

## **Children's Music and Family Choir Coordinator**

First Unitarian Universalist Society in Newton  
1326 Washington Street  
West Newton, MA 02465

The First Unitarian Universalist Society in Newton (FUUSN) is looking for a Children's Music and Family Choir Coordinator to begin by mid-October, 2018, or as soon as possible. The Coordinator will report to Amanda Graff, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, regarding music activities in children's classrooms, and to Anne Watson Born, Director of Music Ministry, for Family Choir programming and activities.

**Schedule:** This position normally includes approximately 30 Sundays/year, from early September to early June. The schedule includes 9am-12pm on Sunday plus prep time. This year the position will start as soon as possible and will end on Sunday, June 9, 2019.

**Salary:** \$4000 for a full church year (early September to early June). Pay for this year will be prorated to reflect start date.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

1. Organize/implement music in Religious Education (RE) classes on Sundays
  - Train teachers: work on singing in tune, choosing keys, learning the songs, leading the songs. 5-10 songs/classroom throughout the year
  - Lead music with children each week
  - Possibly organize individuals to visit the classrooms to facilitate music
  - Collaborate with the Assistant Director of Religious Education on planning for classroom activities
  
2. Conduct the Family Choir (FC)
  - Reach out to families
  - Choose repertoire with approval by the Director of Music Ministry
  - Rehearse (1 rehearsal/week, currently Sundays from 11:35am – 12pm)
  - Plan FC participation in services (4-5 times/year)
    - Lead FC on Christmas Eve (5pm service)
    - Lead FC in other services

### **Qualifications:**

- Must be 25 years old or older
- Experience in coordinating and supporting volunteers
- Must be a good musician, preferably a singer
  - comfortable teaching songs to children and adults
  - piano or guitar skills a plus
  - able to organize and lead rehearsals

**To apply,** please send a resume via email to both: Amanda Graff, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, [amanda@fusn.org](mailto:amanda@fusn.org), and to Anne Watson Born, Director of Music Ministry, [music@fusn.org](mailto:music@fusn.org)

*What is the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Newton (FUUSN) like?*

FUUSN is a dynamic community with active programs in social action, community service, lifespan religious education, and member support. We have a growing membership of about 450 adult members and 200 youth.

Volunteerism permeates many aspects of FUUSN. We are an open community governed by its members, an operations council, a board of directors, numerous committees, and society bylaws.

The active religious education program has some 40 volunteer teachers and aides. The Coming of Age program, with 20 youth this year, is supported by some 30-40 adults serving as mentors, coordinators, comparative religion teachers, credo coaches and mentor support.

*What is a typical Sunday morning like at FUUSN?*

A typical Sunday morning starts well before the service begins—all corners of the building are bustling with committee meetings, small group discussions, kitchen preparations, and last minute choir and music rehearsals. Friends enjoy a cup a coffee in the Parish Hall, small children scuttle around, and older youth huddle around stools in the kitchen or commandeer any available couches or comfy chairs in the building. Once a month, there is a “Community Breakfast” in the Parish Hall where everyone enjoys fellowship over a delicious hot breakfast prepared by our volunteer chefs.

The Sunday service begins at 10:15. Each week there is a greeting and announcements by one of FUUSN’s lay ministers, the lighting of a chalice by an individual congregant or a family, a brief meditation, a sharing of joys and concerns by members of the congregation, readings, hymns and anthems, and a sermon. Some Sundays are lay-led and include a series of reflections and meditations, rather than a single sermon. All FUUSN services begin and end with music and members of the congregation are proud of the varied and inclusive music and arts program, which includes an adult choir, a “CreationDance” sacred dance company, an intergenerational orchestra, a family singing group, and several individual musicians and special performers. We have a grand piano and a wonderful Hook & Hastings organ. On most Sundays, children attend the first portion of the service, being dismissed to RE classes following the “Story for All Ages.” On other Sundays, the children remain in the Sanctuary for an intergenerational service that is designed to appeal to the full age-range of our congregation from start to finish.

After the service, the congregation pours into the Parish Hall for coffee hour, where we enjoy an array of many different Equal Exchange coffee and tea selections prepared by our teen beadles. The perimeter of the Parish Hall is lined with folding tables staffed by volunteers from our membership committee, adult education lending library, social action committee, Green Sanctuary, children’s RE, and many special projects and programs throughout the year. There is an outdoor play area easily accessible from the Parish Hall where many families congregate. Children snake through the crowds to try to forage for snacks, old friends and new connect over a cup of coffee, and the congregation enjoys a moment of fellowship together to close another Sunday morning at FUUSN.