



The First Unitarian Church in New Bedford

News & Views

Volume LIII, Issue 3

March 2014

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

This month we invite you all to participate in our annual Stewardship Drive. Each year we ask the members and friends of the church to contribute to the care of this Beloved Community. We hope that each of you will consider what the church means to you and how much it makes a difference in your life. The pledges we collect allow us to budget for another year as we consider staffing, programming and the general care and upkeep of our beautiful building. While we do have income from the Thrift Shop and from rental of the building, we rely on heavily on pledges to help facilitate the programming we offer and the work we do.

I know that some have been confused in the past about how pledging works. So here is a quick run down: Each pledge is made for our fiscal year which runs from July 1 thru June 30 of the following year. That means that the pledge you make now begins July 1st and helps us plan the budget for the coming year. The more money we raise through pledges, the more we can do. When you make a pledge, you fill out a "pledge card" that asks for a total amount. The pledge is an annual commitment, so we do not expect anyone to pay their pledge in a single payment. Most people pay their pledge monthly, weekly or sometimes quarterly. We also know that sometimes people experience changes that make it impossible to fulfill their commitment.

We hope that when you make your pledge, you will be generous and that your pledge will reflect the depth of meaning that this church has in your life. It takes many hands to build the Beloved Community, please let us include yours! Join us for the Stewardship Potluck on March 23.

Shanti, Paul

Update on Restorative Justice Project:

Last month, after a number of conversations with School Counselor Lynn Markey and Principal Wharley Williams, Nan and I started training a hand picked group of students, teachers and counselors at Whaling City High School to lead restorative circles. The students and staff are responding positively. We hope to engage more of the school in community building circles and we expect to begin holding Conferencing Circles (circles related to specific issues or harms) in early March. We are also applying for a small grant through the courts to facilitate our work there as well. We hope, if all goes well, to train the court staff and volunteers to begin accepting cases in September.

We had a number of conversation with others schools and look forward to

Continued on Page 4

WAYSIDE PULPIT

*Love is a faith,
and one faith leads
to another.*

*Henri Frederic
Amiel*

Inside this issue:

Way Cool Sunday	2
Upcoming Events	3
Birthdays	3
Calendar	5
Worship Themes	6

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

**Tues 1-5
Wed 12-2
Thu 2-4
or by appointment
508-717-2438**

RE NEWS-WAY COOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

- March 2 Spirit Play:
RE Team Meeting {12:15 Historical Room}
- March 7 Fantastic Four Youth Group
Last Day to Purchase Providence Bruins Tickets {4/4}
- March 8 Parent Retreat {9:30-1:30} Registration Required
- March 9 Walking Trip: Henry "Box" Brown {National Park}
- March 13 AHA: All Sewn Up
- March 16 Honoring Pete Seeger
- March 23 Spirit Play
- March 30 Jumping Mouse {Inter-generational Service}

March is the month to reflect on the curriculum and begin mapping out next year. A brief survey will be available at the RE Team Meeting along with other important information like General Assembly in June!

UU 101

Get your crayons and markers ready! We invite you to illustrate the Promises or Sources and hand in by March 23 to win a prize! Open to all!

Our Six Sources...Nita Penfold

The roots of our beliefs are called Sources. There are six of them that Unitarian Universalists have chosen. Our beliefs come from our sense of wonder. **We learn by asking why.** Our beliefs come from the women and men of long ago and today whose lives remind us to be kind and fair. **We learn by hearing stories.** Our beliefs about how to live together come from the world's religions. **We learn from many cultures.** Our beliefs come from Jewish and Christian teachings that tell us to love all others as we love ourselves. **We learn from our past history.** Our beliefs come from the use of reason and the discoveries of science. **We learn by using our minds.** Our beliefs come from the harmony of nature and the sacred circle of life. **We learn by knowing we are a part of nature and the cycles of life.**

OUR 7 PROMISES

RED PROMISE: RESPECT FOR ALL BEINGS.

ORANGE PROMISE: OFFER FAIR AND KIND TREATMENT TO ALL.

YELLOW PROMISE: YEARN TO LEARN ABOUT OURSELVES, OTHERS, AND THE MYSTERY.

GREEN PROMISE: GROW BY EXPLORING WHAT IS RIGHT AND TRUE IN LIFE.

BLUE PROMISE: BELIEVE IN OUR IDEAS AND ACT ON THEM.

INDIGO PROMISE: INSIST ON FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND PEACE FOR ALL.

VIOLET PROMISE: VALUE OUR HOME EARTH THAT WE SHARE.

To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe.

{Anatole France}

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

PROVIDENCE BRUINS NIGHT!

Anyone interested in going to see the Providence Bruins on Friday April 4th, please see Yasmin and sign up on the sheet. Tickets are only \$17 and all kids under 12 receive a free hat! Deadline to sign up is March 7th.

SAVE THE DATE... Our *Canvass Kickoff Potluck* will be held on Sunday, March 23rd immediately after service.

Please plan to stay for this event, and perhaps make something delicious to share!

"MARCH MADNESS"

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

MARCH to your cupboard or the store! Put a **SPRING** in your step! **HOP** to it! We'll have our own kind of **MARCH MADNESS** for the March Collection for the food pantry. This month we'd like to collect as many **boxes of cereal** as possible to donate, so try to be a **"CEREAL GIVER"**!! Please bring a box of cereal to church this month. If everyone brought just ONE box in, we should have an awesome amount to donate by the end of March!

RACE: THE POWER OF AN ILLUSION

Please join us for a two part series on race and racism. Tuesdays- February 25 and March 4 at 6-8pm in the Sanctuary. (postponed from February 18 due to inclement weather)

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, please let Linda know.

FOLK SINGERS WANTED

Our church service on Sunday, March 16th will be a "celebration" of Pete Seeger's Life, Words and Songs. Ron White is organizing the service and would love to have some adult "folk" who would enjoy singing Pete's music to join in. Rehearsals will be held each Sunday after coffee. Please see Ron for more information.

AHA! NIGHT

Fantastical Footstools in the Sanctuary
View over 100 footstools throughout the pews ALL SEWN UP by hand and women! 6-8pm

ORGAN KICKSTARTER CAMPAIGN

We are beginning a new campaign to raise funds for the much needed repairs to our famous Flentrop organ. We will be putting together what is called a "Kickstarter Campaign", which is an online fundraising system that can broadcast our story far and wide. It is not up and running yet, but when it is finally ready, we will ask all our parishioners that are on facebook, twitter and other social media sites, to "share" it among your cyber "friends". These online campaigns have been very successful and we are hoping ours is just as profitable.

SPIRIT OF ART

Spirit Of Art will meet every Thursday 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!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:

Chandler Cummins 3/7 ~ Louise Sawyer 3/8

Judy Harrison 3/16 ~ Diana Taber 3/16

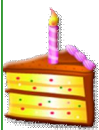
Victoria Capon 3/21 ~ Adam Kettle 3/21

Lucinda McClurkin 3/27 ~ Donovan Sylvia 3/30

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":
March 25, 2014**



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

the possibility of working with them.

We will be holding a Community Information Session on March 2 from 4-6pm in the Parish Hall. This is an introduction to Restorative Justice and will provide general information on how it can be used both formally and informally. This is the second community session we have scheduled and we hope to hold at least six or eight more throughout the city.

Membership at First Unitarian Church

We have welcomed many new members in the last two years and we are always pleased when someone makes a choice to join our church.

In its recent report on *Belonging*, the Commission on Appraisal wrote: "Membership is a journey, both for the individual and the congregation. It is not just a technical or legal state, nor only a numerical measurement. It is a process that engages human beings and takes us from a starting place to a new place."

We hope to be a place where people can find a deep sense of belonging, where they can learn new things about themselves and the world, where identity can be shaped and where generosity of the spirit can be offered to those seeking to belong. This "*Spiral of the Spirit*" is our method for building the Beloved Community. Inspired by ancient traditions the *Spiral of the Spirit* provides a framework for belonging, personal growth, caring for one another and outreach to the wider community.

Membership in First Unitarian Church is relatively easy, but not simple. Easy, because it only requires that one sign our membership book. We also ask each person to attend a New UU Class and though it is not a requirement, the class provides some basic background in UU history, a little history of our church, nuts and bolts, and a chance to get to know others. Membership is challenging because building the Beloved Community takes hard work and care. We invite you to join us in this work. We invite you live a life of integrity, service and love.

The forest is a peculiar organism of unlimited kindness and benevolence that makes no demands for its sustenance and extends generously the products of its life activity; it affords protection to all beings, offering shade even to the axe-man who destroys it."
— Gautama Buddha

CONTINUING EVENTS

Mondays at 9am: Waldorf Playgroup — Meets in the Green Room. Free. See Victoria Capon for details.

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: 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 & 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.

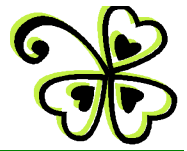
Thursdays at 9am: Spirit of Art—meets in the Parish House. Free.

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.



March 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Social Hour (P)	24 9am Playgroup (P) 5:30 Tai Chi (D)	25 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 9am Spirit of Art (P)	28 	Mar 1 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
2 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Social Hour (P) 4pm Restorative Justice Info	3 9am Playgroup (P) 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 7pm Pride Café (P)	4 6pm <i>Race: The Power of an Illu- sion</i> (Gr) 6:30pm Social Justice Team (S) 7pm GNBCChoral Society (P)	5 9:30am Quilting Group(P) 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	6 9am Spirit of Art (P)	7	8 9am Parent Retreat (P) 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
9 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Social Hour (P)	10 9am Playgroup (P) 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 7pm Workshop That Reconnects (P)	11 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 9am Spirit of Art (P) 5-7pm AHA Night:: All Sewn Up	14 	15 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
16 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Social Hour (P) 12:45 Circle Min- istry (Gr)	17 9am Playgroup (P) 7pm Pride Café (P) HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18 7pm GNBCChoral Society (P)	19 9:30am Quilting Group(P) 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	20 9am Spirit of Art (P) 7pm CUUPS Ostera 	21	22 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
23 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Canvass Potluck(P) 	24 9am Playgroup (P) 5:30 Tai Chi (D)	25 7pm GNBCChoral Society (P)	26 SOUP KITCHEN DAY 9:30am Quilting Group(P) 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	27 9am Spirit of Art (P)	28 	29 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
30 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Social Hour (P)	31 9am Playgroup (P) 5:30 Tai Chi (D)	April 1 9am Spirit of Art (P) 7pm GNBCChoral Society (P)	2 9:30am Quilting Group(P) 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm Sea Chan- tey Choir (Gr)	3	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Green Room(Gr), Dining Room(D), Kitchen(K), Sanctuary(S), Par- ish House(P), Tryworks Auditorium(T), History Room(H),</p> </div>	



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

LOVE

NEWS AND VIEWS
Volume LIII, No. 3
March 2014

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
IN NEW BEDFORD
71 Eighth Street
New Bedford, MA
02740-6025
Email: NBU718@aol.com
Web: www.uunewbedford.org
Church Office
508-994-9686
Fax 508-994-9687

Check out our new website at www.uunewbedford.org and let us know what you think!

WORSHIP THEMES FOR THE YEAR

March Worship Theme:

This month **Kindness** is our focus. Synonyms include: benevolence, hospitality, understanding and compassion. Kindness and compassion are, for me, at the center of the Golden Rule.

Kindness is something we are taught as children. I remember as a child, watching Mr. Rogers and really wanting to be like him; gentle, kind and curious. Kindness is something we need, every day, in all our lives if the world is to change. The more violence in our world, the more violence there will be. The Buddha said; "Hatred does not cease by hatred, but only by love; this is the eternal rule."

It costs us nothing to be kind to others, in fact, research is showing that the more kindness we express to others, the better we feel. The feeling of kindness passes from person to person, like a chain of good will. Kindness triggers certain receptors in the brain and can change the chemical reactions in our brain. Practicing kindness leads to better health. It has to begin somewhere, so why not with us.

There is a phrase I recall from my days in grade school, our teacher asked us to think before we speak and to consider; "Is what we are about to say true? Is it necessary? Is it kind?" these words have been attributed to the Buddha, to Socrates and to a number of yogis and gurus. These spiritual leaders remind us that it is important to be disciplined in our speech, because our speech has an impact on others. If we can be thoughtful about our speech and our intention, we are much more likely to be kind to others. Kindness can make the world go round.