



News & Views

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

In this beloved community, we bring our covenant to bear: We come together as a religious community upholding freedom of conscience, right relationship, and the inherent worth of all people. We value our diversity and pledge to care for one another in the spirit of compassion, to speak and listen to each other with respect, and to promote justice and kindness in the world. As people of faith we are called to be more than observers in the world. We are called to act in whatever ways we can: large and small.

Last year we began a conversation about justice in general and racial justice specifically. Several programs have been offered to provide opportunities for ongoing conversation and reflection. Our Third Tuesday Film Series in Tryworks has generated some meaningful conversations about slavery and its impact on our nation. (I encourage you to join us at 7pm for the next film: *Part III of the Abolitionists*.) We have touched on economic concerns, institutional and structural problems in our society, and the privilege that some of us experience everyday. (See the sermon *Colorblind?* on the church website and the article for the reading that day: *What My Bike has Taught Me about White Privilege* <http://alittlemoresauce.com/2014/08/20/what-my-bike-has-taught-me-about-white-privilege/>) Some people are beginning to engage more deeply in these conversations and are interested in how we can create more effective and lasting change as we build our beloved community.

We have the great gift this month to co-host a tremendous organizer and a brave soul in our Unitarian Universalist Circles, Chris Crass. Chris has worked for years organizing, trying to understand what makes organizing effective and powerful, and explaining how we can work together in collaborative ways to bring those changes into being. The City of New Bedford's Human Relations Commission, Grace Episcopal Church and First Unitarian Church are co-hosting a workshop led by Chris at Grace on October 11th from 9am-noon. I hope to see many of you there!

And following on that workshop, I will be facilitating a community reading of *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander. If you would like to be part of that reading group, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary. (Copies of the book can be ordered at a discount through the office). There will be six monthly sessions held on the first Tuesday of the month 6:30-8:00pm from November-April. Please feel free to invite those you think might be interested in participating. The group is open to anyone interested in digging more deeply into the patterns and structures of racism and mass incarceration and what we can do to change it. It is an educational opportunity that I hope will lead to action, at least by some.

Building a beloved community takes many hands and many conversations as we care for those both outside of and within our walls. We will continue the successful program from last month led by Carol, Mary Beth and Marsha entitled: *What's Your Plan?; A Discussion About End of Life Choices* following the service on October 19th. This generated great discussion and we hope to provide support to one another as we consider the difficult choices we must all eventually face in dying.

The beloved community does not shy away from difficult conversations. We bring to one another a sense of integrity and caring that invites participation, understanding and compassion. We are the ones we have been waiting for; this is the promise of our beloved community.

Shanti, Paul

WAYSIDE PULPIT

It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work for it.
Eleanor Roosevelt

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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

October 3 UUnited Youth Group {Taunton 7-9pm}
Open Mic {Tryworks 7-10pm}

October 5 Sunday School
RE Team Meeting 12:15
New UU Class

October 9 AHA Reap What You Sow
Church Open for Tours 6-8pm

October 12 Sunday School
Cooking Class

October 19 Sunday School
World Religion: Diwali

October 25 Connecting for Change {UUnited}

October 26 Walking Field trip to Connecting for Change
Chaperones Needed {See Yasmin }



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

Once the realization is accepted that even between the closest human beings infinite distances continue to exist, a wonderful living side by side can grow up, if they succeed in loving the distance between them which makes it possible for each to see the other whole against the sky. {Rainer Maria Rilke, Letters}

The above quote is taken from the book Everyday Blessings: The Inner Work of Mindful Parenting by Myla & Jon Kabat-Zinn. This book has brought me great joy and I thought it would be wise to share. It will be the foundation for our parent RE-treat!

Thank you to all who have registered your children. As the weather turns be sure to dress in layers as Tryworks tends to be breezy. We will take extra precautions to keep safe and healthy. Be sure to read the bulletin boards for upcoming programs and interesting information!

Healthy Snacks: Thank you to all for signing up to share a healthy snack. We appreciate your generosity. A BIG THANK YOU to a congregant for making a donation to the "healthy snacks".

Chalice Lighting: Sign up to light the chalice with your child. A treasure for all! Chalice Lighting Words and sign-up on Easel in Green Room.

SAVE THE DATES:

November 2 Pancake Breakfast {9am}
November 9 9am FAMILY SERVICE {New!}

CHURCH NEWS & 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 Sunday, October 5th 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.

FIRST FRIDAY OPEN MIC NIGHT: OCTOBER 3RD!

On the First Friday of each month, from 7-10pm, come enjoy our Open Mic night in the Tryworks Auditorium. Bring all your friends and family to this FREE, FUN, monthly event!

SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM MEETINGS HAVE MOVED TO A NEW NIGHT

Social Justice Team meetings have

been changed from the first Tuesday of the month to the **third Thursday** of each month. Please join us on **Thursday, October 16 at 6:30 pm** for our first meeting of the season.

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

The next meeting of the Women's Alliance will take place on Tuesday, October 14th at 11:30 in the Parish House. Bring brown bag lunch--beverage and dessert will be provided. Rev. Paul Langston-Daley will be speaking about the Restorative Justice Program and our work in the Schools and Courts.

Please call Pam Sherman at 508-423-0544 if you plan on attending.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will begin meeting on the first Tuesday of each month in November. Please join us in the History Room at 6:30pm on Tuesday, November 4th.

SUNDAY FLOWERS

Please sign up on the Bulletin Board if you'd like to donate flowers for Sunday Services. Or fill out the form in the Order of Service and in the Sanctuary. Thank you.

SUMMER VISITOR

It's always nice to see former members who have moved away that come back to services in the summer on occasion. This summer Pam Sherman & Bob Piper were happy to greet former member, Carolyn Erickson, here one Sunday. Hopefully, others got a chance to visit as well.

CHURCH TOURS

For the month of October, First Unitarian will take part in WHALE'S tours of Worship Houses for AHA! Night. If anyone would like to help lead tours during these times (6-8pm on Thursday, October 9th), please call the office for details or sign up on the Bulletin Board.

CHRISS CRASS AT GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Chris Crass, community organizer, movement theorist and author of *Towards Collective Liberation: Anti-Racist Organizing, Feminist Practice, and Movement Building Strategy*, will be speaking at Grace Episcopal Church, 133 School St, New Bedford, MA, on Saturday, October 11th from 9-12pm. ALL ARE INVITED. Book Signing to follow.

Chris will also be our guest speaker at Worship Service on Sunday, October 12th at 11am in our Sanctuary.

INFORMATIONAL BREAKFAST AT THE WAMSUTTA CLUB

The Fall River Diocesan Council of Catholic Women invites church members to join them for an Informational Breakfast to be held Saturday, October 25, 2014 at 9:30am at the Wamsutta Club, 427 County ST., New Bedford, MA on the topic of Human Trafficking. Speakers Rev. Marc Fallon, CSC and Asst. DA's Silvia Rudman and Lesly Leahy, will show how we can begin on the road to ending this modern day slavery. The cost for this program is \$25 per person. Please call Terry (508-993-5085) or Nancy (508-995-1604) for reservations and information. Deadline for reservations is October 15, 2014.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday to:

Martha Savage 10/17, Sophia Bilodeau 10/21

Judy Lund 10/21.

If your birthday is in October, but it is not listed here, it's because I do not have it in my database. Would you please call the office and let me know your birth date so we can all celebrate with you?

BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

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

Clerk—Richard Pline

Treasurer—Ned Lund

BIONEERS

We hope that everyone will attend at least some of the fantastic lectures and workshops during the Bioneers Convention the weekend of Oct 24th-26th. They are sure to be insightful and inspiring.

First Unitarian will be hosting a group of young people who are volunteering at these events on the 23rd and 24th. We ask that church members who are not specifically asked to be in the building refrain from coming in on those days so that the group can have privacy while they are here. Thank you for your cooperation.

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 & 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.

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

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.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley, Minister
Yasmin Flefle-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



October 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P)	29 5:30 Tai Chi (D)	30 7pm GNBCS (Gr) 	Oct 1 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 9:30am Quilt Group (P)	2	3 6pm wedding rehearsal (S) 7pm First Friday Open Mic Night (T)	4 2pm Wedding (S)
5 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P) 12:30pm New UU Class (P) 12:30pm Religious Ed Comm mtg(H)	6 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 7pm Pride Café (P)	7pm GNBCS (Gr)	8 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 9:30am Quilt Group (P) 5:30 RJPNB (H)	9 6-8pm AHA! Night Church Tours & Cape Verdean Music (S) 7pm CUUPS Elders(T)	10 4pm Private Function (P) 	11 9am-12pm Chris Crass at Grace Episcopal Church 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
12 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P)	13  Columbus Day OFFICE CLOSED 7pm The Work That Reconnects (P)	14 12pm Women's Alliance mtg (P) 6:30pm Board of Trustees Mtg (H) 7pm GNBCS (Gr)	15 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 9:30am Quilt Group (P) 6pm NBSO (T)	16 6pm NBSO (T) 6:30pm Social Justice Team mtg (H)	17 	18 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
19 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P) 12:30pm "What's Your Plan, Continuing the Conversation"	20 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 7pm Pride Café (P)	21 7pm GNBCS (Gr) 7pm Movie Series: the Abolitionists, part 3 (T)	22 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 9:30am Quilt Group (P) SOUP KITCHEN DAY	23 9pm Bioneers Youth (T)	24 9pm Bioneers Youth (T)	25 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open 2-9pm Bioneers Workshop & Private dinner (S) (P)
26 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P)	27 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 	28 6pm Domestic Violence Vigil (S) 7pm GNBCS (T)	29 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 9:30am Quilt Group (P)	30 7pm CUUPS Samhain (P)	31 	Nov 1 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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Church Office
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WORSHIP SERVICES

October theme: Spirit/God/Mystery

"The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and all science. The one to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead: their eyes are closed." Albert Einstein

How do you define the spirit of life that animates and holds us all? One of the challenges (and criticisms) of UUism is that we do not have a theological center. This honoring of the free and responsible search for truth and meaning allows for many paths, sometimes divergent. Atheists and theists sit side by side in our pews and though we do not hold the same ideas about god, we do hold the same underlying principles that bind us together in covenant. These principles underlie our values and shape our actions. We honor the possibility in each path as we seek meaning.

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker asks: *Where is the freedom that comes from responding to a claim upon us that marks our life with meaning and purpose beyond ourselves? What will allow us to stand against the excesses of consumerism that are dragging the planet toward an ever-increasing gap between rich and poor? And what will empower us to turn around the dangerous disregard for the delicate balances that sustain the earth's ecosystems?*

One need not believe in a god to care about these things and, we all need something larger than ourselves to call us to action. How we define that calling and that which calls us is up to us. I believe we can learn a lot from each other's paths, from each other's life experience and from lessons shared in community. This month we explore different ideas about Spirit, God and the Great Mystery that surrounds us.

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": October 28, 2014.**