

First Unitarian Church in New Bedford

News & Views



“

Whereas history pleads, “Protect what we put into place!” Heritage urges, “Know the plotline of which you are a part.” History is what happened; Heritage is a story still unfolding. History tends to trap us in tales about what they did; Heritage inevitably gets us talking about what we are called to do.

Rev. Scott Tayler

”

WELCOME

We are looking forward to another year of gratitude.

This year's Soul Matters Themes are:

October: Heritage
November: Generosity
December: Mystery
January: Liberating Love
February: Justice & Equity
March: Transformation
April: Interdependence
May: Pluralism
June: Renewal



FROM THE MINISTER'S STUDIO

REV. KAREN LEBLANC
MINISTER@UUNEWBEDFORD.ORG

“The future of our faith lies in finding ways to reduce our tendency to hold our own personal views, our own needs, our own concerns as the most important part of our faith community. If we can find our way to place love at the center instead of individualism, we would become the radically inclusive and hospitable faith we dream about.” -Rev. Anne Mason

Greetings, my friends!

The Fall Equinox has just passed. This is the season when we see the changes happen so clearly in the brilliant funereal display of leaves on trees, and the piles of color that gather in all corners until the branches are naked in the waning sunlight. The wheel of the year turns again, and we feel the Earth as a living thing, a dying thing, transforming gracefully, rebirthing itself constantly. We must do the same.

This month’s Soul Matters theme is “Heritage,” and it’s a tricky one. When I think of the word these days, the first thing that pops into my head is how people who fly the confederate flag claim it’s not hateful but their “heritage” and no one has the right to take that from them. But what they inherited was inherent racism and it isn’t something to be proud of. October is also Hispanic Heritage month, and Oct. 9 is Indigenous Peoples Day. We celebrate that as UU’s because we embrace diversity and honor the heritage that those cultures celebrate.

OCTOBER SERVICES

October 1: Our Living Tradition - Rev. Karen LeBlanc

October 8: Changes in the UU Bylaws - Rev. Tom Schade

October 15: LGBTQ+ History - Rev. Karen LeBlanc

October 22: Social Justice

October 29: Honoring the Ancestors - Rev. Karen LeBlanc

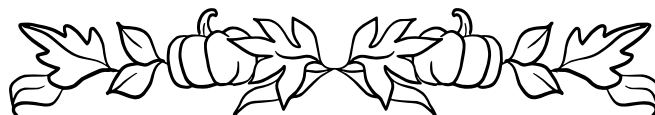
FROM THE MINISTER'S STUDIO, CONT.

Our church, and Unitarianism as a whole, has no lack of heritage and we are proud of our history, especially when it's nicely polished. But we also have no lack of the dinginess of exclusivity, racism, sexism, etc., in our history. So what kind of baggage do we carry when we embrace our heritage alongside our present reality and hopes for the future? Does it hold us back or teach us through long experience? Can it be both? What do we miss when we too often look back instead of forward? What do we lose when we forget? When does our humanity finally become more important than our history? It's a lot to ponder.

What kind of action do we take toward righting the wrongs of our heritage? It begins, of course, with acknowledgement and continues with thoughtful, positive change. And neither of those things come easy to churches, much less denominations. Unitarian Universalism, however, is a true living tradition, and that we can be proud of. In fact, the UUA bylaws mandate a regular review of Article II every fifteen years. Article II includes the language that is at the heart of our faith for many of us: the Principles and the Sources, and our purpose as an organization. We are honestly asking ourselves how we can make our religion more inclusive for everyone.

This is important work that the Article II Commission has been doing for several years and there's still a lot to discuss. I want you to be part of the conversation this year as we work toward 2024 General Assembly, when the changes will be voted on. The first two services this month will be focused on explaining the proposed changes so we can all understand what these changes mean to our church and to our denomination. Letting go of the Principles as we know them is big, but be assured that the shift places love at the center with the hope that we will, indeed, "become the radically inclusive and hospitable faith we dream about." We've got a lot of work to do, church. Let us undertake to do it joyfully, embrace the changes to come, and look toward building a better future for us all.

May We Prosper-Karen





WAY COOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

YASMIN FLEFLEH-VINCENT,
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
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What does it mean to be a people of **HERITAGE**?

October 1: Staying Close to Our Roots

- Sukkot, a Torah-commanded holiday celebrated for seven days, beginning on the 15th day of the month of Tishrei.
- *The Little Oak Tree* By Barbara Marshman

October 8: The Gifts of Reclaiming Our Roots

October 15: The Gifts of Our LGBTQ+ Roots

October 22: The Gifts of Being Rooted in Science & Reason

- Walking Field Trip

October 29: The Gifts of Honoring & Grieving Our Roots

- *Badgers Parting Gifts* by Susan Varley, spoken by Ruby Dee

Way Cool Sunday School Sample Schedule

- Sanctuary First Fifteen 11:00am
- Sunday School Tryworks 11:15-11:45
- Closing Circle 11:45-12:00
- Coffee Hour 12:00 {Parent/Guardian Responsible}

BOOKS TO READ FOR LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH

FOR ADULTS:

Transgender Warriors : Making History from Joan of Arc to Dennis Rodman by Leslie Feinberg

The Gay Revolution: The Story of the Struggle by Lillian Faderman

FOR CHILDREN:

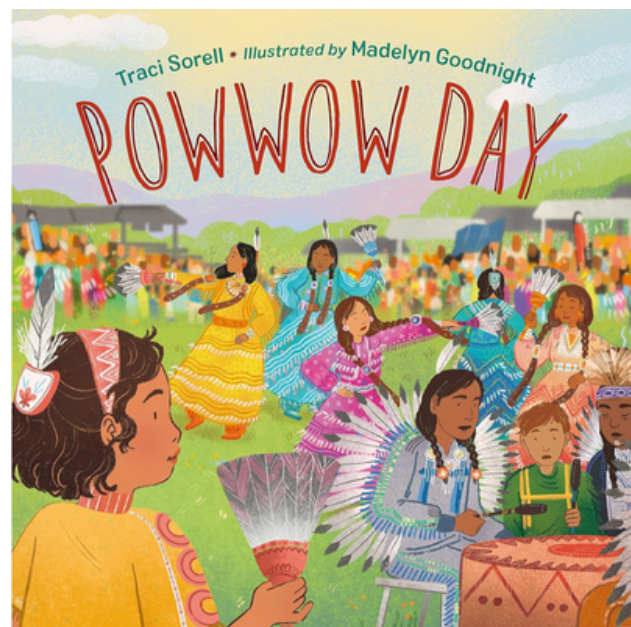
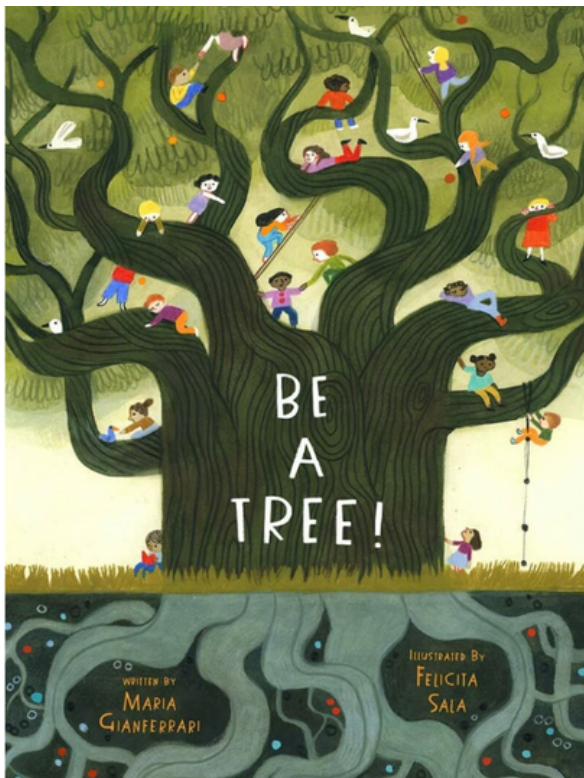
This Day in June by Gayle E. Pitman and Kristyna Litten

Kind Like Marsha: Learning from LGBTQ+ Leaders by Sarah Prayer & Cheryl Thusday

THE GIFT OF HERITAGE

WAY COOL SUNDAY SCHOOL, CONTINUED

We are happy to announce that Marissa Fay-Martin and Morning Amanda Walker will be sharing the Way Cool Sunday School Teacher responsibilities this year as we maintain safe Church protocols and create meaningful religious and spiritual educational opportunities. We are grateful for Charlie Morgan and Rochelle Pettaniti as they support the endeavors of the Religious Education {RE} experience. Thank you to the congregation for supporting education and valuing the potential for growth, righteousness and the opportunity to live as we do and say: *“We come Together as a religious community upholding freedom of consciousness, 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.”* The essence of our covenant is the foundation of our work. Together we can do this!



“As Unitarian Universalists, we use, and are inspired by, sacred and secular understandings that help us live into our values. We respect the histories, contexts, and cultures in which they were created and are currently practiced. These sources ground us and sustain us in ordinary, difficult, and joyous times. Grateful for the religious ancestries we inherit and the diversity which enriches our faith, we are called to ever deepen and expand our wisdom.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thrift Shop, Pam Sherman

Halloween is here! We have masks and make-your-own costumes.

Back to School & Home Office supplies on sale 50% off.

Large selection of throws, decorative pillows. It's time to cozy up on the couch and read a book from our very large selection - \$1 each

New donation of children's books all .25¢ each.

Featuring sweatshirts, sweaters, fleece and jackets for cooler fall weather.



Delicious Delights and Dishes, Deb Carmel

Dear fans of the coffee hour and the treats we share - we need your help! Devin Pacheco, our Sunday sexton, is very willing to start the coffee in the morning and wipe down tables after coffee hour, but he needs support!

The Hospitality Committee, currently one person, needs to have people willing to help in one or more of the following ways:

1. Shop for coffee, cream, sugar, tea, as needed. Expenses are reimbursed when you bring a receipt!
2. Arrive at church a bit early to assist with coffee set up.
3. Handle food display
4. Stay after church to help with clean-up.
5. Make decisions about what leftovers should be saved.

I think that if 3 or 4 people will commit to helping, we can share the burden and not have to volunteer every Sunday. I admit that may mean signing up - but we'll provide a pen!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

Holiday Market

VENDORS WANTED

We are looking for 20 local vendors (possibly a few more!). Vendor selection will be made with an emphasis on handmade gifts. We will not accept vendors selling directly imported goods, otherwise commercially made (buy/sell), direct sales, or items that infringe commercial copyright or trademarked logos or images.

The vendor fee is \$35 and will be directed to the First Unitarian Church in New Bedford to support its mission of encouraging diversity, mutual acceptance, and working for positive change in our community.

Limited indoor spaces: approximately 8x8 area can fit one 6-ft table (think vertical display).

Vendors must bring their own table(s).

Vendor spots will be assigned.

Wi-Fi is available.

No payment is due until your application has been accepted. Payment is due within five (5) days of invoice to reserve your spot. TO APPLY VISIT: <https://forms.gle/8NheX92Tn5nGvEKv8>

BLUE: Sanctuary
 GREEN: Tryworks
 PINK: Maja Capek Room

The Thrift Shop is open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 AM - 1 PM.

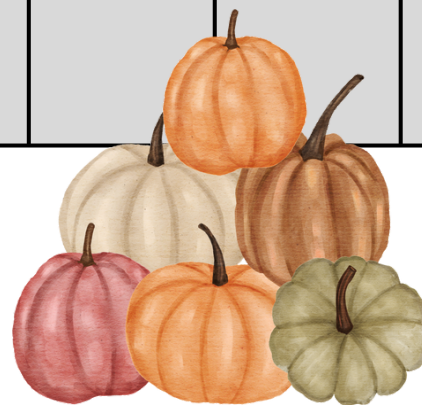
OCTOBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1 Sunday Service 11 AM	2	3	4	5	6 Wedding Rehearsal	7 Wedding 
8 Sunday Service 11 AM	9 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY Office Closed	10 Board of Trustees Meeting 6 PM  GNBCS	11	12 SouthCoast Lessons	13	14 
15 Sunday Service 11 AM Drum Circle Hispanic Heritage Month Ends	16	17  GNBCS	18	19 SouthCoast Lessons	20	21 
22 Sunday Service 11 AM	23	24  GNBCS	25	26 SouthCoast Lessons	27	28 
29 Sunday Service 11 AM	30	31 Happy Halloween! 				

October is:

- LGBTQ+ History Month
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- Bullying Prevention Month
- ADHD Awareness Month

Unitarian Universalist:

- Birthday of e e cummings - Oct. 14
- UU Merger Vote: Unitarians and Universalists, meeting separately in Syracuse, NY, voted to proceed with consolidation - Oct. 31, 1959. (The official consolidation, UUA Founding Day, happened in 1961 on May 12.)



Check out the calendar on our website to see real-time updates by visiting:
www.uunewbedford.org/calendar

