



The Herald

A Publication of the First Church in Salem, Unitarian Universalist

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 9

MAY 2015

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Minister's Musings

On Sunday, May 3 at our Annual Meeting, the First Church did something that had not happened for a long time and probably will not occur again for an even longer period of time: we changed our name. We, the members of the First Congregational Society in Salem voted overwhelmingly to change our "common name" to the First Church in Salem, Unitarian Universalist.

We did so out of a mix of sadness, admiration, and excitement. The sadness of course arises from the announced closure this month of our sister church in town, the First Universalist Society in Salem. They have been an abiding presence here in Salem since their founding in 1805 and we have been blessed with a fraternal relationship with them for 210 years. Our admiration has developed over two centuries. In a way, our two congregations "grew up together:" we have each taken "turns" espousing various theistic and humanistic theological outlooks, but more recently both of our congregations have developed authentic and meaningful ways to practice our liberal-minded faith here in Salem, and make a real difference. The members of the First Universalist have been amidst hard choices this last year and they are voting this month to close their doors and merge with the First Parish in Beverly. They are also voting to transform their building into an arts and cultural center here in Salem, and we pledge our support for this initiative and endeavor.

This brings me to our excitement. Even though our larger society is changing, there is clearly still a need for our "kind" of religious community, and for the first time since 1719 there is only one congregation like ours here in Salem. For the last 296 years there has always been at least one other church similar to ours making a difference here in Salem. The late 19th and 20th centuries brought the merger and closure of several of these congregations (including the North Church in 1924 and Second Church in 1956). Now, with the closure of First Universalist Society, our congregation remains the only Unitarian or Universalist church in Salem.

Informed by this new reality, and as a way of honoring our longstanding relationship with the First Universalist Society and their members, we voted to add "Universalist" to our name. There used to be only four places in the United States where a Unitarian and a Universalist church operated separately in the same city or town. Now there are only three. We wish everyone well who has been involved with these decisions this year and we hope all of us here on the North Shore who care about the mission and vision of Unitarian Universalism, regardless of where we attend church, will support our way of being religious. The voice and presence we offer to the larger community makes a real difference.

See you in church,

If memory is the thread of personal identity, history is the thread of community Identity.
Carter Lindberg



May Schedule of Events

Sun, May 10: Mother's Day

- ⤴ 9:00am Second Sunday Yoga
- ⤴ 10:30am Service
- ⤴ 7pm Youth Group

Tue, May 12

- ⤴ 12:00pm Lunch with the Pastor

Wed, May 13

- ⤴ 7:15pm Standing Committee

Sat, May 16

- ⤴ 8:00am Yard Sale

Sun, May 17

- ⤴ 9:00am Choir Rehearsal
- ⤴ 10:30am Flower Communion Service
- ⤴ Fellowship: Sundae Sunday
- ⤴ 4:45pm Lifebridge Dinner Team

Wed, May 20

- ⤴ 4:00pm Salem Pantry Bagging
- ⤴ 7:00pm Music & Worship Committee

Sat, May 23

- ⤴ 4:45pm Lifebridge Dinner Team

Sun, May 24

- ⤴ 9am Stewardship Cmte
- ⤴ 10:30am Service

Sat, May 30

- ⤴ 9:00am Garden Clean Up
- ⤴ 9:00am Salem Pantry Distribution

Sun, May 31

- ⤴ 10:30am Service
- ⤴ Annual Church Picnic to follow service, with
- ⤴ Rain date on June 6

Lifebridge Dinner Schedule Expanded

Later this month, First Church is expanding our involvement at Lifebridge to a second meal each month. For years we have provided the meal on the 4th Saturday of the month. We will now also provide a meal on the 3rd Sunday of the month. To help distribute the coordination workload, Duncan Cox will continue coordinating the Saturday meal while Amanda Roeder (roedermusic@gmail.com) handles the Sunday meal.

Around the Parish

Bob Walker is mourning the passing of his ex-wife, Priscilla, April. She lived in Connecticut and Bob was very close with her.

Our condolences extend to **Caroline Nye** upon news that her mother passed away in late April. Her mother had been in poor health for some time.

Rose Wolf has already found a new feline "familiar." She found a "tabby" in Ohio who has already made her way to the welcoming environs of Salem.

Jennifer Barz-Snell is losing her job with the closure of the Spaulding North Rehabilitation Hospital, formerly Shaughnessy-Kaplan Hospital, located next to Salem Hospital. Partners Healthcare, the owner of the facility, is closing the entire hospital and laying off 320 workers.

Jaime Tanch is recovering after a fall off of his boat in early May during which he broke his collar bone. The fall was particularly hard since the boat was not in the water!

Maye Viccica, daughter of church member **Hobby Sides** and **Paul Viccica**, is the number one player on her varsity tennis team at Hamilton Wenham High School. Pretty good for a sophomore!

The First Church held its first May Day Celebration on May 3, the day of our Annual Meeting, complete with a May Pole Dance and outdoor music. Special thanks to new members, **Charlie and Jerrie Hildebrand** and **Holly Chase**, as well as **Jim Ognibene** and **Deb DiGuilio** for making this all happen.

John Newhall graduates from St. John's Prep this month. He is heading off to Lawrence University in the fall.

India Schultz graduates from Swampscott High and twin brother **Andy Schultz** graduates from Essex Tech next month.

The First Universalist Society of Salem will be formally closing its doors at the end of this month. Plans on how the building will be used are forthcoming but it involves turning the facility into a local arts and cultural center.

Have an item for Around the Parish? Feel free to email the Minister or the Church Office with your news, or tell us when you see us!



M A Y 2 0 1 5

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Service	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day 9:00am Yoga 10:30am Service 7pm Youth Group	11	12 12pm Lunch with Pastor	13 7:15pm Standing Committee	14 SAFE Program on Solar, 7 pm	15	16 8am Yard Sale
17 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Flower Com- munion Service 11:45 Sundae Sunday 4:45pm Lifebridge	18	19	20 7pm Music & Worship Cmte	21	22	23 - 4:45pm Lifebridge
24 9:00am Stewardship Cmte 10:30am Service	25 Memorial Day	26	27 4pm Salem Pantry Bagging	28 -	29	30 - 9am Garden Clean Up - 9am Salem Pan- try Distribution
31 Church Picnic 10:30am Service Annual Picnic follows the service						



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UUA Updates and Information

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.



From the Music Director

The months are certainly rolling along. Here it is May and the annual meeting, but, of course, if the weather ever came around to cooperating, it might actually feel like May. Oh well...

There was a great deal of anticipation for the Holy Week activities and they just flew by. I have to say, however, that things went very smoothly and I was proud indeed of our First church Choir. Weren't they terrific? I do believe that Easter was all that it should be and in spite of the fact that our annual Easter egg hunt for the kids had to be indoors, it was really a smooth operation and the kids had a great time even though Easter really should be an outside event for some of the festivities with flowering forsythia and daffodils and tulips, etc., etc. Last but by no means least, our very charismatic minister outdid himself with one of his all time best sermons. It certainly deserved the applause he got at the end.

So now, we wind down to the end of the church year. Choir sings again on the 17th of May which is flower communion Sunday, then once again in June, and if we don't have summer weather by then, I suggest we all plan a mass exodus to the tropics.

See you in church.

Paul Madore

Henny Penny

Our First Annual Henny Penny Art Show was a hit! The children were excited to escort their families around the Cleveland Room in search of their mini-masterpieces. Some of the works displayed were Monet-inspired water lilies, cityscape collages, decoupage bud vases with liquid water color flowers, budding forsythia, coffee filter butterflies, gytaku fish rubbings, oil pastel & finger paint lions, and more. Attempting to be as "green" as possible, several of the pieces were created using recycled materials from Extras for Creative Reuse in Lynn.

This is the time we start preparing for our big end of the year celebration. The Henny Penny children will put on a short performance (we are still undecided on exactly what they will be doing), and then teachers will present graduates with diplomas and returning students with certificates of learning. The celebration will be in Wilson Hall on Friday June 12th at 11am.

We are still accepting enrollments for our last three 2015-16 school year spaces. Please remember First Church Member receive a 10% discount on tuition. Henny Penny will be adding a third member to our teaching team. With the extra set of eyes and hands we will be able to provide many more meaningful experiences supporting the growth of the whole child, and plant the seeds of life-long learning.

ure!

Tricia Pini and Barbara Hermann





From the Standing Committee

One goal we had going into this year was to facilitate a discussion to review the financial agreements made during the construction project. During the construction project good decisions were made to make improvements that were unforeseen but most prudent to tackle while the walls were open. We managed these additions by borrowing additional money from the Endowment in the form of a loan. The goal of the discussion was to decide if the current plan of paying back a \$680,000 loan from the endowment was the best course of action or if another plan would better serve our congregation. We were currently making an interest only payment of \$24,000 per year from our operating budget and taking income from the endowment of approximately 5.5% annually, which is a relatively high percentage.

Participants in the discussion included members of the following committees: Standing Committee, Deacons, The Trustees, Finance, Stewardship and also included Reverend Jeff Barz-Snell and UUA's Leadership Development Director, Doug Zelinski. The result of two meetings was an agreed upon plan which is outlined below:

1. Eliminate the \$680,000 loan, which would eliminate the \$24,000 interest payment, but also reduces the value of the endowment.
2. Reduce the annual income from the endowment to the church from 5.5% to 4.5% or less on an annual basis, which will decrease our annual income from the endowment by about \$36,000. \$36,000 (less in the operating budget) minus \$24,000 (amount we were paying from operating budget back to the endowment) equals \$12,000 difference that we will need to make up in Pledges in order to continue with our current programming.
3. Inform all members and friends of the First Church of these actions and the importance of withdrawing from the endowment at a prudent and sustainable rate. Invite supporters of the First Church to donate to and support our programs and mission. Explaining that unlike any time in the last several decades, the First Church needs to rely on the good will and generosity of its members to maintain its programming.

Once deciding on this course of action the Standing Committee, Stewardship committee and others set out to educate the congregation of the new situation and the need for an increase in pledging by at least \$11,000 - \$12,000 in the next year. So far the response has been wonderful when we discussed this at the Stewardship dinner and committee meetings. Those who can, have increased their pledge amounts and members have been open to this plan and invested in the success and future of our congregation.

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY

This is my last Herald article as the Chair of the Standing Committee and I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for their support and encouragement over the last year and a half as the Chair. This is a wonderful community to work with and I have gained so much from being a part of it. There were several people who took time to mentor and guide me on this journey and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank them; Jeff Barz-Snell, Lynn Taggart, Bill Henning, Nicole Mclaughlin, Peter Copelas, Richard Hannah, Mimi Ballou, George and Ellen Brandenburg, Chris Granniss, and Steve Palmer, thank you for spending time, either in person or on the phone, helping me to understand my role as the Chair of the SC. I enjoyed this position at the church and I hope I have served this congregation well.

Sincerely,
Donna Fritz

From Religious Education

This Easter we hosted our first ever indoor Easter Egg Hunt. Our team of wonderful youth, along with a few of our fabulous Religious Education alumni, performed like a well oiled machine getting the eggs passed out to the congregation. Our friends in the pews then “hid” the eggs for us. Bravo to everyone for helping us pull off this first ever event smoothly! Our young students were caring and generous to each other as they gathered in the Easter bounty. We are very proud of all our students who are arguably the most thoughtful group of kids to hunt eggs anywhere. Thanks to all the parents and members who help by bringing in eggs. Like they say- it takes a village to have a great Easter Egg Hunt!

May 17th is Sundae Sunday. We will be continuing our support of the Side Street Reach program. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/372191196271255/>) All funds raised will help our students create and ship care packages of toys, art supplies, nutritious snacks, and small clothing items to refugee children fleeing their native villages. We will be asking folks to sign up to donate ice cream and toppings for Sundae Sunday in the next two weeks. See Bob Soucy or Valentina Burbank to help.

Beginning May 31st Religious Education will offer Sunday Summer Camp during regular class time. Students will be able to choose from among several “camps” for that day’s RE time. Some of the ideas in the works are Improv Everywhere, Silly Olympics, Salem Children’s Tour, Build a Fairy House, and Dance. Ideas and volunteer leaders are welcome and encouraged. Have an idea or talent you have want to share with the students? Come and talk to me about it! Parents will get more details in the RE Snapshot in May.

We have some fun Youth events in the works for May. The students are hoping to help paint their Youth Space (the “yellow room” next to the downstairs kitchen) sometime in May- with the help of our apparently fearless sexton Bill McCarthy. Youth will serve as Youth Worship Associates for Flower Communion on May 17th. We are planning to have a fabulous team of youth helping with the yard sale on May 16th.

Happy spring,
Deb DiGiulio, Director of Religious Education

Events and Goings on At and Around First Church

Second Sundays Yoga: Come for Yoga, Stay for Church **May 10, 9am**

Join us for our monthly program at the First Church. Each month, on the second Sunday, we host a 55 minute yoga class in the Cleveland Room starting at 9:00 AM. Liz Gruenfeld, a teacher and practitioner of yoga for 16 years, teaches the class. It is 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.



Events and Goings on At and Around First Church

Welcome to the New Members

We would like to welcome 13 new members to First Church:

Doreen Beauregard	Jerrie Hildebrand
Paul Marquis	Charlie Hildebrand
Jeff Brandt	Matt Navins
Patti Roka	Jamie Navins
Holly Chase	Amanda Roeder
Mike Giaouque	Stacia Woodcock
	Lloyd Woodcock

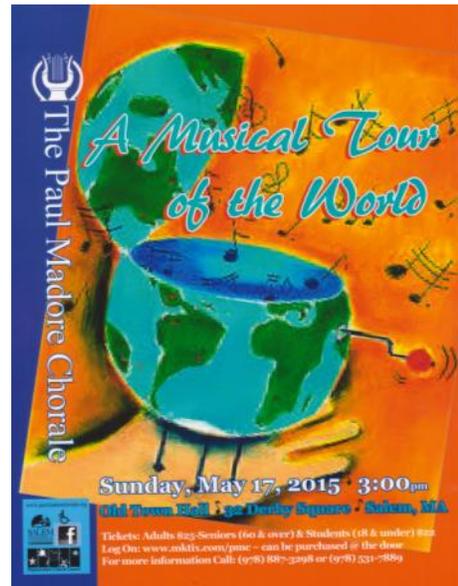
Every other month or so we like to highlight some of the new members who have joined recently. This month please welcome Jerrie and Charlie Hildebrand: Jerrie and Charlie have lived in Salem for thirty years. Charlie grew in Marblehead. He is a mechanical engineer by training but works in sales where he has discovered he is more interested in the people he meets than in the stuff he sells. Jerrie grew up in upstate New York has a degree in Advertising, Design, Production and Marketing. She was actively involved in the First Universalist Society of Salem for many years. She is also involved in the national Pagan community and currently serves on the continental board of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS). Jerrie also runs a creative design and marketing company called Kishgraphics. Charlie and Jerrie's son Wesley is a junior at Salem State University studying environmental sustainability and photography.

Herbs and Foraging!

June 14 12pm—1:30pm

Plants are much more than pretty flowers or annoying weeds. Here on the North Shore, in Salem, in this church, we are surrounded by plants that provide food and medicine for us. Want to know what those plants are and what you can do with them? Join Iris Weaver, a foraging instructor and member of our congregation, for a walk around the church and environs, and a short talk on local plants. Bring your camera or a notebook to record all the exciting things you will learn!
Iris Weaver, Shamanic Herbalist,
Foraging Instructor
www.irisweaver.com

**The Paul Madore Chorale
Presents A Musical Tour of the World
Sunday, May 17 at 3pm
Old Town Hall, 32 Derby Square, Salem
Tickets: www.mktix.com/pmc or call
(978)887-3298**



**The Mystic Chorale presents
TURN! TURN! TURN! - A Tribute to Pete Seeger**

**Saturday, May 16 at 7:30pm & Sunday,
May 17 at 3:30pm**

The Mystic Chorale with special guest Bill Staines. Music arranged and directed by Nick Page
In true Pete Seeger style, there will be plenty of opportunities to sing along!

Converse Hall at Tremont Temple, 88 Tremont Street, Boston, 1 block from Park Street T stop

Tickets available through website: <http://www.mysticchorale.org/>

\$18 Adults; \$15 Students / Seniors; Children under 5 Free.

Tickets also available at the door 1 hour before concerts begin

Events and Goings on At and Around First Church

Save the Date

Garden Clean-up and Planting Day, Saturday, May 30, 2015 9am-12pm

Plant it Forward

Not sure what to do with your extra Solomon's Seal, daylilies, hostas? We just happen to have the perfect home for your over abundance, the Garden at First Church. We would welcome any of the following: Lily-of-the-Valley, ferns, Brunnera macrophylla (Jack Frost,) Lady's mantle, daylilies (reblooming,) violets, ginger, sedum Autumn Joy, perennial grasses (clumping, not running,) narcissus, daffodils, hyacinths, iris, small conifers, forsythia, Oakleaf hydrangea, English ivy, Coreopsis, fall asters, and pachysandra; and if we have overlooked one of your favorites, let us know. We are asking for at least three of a particular kind of plant and preferably in odd multiples. Help in dividing, potting up, and transporting will be happily provided. Please speak to one of the Garden Committee members to arrange a pick-up.

Many thanks for your generosity,
Mary Collari, juma98@hotmail.com; Jan Eschauzier, janeschauzier@gmail.com; and
Lynn Taggart, l.taggart@outlook.com
Garden Committee Chairs

Flower Communion & Sundae Sunday

Sun, May 17

Please remember to bring a flower with you next Sunday for our Annual Flower Communion Service.

Also—don't forget that next Sunday is one of our favorite events of the year: Sundae Sunday!!! Ice cream sundaes and other tasty treats will be available during Fellowship Hour. All proceeds go to fund the RE's Social Justice project.



Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, May 31

Please join us for our annual church picnic in our beautiful garden on Sunday May 31 right after service. Hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers will be served. We are asking members and friends to bring a salad, a side dish or a desserts. Coolers and folding chairs also needed! Suggested donation to cover costs are \$5/adult and \$2/children.

CUUPS Convocation this Summer July 24-26 in Salem, MA

The National Convocation of the Covenants of Unitarian-Universalist Pagans will be held here at the First Church this summer. This continental gathering is the first in over ten years and will feature three days of programs, worship and music with the theme of "Awakening Our Tribe."

Guest speakers include people who have been long-time practitioners and newer UU voices in Paganism, as well as local figures in the New England region who bring fresh energy to the mix.

Activities for the weekend will include: visiting area historic venues, a showing of the documentary film "With Love from Salem" by area film maker Karagan Griffith, presentations by all of our speakers, a concert by Silver Branch and an event about the Parliament of the World Religions, which will be held in Salt Lake City in October, 2015. There will also be rituals and workshops.

Jerrie Hildebrand is looking for a few local people willing to provide housing for a member of the CUUPS Board. If interested, call the Church Office or speak with Jerrie.



Get Involved/Thank You!!!

Fellowship

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

Chris Hansen-Mitev, Mary Krigbaum, Mary Collari, Brenda Marean, Genevieve Gilson & Erik Bauer, Liv & David Radue, Claire Donaldson, Stewardship Committee, Social Justice Committee.

The month of May brings us our Annual Sundae Sunday event on May 17 and the Church Picnic on May 31. 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 April 25, First Church volunteered, prepared and served dinner at Lifebridge, Salem's homeless shelter. Our wonderful volunteers for the December dinner were:

Holly Chase, Chris Finn, Russell Lane, Richard L'heureux, Paul and Sara Massari, Amanda Roeder, Lynn Taggart. Special thanks to the Massari's for purchasing the food on their own dime!

The next TWO Lifebridge dinners will take place on Sunday, May 17 and Saturday, May 23. 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" link on the First Church website's homepage or contact Duncan Cox at coxes3@verizon.net.

Flowers

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

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



Social Justice Tree Planting



Maypole Event

THE HERALD



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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: John Wathne

Administrator: Catherine Bertrand

Sexton: Bill McCarthy

Attention Spring Cleaners: First Church Yard Sale is May 16

Saturday, May 16 8am-1pm

Volunteers are needed to make this church fundraiser a success. We are looking for help the week before, and on May 16. We will take any help we can get, but we are hoping people can volunteer in 3 hour time blocks. Please email Donna Fritz at dlhayes44@hotmail.com if you are interested in helping out. Please put "yard sale volunteer" in the subject.

While the church will have many items for sale, we are counting on individuals bringing items from their homes to the sale, as well. The follow items will be accepted: Furniture, Books, Tools, Power Tools ,Electronics in working order ,Kitchen ,Crockery ,Silverware.

Please contact Peter Eschauzier for more information about donating items: pgeschauzier@me.com

