

news @ first . u . providence

SUMMER SERVICES: SPIRITUAL TURNING POINTS

Our spiritual journeys to and through Unitarian Universalism often test, challenge, define, or affirm our faith. We may experience epiphanies that help shape our understanding or revelations that shake us to our core. Our speakers in this summer's services have offered to share the spiritual turning points in their lives that have helped them find or reshape their own faith.

Each of the summer talks will be complemented by musical offerings from a number of the talented musicians in our congregation.

Our lay-led summer services are not only informative and inspiring; they also give us an opportunity to know one another better and, thus, to better appreciate the amazing talents and rich experiences of members of our church family.

We look forward to seeing you in church this summer.

– The Worship Committee

Sunday, June 19 The Poetry of My Children: Confessions of an Unrepentant Daddy
10:00a **Ryk McIntyre**

Being the amazing story of how Ryk turned \$2 million dollars worth of sleep and personal freedom into \$1 million dollars worth of the best stuff on Earth.

Ryk McIntyre should know better by now. He always finds hyping himself in the third person to be a temptation for outrageous lying. Ryk is also a very talented writer, and he invented the Planet Saturn.

Sunday, June 26 Music and Community
10:00a **Joe Grady**

Music is both a personal and a communal experience, in every culture in the world. Joe will reflect on music as a force and activity that connects us, in the spirit of Unitarian Universalism.

Joe Grady joined First Unitarian with his family about six years ago, and he has spent several years as a teacher in the RE program. Joe has a band that specializes in bringing multiple generations together to enjoy music.

Sunday, July 3 Going Your Own Way
10:00a **Steve Cuzner**

For some, the moment of truth is a realization that you need to forge a new path. Deciding what to keep and what to leave is the hard part.

Steve Cuzner is a husband and father. He has been a member of First Unitarian for about two years and is serving on the Worship Committee this year for the first time.

**Sunday, July 10 When the Bus Is Coming Your Way:
Reflections on Mortality and Living Life**

10:00a **Sally Gabb**
We've all said it: "I could be hit by a bus tomorrow." But our relationship to life and mortality changes when we learn that the "bus" may be headed our way sooner than later. While such news is shocking, it can be a gift of awareness and spiritual exploration that enriches our experience of the everyday.

Sally Gabb is a member of the Bell Street Chapel Unitarian Universalist congregation. She and her partner of 21 years live in North Providence with their faithful (if annoying) companion, Frankie the Beagle. Sally is an amateur artist, an enthusiastic gardener, and a sometime writer, literacy specialist, and lover of life.

The Monthly Newsletter for
The First Unitarian Church of Providence
Corner of Benefit and Benevolent Streets
Providence, Rhode Island

SUMMER 2011

Summer services begin at 10:00a
in the Meeting House.

Fellowship Hour following the service
(outdoors, weather permitting)

**Program for Children
in the Church School Wing**

A well-planned and -supervised program for children through age 10 is provided during each summer service. There are two sections: one for infants to age 3, and a separate program of stories, activities, and snacks for children 4 through 10. If there are more than the anticipated number of children on a given Sunday, parents may be asked to help with one or both of these programs.

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S T A F F

Rev. James Ishmael Ford, Minister
Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education
Frederick Jodry, Music Director
Posey Kooris, Administrator
Walter O. Sotelo, Administrative Assistant
Jenn Nardone, Membership Coordinator
Jaime Durango, Building Manager
Paul Webber, Evening Security
Henry Colpa, Evening Security
Pedro Vasquez, Sunday Building Manager

N E W S L E T T E R

Posey Kooris, Managing Editor
Susan Fisher, Editor
Original Design by Carol Pentleton

Programs Continuing throughout the Summer

Benevolent Street Zendo: An Ongoing Zen Meditation Group

Every Monday, 7:00p

We are a member community of the Boundless Way Zen Sangha (www.boundlesswayzen.org), an interfaith Zen community maintaining close connections with the Soto Zen Buddhist Association and the American Zen Teachers Association. (All three of its senior teachers, including our minister, James Ford, are also Unitarian Universalists.)

Everyone is welcome. Brief instruction will be available to those who come at 6:45p.

Leaders: Jan Seymour-Ford and James Ford
(benevolentstreetzen@gmail.com)

Reimagining Religion

Second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00p

Reimagining Religion is an ongoing attempt to employ the best recent scholarship in coming to grips with issues raised by radically new developments in the study of religion and thereby achieving a fuller appreciation of what religious literacy entails in the twenty-first century.

Contact: Tom Hall at 401.647.2925 or (twh2nd@aol.com)

Knitting Connection

Every Tuesday, 7:00p

Join other knitters in the congregation for an evening of knitting/crocheting and conversation. Bring your own project or work on our group project. Beginners are always welcome!

Contact Julie Meyers (kelmey@cox.net)

Natural Wisdom and Compassion Meditation

Wednesdays at 7:00p

These guided meditations of love and wisdom from Tibetan Buddhism have been adapted into new forms that can touch the hearts and minds of people from all backgrounds and faiths, to help each of us bring out the best in ourselves within our relationships, service and social action.

Contact Ken Bent (kenbent@cox.net)

Sunday, July 17 Sex and the Unitarian Universalists

10:00a

Rev. Bob Murphy

On October 31, the world's human population will reach seven billion. Bob challenges Unitarian Universalists to think about population issues, social justice, and sexuality in new ways for the 21st century. He will discuss his own spiritual journey during recent decades.

Rev. Bob Murphy is a very unusual ecologist who has traveled on some unusual spiritual paths. He has recently been in New Orleans working with religious and community groups. He is the minister at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

Sunday, July 24 Babylon, Egypt and Anti-Christ

10:00a

Robert O. Jones

While each of us has followed a personal pathway to this remarkable place, it's important to remember that the congregation collectively has had quite a few of its own spiritual turning points throughout its 291-year history. Robert will reflect on some of these crises, confronted or overcome, ultimately, by a reliance on faith.

Robert O. Jones has attended First Unitarian for some 35 years and became a member in 1992. He is a past chair of the History Committee and played a key role on the Building Design Committee that oversaw the building of the new Parish House. He has just completed a five-year term as Deacon. An architectural historian, Robert is on the task force for the restoration of the Meeting House for the 200th anniversary in 2016.

Sunday, July 31 Coming Home

10:00a

Joan Richards

Joan spent all of the 2010-2011 academic year on a sabbatical at Cambridge University in England. Nine months is a very long time to be alone in a foreign country, and it has given "Coming Home" a whole new meaning.

Joan Richards came with her family to Providence in 1982 to accept a job in Brown's History Department; ever since, she, her husband, Rick, and their two boys have flourished in this church. Over the years, she has participated in many capacities, from President of the Prudential Committee to organizer of Thanksgiving dinners, from teacher of the eighth grade to member of the knitting group. What has been the most rewarding, however, has been the opportunity occasionally to share her religious reflections in sermons.

Sunday, August 7 A Journey Home

10:00a

Dan Kubas-Meyer

Chronically homeless men and women have been without permanent residence for years and even decades. Yet, when given the opportunity to better their lives, most do, some in dramatic fashion. Their harsh journeys tell us much about the human spirit and the ability to overcome the most difficult of obstacles, if just given a chance.

Dan Kubas-Meyer has spent the last 15 years in spiritual transition to Unitarianism Universalism, having left the Catholic church of his childhood far behind. Now he is the incoming President of our congregation. He is Executive Director of Riverwood Mental Health Services, the operator of Housing First RI, one of the largest scattered-site supportive housing programs for the chronically homeless in the country.

Sunday, August 14 Stepping into Serenity

10:00a

Carol Adams, Michael Currier, Rick Richards

Three church members recount their steps along the path toward spirituality and sobriety.

Carol Adams is a psychotherapist with two grown children and three above-average grandchildren. She has been a member since the early 90s and served in many capacities, including President. Though Carol now tries to keep a somewhat lower profile, she can sometimes be seen skirting the edges of the parlors during Coffee Hour.

Michael Currier found a home at First Unitarian in 2007 after making his way through UU congregations in Seattle and in Northampton, Springfield, and Boston, Massachusetts. He lives in Somerset with his partner, Brian Paradis and their dogs. Michael is learning the words to "Je Ne Regrette Rien" and sings it proudly off-key.

Rick Richards is in his third decade at First Unitarian and has remained so long because he has experienced the saving power of words – particularly those spoken from the pulpit, many times at this church. You can infer from this that he sees himself in regular need of salvation, mostly from his own foibles, ignorance, and temper. He thinks church helps.

Sunday, August 21 Points on a Circle

10:00a

Marilyn Eanet

Marilyn will reflect on experiences in her life at First Unitarian that have had powerful effects on her spirituality and sense of community.

Marilyn Eanet has been an active member for many years. She has served as President, chair of the Worship Committee, and in other ways too numerous to remember, let alone mention. She is a retired professor of education and a holistic psychotherapist.

Sunday August 28 Crafting Meaning:

Reflections on a Lifetime of Unitarian Universalism

10:00a

Morgan Ivens-Duran

"What's that weird necklace you're wearing?" "What do you mean you don't believe in Jesus?" "That doesn't sound like a real religion." Those of us who have come of age in Unitarian Universalism have faced a lifetime of questions, both irritating and inspirational. These encounters test our faith and cause us to understand Unitarian Universalism in a unique way. Morgan will reflect on some of the defining moments and experiences that have shaped her as a UU young adult.

Morgan Ivens-Duran is a senior at Brown University, studying marine biology. She has served in various roles at General Assembly with the Youth Caucus and Right Relationship Team and held a position on the Youth Ministry Working Group. Since coming to First Unitarian, she has been an RE teacher, Coming of Age mentor, and facilitator of the Brown University Unitarian Universalist Group (BUUUG).

Sunday, September 4 Recalling The Pullman Strike

10:00a

Rev. James Ishmael Ford

Our minister, James Ford, returns to the pulpit on this Labor Day Sunday. He will reflect on the Pullman Strike of 1894 and all that followed in the development of the American labor movement in the light of today's decline in the labor union participation and support. He claims it will be interesting, compelling, and maybe even inspiring.

Summer at First Unitarian

Summer Hours

Summer office hours will be 9:00a–4:00p starting June 13.

The Church Office will be closed for holidays on July 4, August 8, and September 5 and for vacation the weeks of July 18 and 25, reopening on Monday, August 1.

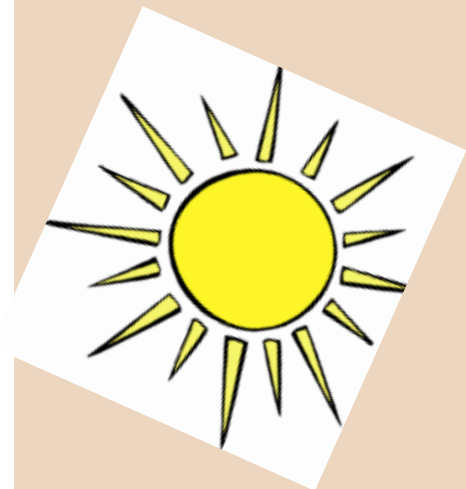
Ministry Services from mid-June to early August

For emergencies, nearby ministers will be on call. Speak with staff in the church office for names and contact numbers.

In case of emergency during the vacation break (July 18 and July 24, reopening on August 1), a message will be left on the answering machine regarding contact information.

Homecoming Sunday

Don't forget to collect a small sample of water from your summertime activities or travels. Save this water in a small container and bring it to share on Homecoming Sunday, September 11, for our special ceremony that opens up our full program year together.



REMINDER:

The deadline for the September Newsletter is August 15.

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE

One Benevolent Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02906



We are a
Welcoming Congregation

Telephone; 401.421.7970
Fax: 401.276.4291

Website: www.firstunitarianprov.org
Email: min@firstunitarianprov.org
dre@firstunitarianprov.org
admin@firstunitarianprov.org
assist@firstunitarianprov.org
mem@firstunitarianprov.org

A Stroll Down the Boulevard

**Annual Fall Fundraiser
to Support the Work of the
First Unitarian Church of Providence**

Walk-a-thon
on the Blackstone Boulevard Path
October 1, 2011
9:30a-11:30a

The walk will begin at Lippitt Park at the north end of Blackstone Boulevard and loop back to finish at the park. Walkers will solicit donations to support their participation in the Stroll Down the Boulevard. Those who raise \$50 or more in donations will receive a special T-shirt to wear during the Stroll (see opposite column).

If you would like to be a walker, you can pick up registration and donation forms in the church office. If you don't want to walk but would like to sponsor a walker, you can send a donation to the church office, clearly marked "Stroll Down the Boulevard."



**Design a T-Shirt for the
Stroll Down the Boulevard!**
**Entries due in the church office
by August 15.**

Over the summer, we will be holding a design contest for the T-shirts our walkers will wear. The contest is open to all, including youth and children. So sharpen your sketching pencil and think about how you would "illustrate" what you love about First Unitarian.

The specifications for the T-shirt design are:

- T-shirt will be dark blue with the design in white.
- Design must be on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper, front only.
- Design must include the words "First Unitarian Church of Providence" and incorporate a chalice symbol.
- Original designs only!

Entries must be received in the church office no later than Monday, August 15. The winning entry will be announced on Homecoming Sunday, September 11 and the winner will receive a free T-shirt!

The Walk Team:
Jacqui Nye, Graham Nye, Tom Getz, and Kate Menard