



News & Views

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

April is here and with it the first flowers of spring. After a long, cold, snowy winter, the bright colors of the flowers and budding trees will be a welcome delight. But first, mud season is here.

Author and educator Parker Palmer writes: "I will wax romantic about spring and its splendors in a moment, but first there is a hard truth to be told: before spring becomes beautiful, it is plug ugly. I have walked in the early spring through fields that will suck your boots off, a world so wet and woeful, it makes you yearn for the return of ice. But in that muddy mess, the conditions of rebirth are being created." -from Season: A Center for Renewal (Fetzer Institute).

This is often true in our lives too. Before we fully embrace change, we have to muck about in the discomfort that change can bring. It is messy. With each step we take, we churn the mixture that is our relationships, our self image, our self understanding, our understanding of the world. With each step we take, we risk being left barefoot, exposed, and vulnerable. With each step we take in the mud seasons of our lives, we draw on our spiritual center. With each step we take, we are exposed to new insight, new hope, and new strength.

Mud season reminds us to remain flexible, pliable, accepting, embracing. It reminds us that sometimes a sacrifice is required. (That new pair of sneakers? The left one is now buried in 8 inches of wet, goopy, sloppy, brown, muck. Sigh.)

The poet Rumi Writes:

*Sorrow prepares you for joy.
It violently sweeps everything out of your house,
so that new joy can find space to enter.
It shakes the yellow leaves from the bough of your heart,
so that fresh, green leaves can grow in their place.
It pulls up the rotten roots,
so that new roots hidden beneath have room to grow.
Whatever sorrow shakes from your heart,
far better things will take their place.*

Mud seasons comes- just like every other season of our lives. Our task is to recognize that it is the harbinger of new life and to embrace it in all of its clingy, wet, dirty, messiness and to know that what follows will be spring, and new life.

Shanti, Paul

WAYSIDE PULPIT

*No winter lasts
forever;
no spring skips
its turn.*

Hal Borland

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MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

Mondays 10-3pm
Wed 10-2pm

As always, I am happy to meet by appointment at a time convenient for you.

I can be reached by text or phone at 508-717-2438 or by email at minister@uunewbedford.org.

RE NEWS-WAY COOL SUNDAY SCHOOL



April 3	UUnited Youth Group First Friday Fun {7-9pm Taunton}
April 5	Easter Sunday Persephone Play {Tryworks 12:15}
April 9	AHA {Art, History, Architecture} Earth Eve Parade Meet at the Church at 5:20 to walk downtown!
April 12	Passover Pesach {Seder at 12:15 in the Green Room} {Parsley, Egg, Horseradish, Charoset and more...}
April 16	Holocaust Remembrance Day {Irena Sendler Project: Life in a Jar- Great story to google...}
April 17	UUnited Youth Group Dessert & Discussion {7-9pm Taunton}
April 19	Poetry Presents... RE Team Meeting {12:15}
April 26	gREat Table: Way Cool Volunteers

Save the Date: RE SUNDAY May 31st at 11am

Two Wolves: *A Cherokee elder sitting with his grandchildren told them, "In every life there is a terrible fight – a fight between two wolves. One is evil: he is fear, anger, envy, greed, arrogance, self-pity, resentment, and deceit. The other is good: joy, serenity, humility, confidence, generosity, truth, gentleness, and compassion." A child asked, "Grandfather, which wolf will win?" The elder looked him in the eye. "The one you feed." Lesson: Development of good character depends on everyday choices one makes..*

Please be sure to check the calendar for the many Way Cool happenings this April like a play about Persephone or a Passover Seder! We are also happy to share with you that Sarah Dufort will be providing childcare in the Green Room from 10:45am-12:15pm during Morning Service as usual and 12:30pm-2:30pm for members of the choir who need childcare. Registration and weekly sign-in is required. Thank you to Tracy {Adam, Abigail, & Allison} and Elizabeth {Xavier, Nora, Lucinda} for supporting our program, we appreciate your commitment. Thank you to Maureen Fanning for her continued creativity and supplies of goodness! We are thankful to all of the families who make the effort to join together on Sunday Mornings to promote compassion, kindness, creativity and respect for each other and our community. We commend you for making this part of your child's life!

On Sunday May 31st the children of the Way Cool Sunday School will be hosting the Service. The vision is to create a celebration and share with the congregation the culmination of the years work! Help is needed to plan and organize this event. Please see Yasmin or Karen! Tell all your relatives and get the Kleenex ready! Tears of joy!

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

House and Grounds Richard Pline
Religious Services Karen Andersen
Endowment Carlton Dasent
Soup Kitchen Coordinator Dave Thoen
Food Pantry Maggi Kerr Peirce
Thrift Shop Bill Bennett
Choir Katie Driscoll
Social Justice Wendy Wiggins
Music Carol Kolek
Women's Alliance Pam Sherman

VOLUNTEER FAIR

Join us **April 26th** following the service for our Volunteer Fair. This is an opportunity to see what committees, team and task forces help to keep our church organized. Each committee, or group will have a table with information about that they do, how often they meet and their role in the larger picture of the church. They will be available to answer questions, or respond to comments or suggestions too! Committees and groups are encouraged to have some fun and decorate your tables to draw interest and attention to the work you do! Sign up sheet will be available at each table. See you there!

NEW UU CLASS

The next New UU Class will be held on Sunday, April 19th at 12:30 in the Tryworks Auditorium. Come find out who we are and what we believe. You may just find your spiritual home is here with us! Childcare is available. Please see Rev. Paul or call the office to register.

MEDITATION SAMPLER

Thursday Eves April 16, 23, 30 & May 7, 14, 21 6:00-7:30pm

(Please plan to arrive a little early, as we will begin on time each week.)

Over the course of six weeks we will learn about different kinds of spiritual practices and their backgrounds. We will take time to engage in the practice in each class. We hope you will get a feel for the many the ways that spiritual practice can be expressed and find one that works for best for you. Attendance at all six classes is expected, though not required. (Please dress comfortably to allow for both movement and sitting.)

Practices will include:

- Zazen and Loving Kindness Meditation, Lectio Devina (Christian reflective prayer),
- Yoga, Kirtan (devotional singing/chanting), Tai Chi and Walking the Labyrinth



CHOIR REHEARSAL

The choir will meet weekly on Monday evenings at 7:15pm for rehearsal. Anyone wishing to participate is welcome to join. Please speak with Katie Driscoll or email her at klbrenle@gmail.com for more information.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

A survey is on its way from the Committee on Ministry. The purpose of the Committee on Ministry is to assess the “ministry” of the church in all its aspects. This means that the committee deals with the function of ministry generally, and not simply with the Minister. Since each member is part of a community defined by a mission and a covenant, each of us contributes to our common mission in our own way. Every three years, the committee conducts a survey and interacts with members, committee chairs, and the minister, to assess how well we are meeting our common goals, AND whether the mission and goals accurately reflect the current thinking and views of the congregation.

Over the next few weeks, everyone will have a chance to voice ideas and opinions about the “ministry” of the church (both broadly defined and concerning the Minister himself). We ask that you participate and share your views about our direction and purpose. The survey will be available both online and in hardcopy. The office will send out a notice when the survey is available next week.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

If you haven't already done so, please take a moment this week to fill out your pledge card and return it to the church by April 5th. We are hoping for 100% pledging this year. We are deeply grateful for your commitments and your contributions. Please contact Rev. Paul (minister@uunewbedford.org) or our Bookkeeper, Vikki McMaster (bknbu718@aol.com), if you have any questions about making your pledge.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Tryne Costa 4/4 ~ Priscilla Bates 4/8 ~ Jared Fredette 4/8 ~ Elijah Francis 4/14
 Ava Varela 4/19 ~ Leo Cummins 4/20 ~ Heather Welty 4/20
 Emily Talbot 4/23 ~ Brownie Sherman 4/22 ~ Meaghan Grant 4/25

FOCUS ON MEMBERS ~ Katie Driscoll, Choir Director

Katie Driscoll became a member of First UU of New Bedford, last year. Katie and her, now husband, Brian, discovered our church when looking for a venue for their wedding. What they found was not just a beautiful building, under which to tie bonds of marriage, but a spiritual home with a message that was in line with their views. Before ever tying the knot, Katie, with her fiancé and her daughter, Emily, began attending Sunday services. Although she didn't grow up in a religious home, she remembers always being curious about religion and feeling the need to "figure it out"-- a trademark for so many UUs. She recalls the awkwardness of trying to fit in with a belief system, that just didn't make sense to her, yet wanting all the while to believe. Katie says her views are much more political than spiritual, and she was truly drawn to social justice aspects of the church's mission.

Katie has had music in her heart, her whole life, despite any guidance. As a shy child, she enjoyed singing all the time, but was unable to share her talents and explore her interests further. Around middle school age, though, she discovered the music collection at her local library, and plunged herself into the world of classical and oratory music. Her attendance at Barnstable High School really awakened her interests and talents, as she participated in the school's choirs. The school had an amazing Vocal Jazz Ensemble, which opened up doors for competition and travel. She also performed in the All States Choir in her Junior and Senior year. Unsure of career paths in music, and under the belief that she needed to choose something more "practical", Katie majored in English, at UMass Dartmouth. However, that didn't stop her from taking every musical elective she could, and auditioning for the a capella group, to which she was accepted. After about a four year break, Katie rediscovered her desire to perform, and she now sings with the South Coast Community Choral, Vox Symphonic Choir, and in concerts with the New Bedford Symphony orchestra. Recently, Katie has organized a choir for our church, and she will lead the choir in its first performance on Easter Sunday.

I think I can speak for everyone, when I say we are all so grateful to have such a talented and driven member of our church.

CONTINUING EVENTS

Sundays at 12:20: Choir Rehearsal—meets in the music room or Tryworks.

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.

First Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm: Book Club (starting in November)—meets in the History Room.

Second Tuesday of the month at 12:00pm: Women's Alliance Meeting in the Parish House (unless otherwise stated). (No meeting in January, February, and March.)

Second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm: Board of Trustees meeting. Meets in the Historic Room.

Tuesdays (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.

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

BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Lynn Whitney, President
Judy Lund, Vice Pres.
Niko Tarini
Carlton Dasent
Terry Goyer
Cora Peirce
Kerri Cummins

Clerk—Richard Pline

Treasurer—Ned Lund

First Unitarian Thrift

71 Eighth Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

hours:

Wednesdays 9:00am-1pm

Saturdays 10am-2pm

"Come and find what you didn't know you needed!"

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley,
Minister

Yasmin Flefleh-Vincent, DRE

Randy Fayan,
Music Director

Linda Fredette,
Church Administrator

Tony Gonsalves, Sexton

Vikki McMaster,
Bookkeeper

Arthur Green,
Sunday Sexton

Karen Andersen,
Sunday School Teacher



April 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Palm Sunday 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P) 2pm Martha Briggs Lenten Tea (P)	30 5:30 Tai Chi (D)	31 9:30am Quilting Group (P) 7pm GNBChoral Society (Gr)	April 1 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 7pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	2 7pm CUUPS Elders (Gr) 	3 7pm Choir Rehearsal (Gr)	4 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
5 Easter 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P) 12:15 Persephone Play (T)	6 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 7pm Pride Café (P)	7 9:30am Quilting Group (P) 7pm GNBChoral Society (Gr)	8 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 7pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	9 4-6pm Thrift Shop Open 7pm GNBChoral Society (Gr) 	10 7pm Choir Rehearsal (Gr)	11 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open 7:30am-4:30pm NE Grassroots Event (P)
12 11am Worship Service (Poetry) (S) 12pm Social Hour (P)	13 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 	14 9:30am Quilting Group (P) 12pm Women's Alliance (P) 6:30 Board of Trustees mtg (H) 7pm GNBChoral Society (Gr)	15 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 7pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	16 4-6pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm Social Justice Meeting (H) 6:30 Meditation Group (T)	17 7pm Choir Rehearsal (Gr) (Limited office hours next week. Linda away 4/17 until 4/25)	18 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open 
19 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P) 12:30pm New UU Class (Gr)	20 5:30pm Tai Chi (D) 7pm Pride Café (P)	21 9:30am Quilting Group (P) 7pm GNBChoral Society (Gr)	22 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 7pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	23 4-6pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30 Meditation Group (T)	24 7pm Choir Rehearsal (Gr) May Newsletter Submission Deadline	25 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
APRIL VACATION (SCHOOL)						
26 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Volunteer Fair(P)	27 5:30 Tai Chi (D)	28 9:30am Quilting Group (P) 7pm GNBChoral Society (Gr)	29 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 7pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	30 4-6pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30 Meditation Group (T) 7pm CUUPS Beltane Potluck (Gr)	May 1 6pm Pyrate Ball (P)	2 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
3 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P)	4 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 7pm Pride Café (P)	5 9:30am Quilting Group (P) 7pm GNBChoral Society (Gr)	6 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 7pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	7 4-6pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30 Meditation Group (T)	8 7pm Choir Rehearsal (Gr)	9 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open 2pm Wedding (S)



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
71 Eighth Street
New Bedford, MA
02740-6025
Email:
admin@uunewbedford.org
Web: www.uunewbedford.org
Church Office
Phone 508-994-9686
Fax 508-994-9687

WORSHIP SERVICES

April theme: Transformation

There's a part of every living thing that wants to become itself, the tadpole into the frog, the chrysalis into the butterfly, the damaged human being into a whole one. That is spirituality. —Ellen Bass

The desire to live a love of integrity, service and love is the same desire that calls us to build the Beloved Community. To do the spiritual work of personal transformation takes persistence, patience and practice. It also requires a willingness to be vulnerable and open, a willingness to forgive and to be forgiven. When we transform ourselves, we become bodhisattvas, warriors for the transformation for the world.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Please continue to give as generously as you can. Each week, the Shepherd's Pantry serves roughly 150 families...and that's just ONE of the many area food pantries. Most needed items include: cereal/oatmeal, canned tuna/meat, canned fruit, peanut butter, pasta, pasta sauce (no glass jars), cooking oil & cake mixes. Also needed are personal care items such as razors, toothpaste, shampoo & conditioner.

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 28, 2015.**