



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

February 19 - March 5, 2017

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M.

The theme for February is Surrender

2/19 - Rev. John Nichols

2/26 - Rev. Erin Splaine

The theme for March is Love

3/5 - Rev. Erin Splaine

3/12 - Rev. Erin Splaine

3/19 - Music Sunday

3/26 - Rev. Erin Splaine

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Should FUSN change its name to the "First Unitarian Universalist Society in Newton"? In the fall we'll vote on this but for now we need to hear each other's thoughts. So come after the service on **March 26** at 11:45 in the Children's Chapel to find out how we think and feel about this proposed change. Our moderator, Dwight Golan, will orchestrate the meeting. See you then.

PARENTS WITH YOUNG KIDS GROUP

As I quickly discovered when I began work at FUSN in January, there are lots of families with young children in our community. A number of FUSN parents have expressed interest in forming an official group, for planning social events here at FUSN or in someone's home, for providing mutual support, for exploring faith in community, for volunteering or engaging in social activism during the brief hours the kids are at school, and for whatever else our time-pressed, but passionate and committed, FUSNite parents of young children might need from an organized group of their fellows!

Get in touch with me by email (sam@fusn.org) or by phone (617-527-3203) or in my office if you are interested in forming a young parents group at FUSN. Ideas and suggestions are very welcome!

MUSINGS

FUSN Musicians Concert, Take 2: your intrepid musicians will again plan to take the stage on Sunday February 19, 1:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary. Please come out and support these singers and players who have given so much of their time and talent to our worship services. You'll hear beautiful chamber music played by Lois Shapiro, Mindy Scharlin, the FUSN Flute Choir, and Paul Antonucci. And you'll hear our rockin' FUSN Band play a wide variety of tunes, from Irish fiddle music to U2. And it's free (donations to the Germany music tour will be gratefully received)! Hope to see you there!

Other upcoming events:

Music Sunday, March 19: *When Beauty and Strength Are United*. The choir and an orchestra of 20 players will accompany the amazing Lois Shapiro in Beethoven's tour-de-force Opus 80, the *Choral-Fantasy in C minor*. The Sanctuary Choir will also sing works of Schütz, Uusberg, and Bach; CreationDance will perform; and we'll round it all out with a rousing closing number.

"The *Choral Fantasy* is a combination of free-wheeling fantasy for solo piano, a perky set of variations on a song (Beethoven's own "Gegenliebe" – Mutual Love, 1795), and a piano concerto. It is closely related to the "Emperor" Concerto in its combination of heroic grandeur and expansive lyricism, but unique to the Fantasy amid the composer's music for piano and orchestra is its enthusiastic desire to excite the senses: this is show-off music, a virtuoso lark.

Perhaps the most arresting feature of Beethoven's Op. 80, aside from its fanciful construction, which in its

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free-variations style suggests Beethoven's legendary skills at keyboard improvisation, is its foreshadowing of the Ninth Symphony's "Ode to Joy" theme, whose entry here is unmistakable. Beethoven himself described the choral finale of the Ninth, in a letter written in 1824, as 'a setting of the words of Schiller's immortal 'Lied an die Freude' in the same manner as my pianoforte fantasia, but on a far grander scale.'" (Herbert Glass) -Anne Watson Born

FROM JOHN NICHOLS

Friends,

February 26 will be my last day with you, and your minister will be back with you the following week. I've spent a very pleasant half-year in your company. You are, as I have always thought, an active and fascinating congregation with human resources that many other congregations would love to have. I will keep track of you and will follow as best I can the development of initiatives that have been nurtured along this year.

There is an old folk song called "Peace of the River" which speaks of having the "Strength to lead and faith to follow." I wish you that. Leadership of such a large and diverse community requires the strength that self-confidence eventually brings. I don't think that self-confidence is innate in most people but it grows in the trusting relationships that develop between a people and those they appoint to lead them. This trusting relationship requires a faith that since we can't do everything we must learn to trust and follow those we've asked to lead us. They may even come up with better ideas.

May you always find the strength to lead when it is your turn and the faith to follow others when that time comes around.

Good bye, and good luck, -John Nichols

FINAL SERVICE & ANNUAL MEETING

Announcement: Dates of Our Final Service and Annual Meeting. Our final service of the year will be held **Sunday, June 4**, followed at 11:30 by a barbeque, and then the first part of our Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be held in two parts this year. On **June 4**, we will vote on the FY18 Budget and the Nominating Committee's slate of nominations for open officer positions. In September (date to be announced), we will present the Final Reports of the minister, staff and committees, and discuss and vote on any proposals to the Congregation. Erin will be away on June 4, completing the final month of her sabbatical. She will be present for the September part of the meeting.

YOUTH MINISTRY BROADCAST

Thank you for tuning into another week of the Youth Ministry Broadcast. The youth have been busy working on Coffee House, coming up on **March 4**. Coffee House is a youth led event which features talent from both youth from FUSN, Newton North, and Newton South. This year, the roster is full of great bands, from singers and songwriters, to a capella and more! The proceeds from the event will go towards Communities Without Borders. Tickets are limited and will be sold during Coffee Hour on Sunday morning leading up to the event. Here are a few upcoming youth events:

March 4 - Coffee House

March 17-19 - Another World is Possible: UU Youth Social Justice Weekend. The justice weekend will run from Friday evening until Sunday morning and will be open to all UU high school youth in the region. The weekend will include many different social justice oriented workshops, including Spiritual Care for the Revolution, Protesting 101, youth worship services, great food, and lots of fun! The weekend will take place at Winchester Unitarian Society.

March 26 - FUSN Field Day- This is an event for 5th-12th grade junior and senior youth. We will be spending a day at Project Adventure on their high/low ropes course. It will be a day of teambuilding, leadership, and fun.

April 30- Youth led Sunday Service and Senior Bridging Ceremony

Please RSVP for the overnight and FUSN Field Day by March 8. -Dani Lindstrom

5-6 GRADE FOOD DRIVE

FUSN 5-6 Grade Food Drive. FUSN 5-6th grade are asking for your help collecting items for the Newton Food Pantry. Collection boxes will be set up at coffee hour on Feb. 19 and 26.

The Newton Food Pantry is able to get much of the staple food items for free at the Greater Boston Food Bank. These are the items they need most of the time:

Broth (chicken, beef, vegetable)
Low Sodium soup, vegetables and canned meals
Vegetable Oil
Canned Beets
Canned Pineapple
Toothpaste (full-size/please no travel size)
Laundry Detergent
Shampoo
Body Lotion

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We'd like you to know about opportunities to become part of FUSN's leadership. The FUSN Nominating Committee members are Sheila Ardery (the Chair), George Batchelor, Jim Emerson, Andrew Morse, and Ann Woodbury. Their charge is to review the current open elected positions within FUSN and to search for qualified candidates who would be nominated at the Annual Meeting in June to fill those positions. We very much appreciate their willingness to take on this role, and hope you'll let them know if you are willing to serve or know of potential candidates.

The committee will be conducting outreach to the membership during February and March to recruit members for nominations. The outreach will include a table at coffee hours beginning **February 19** where members can learn about the positions that are open and nominate themselves or recommend other members who would be qualified to serve.

Any questions can be directed to any one of the members. Sheila Ardery's email is sardery@gmail.com if you would like to inquire by email.

GREAT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

As many of you are aware, each year FUSN volunteers grow plants from seeds, cultivate the plants at a gardening plot in Waltham, and then harvest the

vegetables and donate them to the Newton Food Pantry. This is a great opportunity for kids of all ages to participate in an activity that promotes environmental responsibility and reduces hunger in our community. FUSN does this project jointly with the Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, a dynamic and inclusive Reconstructionist synagogue in West Newton (<https://dorsheitzedek.org>).

The FUSN volunteers would like to pass the baton of leadership to the next generation. It would be ideal if two (or more) families would take the project on and act as the organizers going forward. Lois Shapiro, one of the current leaders, will train you! It would be fun for the two FUSN families to collaborate, and their presence would act as a magnet for other families interested in volunteering at the garden on an ad hoc basis. If you would consider this, let us know. Our email addresses are: Julia Huston, juliahuston@yahoo.com; Lois Shapiro, lshapiro@wellesley.edu

PLEDGE PARTY SIGN UPS

Pledge party sign ups are underway. Please sign up on Sunday in the Parish Hall during coffee hour or online at www.FUSN.org. If you have questions regarding the pledge parties please reach out to budgetdrive@fusn.org and Ellen, Saul, or Suzanne will be happy to respond to you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Poetry Reading - "A Mind of Winter" — Poetry Reading, Sunday **February 26**, 3:00 Parish Hall. Deborah Bennett, Karen Edwards, Cathy Morocco and Carol Siemering will read their own poems. Wallace Steven's "Snowman" will inspire the reading.



I love coffee, I love tea...! Bring your java jive to the **FUSN Youth Coffee House** on Saturday, **March 4** at 7:00 p.m.! Our fabulous FUSN youth have lined up a great evening of talent and entertainment, all performed by high schoolers from our greater community. Come enjoy everything from improv and a capella groups, to singer-songwriters, jazz bands, and even a dance troupe and a magician! Tickets and merchandise will be on sale at Coffee Hour on February 19 and 26. All profits benefit Communities Without Borders and the children of Zambia.

Come hear Rodney L. Petersen, PhD on **March 12**, in the Alliance Room. **Can we replace Just War with Just Peace?** Religious communities have often offered "Just War" thinking to societies intent on confronting grave wrongs in spite of the incongruities between faith and violence. Is there another paradigm in times of conflict? Might that paradigm be "Just Peace"? What skills does "Just Peace" call forth? Are religious communities in a place to foster such critical skills? Secular, inter-faith and Christian ecumenical organizations are taking up these questions in the search for alternatives to violence.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us for our next Community Breakfast, the best way to start your Sunday, on **March 12** at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. The extensive menu includes scrambled eggs, scrambled eggs with vegetables, pancakes, French toast, bacon, sausage, gluten-free corn bread, home fried potatoes, white and whole wheat biscuits, vegetarian sausage gravy, fruit, yogurt, jams and jellies, juices, coffee and tea, and the occasional special treat. It's only \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids. Newcomers eat free. We have high chairs, too. Upcoming breakfasts: April 9, May 7

EVENING SONG

Join Vermilion for the Evening Song service on Sunday, **March 5** at 7:00 p.m. Evening Song at FUSN is a half-hour candlelight service of music, poetry, and meditation planned around FUSN's monthly themes. Let the sanctuary welcome you into meditative music, poetry, and silence - even at the end of a full weekend at FUSN - for a bit of quiet music, reflection, and silence to ease into the week ahead, and into our always too busy lives.

SUMMER SERVICES

Summer Sunday services at FUSN are lay-led and informal, taking place in the Parish Hall. We are now collecting proposals for this coming summer. Do you have an idea for a summer service that you would like to lead - perhaps to share a personal journey, explore an issue, share some music, consider a favorite thinker. Contact Curt Lamb with any ideas for a service you might consider leading, or would hope that others might lead. The Lay Services Committee will provide lots of support in structuring a service, providing music etc. curtlamb@gmail.com or 617-895 8208.

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