



News & Views

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

I have been thinking a lot about the Black Lives Matter movement, about the racism in our society and what, if anything, we can do to change things. I have been reading a lot about the civil rights movement, about the leadership and the sacrifice and hard work that was done, about strategies and how to be a good ally.

And I see that the arc of history does indeed bend towards justice. Not because some supernatural force willed it to be so- The arc of history bent towards justice because thousands of people placed their hands on that arc and pushed it towards justice. Unfortunately, we let go. We took our hands off the arc.

And I believe now is the time to join this movement in addressing the systemic racism of our society. It is one of the most important issues of our time. I believe that how we treat one another, how we care for one another, will make or break us as a society, as a nation.

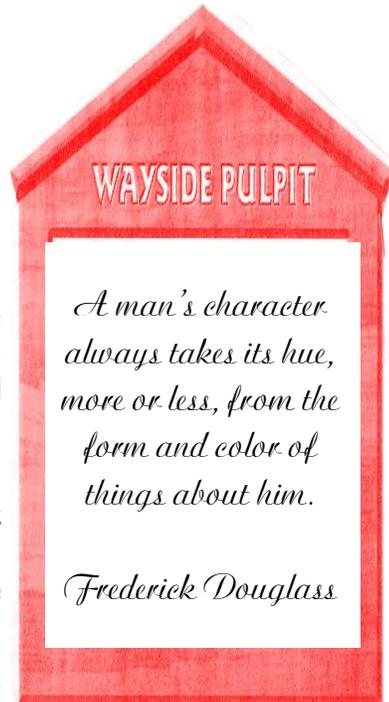
It takes courage to face the reality of our society. It takes courage to acknowledge and understand ones privilege. Not with defensiveness, anxiety and shame, but with a sense of solidarity... we can recognize that we too are negatively impacted when injustice is so deeply felt, so deeply experienced by our fellow human beings.

It takes courage to open our hearts and allow them to break at all the pain and suffering around us; to breathe in and to feel our lungs ache and our chest heave...And yet we must, because until we feel that heartbreak, we can never know what it will mean to be truly liberated.

Our hearts break at the ongoing systemic injustice and racism that exists around us, making black lives matter less- making black men and women, black children, not fully human...not fully worthy of respect and dignity.

Our hearts break...
because we know- even if we can't really admit it out loud-
even if we have to distance the truth by saying "yes, but..."
we know, in our hearts, this is the society in which we live.

Our hearts break for their mothers and fathers, family and friends
our hearts break and we weep for them,
with them...
and when we are done weeping,
we rise.



WAYSIDE PULPIT

*A man's character
always takes its hue,
more or less, from the
form and color of
things about him.*

Frederick Douglass

Inside this issue:

Way Cool Sunday School	2
Upcoming Events	3
Birthdays/Events	4
Calendar	5
Worship Services	6

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



February 1	Way Cool Sunday School Standing on the Side of Love {Animal Advocates} Stellar Soup Teacher Take Over: Nora
February 6	UUnited Youth Group {7-9pm Taunton}
February 8	Way Cool Sunday School New UU Class 12:15{Tryworks} Stationary Studio Teacher Take Over: Juliana Frederick Douglas Read a Thon {2pm}
February 12	AHA Tall Tales {Readbox} 5:30-7:30pm {Parish House}
February 15	Way Cool Sunday School Chocolate Auction {Bring your coins} {Please feel free to donate lovely items!}
February 22	Way Cool Sunday School Walking Field Trip to Serlingpa Meditation Center
February 26	DRE Retreat {Cedar Hill}
February 27	UUnited Youth Group {7-9pm Taunton}

In anticipation of our forecasted Blizzard I send you all blessings of warmth and love. Be safe, read a good book and help your neighbors.

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
Social Justice Wendy Wiggins
Women's Alliance Pam Sherman

Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier. {Mother Theresa}

Boundless Heart & Buddhism are the themes this month. Thank you to all the parents and children who attended the workshop last month. It was a pleasure to share stories and know we are on the journey together. I also wanted to thank the many families who have supplied snacks and goodies for all. We appreciate your generosity and kindness. Remember to look for our weekly post in The Compass regarding the book, Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Parenting for discussion and journal prompts. It is the intent to meet during coffee hour to share thoughts and conversation. We are already on Chapter Two.

Chalice Chariots: Each week children will bring home the book **A Cup of Light** by Pamela Baxter, a journal, and a pen in a blue canvas bag. They are encouraged to read the story of the chalice and write/draw chalice lightings. This will be passed among the children and shared during our chalice lightings for all to enjoy. Keeping the creative spark alive.

Animal Advocates: A group of children have expressed interest in starting a "pet food collection" for our local animal shelter. Look for the collection boxes and grab some Kibbles and Bits or Friskies on your way to church! Thank you for helping us to make the connection to the Inter-dependent web of life. We will follow up with a visit to the shelter in the Spring in addition to the much suggested bring your pets to church day which we call Blessing of the Animals. Always an adventure in RE!

The Garden Committee is looking for donations of small rhododendrons for the corner of Union & County Streets where the sign will be placed. The shrubs are approximately \$40-50 each. For more details about the Garden plan, please speak with Mary Rapoza.

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

UPDATE ON ARTHUR

Our Sunday Sexton, Arthur Green continues to improve day by day. We are wishing him a speedy recovery! He is currently at New Bedford Rehab Hospital, 4499 Acushnet Ave, NB, Room 111.

ANNUAL VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATE AUCTION

Once again, we'll hold the Chocolate Auction, featuring baskets of chocolate goods, gifts cards, sweets, etc on Sunday, February 15th immediately following the service. Please consider making, baking or buying something chocolate, sweet and delicious to auction off at the event. Contact Sylvia White for more details.

(508-758-3741 during the day and 508-922-9387 in the evening)

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

We will continue the successful program led by Carol, Mary Beth and Marsha entitled: *What's Your Plan?; A Discussion About End of Life Choices* following the service on February 22nd at 12:30 in the Sanctuary. Please join us.

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 Sunday, February 8th 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!

This class will be led by our DRE, Yasmin Flefleh-Vincent and is open to everyone—even if you're already a member. Childcare is available. Please see Yasmin or call the office to register.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Please join us in the History Room at 6:30pm on Tuesday, February 3rd.

SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY

Please bring in cans of SOUP on Sunday February 1st for our annual soup collection known as the SOUPERBOWL!

From the Minister (continued from page 1)

We rise in solidarity and hope- together.

We rise with the courage and the strength to put our hands against the arc of justice and push...

That is our task as liberal people of faith-

To face this challenge, to place our hands in solidarity with so many others, to bend the arc of history towards justice.

Activists from Ferguson met with President Obama shortly after the Grand Jury found Darrel Wilson innocent in the death of Michael Brown. They provided a list of avenues for change- next steps that we, as a nation and as a city can take:

“the group’s demands include:

- The federal government using its power to prosecute police officers that kill or abuse people.
- Removing local district attorneys from the job of holding police accountable, and instead having independent prosecutors at the local level charged with prosecuting officers.
- The establishment of community review boards that can make recommendations for police misconduct, instead of allowing police departments to police themselves.
- Defunding local police departments that use excessive force or racially profile.
- The demilitarization of local police departments.
- Investing in programs that provide alternatives to incarceration, such as community-led restorative justice programs and community groups that educate people about their rights.”

From: <http://fergusonaction.com/white-house-meeting/>

We are already bringing restorative alternatives to New Bedford, and there is plenty more to do. It is my hope that we can work with leaders and activists in the city to address these systemic problems. When black lives **actually** matter, then we can truly say All Lives Matter.

Shanti, Paul



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday to:

Donna King 2/1 ~ Domenic Padilla 2/9 ~ Raegan Sampson 2/17

Emily Johns 2/18 ~ Ron White 2/25

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

An update on RJPNB (Restorative Justice Practices New Bedford)

Some of you have asked how things are going and I offer this update. Nan Starr who began this project with me 18 months ago has chosen to leave the project to pursue other things. This caused a brief pause in the project as we get the Steering Committee up and running. At this time, we are conferencing two cases from the end of last year. We expect them to be successful. We have been given two Civil Harassment cases- these are basically bullying cases brought to the court because there is no where else for these cases to go. We have been able to conference one of them and are scheduling the conference for the second one. The first appears to be a success with the children (middle schoolers) and parents pleased with the outcome. We will circle back up in a month to determine if the parties have adhered to the agreement. It is a great joy to watch the process as people turn from anger and animosity to care, conversation and openness.

We continue to meet with our trained volunteers monthly and expect as cases pick up that we will hold another training for volunteers in the spring. If you are interested in participating in the training or know someone who might interested, please see Rev. Paul, Donna King or Jan Baptist. We are especially seeking youth and young adults and people of color. The training will be four days.

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!"

CONTINUING EVENTS

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: the Work That Reconnects—meets in 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.

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.

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

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

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley,
Minister

Yasmin Flefleh-Vincent, DRE

Randy Fayan,
Music Director

Linda Fredette,
Church Administrator

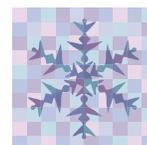
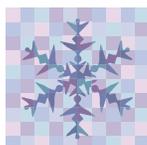
Tony Gonsalves, Sexton

Vikki McMaster,
Bookkeeper

Arthur Green,
Sunday Sexton

Karen Andersen,
Sunday School Teacher

February 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour	26 5:30 Tai Chi (D)	27	28 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 9:30am Quilting Group (P)	29 	30	31 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
Feb 1 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P) SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!	2 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 7pm Pride Café (P)	3 6:30pm Book Club (H)	4 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 9:30am Quilting Group (P)	5 7pm CUUPS Imbolc Potluck (Gr)	6	7 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
8 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P) 12:30 New UU Class (T) 2pm Frederick Douglass Read-A-Thon (S)	9 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 	10 6:30pm Board of Trustees Mtg (H)	11 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 9:30am Quilting Group (P)	12 5:30-7:30 Read-Box (P) AHA NIGHT	13	14 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open 
15 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Chocolate Auction (P)	16 PRESIDENT'S DAY 7pm Pride Café (P)	17	18 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 9:30am Quilting Group (P)	19 6:30pm Social Justice Meeting (H)	20 March Newsletter Submission Deadline	21 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
SCHOOL VACATION						
22 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour 12:30pm What's Your Plan? (S)	23 5:30 Tai Chi (D)	24	25 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 9:30am Quilting Group (P)	26	27	28 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
March 1 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P)	2 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 7pm Pride Café (P)	3	4 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 9:30am Quilting Group (P)	5 7pm CUUPS New Moon Ritual(Gr)	6	7 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
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New Bedford, MA
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Church Office
508-994-9686
Fax 508-994-9687

WORSHIP SERVICES

February theme: Boundless Heart

The Buddha said, "Just as a mother would protect her only child at the risk of her own life, even so, cultivate a boundless heart towards all beings. Let your thoughts of boundless love pervade the whole world."

Buddhism is about liberation from the cycles of samsara- birth, life, death and rebirth. The boundless heart is the recognition that we are all deeply connected to one another and all life. It is the understanding that none can be truly liberated until all are liberated. Our connections to and with one another are what make our freedom possible. Boundless heart is the desire to see all people free from oppression and able to live in joy and happiness.

It only takes a moment to engage in a practice that leads to boundless heart:

- Taking at least one deep breath
- Using the kirtan 'Sa Ta Na Ma'
- Sitting meditation

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 24, 2015.**