



The First Unitarian Church in New Bedford

Volume LIII, Issue 4

April 2014

News & Views

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

Winter's grasp has finally let go and spring is in full swing! It is wonderful to see the flowers blooming again and to feel the warm air and sunshine.

As the world greens again, we breathe in the air of rebirth and renewal. We are invited to consider how we too might begin this new season with a renewed commitment to our Beloved Community. We have been seeking ways to create programming that will inspire, educate, and support our members and friends.

Last month we began a monthly film series on Cultural Competency (anti-racism/multiculturalism) and have shown the compelling documentaries *Race: the Power of an Illusion* and *Slavery By Another Name*. This month we will show the film *A Class Apart*. I hope that many of you will take advantage of this series and will join us in discerning how we can work to increase tolerance and acceptance in our own community and in the world. This work is both personal and cultural and we can all do something to make the world better, even in small ways. (If there is programming you would like to see, please let us know.)

We look forward also to the coming of the Charles W. Morgan, the last of its kind, restored, wooden Whaling Ship at the end of June. (I hope many of you will participate in the festivities that week.) Its owner, Charles Morgan, was an important member of the community and of this church. His work, and the work of others, helped to increase awareness of the Abolitionist movement and to move the nation towards ending slavery. Though slavery was officially abolished in the US in 1865, we clearly have a long way to go to bring equality to the nation. The issue of race in America is tied also to economic justice.

For me, this issue is not just about helping people of color, but also seeing how the current inequity impacts those of us who are white. My email has the tag line: "If you have come to help me you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together", a quote attributed to an Aboriginal activists group, Queensland, Australia, in the 1970s and one that is echoed in the anonymous saying, "no one is free when others are oppressed".

Our liberation is bound up with all life on this planet and our care should include all life. This is our calling and our challenge as people of faith; to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with the sacred.

May this spring fill you with the joy of rebirth, bright color and warm winds.

Shanti, Paul

WAYSIDE PULPIT

Goodness is the only investment that never fails.

Henry David Thorough

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MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

Tues 1-5

Wed 12-2

Thu 2-4

or by appointment
508-717-2438

RE NEWS-WAY COOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

- April 4 Fantastic Four Youth Group {Foxborough 7pm}
 Open Mic in Tryworks {7-10pm}
- April 6 Spirit Play: Yoga & Smoothies
- April 10 AHA Sustainable Southcoast Earth Eve Parade
 Custom House Square 5:30
- April 13 Walking Trip to Serlingpa Meditation Center {10:15am}
- April 20 Spirit Play: Jesus the Beloved Teacher & Storyteller
 Easter Egg Hunt in the Garden
- April 27 Spirit Play: The Everything Seed

Knowledge is limited, but imagination encircles the world. {Albert Einstein}

Over the next several weeks the children will begin preparing the raised beds, planting seeds and getting dirty, so dress appropriately. Thanks to the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay for their generous grant and donated tools to help get our garden growing! All are welcome to help with this project throughout the Spring and Summer in terms of watering, weeding and eating! If you are interested in helping be part of this project please see Yasmin! Thank you in advance.

Please note that on Thursday, April 10th at 5:30pm we will be marching in the Earth Eve Parade as part of AHA's {Art, History, and Architecture} Sustainable Southcoast. It is an exciting event promoting environmental awareness with many fun, free activities for all! Custom House Square on William Street is the meeting place.

Our third visit to the Serlingpa Meditation Center {541 Pleasant Street} will be on April 13th. We will be walking downtown at 10:15am and returning by 12:00pm. The children will start with a brief blue-sky mind meditation along with a story that promotes our first promise, Respect All People, followed by a craft that illustrates our potential. Chaperones are encouraged.

Extra, extra, read all about it...

Be sure to check out our new selection of books from the UUA bookstore located in our Lending Library.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

House and Grounds
Richard Pline

Religious Services
Karen Andersen

Membership
Development

Comm. Chair Needed

Endowment
Carlton Dasent

Soup Kitchen Coordinator
Dave Thoen

Food Pantry
Maggi Kerr Peirce

Thrift Shop
Bill Bennett

Social Justice
Wendy Wiggins

Women's Alliance
Pam Sherman



UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW UU CLASS

Thinking about joining First Unitarian but want to learn more about us? Here's your opportunity! The next New UU Class will be held on April 27th at 12:30 in the Parish House. Come find out who we are and what we believe. You may just find your spiritual home is here with us!

Childcare is available and a light lunch will be served. Please see Rev. Paul or call the office to register.



POETRY SERVICE

Calling all POETS! April is National Poetry Month, and I know our congregation is rich with writers of all kinds. Anyone who would like to share some original poetry/prose at the April 13th service should contact Karen Andersen for details via email (witchgwen@yahoo.com) or at coffee hour.

FIRST FRIDAY OPEN MIC

It's back! Now that winter weather is no longer an issue, the fun can continue!

Please join us in the Tryworks Auditorium on Friday, April 4th beginning at 7pm for a fun night of music!

OFFICE HOURS

Please be aware that during the week of April 20th-26th, the office hours will not be regular hours due to the school April Vacation. Please call first before coming to the office to make sure someone is around.

AHA! NIGHT

Thursday April, 10th
Sustainable SouthCoast

Earth Eve Parade—Meet at Custom House
Square on William Street at 5:15pm

"APRIL SHOWERS"

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This APRIL, let's "shower" the food pantries with donations! Please bring your non-perishable items in on Sundays and place them in the box by the door. Most needed items are pasta, sauce (not in glass jars, please), cereal/oatmeal, soup, canned tuna/meat & canned fruit as well as personal care items like shampoo, toothpaste & razors.

Thank you for your continued generosity!



COALITION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE ANNUAL BANQUET

Would anyone like to go to the annual dinner & ceremony to benefit the Coalition for Social Justice? Tickets are \$30 each. We'd like to be able to reserve a table (of 10) together, so please call the office if you're interested in purchasing tickets for this event.



SPIRIT OF ART

Spirit Of Art will meet every Thursday from 9-11am, members and friends of the congregation are always welcome, please RSVP to Victoria Capon at vcapon@icloud.com if you plan on joining us. Thanks!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The "News & Views" goes to print on the third or fourth Tuesday of each month. **The deadline to submit articles into the newsletter is the Friday before it goes to print.** All submissions are reviewed by the editor for content and grammar.

**Next "News and Views":
April 25, 2014**



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:



Tryne Costa 4/4 ~ Priscilla Bates 4/8 ~ Xzavier Blaisdell 4/14
Elijah Francis 4/14 ~ Ava Varela 4/19 ~ Leo Cummins 4/20
Everett (Brownie) Sherman 4/22 ~ Emily Talbot 4/23

THE CHARLES W. MORGAN IS COMING TO TOWN!

From June 29th to July 6th, the Charles W. Morgan, will be in New Bedford Harbor and will be met with great celebrations. The Morgan is the last remaining wooden whaleship, originally from New Bedford, and Charles Morgan, himself, was a member here at First Unitarian. The Whaling Museum and the Downtown Tourism department have several wonderful events planned and we'd like to join in the celebration. We are trying to set up a Sea Chantey Concert, Sanctuary tours (where we can point out Charles Morgan's pews) and have the labyrinth and garden open to the public on Saturday, July 5th. Most of the celebrations will be taking place at the waterfront, but there will be a parade that day that goes right by the church. The parade will help us to lure people away from the waterfront for a bit and show off our magnificent church! We'd like to get a committee together to plan this day of historic fun. Please call the office or speak with Yasmin or Karen Andersen and let us know if you'd like to be part of the party!

CONTINUING EVENTS

Mondays at 9am: Waldorf Playgroup — Meets in the Green Room. Free. See Victoria Capon for details.

Mondays at 5:30pm: Tai Chi — Meets in the Green Room. Free. No meetings on Monday holidays.

First & Third Mondays of each month at 7:00pm: Pride Café—Meets in the Parish House.

Second Monday of month at 7:30pm: Workshop That Reconnects—meets in Parish House.

First Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. Social Justice Committee — Meets in the Sanctuary.

Second Tuesday of the month at 11:30am: Women's Alliance Meeting in the Parish House (unless otherwise stated). (No meeting in January, February, and March.)

Second Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm: Board of Trustees meeting. Meets in the Historic Room.

Wednesdays (September-December & January to May—weather permitting) at 9:30am: Quilting Group—Meets in the Parish House. Come and join the fun, even if you're not a quilter.

Thursdays at 9am: Spirit of Art—meets in the Parish House. Free.

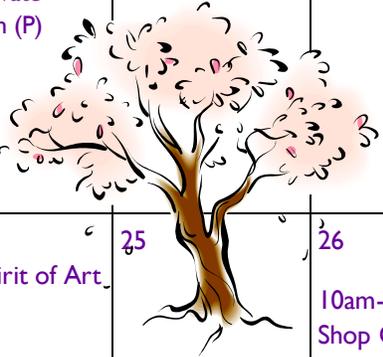
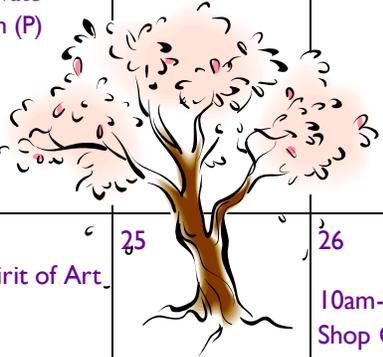
First Friday of each month at 7:00pm: Open Mic Night in Tryworks Auditorium

Third Saturday and/or Sunday of the month: Dinners for Eight.



April 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Social Hour (P)	31 9am Playgroup (P) 5:30 Tai Chi (D)	April 1 6:30pm Social Justice Team (S) 7pm GNBCChoral Society (P) 	2 9:30am Quilting Group (P) 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	3 9am Spirit of Art (P) 	4 7pm First Friday Open Mic (T) Providence Bru- ins Night (offsite)	5 11am Private function (P)
6 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Social Hour (P)	7 9am Playgroup (P) 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 7pm Pride Café (P)	8 6:30pm Board of Trustees Mtg (H) 7pm GNBCChoral Society (P)	9 9:30am Quilting Group (P) 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr) NBSO (T)	10 9am Spirit of Art (P) 5:30pm AHA Night:: Sustain- able SouthCoast (offsite) 7pm CUUPS Elders (Gr)	11 	12 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
13 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Social Hour (P) 2:00pm Martha Briggs Annual Lenten Tea (P)	14 9am Playgroup (P) 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 7pm Workshop That Reconnects (P)	15 <i>Passover</i> 7pm GNBCChoral Society (P) 	16 9:30am Quilting Group (P) 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	17 9am Spirit of Art (P) 6pm Private Function (P)	18 <i>Good Friday</i> 	19 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
20 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Social 	21 9am Playgroup (P) 7pm Pride Café (P)	22 <i>Earth Day</i> 7pm GNBCChoral Society (P)	23 SOUP KITCHEN DAY 9:30am Quilting Group (P) 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	24 9am Spirit of Art (P) 6:30pm Homeless Lay Network (Gr)	25 	26 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
- APRIL VACATION -						
27 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Social Hour (P) 12:30pm New UU Class	28 9am Playgroup (P) 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 6pm Endowment Comm Mtg (Gr)	29 7pm GNBCChoral Society (P)	30 9:30am Quilting Group (P) 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	MAY 1 9am Spirit of Art (P)	2	3 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open

**Green Room(Gr), Dining Room(D), Kitchen(K),
Sanctuary(S), Parish House(P), Tryworks
Auditorium(T), History Room(H),
Ladies Parlor (LP), Office (O)**



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

LOVE

NEWS AND VIEWS
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FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
IN NEW BEDFORD
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New Bedford, MA
02740-6025
Email: NBU718@aol.com
Web: www.uunewbedford.org
Church Office
508-994-9686
Fax 508-994-9687

Check out our new website at www.uunewbedford.org and let us know what you think!

WORSHIP THEMES FOR THE YEAR

April Worship Theme:

This month, Humility is our focus. Synonyms include: unpretentiousness, modesty and nonresistance. Humility is related to vulnerability, we cannot be humble without being vulnerable.

Wendy Mass, in her book, *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life*, writes: "A fight is going on inside me," said an old man to his son. "It is a terrible fight between two wolves. One wolf is evil. He is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other wolf is good. He is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside you."

The son thought about it for a minute and then asked, "Which wolf will win?"

The old man replied simply, "The one you feed."

Being humble means that we do not assume our way is the only way, or even the best way. We share with one another our skills and talents, offering ourselves to others in service and love. The wolf we feed is the one who will win, so it behooves us to feed the wolf of humility and love. To walk humbly is to recognize that one's vision of the world is framed by our own experiences and to know that different views of the world are not only possible, but inevitable. To walk humbly is to grow in understanding of those world views and to widen our own view by hearing and understanding those stories.