prepare. Our worship service is the weaving together of many elements — music, spoken word, silence, prayer and personal sharing. By the end of last year our worship became a bit out of balance, as there were several services when Joys and Sorrows ran as many as 25 minutes long.

Many UU congregations of varying sizes have faced the same question that we now face. How can we amend but not necessarily end the sharing of Joys and Sorrows. The Lay Ministers and I began a congregation-wide conversation about just that last year.

*Continued on next page*

**Staff:** Erin Splaine, *Minister*, Cheryl Rubin Lloyd, *Community Minister*, Kristin Cleveland, *Coordinator of Member Services and Development*, 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:** Margaret Costello, Lisa Gresser, Bruce Henderson, Carl Metzger, Gordon Moriarty, *Chair*, Strom Thacker, *Vice Chair* Charlie Watts, Ann Woodbury, Alan Cody, *Treasurer*, Conrad Buys, *Youth Rep.*

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**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)

Of course what we found was there are almost as many thoughts about how we should move forward as there are members of our community. Some of you would like to continue just as we are, some had great suggestions as to how to do things differently and some would like to see Joys and Sorrows end all together.

As we begin our year and the possibility that we will have to change how Joys and Sorrows are structured let us all keep in mind a few guidelines that might help renew our balance as we go forward. First and foremost please remember that Joys and Sorrows are meant to be a moment of personal sharing and not a time to make a political point or a general announcement. As we enter the last stages of an extremely intense political season this point is especially important. Our Sanctuary needs to be a refuge from din of political chatter.

Second, sharing and lighting a candle is just the beginning of our chance to share with each other and is best to be as brief as you can. Some UU ministers have called the moment a chance to “name but not explain.” As you decide what and how to share know that you will be inviting others to speak with you during coffee hour and other moments during the week.

And finally, if you have had a chance to share several times over the course of a month or so, please keep in mind that others might be hesitant to come forward if time is running short. There is so much that goes on in our lives: births and deaths; graduations and other accomplishments; engagements and weddings; illness and concern — in an effort to create more opportunities to share with each other the big and small moments in our lives we are setting up a new section of our newsletter “News of Our Community”. As these moments happen in your life please send Fran (office@fusn.org) a sentence or two so that we can include your news in the newsletter.

Sharing the joys and sorrows of our lives is a moment that deepens our worship yet it is also a challenge. Together I am sure that we can find a way to enhance our understanding and knowledge of each other and yet maintain the balance that is so important to our shared worship service. As we continue to navigate our way through our new relationship with sharing of our Joys and Sorrows on Sunday morning, please feel free to talk with any Lay Minister or me.

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## OUR WORSHIP SERVICE: GIVING WORTH

Simply defined, to worship is to give worth to something. On Sunday mornings at FUSN we give worth to our values and to our common work in support of those values. Doing this requires the talents and participation of many people. This involvement helps make our worship hour a reflection of our diverse and exciting ministries. That is why we encourage full participation in the Sunday morning roles that make this weekly event happen. Please volunteer as a chancel decorator, greeter, usher, or chalice lighter at least once during the year by going to <http://fusnsignups.ivolunteer.com/worshiphelp> or talking to Jeannie Chaisson or Kristin Cleveland.

### Keep in mind:

You can decorate the chancel, be a chalice lighter, or serve as a greeter even if you must leave after the time for all ages to help in RE. (Ushers must be able to stay longer to collect the offering).

Children are welcome to serve as greeters or ushers when paired with an adult

Chancel decorating and chalice lighting duties can be done by an individual or shared by a few people.

Please tell Fran Clancy how you want your names listed in the order of service.

### Details:

Chancel decorator(s) can start whenever necessary to be completed by 9:45 a.m.

Greeters should arrive by 9:45 a.m. and check in with Kristin or another representative of the Member Services committee.

Ushers should arrive by 9:55 a.m. and check in with Jeannie

Chalice lighter(s) should arrive by 9:55 a.m. and check in with Kristin or Jeannie

*-Kristin Cleveland*

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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The first Board meeting for the 2012-2013 year was held June 12. We welcomed our new Board members, elections were held for officers, and the Ops Council was reelected. We convened again Aug. 14 to discuss some of the efforts to be undertaken in support of our new governance structure and the Society's financial health and infrastructure. The Leadership Development Committee held a “on-boarding” workshop for our new members. Our governance structure, budget, finances and financial policies, bylaws, and Board issues to be addressed this year were discussed. By the time you read this, the Board will have held its retreat on Sept. 8 with a focus on how we might best identify FUSN's long-range goals in light of its core values, and how we might best lead the congregation in pursuit of those goals. Then, on Sept. 11, we will hold our next regular Board meeting. It's been a busy start to what should be an exciting year and I look forward to sharing some of what we do through periodic updates here.

*-Gordon Moriarty, Chair*

**THANK UUS - The lay ministers** wish to express thanks to the Care Crew members who recently helped other members of the congregation -- Wendy Berenson, Marion Bullitt, Judy Friedman, Jon Lilienfeld, Kate Thibeault, Sue Skoler, Bobbie Sproat, Nancy Wrenn, and Margaret Zaleski.

## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us on Oct. 14 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: Nov. 11, Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 17, Apr. 7 and May 5.

## VESPERS SERVICE

The monthly Vespers service with the Vermilion Quartet, Amelia LeClair, director, will be Sunday, Oct. 14 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.

**Deadline** for next newsletter is Sept. 25, 9:00 a.m.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**FUSN's Rosh Hashanah Dinner** is this Monday evening in the Parish Hall. Gathering begins at 5:30 p.m.; Blessings and Dinner start promptly at 6:00 p.m. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. RSVPs required (and the sooner the better, as we have half of our capacity reserved already). We still need volunteers for table setting, money taking, and clean up. To RSVP and to volunteer, send an email to Kristin Cleveland at [member\\_services@fusn.org](mailto:member_services@fusn.org) (or go to <http://fusnsignups.ivolunteer.com/roshrsvpvol>).

**Radical Hospitality Workshop** this Sunday, Sept. 16, and also Sunday, Sept. 30. Come to one or both workshops to discover the moral dimensions of engaging more deeply with our congregation (both newcomers and longtime members alike), and brainstorm ways FUSN can do this better. Child care is available. Refreshments will be served. Registration with Fran Clancy, while not required, is helpful to enable us to plan refreshments.

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First Unitarian Society in Newton  
1326 Washington Street  
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