

NEWTON PERSON OF THE WEEK By Chloe Gotsis | cgotsis@wickedlocal.com

Erin Splaine

Minister of the First Unitarian Society

Age? 51, but I don't look a day over 50.

How did you decide to become a minister?

From college to Capitol Hill to a ten-year search for meaning, it wasn't until I landed on Nantucket and became an active member of the Unitarian Universalist congregation that I found the community of caring and sharing and meaning I had been searching for. At that moment I knew what I wanted my life's work to be.

What is your day-to-day life like as a minister at the First Unitarian Society in Newton?

Ministry is so wonderfully varied, rarely is one day like the next. Each day, each week, each month brings its own challenges and rewards. In general, my weeks run between 50 and 60 hours that include preparing for Sunday worship, providing pastoral care (listening and talking with folks), and working with committees and staff on all the aspects it takes to make our congregation the vibrant community that it is today.



Erin Splaine COURTESY PHOTO

How big of a role has your faith played in your life?

For me, being religious means being connected to each other, to the natural world and to our own selves. My theology calls on me to seek, to share and to sustain within a community of faith that which is sacred and good and true. It asks that I continue to do my best to live my life washed in love and polished by justice, with an openness and quest for learning from those whose theologies may be defined differently than mine. My theology calls on me to carry my beliefs not only in my head and in my heart, but also to express them with my hands in the work for social justice.

How did you come to the First Unitarian Society in Newton?

This is the end of my second year at the First Unitarian Society in Newton. Prior to that I served our congregations in Wayland and Northampton, MA. I was thrilled that First Unitarian Society in Newton was looking for a new minister at the same time I was looking for a new settlement.

What do you do in your spare time when you aren't at church?

I treasure quiet time with my partner. I also love biking, working out at the gym, dog walks, attending live musical events, wrestling with crossword puzzles and the good company of friends.

What keeps you coming to work everyday?

FUSN is a community of great energy and compassion — a place where people tend to each other and to the larger community. I am lucky to be a member of such a talented, engaging and collaborative staff.

What would you like people to know about the First Unitarian Society in Newton and Unitarian Universalists?

FUSN is a thriving, engaging liberally religious multigenerational community where folks greet each other with warmth and gladness every Sunday, a place where we care for each other in times of sorrow and joy, where we support each other in the work that takes us beyond ourselves to care for our neighbors and our planet. We celebrate diversity — we endeavor to work together for justice — we strive to be more compassionate and we seek ways to foster the best in ourselves and in those around us.



First
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Newton

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