



The Herald

A Publication of the First Church in Salem, Unitarian

The Ames Covenant

*In the love of truth
and the spirit of Jesus,
we unite for the worship of God
and the service of humankind.*

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 5

JANUARY 2015

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Minister's Musings

We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.

-- The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Speech in St. Louis, Missouri, March 22, 1964

Last month I had the opportunity to participate in a walk and vigil at Salem State University as part of the national *Black Lives Matter* movement. All over the country, people of various races and ethnic backgrounds have been staging creative protests and sit-ins at shopping malls, highways, restaurants and stores. The largest of these protests have been in New York City and of course Ferguson, Missouri. Almost all of these events have been peaceful, with young people denouncing the unfair treatment of people of color by law enforcement systems all over the country. The goal in most cases is not disruption but attention. Here in Salem that was certainly the case on a cold December night. I watched as students from Salem State lay down for a few minutes on the side of Washington Street chanting "Don't Shoot" and "I Can't Breathe." And I chanted along with those assembled calling for an end to unfair treatment of people of color by police officers around the country.

We live in society still separated quite often by race and increasingly divided by class and wealth. While things have improved in some areas and certainly many people have cast off the shackles of racial prejudice, many of us still live in communities separated by race and wealth. If you don't believe me, I invite you to take a drive through various neighborhoods here on the North Shore.

And certainly if you want to see unintentional separation in action, you need only walk into any house of worship on a Sunday. There is an old saying that the most segregated hour of the week in the U.S. is Sunday at 11 o'clock in the morning. It does not mean that people are racist or prejudice in many churches. (Sometimes it is quite the contrary). What it does mean that we are all products of larger societal forces and habits. If there is going to be any change, it has to be intentional, and it has to be peaceful. It will not happen by accident. Dr. King liked to talk about the beloved community, a vision of a society where justice and compassion reigned supreme and people were judged "by the content of their character and not by the color of their skin."

Starting January 18, the First Church will be offering a series of short programs on race and class. We plan to discuss excerpts from the book [Afraid of the Dark](#), and watch a few videos. See details on the program inside this newsletter. All of this is for the purpose of simply putting ourselves in a place where we can listen to those with different perspectives and experiences. There is enormous power and possibility in doing just that. Out of this comes understanding and potential for real change in this country.

See you in church,

*"And now we welcome
the new year,
full of things that have
never been."*

~ Rainer Maria Rilke





January Schedule of Events

Sun, January 4: Epiphany Sunday

⤴ 10:30am Service

Sun, January 11

⤴ 9:00am Stewardship Cmt.

⤴ 9:00am Yoga

⤴ 9:00am Morning Movie

⤴ 10:30am Service

⤴ 7pm Youth Group

Tue, January 13

⤴ 12:00pm Lunch with the Pastor

Wed, January 14

⤴ 4:00pm Salem Pantry Bagging

Sat, January 17

⤴ 9:00am Salem Pantry Distribution

Sun, January 18: MLK, Jr. Sunday

⤴ 10:30am Service

⤴ 12:15pm Race Discussion Group

Tue, January 20

⤴ 7:15pm Standing Cmt.

Thu, January 22

⤴ 7pm Winter Book Group Begins

Sat, January 24

⤴ 4:45pm Lifebridge Dinner Team

⤴ 6:30pm Social Justice Family Promise Potluck

Sat, January 25

⤴ 10:30am Service & Winter Pageant

Fri, January 30

⤴ 6:00pm Family Fun Night

Around the Parish

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Lynn Taggart**, upon the passing of her mother on December 29. Lynn and husband Russell Lane will be travelling to Ohio for the memorial service on January 17.

The First Church would like to thank **Doug Pini** for once again donning the highly recognizable red suit and beard and reprising his role as the "Jolly Old Elf" at our Christmas party this year. Doug actually served double duty in December, playing Father Christmas at the holiday parties for both the First Church and Henny Penny Nursery School. Since his wife, Tricia Pini, is now the Director of our nursery school, this appears to be not only a jolly, but wise choice on his part!

Cuba, Cuba, who's been to Cuba? Church friend **John Ninneman** has, as a younger man in the 90's. Quite an adventure at the time. Anyone else traveled to the "Land of Castro?"

Rose Wolf was seen emerging from the icy waters of Salem Harbor on January 1 as part of the 4th Annual Freeze Your Tush Off event here in Salem. Organized by FUSS member Becky Christie, this New Year's Day "Dip" raises money to benefit [the Salem Food Pantry](#), located in the basement of First Universalist Society. And rumor has it that the good Dr. Wolf did not even howl upon entering the 40 degree waters.

The First Church experienced some flooding in Willson Hall, our basement social hall, during the big rainstorm in early December. While the water problem in our basement is much better (since we installed a new dry-well system in 2012), we clearly still have some work to do. Thanks to the hard work of **Richard Hannah** and **Fabio Chacon**, the basement floor was vacuumed dry and cleaned after the storm. Close to 40 loads of water were dumped from our shop-vac the day after the storm.

Jaime Tanch helped the church acquire our new snow blower last year, and when we realized that the unit was not working last month, Deacon Tanch took the lead in returning the defective unit and getting an even better replacement. When it does snow this winter, we'll be ready.

While we are on the topic of the Property, thank you **Peter Eschauzier**, a member of our Property Committee, for quickly replacing the broken garbage disposal in our first floor kitchen sink.

Christmas came early to the **First Church Archives** this year, thanks in part to the kindness of **David Helen**, a member of the Archives Committee. David works for Harvard Business School and was able to arrange for a donation of a "lightly used," three year old computer system from the University, one that is years younger and far better than the old PC, currently collecting dust in the Archives Office. Thank you David!

There was a sighting of the **Palmer "Girls"** walking down Lafayette Street just after Christmas. What makes this unusual is that big sister **Alison** now lives just outside of Tokyo, Japan these days, while little sister **Hannah** is a full time student in sunny, warm Edinburgh, Scotland. All of this makes the Minister happy to see them, and feeling suddenly a little bit old!



JANUARY 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 - 10:30am Service	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 - 9:00am Stewardship - 9:00am Yoga - 9:00am A.M. Movie - 10:30am Service - 7pm Youth Group	12	13 - 12pm Lunch with Pastor	14 - 4pm Salem Pantry Bagging	15	16	17 - 9am Salem Pantry Distribution
18 MLK, Jr. Sunday - 10:30am Service - 12:15pm Race Discussion Group	19	20 - 7:15pm Standing Committee	21	22 7pm Winter Book Group Begins	23	24 - 4:45pm Lifebridge - 6:30pm Social Justice Family Promise Potluck
25 - 10:30am Service & Winter Pageant	26	27	28 -	29	30 - 6pm Family Fun Night	31

UUA Updates and Information

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The ANNUAL MEETING of the
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

Portland
Oregon

JUNE 24-28, 2015



UUA Congregational Study/Action Issues

<http://www.uua.org/statements/current/index.shtml>

We are stronger together. Our combined efforts to make the world more fair and humane can accomplish more than any one of us working alone. As Unitarian Universalist, we set priorities for our social justice efforts by investing in key issues that exemplify our commitments to justice, equity and compassion.

Congregational Poll

Your congregation is invited to comment on the proposed Statement of Conscience (SOC) on Reproductive Justice and vote to place the proposed SOC on the Final Agenda of the 2015 General Assembly. **Due February 2, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific.** Read the [proposed SOC on Reproductive Justice](#)

Download and use the [Comment Worksheet on the proposed SOC \(PDF\)](#) on Reproductive Justice

[All downloads can be found on www.uua.org/statements/current/index.shtml]



From Religious Education

Our annual Christmas Pageant was wonderful this year. We had humor and reverence, joy and danger. We had a Sheppard who loved his job, tee-shirts advertising the “Caesar census” and even the Grinch, all making appearances in the beautiful and timeless story of the birth of the Christ child. Our students and their families count this sacred play as a special part of their holiday tradition. Our Children’s party and visit from Santa was a great time! Santa was kind and jolly and the kids all had a great day. Many thanks to all our dedicated parents and friends. We could not have this event without all the help! Special thanks to Tiffany Magnolia, Susan Morgenstern, Ben Waxman, Madeleine and Paul Melicar, Robin Haynes, Liv Radue, Matt Kane, Dave Radue, Leanne Schild, Bob Soucy, Trish Pini. Special thanks to Doug Pin, Simon Fox, Paul Madore, Don Glover, Valentina Burbank and of course, our resident director, Max Burbank!

We will have our first Sunday morning movie event on January 11th at 9:00am. Children are invited to gather together in Willson Hall to enjoy a special movie before the service. Parents are encouraged to spend this bonus time either at our Yoga class, in committee meetings, or in community with other First Church members and friends. More details will be in the RE Snapshot emails. If this movie morning is successful we will consider making it a regular event.

On January 28th our high school students will present Jacob and Esau during the service. This event is their answer to what to do when one is too old to be in the Christmas Pageant. I admit I am not entirely sure what to expect but I can guarantee it will not be boring!!! Be sure to mark this service as one not to miss!!

Our Winter Family Fun Night will be on Friday, January 30th. Our special theme for this party will be announced in the RE Snapshot soon. These family events are always a great time. You do need to have a child to attend!

May your New Year be filled with love,
Deb DiGiulio
Director of Religious Education

From the Standing Committee

What a wonderful holiday season at First Church. The magic of the season was felt through out the month as the staff and church members worked together to prepare the building, teach the children, plan the worship services and organize Fellowship. It is a such a wonderful thing to see new and old members working with the staff and each other to pull together the many aspects of the Christmas season. I want to thank everyone who had a part in making all work so smoothly.

The bad news is that during the big rain storm in December, Willson Hall got a considerable amount of water. It was much less than the amounts we would get before the construction project, but enough to cover most of the room. As we continue to look at the options for flooring for Willson Hall it looks like we will have to take into consideration the reality of water and the humidity caused by it. The Property Committee continues to look at possible causes and solutions, but would welcome input if anyone has expertise in this area.

As we move into the New Year, the Standing Committee will be looking to continuing to grow the First Church community. If you would like to find new or increased ways to be involved in the First Church community please talk with the Minister or a Standing Committee member and we can help you find a part of our community that will be meaningful to you to be involved in.

Happy New Year,

Donna Fritz
Chair, Standing Committee



Social Outreach - My Story, My View, and Our Church Wide Mission

By Jim Ognibene, Co-Chair, Social Outreach Committee and Member of the Standing Committee

The following is an edited version of remarks delivered on Sunday, January 4, during a service to hold up and celebrate the work of the First Church's Social Outreach Committee.

Christmas Eve 2006, it was the first time my friend Ken and I attended the Unitarian Universalist Church in Provincetown for their candlelight service, a tradition we hold to this day. After the service, as we were walking out the building I grabbed one of several colorful brochures in the racks by the front door. The words on the page jumped out at me and spoke right to my heart. This was it. The views of the UU church beautifully described my spiritual journey at the time. After 20 years of Catholicism and 20 years of Protestant Congregationalism, the seven principles of the Unitarian Universalism were all that I needed and wanted to believe. Exactly three weeks later I walked in these doors on MLK Sunday, January 14, 2007, eight years ago. I had moved to Salem from Boston in 2003 and still hadn't found a church home. After several failed attempts, 2007 became a year of exploration at the First Church. The big question: Was this the place I wanted to settle in? I had three very important assessment criteria. 1) Is the minister dynamic, caring, intelligent, and progressive? 2) How do members and friends interact with each other? 3) Is the church involved in the community? In essence, did this community genuinely like and enjoy each other and did they reach out to the community? It only took a few Sundays to experience Rev. Jeff as top talent and to see lots of love all over. It was very evident and very abundant – “box one” and “box two” now checked off - now for “box number three.” I did not want to join a country club; I wanted to join a church. I feel strongly that a church that does not reach out to the community is not a church at all. I asked to see a copy of the most recent annual report so I could learn more. I was very happy to find reports listing very specific dollar amounts sent to very specific non-profit organizations. I needed to see actual numbers, not hyperbole. And, it was about that time, the church made a significant decision to sell a portion of Paul Revere silver from the church archives for a very sizeable chunk of change to support the current mission and planned renovation project. That was all I needed to see. I was sold. What I observed was church leadership that worked hard to find a healthy balance between the old and the new, to preserve the almost 400 year legacy, yet willing and able to take educated and calculated risks to build and create the future.

Among other things, the Social Outreach committee releases designated church funds for those who may not be able to fully speak for themselves. In 2014, \$6,000 was distributed to these seven agencies: Lifebridge, Salem Pantry, YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, Plummer Home Boys, HAWC and Family Promise. We continue to modify this list with input and direction from the church community.

Last year our sister committee, the Social Justice Committee, led by David Radue, was formed to expand the role and place of outreach at the First Church. David Radue and I “ride our horses side by side” as we “cross the wide open plains, exchanging our cowboy hats” with ideas and resources. We are hoping both these committees take fuller form this year. At the very least, the Social Outreach committee wants you to know that First Church is writing checks. We DO reach out to the community. The First Church is so much more than a country club. We need to keep our check writing capabilities front and center. Personally, I believe we can do more. We need to expand our capacity to help. It is critical to our purpose and mission. When we give, we get; it is a law of the universe. Collectively, we make this happen. I am grateful for our community.



From the Music Director

This article is coming to you directly from the annual First Church after Christmas Sunday service, so often called by many of us unkind churchgoers as “Low” Sunday. The term “low” of course has several meanings which we needn’t explain, and, of course it’s completely unfair as, though attendance was a little light, those of you who weren’t there missed a really wonderful and rewarding morning in church. For me, Jeff’s Christmas carol service is always a very enlightening experience and one which helps beautifully to bring one down from the heights of just past Christmas worship. I even had to apologize to Jeff after the service, for forgetting to come in on the last carol as I was so intent on his words about the carol. So, if you weren’t there, do think about putting it on your calendar for next year.

That being said, didn’t we have a beautiful Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols. The climax of course is always seeing the church lit up by all in glorious candlelight. There were certainly many highlights, however, before that final moment. This year, Jeff’s suggestion, we featured a classical guitarist in what was a much more meditative service than has been the case in recent years at First Church. Tev Stevig was indeed a fine player and he inspired the choir to put their best foot forward, and, I must say, I was very proud of them. And, of course, our very own Rebecca Hains, wasn’t she wonderful? Add to the music, thoughtful readings by so many church members (of all ages!!!) and Jeff’s final reflections, it all made us proud to be a part of the First Church in Salem.

Now it seems logical to end with kudos to the children of First Church for their fine pageant on Christmas Sunday. What really inspired me was how beautifully they sang all of the carols as part of the drama. It convinced me that the future of music is secure at 316 Lafayette Street.

See you in church.
Paul Madore

Stewardship/Treasurer

As required by the IRS, all First Church Members and Friends who made a contribution greater than \$10 during the 2013 calendar year will receive a contribution statement for tax purposes in the coming month.

Tommy Leon, Co-Chair
Marlene Warner, Co-Chair Bill Henning
Steve Palmer Nancy TenBroeck
Frank Marean Peter Eschauzier
Alicia Diozzi

Henny Penny

December was filled with song and cheer at Henny Penny. Our dramatic play area was transformed into Santa's Workshop giving the children many opportunities to work (play, really) on their fine motor skills as they built and inspected toys, wrapped packages and peeled adhesive backing off of bows for the packages, wrote letters for Santa, and so much more. The kitchen sink and cabinets were transformed into Santa's sleigh. Once the packages were ready, the children stuffed them into cabinets, lined up double-rows of chairs, and took flight in the sleigh taking turns playing the part of Santa on the reigns.

Our annual Songfest was well attended....standing room only! The children sang eight holiday songs, and then were surprised by a visit from Santa. Santa presented each child with a stocking filled with goodies. Thank you Paul Madore for providing piano accompaniment for the joyful singers!

Enrollments for the 2015-16 school year are filling quickly. We only have two Tuesday/Thursday spaces available. More three & five day scheduling options are available at this time. An Open House will be held on Tuesday January 13th from noon-1pm and 6pm-7pm. Come meet the teachers and see what Henny Penny is doing to create lifelong learners. First Church Members are given a 10% tuition discount, so if you are considering a half-day preschool program for your child or grandchild, please come by for a visit!

Look for more exciting changes in our classroom for the new year!

Tricia Pini and Barbara Hermann



For Your Calendar: Events and Goings on At and Around First Church

Discussion Group: Race in America and on the North Shore

We still live in a mainly segregated society. Why is that? The Minister is hosting a short discussion program on race in America, basing the conversation on the book, ***Afraid of the Dark: What Whites and Blacks Need to Know about one Another*** by longtime USA Today reporter, Jim Myers. Discussions will also include pieces offering perspectives from Latino and Asian Americans.

“Afraid of the Dark” is a guide for anyone who has contact with people of another race—in companies, schools, neighborhoods, or other social situations—this book asserts that race is not the unfathomable mystery it is usually made out to be. In a revealing, accessible, and stimulating discussion based on little-known facts and innovative research, this book explains why many whites are uneasy about blacks and how blacks react to this, why numerous blacks suspect the worst from whites, why white explanations don't hold up, why myths about sex remain so prevalent, and what both races can do together to make their relations better.

To sign up and/or support this program, please call the church office or speak with the Minister. Group begins on Sunday, January 18. Copies of the first two chapters of the book are available at the church in the Cleveland Room on the piano.

Family Promise Potluck

Saturday, January 24

6:30pm-8:30pm after the Lifebridge Dinner

On Saturday, January 24 the Social Justice committee is hosting a potluck in the Cleveland Room for those with an interest in Family Promise. The event will run from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. We will eat and socialize from 6:30 to 7:30 and then review and discuss the Family Promise calendar. The goal for the meeting is to decide how often during the year our volunteer base would like to work with Family Promise and, given the schedules of possible partner churches, on what weeks we plan to focus. Partners include but are not limited to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Marblehead, Second Congregational Church of Christ in Beverly, and First Parish Church in Beverly.

Anyone with an interest in Family Promise is welcome to attend. Attendees are encouraged to bring a dish of some kind.

As a special note, this event will coincide with a Lifebridge dinner. Participants in Lifebridge that night are invited to join us after the Lifebridge dinner. They are not expected to contribute dishes to the potluck but will be very welcome to partake. During the meeting we will also discuss in broader terms our congregations capacity to determine how we can juggle our current Lifebridge commitment with a Family Promise commitment. There has been some discussion of expanding our Lifebridge volunteering because of an abundance of volunteers, so we will talk about whether or not that makes sense and is of interest to those in attendance given our planned Family Promise work.



[Events and Goings on At and Around First Church](#)

First Tuesday Film Series January 6, 2015 at 7pm

The Tillman Story

Examines Pat Tillman's unusual life and times, the facts about his death, how and why the military created a cover story to hide the truth.

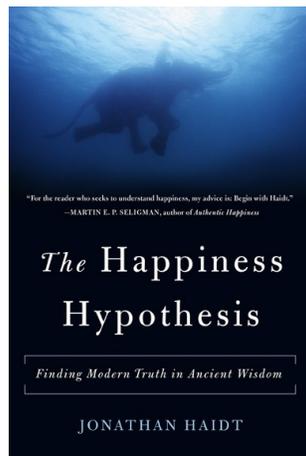
NOTE NEW LOCATION:

SALEM SATV, 285 DERBY STREET

Free Film Series sponsored by
Salem Peace Committee
North Shore Coalition for Peace & Justice
Women's International
League for Peace & Freedom
Marblehead Peace Committee
For more information call (978)740-9917

Winter Book Discussion Group: Cultivating Happiness

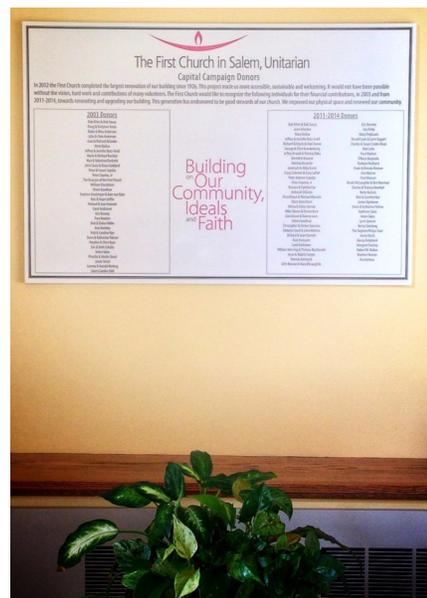
Join us for our winter book discussion. We will be reading together, *The Happiness Hypothesis*, by Prof. Jonathan Haidt. Using the wisdom culled from the world's greatest civilizations as a foundation, social psychologist Haidt comes to terms with 10 Great Ideas, viewing them through a contemporary filter to learn which of their lessons may still apply to modern lives. To sign up, speak with the Minister or call the Church Office. Program meets every two weeks beginning on Thursday, Jan 22.



New Capital Campaign Plaque on Display

*We make a living by what we make.
We make a life by what we give.
~ Sir Winston Churchill (attributed)*

The "first draft" of the recognition plaque for our capital campaign is now on display in the new vestibule by the Office Entrance. The final version will be more permanent on metal or brass. All those who have made a donation are recognized on this plaque for their generosity. Please check to make sure that your name is listed correctly. This is a record that will hang here for many decades to come. For those who missed the opportunity to make a donation to this campaign for our recent renovation project, it's not too late! We would love to have your name join the many others that are recognized here for years to come. Please speak with the Minister, Donna Fritz, the Chair of the Standing Committee, or Nicole McLaughlin, Chair of the Capital Campaign Committee.



Get Involved/Thank You!!!

Fellowship

Thanks to all those who hosted or contributed to Fellowship in December:

Liv & David Radue, the Standing Committee, Alicia & Stephanie Diozzi, Patti Roka, the Fellowship Committee

Sunday, December 21 will be Christmas Sunday Community Fellowship. To sign up to host another date please go to the First Church webpage at www.firstchurchinsalem.org and click on the Fellowship link. Thank you!!!

Lifebridge Dinner Team

On December 27, First Church volunteered, prepared and served dinner at Lifebridge, Salem's homeless shelter. Our wonderful volunteers for the December dinner were:

Duncan Cox, Richard L'heureux, Peter & Barbara Maitland, Paul & Sara Massari, Rick Nye, Colin Nye, Tom O'Hare, Amanda Roeder, Victor Young. Special thank you to the Massari's for donating the groceries for much of last year.

The next Lifebridge dinner will take place on Saturday, January 24. If you would like to help shop, prepare or serve dinner please sign up in the Barnard Room after one of the services, or online through the "Lifebridge"

Flowers

We would like to thank everyone who donated and ordered flowers during the month of December.

Ordering flowers for the Meeting House can be done by making an entry on the sign up form in the Barnard Room. Please feel free to contact the Church Administrator with any questions! 978-744-1551/
firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com

Holiday Decorators and Stocking Project

We gratefully acknowledge all who made possible the splendid flora including the planters gracing the front stairs, and the poinsettias, cyclamen, and wreaths inside the Meeting House in joyous celebration the holiday season. We would like to acknowledge the fine work that the following individuals did to decorate the Meeting-house and our building this year led and organized by **Sandra Biondo** the group included **Chris Hansen-Mitev, Chris Finn** and **Richard Hannah** as well as **Mimi Ballou, Peter A. Copelas, Charlene Long, Richard Biondo** and **Stephen Sawtell**.

And thank you to the Garden Committee for putting together the Holiday Planters: **Mary Collari, Jan Eschazier** and **Lynn Taggart**.

The First Church would like to thank everyone who made this year's Stocking Project a big success. Thanks to the generosity of over 40 members and friends (you know who you are!) we were able to provide gifts and clothing to 17 local families in need through the Salem YMCA.

We would like thank Jim Ognibene and the Social Outreach Committee of the Church for once again organizing the Stocking Project and making it a highlight of our holiday activities.

THE HERALD



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The First Church in Salem, Unitarian
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Minister: Reverend Jeffrey Barz-Snell
Director of Music: L. Paul Madore
Director of Henny Penny: Tricia Pini
Director of Religious Education: Deb DiGiulio
Chair of the Standing Committee: Donna Fritz
Administrator: Catherine Bertrand
Sexton: Fabio Chacon

Second Sundays Yoga: Come for Yoga, Stay for Church **Beginning Sunday, January 11** **9am-10am**

Join us for the start of a new monthly program at the First Church, Second Sundays. Each month, we will host a 50-55 minute yoga class in the Cleveland Room from 9 AM to 9:55 AM. The class will be taught by Liz Gruenfeld, a teacher and practitioner of yoga for 16 years. It will be geared towards beginner and intermediate skill levels. So bring your mat and any blocks you might have and join us for Second Sundays at the First Church. Note: While there is no formal charge, this program welcomes donations of \$5-15 by those willing to support great events at the First Church.

Our Instructor: Liz Gruenfeld has been practicing and teaching yoga for 16 years, and is trained in varied styles (Kripalu, Viniyoga-inspired, Samadhi yoga). As an intercultural arts educator, clinical MSW and current PhD student, her yoga teaching tends to be trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, and creative-arts inspired. She is responsive to different abilities and emotional/physical wellbeing, and is spiritually engaged. She has taught on four continents, and values deep aliveness, care, connection, and social and ecological justice.

