

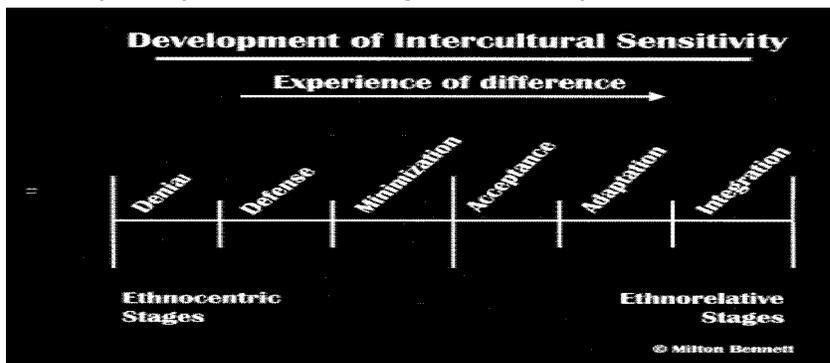


News & Views

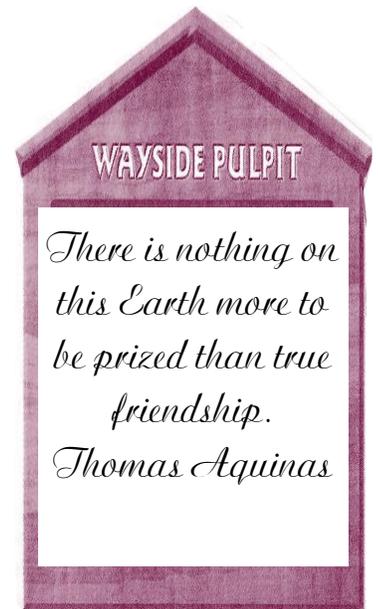
FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

Winter is upon us...and a cold and bitter one it is. I do hope everyone is staying warm and safe. Please remember that if you find yourself in need this winter, there are emergency funds available through the Ministers Discretionary Funds. If you have need, please contact me by phone, text, or email or make an appointment to come in to see me. All requests remain confidential. These fund are made possible by generous contributions from members of the church, occasional Second Sunday Collections and donations for rites of passage. Part of being a member of the Beloved Community means that we care for one another in times of need- and these funds are one more way we do that.

And as a beloved community we work towards our mission of encouraging diversity and mutual acceptance. I invite you all to engage in the difficult but essential conversations of our time. I invite you to engage more deeply in conversations about race and racism and help us, each and all, increasing our cultural awareness. I talked last month about Dr. Bennett's *Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity*. In my sermon *The New Jim Crow*, I offered a quick overview of what he refers to as the "evolutionary stages" of inter cultural sensitivity. Below is a simplified graphic version and I invite those of you with interest and access to look up his work at: <http://www.library.wisc.edu/EDVRC/docs/public/pdfs/SEEDReadings/intCulSens.pdf>



- Denial: I don't consider that cultural difference exist at all*
- Defense: I defend my home culture because I lose my bearings otherwise*
- Minimization: I minimize differences and focus on what brings me similar to others*
- Acceptance: I am aware of diverse cultural perceptions and aware that there is a dominant culture. (Assumptions we make about what is and should be)*
- Adaptation: I adapt my reasoning and actions to a new culture*
- Integration: I develop a feeling of membership in this new culture*



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MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

Tues 1-5
Wed 12-2
Thu 2-4

RE NEWS-WAY COOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

- February 1 Parent Retreat 9:30-1:30 {Registration Required}
 -Childcare Available-
- February 2 Spirit Play: Fantastical Footstools II
- February 7 Fantastic Four Youth Group {Leave Church at 6:30pm}
 First Friday Open Mic {7-10pm}
- February 9 Spirit Play: Go for the Gold
 Chocolate Auction
 Frederick Douglas Read-a-thon {2pm}
- February 13 AHA Stark Raven Mad
- February 16 Field Trip to Whaling Historical National Park
 “Henry Box Brown” {Chaperones Needed}
- February 23 Children present “Fantastical Footstools” Project

“The great pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do!” –Walter Bagehot

February is full of love. Our Fantastical Footstools will be sure to bring delight to the children as they begin to know our sanctuary and the reasoning behind the footstools. They will investigate the pews, look for the lockable boxes, locate where the Rotch Family owned the pew that goes through and more! It is our intention to have the children find out if any members who have made footstools are still around {you know who you are and we will be contacting you!} so they can match the footstool with the one who made it. Thanks to the quilting group for offering to help with our very own Footstool that the children will make...Stay tuned.

The Way Cool Sunday School will be walking downtown on February 16th for a presentation of Henry Box Brown at the National Park. They will view a film and have a chance to see the replicated box that Henry Brown mailed himself in to escape slavery. Please be sure to dress warm and be ready to leave promptly at 11!

CALLING ALL LOVERS OF CHOCOLATE and TRINKETS

On February 9 we are hosting our annual Chocolate Auction and I would love to have a few child friendly baskets! Please feel free to donate any small items that can be added to the baskets like stickers, art supplies, books, etc. We appreciate all your kindness as we share the love! See Yasmin or Sylvia White if you have any questions!

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

WEEKLY COMPASS

If you are not currently receiving our weekly informational email, but would like to, just call the office or send your email address to nbu718@aol.com to be added to the list.

FIRST FRIDAY OPEN MIC NIGHT: February 7th!

On the First Friday of each month, from 7-10pm, we'll be having an Open Mic night in the Tryworks Auditorium. Please let ANYONE and EVERYONE know about this FUN, monthly event!

FREDERICK DOUGLASS READ-A-THON READERS NEEDED!

On Sunday, February 9, 2014 from 2-6pm First Unitarian Church will host the New Bedford Historical Society's 14th Annual Frederick Douglass Community Read-A-Thon of The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave written by Himself (1845).

If you would like to be a reader, please contact the NBHS office at 508-979-8828 or email John Centeio at info@nbhistoricalsociety.org.

PHOTO DIRECTORY

We will continue to take photos through January and anticipate the directory in late January or early February. If you are unable to get to the church to take a photo, let us know. We can either send someone out to your home to take a picture or have you send us a photo. Thank you for taking the time to make this possible.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Delegates will be needed soon to represent First Unitarian Church at our annual General Assembly this year to be held in Providence RI. We invite anyone interested in serving as a delegate to talk to Rev. Paul or members of the Board of Trustees. Applications for scholarship are also available on the UUA GA website.

One need not be a delegate to attend, anyone registered for the event can attend GA programming. Everyone is invited to attend the worship service on Sunday June 29th at the RI Convention Center.

CHOCOLATE AUCTION

Once again, we'll hold the Valentine's Auction, featuring baskets of chocolate goods, gifts cards, sweets, and wine on Sunday, February 9th immediately following the service. Please consider making, baking or buying something chocolate, sweet and delicious to auction off at the event. See Ron and Sylvia White or Larry Jaquith for details.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

It's THAT time of year again!! Football season means the SuperBowl is near, and that reminds us to bring...what else??...SOUP!!! Last year our SOUPER-BOWL event gathered 8 large bags full of soup for the food pantries! Let's see if we can beat that this year! From now through the SuperBowl, please bring in cans of soup for the food pantry.

AHA! NIGHT

Stark Raven Mad
February 13th, 2013

SPIRIT OF ART

Spirit Of Art will meet every Tuesday from 9-11am, members and friends of the congregation are always welcome, please RSVP to Victoria Capon at vruthcapon@gmail.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":
February 25, 2014**

CIRCLE MINISTRY TO BEGIN IN FEBRUARY

You see, one of the secrets of life is that we are all ministers. We all have the ability to bless one another. It's true. But it is not easy. – Webster Kitchell Howell (former minister of the UU Church, Lancaster, PA)

On Sunday, Feb. 16, we will hold our first small group ministry session – which we have chosen to call Circle Ministry – in the Green Room. The session will start at 12:45, and run for 1-1/2 hours. Melody Barlow, Sylvia Daley, and Wendy Wiggins will co-facilitate the sessions. In the first meeting, we will settle on a date and time for future monthly circles. Attendees of this and future circles are requested to be present from the beginning to the end of the circle time. If you cannot attend the first circle but like to participate in the future, please email or speak with Melody (mbarlow527@gmail.com).

The group will follow a “circle” practice, sometimes known as peacemaking or talking circles. Circle practice is the basis for the restorative justice project that Rev. Paul is working to establish with other community leaders, and is increasingly used as a model for conflict resolution and mediation in schools, courts, and other settings. It allows participants to engage equally in a respectful and safe space, and encourages deep listening and sharing. In planning meetings, facilitators have studied models of small ministry work and circle practice from the UUA website/religious education/adults, as well as resources produced by the Center for Restorative Justice at Suffolk University.

The topic of our first meeting will be an introduction to circle practice, followed by an exploration of what is meant by shared ministry and the ways we minister to each other as members of a beloved community. How do we “bless one another,” in the words of Rev. Howell? How do we open ourselves to giving and receiving compassion, solace, and the wisdom of shared experiences? In the first meeting, we will also communally establish rules and guidelines for our practice. Each monthly circle will be organized around a topic – such as communication, life passages, spiritual practice – that we will choose as a group. At least that is the plan right now – as we evolve we may use circle practice for discussion of specific social issues, shared readings, theology, or church concerns (for example), depending on the interests of the group.

If childcare is needed, please inform Linda or Yasmin by Sunday, Feb. 9. We expect and respect the “kid interruptions” that are likely to occur, so please don't let that possibility discourage your attendance.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!



Want to have some fun? We all know that we have the **BEST Bakers** and **Soup Makers** around! But who among us is the best of the best?? Since Sunday is the SuperBowl, we thought we'd have our own “SouperBowl” right here at First Unitarian!

So...this Sunday, February 2nd, we challenge you to bring in your favorite soup for all to judge (just for bragging rights) who has the best soup in the congregation! Of course, we all know how this is going to end...it will be **IMPOSSIBLE** to decide which soup is best!

But we will **ALL** be winners because we all get to eat yummy soup!

Join the fun, bring in your best soup, and we'll see if it will be an all-way tie, or if we have someone emerge victorious! (By the way, all you wonderful bakers are welcome to bring in some fresh baked bread to go with all this delicious soup!)

Please remember to also bring in cans of soup to bring to the local Food Pantries!



FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK (continued from page 1)

I hope this model can be helpful to those who are seeking new ways to grow in awareness, knowledge and experience.

Many of you expressed interest in reading Michelle Alexander's book *The New Jim Crow*. I would love to see a group get started on this book- (I have several copies of a study guide that was published to accompany a reading group.) If anyone is interested in organizing a "group read", please contact me and we can arrange for dates on the calendar and for childcare. I would love to see this conversation taking place at our church.

I also had a suggestion that we arrange for a Movie Discussion Night for those who have seen the film *12 Years a Slave*. I am certain a date can be arranged if there is interest in such a discussion. Please let me know if this is something you would consider attending.

And, at the end of this month, the 3 part series *Race, The Power of an Illusion* (a PBS documentary series) will be shown at the church. Each segment will be followed by discussion. Please see the announcement elsewhere in the newsletter.

I am deeply honored to serve this congregation. Your collective wisdom, willingness to learn and share, and your steadfast care for one another is remarkable in our polarized society. I know as we move forward, there will be difficult moments and times of challenge. May we always remember the power of Beloved Community and know that it only exists because we make it so. Be gentle with yourselves and with one another and stay warm.

Shanti, Paul

SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

We will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 6:30. New members always welcome! Items on the agenda will include taking part in a proposed community garden near Tifereth Israel, further action on the minimum wage campaign, and a discussion of affiliation with other organizations in social action endeavors.

On Jan. 27, the SJ team is hosting a dinner meeting with pastors, lay members, and other organizational leaders to discuss creating a lay network of volunteers to be on call in response to needs of the downtown homeless community. We will report on the results of this conversation at the Feb. 4. meeting.

The Fairhaven Unitarian Church has invited our congregants to participate in a discussion group based on the book *The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future*, by Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph E. Stiglitz. The book readings/discussion will be held in the Harrop Center on the following Mondays: February 10th and 24th, and March 10th and 24th at 7:00pm. If you would like to join this group, please contact Wendy Wiggins at 508-992-1948 or wwiggins@comcast.net.

To obtain the book at a special price, send a check for \$11.88 to Ken Pottell, 22 Wampanoag Drive, Fairhaven MA 02719. The check should be made out to Unitarian Memorial Church.

February's Second Sunday Collection is scheduled to go to the Martha Briggs Scholarship Fund.

CHURCH NEWS/EVENTS

Deepening Opportunities: *Race the Power of an Illusion*

Please join us for a two part series on race and racism.

Tuesdays- February 18 and 25 at 6-8pm in the Green Room.

From the film maker: What is "race"? *Race: The Power of an Illusion* demonstrates how race is both a biological myth and a social invention. The documentary series uncovers the history of race, the "science" that justified it, and traces how these beliefs took such a furious hold on our imaginations, arguing that while race may be a biological fiction, the consequences of racism are very real.

An hour long video will be followed by discussion.

Please sign up by contacting Linda in the office (nbu718@aol.com). If you'd like to attend and need childcare,

SOUP KITCHEN HELP NEEDED

First Unitarian Church volunteers work at the soup kitchen at Pilgrim Church on the fourth Wednesday of each month. At this time they desperately need more people to be on the list to call on for help. It's only a few hours once a month. If you have a little time to give and are interested in helping out, please talk to Bill Bennett or call the office for more information.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:

Domenic Padilla 2/9 ~ Emmett Bird 2/11 ~ Raeghan Sampson 2/17
Ron White 2/24 ~ Donald Braley 2/23



CONTINUING EVENTS

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

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

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 & February 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.

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.



February 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 11:00am Worship Service (S)	27 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 	28 9am Spirit of Art (P)	29 9:30am Quilting Group(P) 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	30	31	Feb 1 9:30am Parent's Retreat (P) 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
2 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Social Hour (P) 12:30 SOUPER- BOWL! (P) 	3 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 7pm Pride Café (P)	4 9am Spirit of Art (P) 6:30pm Social Justice Team (S) 7pm GNBCChoral Society (P)	5 9:30am Quilting Group(P) 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 6pm NBSO (T) 6:30pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	6 7pm CUUPS (Gr)	7 7pm FIRST FRIDAY OPEN MIC NIGHT (T) 	8 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
9 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Choco- late Auction(P) 12:30 Frederick Douglass Read- A-Thon(S)	10 5:30 Tai Chi (D)	11 9am Spirit of Art (P) 6:30pm Board of Trustees Mtg (H) 7pm GNBCChoral Society (P)	12 9:30am Quilting Group(P) 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	13 5-7pm AHA Night:: Stark Raven Mad	14 	15 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
16 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Social Hour (P) 12:45pm Circle Ministry (Gr)	17 9am Playgroup (P) 6:30pm Endow- ment Comm (H) 7pm Pride Café (P) PRESIDENT'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	18 9am Spirit of Art (P) 6pm <i>Race: The Power of an Illu- sion</i> (Gr)	19 9:30am Quilting Group(P) 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	20	21	22 9am-2pm Leader- ship Roundtable (P) 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
23 11:00am Worship Service (S)	24 9am Playgroup (P) 5:30 Tai Chi (D)	25 9am Spirit of Art (P) 6pm <i>Race: The Power of an Illu- sion</i> (Gr)	26 9:30am Quilting Group(P) 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	27	28	Mar 1 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
<---SCHOOL VACATION WEEK--->						
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
Volume LIII, No. 2
February 2014

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

WORSHIP THEMES FOR THE YEAR

February Worship Theme: Chastity

"Let the mouth also fast from disgraceful speeches and railings. For what does it profit if we abstain from fish and fowl and yet bite and devour our brothers and sisters? The evil speaker eats the flesh of his brother and bites the body of his neighbor." ~John Chrysostom

This month Chastity is our focus. Synonyms include: restraint, decency, honor and modesty.

I realize the above quote is a bit heavy... but it's hard to find positive quotes about chastity. One would think that our modern society has rejected the concept of chastity outright. Though, when seen through this kind of lens, one can see a broader meaning for chastity, a meaning that goes beyond physical abstinence to abstaining from gossip and backbiting. It is this broader meaning I hope to explore this month.

If we think about its correlate lust, it can help us expand our view. Lust is more than just physical. Lust can also be about covetousness and we can covet all kinds of things.

It's not wrong to be passionately interested in people and things, though it is sometimes not wise or prudent to act on those feelings. Abstinence or chastity is sometimes necessary. Honor and self-restraint are losing their meaning in our society. And I wonder, if we don't have honor, what do we have?