



THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

25 South Main Street, Middleborough, MA 02346

www.uumiddleboro.org

January, 2014

The theme for the month of January is Faith.

Sunday, January 5, 2014, at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Sarah K. Person preaching

In What Do We Trust?

In this day and age, it may be hard to find where light and love are at work in the world – especially if we don't accept one-size-fits-all directions. Where do we find the kind of hope we need to make our way and make a difference in the world?

Sunday, January 12, at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Tricia Tummino preaching

The Abundance That Can Be Found In Nothing

Do you feel scattered much of the time? If so, learning a couple of skills may help. One is to learn how to provide the "nothing" in which "something" can take place, and another is to be patient with little things that can add up to a big difference.

Sunday, January 19, at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Sarah K. Person preaching

Climbing Up the Mountain

Peace asks of us that we pound our own metaphorical swords into plowshares. Join us as we reflect on the words of scripture and sages on our personal efforts for peace and justice. Everything, they tell us, must start in our own hearts.

Sunday, January 26, at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Sarah K. Person preaching

Faith for a New Age

As modern beings, how do we preserve our sense of mystery and wonder in this scientific age? Should we even try? In his book *God Revised*, Rev. Dr. Galen Guengerich asks us to evolve our understanding of religion and what it has to offer us. If you consider yourself spiritual but not religious, this is a great opportunity to discern the necessities of your mind and heart.

Minister's Meditation

Like many of you this month, I will probably be spending a time or two stuck at home until the snow stops falling. I will be, I expect, warm and definitely safe. But I often stop and think about what this means - that I can expect to be warm and safe. It is the essence of privilege, to expect to be comfortable and that someone (like Middleborough Gas and Electric) will offer comfort when I am not. We all know in our heads that folks are having tough times, but it can be hard to know in our bones. These privileged expectations are in sharp contrast to the stories I heard last month from senior youth in our "Fantastic Four" 4-church program. Teens from our Middleborough, Foxborough, Taunton and New Bedford churches are meeting monthly and participating in special programs. One such event was in Attleboro: a homelessness awareness sleepover. Teens built themselves shelters out of cardboard boxes and slept outside for two nights over the bitterly cold Veterans Day weekend. When I asked them what struck them most about their experience, their first answer surprised me. It wasn't a complaint about frozen toes. Instead, they came away with a tremendous respect for homeless individuals who find ways to survive. They could not imagine doing this night after night. I am proud of their willingness to experience the cold firsthand, and humbled by their empathy.

As the year moves forward, and we begin to focus on our responsibilities to each other and to the wider world, I invite us all to consider how we can be a force for change. It may start with having tremendous respect for those in our midst who live in dangerous circumstances day in and day out, and imagining ourselves as people who can and will make a difference.

My best hopes and wishes for the New Year,

Rev. Sarah





THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBOROUGH

The church administrative offices are located at 40 North Main Street, Middleborough.
The phone number is 508-923-7757.

Chris's Comments

I recently had the good fortune to participate in a discussion of the difficulties of asking for help. Several people shared that they are not good at asking for help, and they tend to try to do whatever needs doing for themselves. One man stated that he doesn't ask for help because he doesn't know he needs it. I realized that I often don't know I need help. For instance, I have been having a vague, not really sick but not really okay feeling for several weeks. It was only as I was trying to find several things I needed for a meeting that I recognized that I am more disorganized and frazzled than the situation warrants. As someone who suffers from Lyme disease, I became aware that I am in a Lyme Fog and need some help. I do mean medical help. Even that I have trouble with. I think I should be able to figure out what's going on and take care of it.

As I sat down to write this column, it caused me to wonder what the church needs help with and doesn't even know it. We had a two-year interim ministry with Rev. Tracy Robinson-Harris who helped us to figure out just what it was we wanted in a minister. We are now in our second year with the amazing Rev. Sarah Person. We are looking at questions of expansion - of our membership and of our space. Are we asking the right questions of the right people? Are we using our resources to our greatest benefit? Are we expressing our gratitude to the people who do so much for the church? Are we asking the minister and other staff to do too much in a day or a week? Are we living up to our mission or do we even know what that mission is?

The Ballou Channing District and the Unitarian Universalist Association are just two sources of help that I am aware we rarely call upon. Why is that? Why do we think we need to do it ourselves? I think that is the wrong question. What do we need to do to begin to more frequently request help? How do we challenge each other to accept that there is a lot that we need help with?

I'd love to hear your thoughts.

In Faith,

Chris Korben, President

GREEN TIP

Things You Never Knew Were Recyclable

Wine

Wine really is a zero-waste beverage. Its bottle can be recycled in a glass program, and ReCORK America has drop-off locations for corks at local Whole Foods stores. The best part is that wine itself can encourage the composting process. So, if you have any left over, toss it in the bin!

<http://earth911.com/news/2011/06/22/10-things-you-never-knew-were-recyclable/>



Courtesy of the Green Sanctuary Committee

MUSIC MUSINGS

When I was growing up in Fresno, California, church music was a fixed deal with a fixed liturgy chanted between the priest (fixed up front) and the choir (fixed up high in the back). There were no instruments allowed in the Eastern Orthodox tradition, except my mother's pitch-pipe, which kept the priest and choir in a range where we could all hit our notes. We knew we would be chanting for about two hours, with a short break (maybe five minutes) when the priest would move from Old Slovenian to broken English, equally unintelligible. The congregation would stand and sit, but never sing.

Unitarian Universalist music functions in a whole different world, where each Sunday provides an opportunity to explore new territory, try on different styles of music, and participate in active and unique ways. We have a basic order of service that can be flexed if necessary, with a basic body of hymnody, and a loose adherence to a church calendar. Each UU church can explore ways of providing continuity, such as a monthly theme (for our church, the January theme is "faith") or perhaps a rotation of sermon topics (such as history, social justice, current events, etc.) Without these organizing patterns, it would be chaos inventing from scratch each week, and so we "fix" a few patterns in order to allow greater creativity.

There are many factors to consider when choosing music for a worship service – tempo, length, mood, style, variety, word content, difficulty, familiarity, and function within the context. Rev. Sarah and I meet weekly to bring the best we have to offer to the table, mix it all up, and hopefully create small jewels that touch us all in heart, mind, and spirit – or at least some percentage of the three. Like any good art-form, it's a work in progress, requiring flexibility, risk, and (yes!) a fair share of FAITH. The bonus is that we have a great time working together, and we enjoy bringing others into the mix.

My life used to be simpler, but not nearly as much fun. As we roll into 2014, have faith to try something fresh and liberating – Happy New Year!

Susan Hotchkiss, Director of Music

MEMORIAL GARDEN

The garden managed to be quite pleasing most of this past year with sporadic rather than coordinated effort. Thanks to all who planted, watered, weeded or raked.

As many bulbs were planted this fall, we can hope for a sweet beginning next spring; but the whole garden is overdue for a planned overhaul. There is much to be done, but nothing is lovelier than spring garden work.



I am calling a meeting of the Memorial Garden Committee on Sunday, January 26, at 12:00 noon in the parlor. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in any way - planning, suggesting, transplanting, weeding or watering, etc.

Mike Schroeder



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

A new energy for a new year! The Religious Education program is ready to take on 2014. This year is about discovery in many forms - discovering other faiths and religions, taking a look at some of life's natural mysteries, and investigating creativity - both other's and our own.

The children age 3 to 5 will look at some of nature's mysteries - the moon and stars and the changeability of weather.

Children in grades 1 through 4 learn about Unitarian Universalist values and principles through the creativity of Frank Lloyd Wright and their own abilities to create shape and form. They will have opportunities to look at the building blocks of design in a "Take-apart party."

Our Junior Youth continue their look at four universal questions: Is there a power greater than myself? What happens after death? Where do good and evil come from? How do I lead a good life? They will explore UU principles of tolerance, acceptance and kindness, and begin a discussion of Judaism. **Michael Rozyne** will lead them in a Shabbat dinner.

Cindy Benard, RE Chair

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GREEN QUESTIONS?

Would you like to join us in our work?

Do you have ideas you'd like to share?

Join our Green Sanctuary Committee this winter and help us determine what we are doing at home and at church to live by our green principles. We achieved Green Sanctuary status in 2011. It means we are a congregation that:

- Has received official recognition for completing the Green Sanctuary Program.
- Lives out its commitment to the Earth by creating sustainable lifestyles for its members as individuals and as a faith community.
- Is committed towards creating a religious community that has a fundamental, bottom-line, commitment to living in harmony with the Earth.



As part of this process, we are committed to renewing our commitments to these important principles. We'll be surveying our membership and ultimately creating a Green Covenant for ourselves. A Green Covenant is a pledge we will make to one another, spelling out what we are willing to do at home and at church that meets the standards we have chosen to uphold as a Green Sanctuary.

Would you be interested in helping us do that? It will involve regular meetings in a small group for about three months to work on the survey, test it among the group, administer it to the congregation, and assess the results. After the survey has been tabulated, we'll use the information gathered from it and go forward with creating a new Green Covenant. The covenant can be formally adopted by the congregation as a guide to maintaining our commitments. If you are interested, please contact Susie Sherman. You can also check online by searching for UUA and Green Sanctuary to find out more about this program.

GREETERS



January 5: Chad & David Michael
January 12: Bud & Thalia Soule
January 19: Jeff & Barbara Stevens
January 26: Kelly Lownds & Pam Levine

PARISH CARE



Pastoral Care Help is available to assist with meals, transportation, emergency babysitting, and hospital visits during illnesses or other family emergencies.

We are a diverse, active and caring community; and we welcome your questions and your participation. You are always invited to call or visit our minister to discuss any matter of concern to you.

Meals: Pam Levine
Rides: Tricia Tummino
Cards: Doris Coombes
Caring Choir: Valerie Fontaine

SAVE THE DATE!



Sunday, February 9, at 3:00 p.m.
LOVE SONG PROGRAM

Celebrating mothers and other loves. In concert, Stephanie Miele with piano accompanist followed by a tea reception. Suggested Donation: \$15

PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE

All are welcome to attend the Program Planning Committee meeting on Sunday, January 12, at noon in the parlor. We will review the calendar for the remainder of the year, discuss fundraisers to date and brainstorm ideas.

Please attend if you have ideas, feedback, have participated in events or will in the future. **Andrea Priest** will develop an agenda, and you can send agenda items ahead of time or bring them to the meeting.



OUR CARING CHURCH

Knowing we will be cared for, and will be expected to care for others, is a core, if not the essential aspect, of belonging to a congregation. Our most recent Minister's Question & Answer session spelled out what we would like to offer one another in terms of pastoral care. We had folks there who were experienced care providers, newcomers, and people who had received care.

Currently, although we do not have a formal pastoral care team, we have arrangements for getting meals, prayer shawls and blankets, transportation and visits from caring choirs and clergy to those who need them. We also provide linkages with other service providers and organizations in our area. Lastly, we provide emergency financial aid with bills and other pressing matters. Although this is still a work in progress, some clear priorities for action emerged from the conversation.

1. A model of care that balances expectations with the considerable resources we can offer.
2. Agreement on the promises we will make to one another, and clear statements of what they will be.
3. "Case management," linking people who might need attention with experienced and willing volunteers.
4. Advocacy when someone is feeling overwhelmed by their circumstances.
5. Company to medical appointments to help process medical news.
6. "Remembership," periodic phone calls (two or three over the course of a year) to everyone just to say hello and check in; more often when folks can't make it to church.
7. One or two additional lay pastoral care ministers, selected and trained by Rev. Sarah.

As we put our desires into action, we reminded each other that we wanted to create standards for our care, provide training for everyone who wanted it, make use of our electronic resources to enhance what we offer, and make sure that newcomers had as many opportunities to provide and receive care as longtime members.

I will be continuing this conversation with like-minded individuals, sharing background material and scheduling opportunities to learn more. Please let me know if you would like to join us.

Rev. Sarah

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Child care for the littlest children begins at 10:15 a.m. in the Nursery Room on Sunday.

Large-print hymnals and hearing assistive headsets are available.

Our worship services are videotaped and broadcast over local cable television on Comcast channel 9 and Verizon channel 34, usually at 4:00 p.m., on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.



BALLOU CHANNING DISTRICT

Unitarian Universalist Association

www.bcduuu.org - BCDoffice@uuu.org

325 West Elm Street, Brockton, MA 02301 - 508-559-6650



GROWING BETTER RELIGION

Saturday, January 11, 2014 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

UU Church of Worcester

<http://www.uucworcester.org/content/directions-map>

This half-day summit will explore individual and institutional roles in growing better religion in our Unitarian Universalist context. The Rev. Tandi Rogers, UUA Growth Strategies Specialist, will facilitate conversations about Unitarian Universalist identity in New England and the role of Unitarian Universalism in the public square throughout history and in the present.

Registration: \$50 Deadline - January 6, 2014

<http://www.cbd-mbd-uuu.org/drupal/content/growing-better-religion>



LET'S TALK ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

January 25, 2014 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Second Parish Church in Hingham

www.secondparish.org

Membership - identifying, attracting, retaining - is regularly talked about at congregation board and committee meetings. This workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to hear about and discuss ideas about membership and church growth.

Workshop will have:

A presentation by a panel of individuals from congregations that have had success in membership growth and incorporation


Time to work on a case study with other participants which will explore adaptive challenges that face a congregation which is attempting to grow

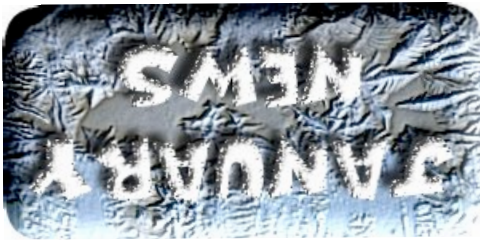
Time to discuss techniques and challenges with other participants

No cost, but registration is requested.

Register at <http://letstalkmembership.eventbrite.com> or call 508-559-6650.

JANUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				7:00 p.m. Satsang, Suite C 7:30 p.m. Spirituality Group, Grant Building Classroom	7:00 p.m. Knitting Group, J. Gould's Home	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Education	7:00 p.m. CUUPS, Parish Hall	6:00 p.m. Expansion Committee, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline	7:00 p.m. Satsang, Suite C 7:30 p.m. Spirituality Group, Grant Building Classroom		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Education 12:00 noon Program Planning Committee, Parlor		6:00 p.m. PR Committee, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline 6:00 p.m. Parish Committee, Grant Building Classroom	7:30 p.m. Spirituality Group, Suite C		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Education 12:00 noon Minister's Q & A, Parlor February Newsletter Deadline		6:00 p.m. Expansion Committee, Parish Hall 7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline 6:00 p.m. RE Committee, Suite C	7:00 p.m. Satsang, Suite C 7:30 p.m. Spirituality Group, Grant Building Classroom		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Religious Education 12:00 noon Memorial Garden Committee, Parlor 3:00 p.m. Music Guild, Parish Hall		7:00 p.m. Chalice Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	12:00 noon Order of Service Deadline 6:30 p.m. Cranberry Cluster, All Downstairs	7:30 p.m. Spirituality Group, Suite C		



The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleborough
25 South Main Street
Middleborough, MA 02346



Winter Gathering
of the
CRANBERRY CLUSTER



Wednesday, January 29, 2014, at
The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleborough
25 South Main Street, Middleborough

- 6:30 p.m. Wine, Cheese & Conversation
7:00 p.m. Dinner from Elsie's Kitchen
8:00 p.m. *Charitable Giving*

Jeff Stevens and his kitchen crew will serve a traditional Elsie dinner followed by a program entitled *Charitable Giving, How To Be An Informed Donor*, presented by the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department. A part of the program will include explaining the difference between a non-profit organization and a charity. Come and stay informed!

Suggested Donation: \$6.50 per person
Wine by the glass is available for a Suggested Donation of \$2.
Please contact Bud Soule for reservations.