



News & Views

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

Dear Friends,

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a restful summer. The weather was ideal this year. Victoria and I spent a week or so in Western MA and Vermont and we had a wonderful vacation. We did lots of hiking and kayaking. It was a restful time for us both. I am looking forward to getting back to the church.

Please remember to bring water from your travels near or far for the Home Coming - Water Ceremony on September 7th. We will celebrate our return and the gift of one another's company.

We have an exciting year ahead coming! Matt Myers of Sanctuary Boston will be in the Pulpit September 14th and will lead us song and story. And Chris Crass, an anti-oppression activist and author of *Towards A Collective Liberation*, will be with us in October for Columbus Day weekend. The Human Relations Commission and Grace Episcopal Church will join us in co-sponsoring a Saturday workshop with Chris to discuss how intersecting oppressions impact us all. In light of this summer's events in Ferguson MO, and increased attention to assaults on women, it seems timely to open up this discussion and I can think of no better person to lead that

discussion than Chris! You can find more info on Chris at <http://www.chriscrass.org/>.

We also plan to begin a Community Reading of Michelle Alexander's book, *The New Jim Crow*. Again, members of Grace Episcopal and others will join us for that program. This program will likely begin in October. Contact Rev. Paul or watch the Compass for more information.

UUUniteD, our multi-congregational youth ministry will be launching in October with seven UU congregations participating. Our Youth will gather Friday evenings in Taunton for food, fun, worship and service. We hope to hire a Director for the program in September. Thank you so much to all those who contributed to Faithify! If you're a youth, know a youth or would simply like more information about UUUniteD, see me or Yasmin.

So much to look forward to!

This summer has been a busy one and I want to catch you all up to what's been happening with the Restorative Justice Project we began last year. With a \$20,000 grant that we received from the UU Funding Panel, Nan Starr (a local mediator) and I have been working diligently to lay the ground work for a suc-

cessful restorative justice program in New Bedford.

In the Schools: We have not yet had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Durkin or Principal Dawson (Principle of the High School) to discuss the involvement of Restorative Justice Practices New Bedford (RJPNB) in the Turn Around plan. However, our persistence and our patience have led to the inclusion of restorative practices in the plan for the high school. We do not know if we will have any involvement in the plan, but we hope to at least have a discussion with Principal Dawson soon. The inclusion of these practices in whatever way they can be embedded will certainly help in creating culture of respect and care.

The Parker School has hired a great many new teachers this year and Principal LeTonde has invited Nan and me to provide a training to the entire staff. We will be presenting at the end of August and will following up with the teachers over the next few months to help them establish Community Building Circles in each classroom and to begin to use Restorative Circles to respond to conflict and behavior concerns. This is a huge opportunity for restorative practices to take root in our community and to help teach our children more effective

WAYSIDE PULPIT

*What is it you
plan to do with
your one wild and
precious life?*

Mary Oliver

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MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

Mondays 10-2
Wed 9:30-12

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 email at minister @ uunewbedford.org. Friday remains my writing day. Thursday and Saturday are my days off. Staff Meetings: Wednesday mornings 9:30-11:00.

RE NEWS-WAY COOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

September Beginnings

- 7 Water Communion 11:00am
Don't forget your jar of water!
- 11 AHA Festa, Fiesta, Fete
{Church Tours 6-8}
- 14 Orientation/Open House
11:00-11:15 {First Fifteen}
11:15-12:00 {Tryworks}
- 21 Blessing of the Backpacks
Bring your backpacks to be blessed or let us know if you need one!
- 28 Everyone's Birthday Celebration
Team Sign-ups {RE, AHA, Book Club}



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

"When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts." Dalai Lama

Water Communion: A Homecoming & Ingathering Ceremony
By Beverly Tricco {DRE Old Ship Church, Hingham}

On our first day back at church we have a water-communion ceremony*...all of us together. People bring water from places that are special to them; from places they visited over the summer or from their favorite swimming spot...or from their own kitchen faucet. We bring water in bottles or jars. Our separate water mixes together in our one bowl, and symbolizes our shared Unitarian Universalist faith coming together from many different sources. There is something special about Water Communion. A mix of old and new... Coming back together with old friends, lighting the chalice like we always do... singing songs by heart... Starting a new church year...with all of us older or taller...Meeting new people, feeling ready for new adventures and fresh BEGINNINGS.



*The first Water Communion happened in November of 1980, in East Lansing, Michigan. Lucile Schuck Longview and Carolyn McDade created a new ritual for the ðWomen and Religion Convocation on Feminist Theology.ö

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

INGATHERING SEPTEMBER 7TH

Don't forget to bring a small amount of water collected from your travels near or far to share at our In-gathering and Water Communion. And plan to stay after the service for our "Welcome Back Luncheon". **Please bring a side dish or dessert to share if you are able.**

OFFICE HOURS

We are back on our usual Office Hours of Monday-Friday from 9am-1pm as of Tuesday, September 2nd.

THANKS

Thanks to our many volunteers and Committee Chairs who keep everything rolling even throughout the summer! Thanks especially to Mary Rapoza for coordinating the fence installation and hedge trimming and to Richard Pline for overseeing the repair work on one of our stained-glass windows. And ALWAYS huge thanks to the Thrift Shop volunteers for their tireless efforts!

CHURCH TOURS

For the months of September & 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, September 11th and 6-8pm on Thursday, October 9th), please call the office for details. Don't worry...it's easy!

FIRST FRIDAY OPEN MIC NIGHT: SEPTEMBER 5TH!

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!

JOIN A GROUP OR COMMITTEE!

Sadly, the summer cannot last forever. As we think about getting back into an exciting new year of Way Cool Sunday School programs, Church events & Services, stop to think a moment about what interests you'd like to share with other members of the church.

There's always room on our many committees for new folks to join: the Garden Committee, Social Justice, Religious Education, Thrift Shop, Dinners for Eight, the Quilting group, Religious Services Committee, Hospitality, and so on & so on! Or...you can start your own group! Perhaps you'd like to get a group of people together to run, hike or bike in the area? Many people in our congregation have shown interest in geocaching, letterboxing, orienteering, or metal detecting. Maybe you'd like to start a group like that? How about a book club? The possibilities are endless! Now is a great time to get involved! Check out the announcements on the bulletin board for more information!

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

ways of responding to conflict than yelling or physical violence.

In the Courts: Nan and I took our first case through the court system in July. This was an opportunity to test the process and to see if the courts would accept restorative justice as a way to repair harm that has been done in our community. Our first Restorative Conference appears to have been successful, with all parties gaining new insight about themselves and their relationships from the process. We will hold the Closing Conference at the end of August and will know better how well the process worked following that circle.

We also provided a two day training for 9 people who attended our Information Fo-

rum and expressed interest in learning more. This group, ranging in age from 16 to 65 with a fair mix of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, learned more about how Restorative Conferences work and how to facilitate them. Though these people still need more training, we feel confident that we will be able to take on more Conferences through the courts (assuming appropriate cases are available) by the end of the year.

More volunteers will be needed as we go forward and more Information Forums will be held across the city as we are invited to present them.

I very much look forward to seeing you all soon and hearing about your summer! As

always, I can be reached by phone, text or email almost anytime. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you find yourself in need. (Thursday's and Saturday's are my days off and I only respond to emergencies on those days.)

As always if you or someone you know from the church would like a visit, please let me know. I will be spending more time this year with folks who are unable to get out to services to help them stay connected to our community. If you'd like to help with these visits, please see Rev. Paul.

Shanti,

Rev. Paul



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:

Dave Thoen 9/9 ~ Ken Peirce 9/10

~ Sophia Peirce 9/14 ~ Elmo Ravello 9/21 ~

Claudette Blake 9/22 ~ Amanda Clark 9/23

~ James McIlroy 9/25 ~ Dylan Andersen 9/28 ~

Ian Andersen 9/28



BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

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

Clerk—Richard Pline

Treasurer—Ned Lund

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

The first meeting of the Women's Alliance will be Monday, September 22nd at 7pm in the Parish House. We will be hosting the fall meeting of the Council of Women's Organization of Greater New Bedford which the Alliance has been a member of for many years. The Council has been in existence for over 80 years and is comprised of delegates from Women's groups in the Greater New Bedford area. Currently, there are 12 organizations represented on the council. The speaker will be Maria Tomasia, the Election Commissioner of the City of New Bedford. There will be a short business meeting of the Council. Refreshments will be served after the meeting and there will be an opportunity to network with representatives from other Women's groups.

All women of the church are invited to attend. Doors will open at 6:30pm. Please call Pam Sherman (508-996-1883) if you plan on coming.

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. Social Justice Committee — Meets in the Sanctuary.
- 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.
- 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 Flefleh-Vincent, DRE

Randy Fayan,
 Music Director

Linda Fredette,
 Church Administrator

Tony Gonsalves, Sexton

Vikki McMaster,
 Bookkeeper

Arthur Green,
 Sunday Sexton

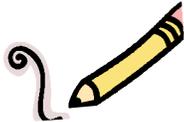
Karen Andersen,
 Sunday School Teacher

Ed O'Melia,
 Kitchen Coordinator



September 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 11:00am Summer Service (S)	Sept 1 LABOR DAY 7pm Pride Café (P)	2 Church Office re-opens today	3 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open	4 7pm TeaCUUPS (Gr)	5 7pm First Friday Open Mic Night (T)	6
7 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Semi-potluck lunch (P)	8 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 7pm The Work That Reconnects (P)	 6:30pm Board of Trustees Mtg (H)	10 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 	11 6-8pm AHA! Night Church Tours	12 Sacred Spaces Workshop (P)	13 Sacred Spaces Workshop (P) 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
14 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P)	15 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 7pm Pride Café (P)	16 	17 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open	18	19 	20 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open 1-5pm Private Party (P)
21 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P)	22 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 6:30pm Council of Women (P)	23	24 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open SOUP KITCHEN DAY	25 7pm CUUPS Mabon (Gr)	26	27 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
28 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P)	29 5:30 Tai Chi (D)	30	Oct 1 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open	2	3 6pm wedding rehearsal (S) 7pm First Friday Open Mic Night (T)	4 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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Church Office
508-994-9686
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WORSHIP SERVICES

September themes

Beginnings

“And suddenly you know: It’s time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings.”

— Meister Eckhart

This month we will explore beginnings. Each new day is a beginning, each new experience is a beginning, a new relationship, a new job, a new retirement, a new child. And each brings with it a change, large or small that takes time to adjust to, as this beginning thing becomes the new normal. From the beginning of all life, to the beginning of this new day, we learn patience, gain strength through our experience and learn. Beginnings, pregnant with possibility, can bring fear or curiosity. Our approach will determine how easily we adjust to the changes that come to us each day as we begin again in love.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Donations are always low during the summer. Now that the fall is quickly approaching, let’s get back into the swing of things!! Bring in your donations for the local food pantries who struggle to help give food to those less fortunate.

Also, if anyone is interested in helping out at the Shepherd’s Pantry in Acushnet, please call the office and I’ll give you all the details. It’s easy, eye-opening and makes you feel good!

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”: *September 30, 2014*