

First Unitarian Church in New Bedford

News & Views



WELCOME BACK!

We are looking forward to another year of transformation and gratitude.

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

“

We belong to every part of our lives and every part of our lives belongs to us. Even the failures. The cruelty. The betrayals. The addictions. The cowardice. Until we embrace and welcome back those scared and tender parts with the kindness and forgiveness we so generously give to others, we will never be whole. We will never be home.
-Rev. Scott Tayler

”



FROM THE MINISTER'S STUDIO

REV. KAREN LEBLANC
MINISTER@UUNEWBEDFORD.ORG

“Home is not simply a mark upon a map, any more than a river is just water. It is the place at the center of the compass from which every arrow radiates, and where the heart is fixed. It is a force that forever draws us back or lures us on.”

-from *Call The Midwife*

Hello my friends, and welcome home!

I hope you all had a lovely summer, as I did, and everyone is recharged and ready for the new church year. We get back to Sunday services on September 10th for our annual Ingathering and Water Communion. This is one of the few real rituals we engage with as Unitarians and I love it for its symbolism: that each of us brings something to our church that is distinct and different, and when we each add our uniqueness it creates something that we bless each other with. Bring some water from a special place, be it from a location you traveled to, from your favorite spot to swim, from your garden hose, or from your own tap, and we will blend it and bless it. I'll have a few containers for anyone who would like to take some home for personal use.

There's lots to look forward to this month. First and foremost is that we are starting a new choir! We are meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 30 at 6pm in the sanctuary to plan and practice a song for the first service. All are invited who would like to participate.

Continued on pg. 5

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

Sunday, September 10:
 Water Communion with Rev.
 Karen LeBlanc

Sunday, September 17:
 Welcoming Change
 (Autumnal Equinox)

Sunday, September 24: John
 Bullard





WELCOME

WAY COOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

**YASMIN FLEFLEH-VINCENT,
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
flefleh@gmail.com**

What does it mean to be a people of **WELCOME** ?

September 10 WELCOMING OUR MANY SOURCES OF
NOURISHMENT THE WORK OF A WIDER WELCOME
Water Communion

September 14 Art, History, Architecture {AHA} The Bar Tabs
Tryworks Auditorium 6:00-8:30pm

September 17 WELCOMING CHANGE (AUTUMN EQUINOX)

September 24 WELCOMING IN THE WORK OF APOLOGY
AND FORGIVENESS

Our Way Cool Sunday School Program is open to all children and youth every Sunday morning with the children reporting to the Sanctuary with their peoples to participate in the First Fifteen and then head to Tryworks Auditorium engaging in Social Justice projects, the Soul Matters Curriculum, and Unitarian Universalist spirituality and the many other teachable moments that come with Sunday School! Hope to see you in September! Welcome Back!

If you would like to participate please email Yasmin Flefleh-Vincent at flefleh@gmail.com or Jessica DeCicco-Carey at admin@uunewbedford and we can craft a plan of participation including safety measures/documentation and volunteer training.

BOOKS TO READ FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

FOR ADULTS:

*My German Brother: A
Novel* By Chico
Buarque

*Our America: A
Hispanic History of the
United States*
by Felipe Fernández-
Armesto

FOR CHILDREN:

*Alma and How She Got
Her Name* By Juana
Martinez-Neal

Islandborn By Junot
Díaz (Author) and Leo
Espinosa (Illustrator)

THE GIFT OF WELCOME

WAY COOL SUNDAY SCHOOL, CONTINUED

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}

RE Team Members Needed: Please email Yasmin at flefeh@gmail.com to be part of the team! All are welcome!

What Do Children Need on Sunday Mornings

Reverend Lowell Brook

They need to light a candle, and have a quiet moment to enjoy its mystery.

*They need to sing a song, to hear their own voice and other voices joined together,
And to feel the feelings that are stirred by music.*

They need to hear a story and have a chance to share their own, remembering that we are each different and also very alike.

They need to create something, realizing that by expressing themselves, whether using words or materials, they help to bind the different parts of ourselves and life together.

That's what religion is.

They need to be with an adult who is interested in the world and who feels the privilege and responsibility of their trust—one who is glad to be with them, and regards them positively.

Into this safe and encouraging context, we may weave the content of our religious traditions.

The history and common threads of our identity are important, to be sure, but without this essential loving embrace the education will not be religious.

FROM THE MINISTER'S STUDIO, CONT.

On the 17th, I'll be starting our Soul Matters series for this year, and September's theme is Welcome. What does it mean to be a people who are welcoming and how to we make our church a more welcoming place? We will explore this through the lens of creating Beloved Community. On the 24th our guest speaker will be John Bullard, long-time member of our church, former mayor of NB, and who has such a long and impressive history in our community that I can't list all of his accomplishments here. He will talk about his recent book "Hometown," which is available for sale. In fact, I invite all the authors of our congregation to bring their books to sell that day; there are quite a few!

I'm looking forward to this year. We have a lot to do. Our Social Justice team is going strong and we'll be working toward monthly services dedicated to special issues. I also will be holding some services and workshops to discuss the changes being proposed for our denomination, which we have been having in-depth conversations about at General Assembly for the last few years. It's complicated stuff and I'd like us to figure it out together.

Let's get ready to MAKE THINGS HAPPEN, church!

Bright Blessings- Karen



****Unlocking a Lasting Legacy: The Power of Planned Giving****

As we contemplate the future of our beloved First Unitarian Church in New Bedford, we are reminded of the indelible impact we can create through planned giving. Planned giving allows us to leave a lasting legacy, ensuring that our values and mission endure for generations to come. By including the church in your estate plans, be it through a bequest, charitable trust, or other planned giving arrangements, you can help us continue to be a beacon of compassion, support, and community for all. Your thoughtful consideration of planned giving is a testament to your dedication to our congregation's future and the profound difference you can make in the lives of others. Let us join together in building a strong foundation that nurtures our church's growth and sustains the good we do together. For more information, please contact Carlton Dasent, Chair of the Endowment Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THRIFT SHOP

Back to school displays have been set, summer clothes are deeply discounted, and the Thrift Shop volunteers are ready to help!

The Thrift Shop is open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 AM - 1 PM. Come check out what's new! Donations are always appreciated and can be made during regular thrift shop hours.

Thank you for your continued generosity!



The New Bedford Light Fine Arts Club, September 21, 6 PM, First Unitarian Church in New Bedford

Welcome to the New Bedford Light Fine Arts Club. It's a place to celebrate talented local artists; a marketplace where buyers, enthusiasts and artists meet.

And if something strikes you, it's also a place where everything is for sale. Eighteen works of art, worth more than \$5,400 combined, have been sold through the Fine Arts Club so far. Local artists Scott Bishop and Devin "Nived" McLaughlin will be the moderators. A short introduction from New Bedford Light and the moderators, followed by artist presentations and a 30-minute "Afterglow," a loosely structured open discussion among the artists, buyers and other attendees about art-related topics.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Thursday, September 14, 6:30-8:30 PM The Bar Tabs are a high-energy, three-piece musical act featuring Hank T Ripper on guitar and vocals, Steve Brennan on drums and vocals, and Jeff Medeiros on bass guitar.

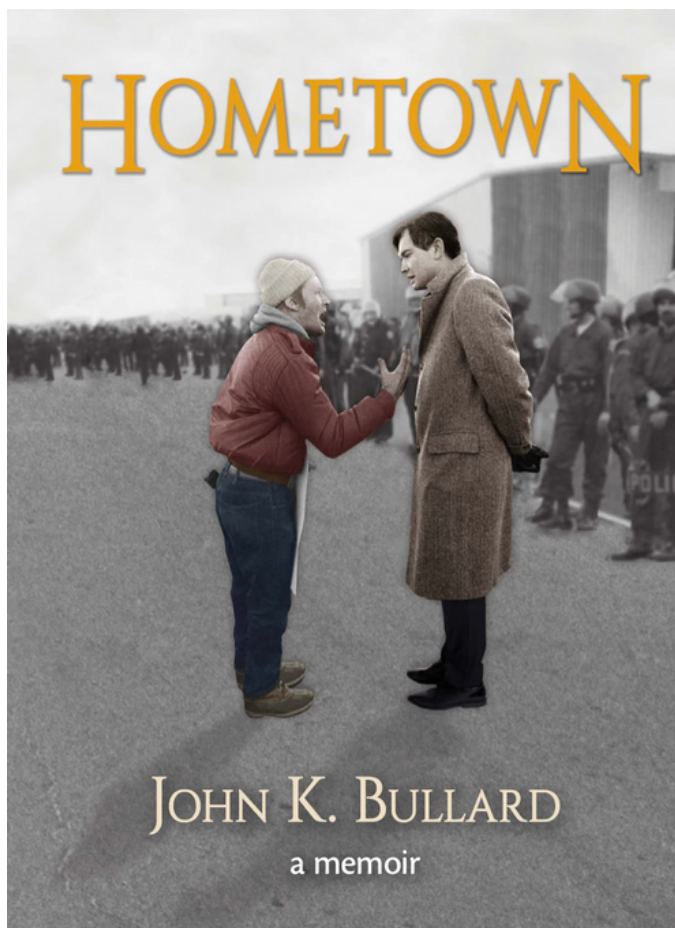
They play novel arrangements of classic rock and classic country songs, borrowing tunes from artists like Steve Miller, Warren Zevon, Howard Jones, The Charlie Daniels Band, and others with whom most audience members will be familiar.

The Bar Tabs are a new act, but the musicians are not beginners. In fact, Hank has been playing and performing for more than thirty years, having spent many of those years in Nashville and Los Angeles playing for various musical artists and musicians. Steve and Jeff have more than seventy years combined performing experience here in the New Bedford area.

Come see The Bar Tabs! A good time is guaranteed! Free and open to the public. Donations are appreciated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN LONG-TIME MEMBER
OF UUNB, JOHN BULLARD,
ON SEPTEMBER 24TH



Hometown is a state of mind. In this deeply moving and thoughtful memoir, John K. Bullard weaves a tale of a family legacy intertwined with the pitfalls and promise of New Bedford, a storied Massachusetts seaport whose past and future can be found in every small American city struggling to survive and thrive. Bullard explores the meaning of public service, greater good, personal responsibility, and the ties that bind people to their hometowns. He grapples with immigration, economics, race, poverty, politics but also our innermost conflicts and ambitions as we make our way in the world. Bullard's story—and his sense of hometown—as he rises from a local to federal leader becomes more sophisticated but never loses sight of the importance of extending a helping hand and giving back to the community. It acknowledges that community is nothing without family, friends, and yes, even rivals. Hometown is about what sends you into the world to seek your fortunes and what draws you home to complete your life.



BLUE: Sanctuary
 GREEN: Tryworks
 PINK: Maja Capek Room

The office will resume regular hours on September 11.

SEPTEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2 
3	4 Labor Day (Office Closed)	5  GNBCS	6 PD Workshop	7 SouthCoast Lessons	8 PD Workshop	9 
10 Sunday Service 11 AM Drum Circle	11	12 Board of Trustees Meeting 6 PM  GNBCS	13 Sea Chanty Chorus	14 Office Closed SouthCoast Lessons Bar Tabs	15 First Day of Hispanic Heritage Month	16 
17 Sunday Service 11 AM	18	19  GNBCS	20 Teacher Potluck	21 SouthCoast Lessons NB Light Artist Salon	22	23 RDJ Walking Tour 11 AM 
24 Sunday Service 11 AM with John Bullard	25	26  GNBCS	27	28 SouthCoast Lessons		



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

Unitarian Universalist:

- Ingathering/Water Communion Ritual - Early Sept. - date varies by congregation.
- The first meeting of the Transcendentalist Club - Sept. 19 (1836)
- Universalism Day: John Murray preaches 1st sermon in the US (1770) - Sept. 30

For Fun and On the Fringe:

- Johnny Appleseed Day - Sept. 26
- Talk Like a Pirate Day - Sept. 19
- Hobbit Day - Sept. 22
- Banned Books Week - Oct. 1-7, 2023



MINDFULNESS COLORING