



FUSN News

First Unitarian Society in Newton

Unitarian Universalist

December 18- January 1, 2017

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:15 A.M

The theme for December is Peace

12/18 - Solstice and Carol Sing

UUSC Guest at Your Table boxes will be collected Sunday December 18 in a box at the front of the Sanctuary. This supports the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee which advances human rights worldwide. Donations of \$125 or more matched by the UU church in Manhasset, NY. Volunteers are needed to count donations in the Parish Hall after the service.

12/24 - Christmas Eve Services, 5:00, 7:00, 11:30

Chime for each baby born in 2016 - If you'd like a child acknowledged at our 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve services, please call 617-527-3203, or email Fran at office@fusn.org

12/25 - 10:15 a.m. "Christmas Gathering"

The theme for January is Faith

1/1 - Quaker Service

1/8 - Rev. John Nichols

Community Breakfast and Special Collection

1/15 - Dani Lindstrom, Youth Programs Coordinator

1/22 - Rev. Carol Rosine

1/29 - Matt Meyer

Please note, there will be no newsletter over the holidays between Dec. 19 and Jan. 1. That means our last newsletter is Dec. 13. Our next newsletter will be on Jan. 3. We wish you all a glorious winter holiday and a happy and prosperous New Year! *-The FUSN Staff*

MUSING

Glaube ohne Grenzen: Faith Without Borders

Your FUSN musicians (and some friends from other congregations) will be traveling to Germany in May 2017 to participate in the first European Unitarian Assembly, welcoming Unitarians from all over Europe. I have been asked to be the Music Director for the event and have been communicating with musicians throughout Germany as we begin planning the worship services to be held at the meeting in Ulm.

We will also present concerts in Frankfurt, Munich, and Stuttgart, sharing the stage with local singers at each venue; for those concerts we're busy learning 20+ pieces to take on tour. We will also visit museums, and parks, and historic towns such as Rothenberg ob der Tauer. We will tour Dachau.

Here on the home front, we've held some fundraisers (want a sandwich?) to help defray some costs. We are preparing a video for a Faithify campaign to raise money to donate copies of *Singing the Journey* to the attendees of the Europäischer Unitariertag (Assembly of Unitarians in Europe). And we are planning our **2nd Annual FUSN Musicians Concert**, to be held February 12 at 1pm in our Sanctuary. This is a free event (though we will gratefully accept donations for the tour!), featuring many of our fine FUSN musicians playing all styles of music. It will be a wonderful event – please mark your calendars!

-Anne Watson Born

Staff: Erin Spline, *Minister*; Fran Clancy, *Administrator*; Rowan Van Ness, *Director of Lifespan Religious Education*; Beth Walton, *Assistant Director of Religious Education*; Dani Lindstrom, *Youth Programs Coordinator*; Anne Watson Born, *Director of Music*; Carson Corman, *Organist*; Roberta Humez, *Minister of Music Emerita*; Rushland Crosby, *Beadle*.

Board of Trustees: Gregg Dibatis, Brian Burba, Josie Greene, Eric Haas, Cathy Morocco, *Chair*; Lesley Sneddon, Sarah Fazeli and Julianna Lakomski, *Youth Reps*.

Operations Council: Susan Bartlett, *Chair*; John Brennan, Judy Curby, *Treasurer*; Laurel Farnsworth, *Vice Chair*; Andrea Kelley, Kate Mason.

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OPERATIONS COUNCIL

The Big Picture

My first radical act on arrival at FUSN was to create a library. Previously, as a shy visitor, I had appreciated the library at the Ithaca UU congregation. In 1983, Christine Samuelson and I hauled some bookcases upstairs from the basement to the Ladies Parlor. Our project fizzled quickly. I learned that FUSN has a governance system that keeps us on an even keel. No more radical acts for me. Now we have a rolling library sponsored by Adult Ed with a broad selection of current books and videos available during coffee hour.

FUSN is run by two governing bodies, the Board of Trustees and the Operations Council. The Board is responsible for visionary leadership and the Ops Council keeps the pulse of the weekly activities. One of the things I didn't know was that the Operations Council and the Board of Trustees take turns writing for the newsletter. As the new member of the Ops Council, this is my opportunity to tell you about The Big Picture!!

Do you want to know how to make a difference? Do you want to know who to contact? Do you know how the church works? Do you want to see The Big Picture?

This fall the DLT (Developing Leadership Team) has initiated a display. This living, engaging, changeable board is for visitors and seasoned congregants alike. The Big Picture might be a focal point at coffee hour for information about committees looking for help or looking for leaders. This is a great place to show a newcomer the Big Picture and pictures brings this big poster to life. For example, did you know FUSN is looking for more people to serve on the Communication team? The perfect opportunity for a person with tech and or publicity skills! Or are you interested in cooking with a great crew for an appreciative mob? Maybe the Community Breakfast is the place to dive in, or helping with the FUSN library.

Our society offers hundreds of ways to connect with others; FUSN offered me a community and opportunities to engage. FUSN gave me a multi-generational family of talented, creative, thoughtful, spiritual, and fun people. See you at The Big Picture! *-Kate Mason*

YOUTH MINISTRY BROADCAST

Thank you for tuning into another week of the Youth Ministry Broadcast. It has been an exciting few weeks for youth ministry. On December 3rd, several middle school youth attended a junior youth CON at Channing Church in Rockland. Around 40 youth from different congregations came together and made a covenant, participated in community building workshops, had a talent/no talent show, and participated in a youth led worship. The next junior youth CON will be April 29th.

On December 4th, the 5th and 6th grade classes made cookies that several members of youth group took to the UU Urban Ministry Holiday Party. The youth group has been volunteering at the Urban Ministry's holiday party for the last couple of years. This year, the youth decorated cookies with the children from the Explorer's Club and Renewal House.

This coming Sunday is the youth group holiday party and Coffee House kick off! We will meet in the youth group room after the service for food, holiday activities, and to discuss Coffee House. Coffee House will be Saturday, March 4th.

A few upcoming youth events!

March 4- Coffee House

March 17-19- UUBAY Service Overnight- The overnight is all UU Boston Area Youth that will focus on service projects throughout the weekend.

March 26th- 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.

Best, Dani

R.E. UPDATE

In response to the hateful note sent to our neighbors at the Wayland Mosque, we would like to send our thoughts of support and friendship. As Unitarian Universalists, we believe in religious tolerance and in the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We are making cards after the service and we encourage both adults and children to stop by the RE Council table to write your own card to the children and adults of the Wayland Mosque.

FROM JOHN NICHOLS

Friends,

There seems to be some confusion about how long I will be with you. Since the end of that time period is coming sooner than some of you think, I should clarify the situation. The letter of agreement stipulates a part time ministry. Part time is described as twenty-five hours. It began on September 20 and ends February 20. Erin will be back from her sabbatical at about that time and will preach on February 26.

There is a saying among ministers that it is nearly impossible for a minister to work part time since any congregation's needs for ministry are more than full time. I am, however, only working twenty-five hours a week because that's what we agreed on and that's what I'm paid for. Many of you remember when I was the full time interim minister here for two years, but this is different.

I am enjoying my time with you and would not have come out of retirement if I did not think that FUSN is pretty special.

FUSN LAY MINISTERS

The FUSN lay ministers are available to help members and friends who are experiencing difficulties and could use a listening ear, help with meals in case of illness, rides to the doctor, and the like. If you would like to reach a lay minister, here is the list below. If you would like to be one of those who make up our Care Crew—the cadre of people the lay ministers call on to help—just e-mail for more information or to sign up to be in the Care Crew database.

Margaret Costello, 617-332-3248, MCostello@partners.org

Cris Goldsmith, 617-969-1638, crisgoldsmith@gmail.com

Kathy Hearn, 617-965-0938, kathyhearn@rcn.com

Shawn Konary, 617-332-2783, konary@comcast.net

Jud Leonard, 617-969-2623, jud.leonard@gmail.com

Erin O'Donnell, 303-520-3917,

ejnodonnell@gmail.com

Cindy Orrell, 617-901-6848,

cindy_orrell@hotmail.com

Ann Woodbury, 617-964-7699, ann@sulliwood.org

SERVICES AUCTION

Plan now to be at the Annual Fabulous FUSN Services Auction on Saturday evening, **January, 28**. Where else can you get dinner, drinks, fun AND a babysitter for Five Bucks? And a chance to win cool stuff like vacation weekends and gourmet dinner. So plan to be there and start thinking about any services you can donate. Lots more details to follow after the holiday.

HOLIDAY FAIR SUCCESS

Our stellar team of volunteers too numerous to list came through with a wonderful holiday fair this year. Together we raised \$17,624 for FUSN, continued our high profile in the community of fair goers and deepened our connections to our fellow volunteers. We think separating the fair into two parts worked pretty well and gave us the opportunity to use our space and volunteers to our best advantage. The attic treasures and toys have never been better displayed than in the Parish Hall in November and the December lunch crowd very much appreciated the chance to eat in the Alliance Room. We would like to add children's activities to both days and hope that as everyone gets accustomed to the first Saturday in November for attic treasures and toys and the first Saturday in December for all our other activities, we will plan to save our donations accordingly. Thanks for all the help and remember to save your time and treasures for us next year.

ABOUT US

Come help celebrate Judy Zacek's 80th birthday on January 7!

Where: The FUSN Parish Hall

Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Please bring: A finger food (sweet or savory) to share. Please RSVP to faunaat21@gmail.com by January 3rd. Include "Judy" in the subject line. **No Gifts please!**

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Join us for our next Community Breakfast, the best way to start your Sunday, on **January 8** 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 \$4 for adults and \$3 for kids. Newcomers eat free. We have high chairs, too. Upcoming breakfasts: Feb. 12, March 12, April 9, May 7

EVENING SONG

Join Vermilion for the Evening Song service on Sunday, **January 1** 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.

CHRISTMAS TREES



We will once again be selling cut balsam firs out of FUSN's back lot for two weeks and three weekends in December. Monday through Thursday, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Friday, 5:00-9:00 p.m., Saturday, 9:00-7:00 p.m., and Sunday 11:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Next Newsletter Deadline January 3 at 9:00 a.m.

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