



The Herald

A Publication of the First Church in Salem, Unitarian Universalist

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Minister's Musings

Six years ago this summer my family and I went to visit my father where I grew up in Greenville, South Carolina. This pretty area is called the "Piedmont," as it lies in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Looking to the north and west, you see "purple mountains majesty" rising in the distance. To this day I miss the dogwoods and azaleas, the swimming pools and tennis courts, the barbeque and "sweet tea." I also miss many of the people. What I don't miss is the religion.

This brings me back to the visit with my father six years ago with my wife and three children. We were invited to attend church the Sunday we were in town and we graciously accepted. They belonged to a large, evangelical "non-denominational" congregation. To this day there are some wonderful people who are members. I have known some of them a long time. My wife and I attended the main service with my father and step-mother while our children were whisked away to Sunday school, "southern style." So off went my three Unitarian Universalist children to their respective classrooms in another wing of this large, pre-fabricated metal building. Things were going relatively well I thought, (I only had to bite my lip twice during the service!), until coffee hour after the service. It was then that my eight-year old daughter, just dismissed from her Sunday school class, came running over to me with tears in her eyes, clearly upset. I bent down to see what was the matter and that's when she blurted out: "Daddy, is it true that gay people can't get married here?" Her tone was a mix of sadness and indignation.

I hurriedly took her aside and explained to her (with the hushed voice one might use in a library...) that "yes, it was true: South Carolina does not have the same laws as Massachusetts." Again, the tears welled up and a flash of anger shot across her face, "But why, Daddy?! That's not fair!"

It's moments like this when I realize how good our religious education program really is here at the First Church, and the amazing "testimony" we present to our children in our lesson plans and in our lives. I love being part of a religious community where all couples and all families are welcomed, celebrated and treated equally. And I love that my children have grown up assuming that this is the way it should be; namely because it is.

I am very proud of our religious education program. We teach good values and nurture a healthy faith life here in the 21st century, one that seeks to hold up the themes of justice and compassion we see in the Bible. I see that in my own children and in the lives of many of the other kids in our midst. It is also clear to me that our community and what we stand for matters, even if we sometimes take what we do for granted here in eastern Massachusetts.

Sunday, June 12 is Religious Education Sunday this year. We will take a few minutes to celebrate our children and their work together this year. We also will celebrate the principles and values we stand for as a progressive minded congregation; one that believes in religion's power to encourage love, service and making a difference in this life.

As I write this, there is a good chance that the Governor of Massachusetts will sign into law protections for the Transgender community. Once again, I am proud to be part of a movement that inspires this sort of civic response in one of the oldest states in the US. What we do here in Massachusetts, and the example we set in a community like this one, matters. It really matters.

See you in church,

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

~Margaret Mead



June Schedule of Events

Sun, June 5

9am Choir Rehearsal
10:30am Choir Service
Annual Church Picnic [June 12 rain date]

Fri, June 3

7pm Story Slam

Wed, June 8

7:15pm Standing Committee Mtg

Fri, June 10

6pm Henny Penny Year End Celebration

Sun, June 12: RE Sunday

10:30am RE Sunday Service

Tue, June 14

12pm Lunch with the Pastor

Sun, June 19

9am Choir Rehearsal
10:30am Service with Choir
4:45pm Lifebridge Dinner Team

Thu, June 23

4pm Salem Pantry Bagging

Sat, June 25

9am Salem Pantry Distribution
4:45pm Lifebridge Dinner

Sun, June 26

10:30am Annual Question Box Service

Around the Parish

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Paul and Sara Mas-sari** upon the passing of Paul's mother last month. We wish them peace and healing.

Jason Copelas, son of Peter A. Copelas, graduated at the end of May with an MBA from the School of Management at Yale University. Jason has already accepted a job working for Cambridge Associates in Washington, DC.

Eric and Suzanne Kenney are pleased to announce the birth of their latest grandchild. Son, Matthew Kenney and wife Brianna gave birth to a healthy baby girl on April 24. **Edith (Edie) Louise Kenney** was born at Beverly Hospital and weighed 7 lbs, 2 oz.

Jessica Kane worked hard in May to get the church ready once again to be a host congregation for Family Promise. This was our third time hosting three homeless families for a week and there was a lot to coordinate. Special thanks also to **Lynn Taggart and Hannah Diozzi** for handling room and meal logistics with such competence and good humor.

Did you know that **Emily Kane**, Jess and Matt's daughter, has been attending "circus school for the last year? We may have a future acrobat or clown in our midst. Why is this somehow not a surprise!

Mary Collari has "taken the wheel" as the new Chair of the Standing Cmt, our Board. She will serve as the Church's "CEO" for the next year. **Ben Waxman** is serving as Vice-Chair and has joined the Personnel Cmt. Our three new Board members are Deacon Claire Donaldson, Richard L'Heureux, and Marlene Warner.

Last month "the Bobs" celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. While **Bob Soucy and Bob Allen** were legally married 10 years ago, (after Massachusetts made same sex marriage the law of the Commonwealth), they had their actual / real wedding in May of 1996. It was held down the street at First Universalist Society. Congratulations to the Bobs!

Rumor has it that several First Church kids were part of a production of *Peter Pan, Jr.* at the Saltonstall Elementary School last month, including **Eli Brandt, Sarah Cayouette-Gluckman**, and **Fiona Salas** ("flying about" in the title role.)

Genevieve Gilson and Erik Bauer have recently adopted a baby boy. At the time of this photo in mid May, **Caspian** was 4 1/2 weeks old and is by all accounts a "big boy and a good eater." We are very happy for this new family in our midst.





J U N E 2 0 1 6						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 7pm Story Slam	4
5 Annual Picnic 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Choir Service	6	7	8 7:15pm Standing Cmte Meeting	9	10 6pm Henny Penny Year End Celebration	11
12 RE Sunday 10:30am Service	13	14 12pm Lunch with Pastor	15	16	17	18
19 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Choir Service 4:45pm Lifebridge	20	21	22	23 4pm Salem Pantry Bagging	24	25 9am Salem Pantry Distribution 4:45pm Lifebridge
26 10:30am Question Box-Service	27	28	29	30		

Even with the threat of rain, the church held its second annual May Pole Celebration on May 22, the same day as our annual Flower Communion and ice cream fundraiser (aka "Sundae Sunday.") Special thanks to **Bob Soucy** and **Deb DiGuilio** for organizing Sundae Sunday again this year.



Summer Schedule

The final service before summer break is Sunday, June 26. We will resume services on Sunday, August 7 with our Annual Founders Day service.

The office will be open Tuesday through Friday from 9am –12pm throughout July.

The minister will be away for most of July. For Pastoral emergencies please call the church office or email Deacon Claire Donaldson at 13cmd@comcast.net or contact Mary Collari, Chair of the Standing Committee, juma98@hotmail.com

From Religious Education

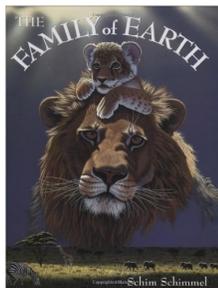
Unitarian Universalist Summer Reading For Kids, Parents, and Everyone

Here are some great ideas for summer reading for adults and children. These books will be on display on the piano in the Cleveland Room. Happy summer reading to UU!!!

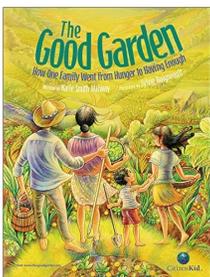
The Family of Earth by Schim Schimmel

Preschool

The Family of Earth is a visually powerful book that uplifts the sacredness of nature. The highly impressive paintings and simple informative text reminds us, in such a beautiful way, that all living creatures are connected.



The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough by Katie Smith Milway
Grade School

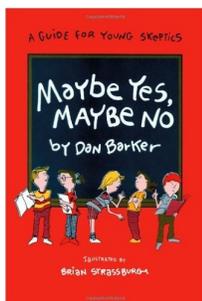


The Good Garden is a book about food insecurity based on a real life Honduran man named Don Elias Sanchez who helped Honduran farmers be more productive. This is a well written book with a true story that engages young readers. It is fun to read or listen to and of-

fers up some real ideas and projects at the back of the book. A great book for a summer garden project.

Maybe Yes, Maybe No by Dan Barker
Middle School

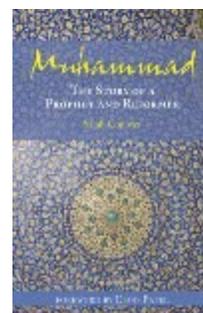
A fun book to cultivate critical thinking skills in young people. In our current climate of massive media bombardment and advertisements often targeting children, developing a bit of healthy skepticism is a must. This book is cartoon style aimed the younger set. Fun and thought provoking for kids.



Muhammad: The Story of a Prophet and Reformer
by Sarah Conover

Teen

A book that portrays a very different Muhammad from the current popular media depiction most youth in the “West” are familiar with. The book tells the story of a prophet who challenged and guided his people through a dangerous time and preached love for humanity.



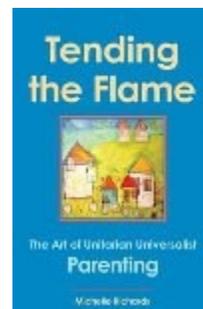
Becoming: A Spiritual Guide for Navigating Adulthood by Kerry Lee MacLean
Young Adult



This treasury of uplifting and thought-provoking meditations can serve as a guide and provide comfort on our never-ending journey of becoming.

Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting by Michelle Richards
Adult

A story of Anne Frank and her sister Margot, who loved a tree, and the tree who promised never to forget them. An age-appropriate way to introduce children to the Jewish Holocaust.



From the Treasurer: The Budget Process Continues

In the May Herald, I laid out the budget process for the church's next fiscal year (FY17; July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017). A budget is a guide that helps the church plan for its income and expenses in the coming year - just as you might plan for your own annual budget at home. Budgeting is not an exact science and it involves many estimates, but we try to be as accurate as possible.

As we head into June, the last steps in the process are:

Review and approval (hopefully!) of the draft budget by the Standing Committee at its meeting on Wednesday, June 8th

Communicate the approved budgets to the committees and departments of the church.

For those of you who aren't actively involved, the budget process can take up to 6 months starting as early as January.

Here is a chart of the FY17 draft budget with a comparison to our current (FY16) budget:

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY IN SALEM						
Draft FY17 ¹ BUDGET COMPARED TO FY16 ² BUDGET						
	FY17 Budget	Draft FY17 Budget	Approved FY16 Budget	Variance	Percent Change	Percent of Draft Budget
Endowment	\$164,460	\$164,460	\$166,800	\$(2,340)	-1%	39%
Members & Friends	\$121,800	\$126,000	\$116,000	\$10,000	9%	30%
Henny Penny	\$101,300	\$101,300	\$98,056	\$3,244	3%	24%
Other	\$12,458	\$13,458	\$17,574	\$(4,116)	-23%	3%
Restricted/Reserves	\$-	\$14,700	\$-	\$14,700		4%
Total	\$400,018	\$419,918	\$398,430	\$21,488	5%	100%
Ministry	\$119,428	\$118,152	\$111,044	\$7,108	6%	28%
Administrative	\$43,752	\$42,906	\$42,783	\$123	0%	10%
Henny Penny	\$77,183	\$79,052	\$74,604	\$4,448	6%	19%
Facilities	\$78,786	\$60,796	\$59,891	\$905	2%	14%
Religious Education	\$55,460	\$51,546	\$42,829	\$8,717	20%	12%
Music	\$32,142	\$28,753	\$31,083	\$(2,330)	-7%	7%
Insurance	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$18,000	\$(6,000)	-33%	3%
Other Programs	\$17,687	\$16,784	\$5,745	\$11,039	192%	4%
UUA/MBD	\$8,052	\$8,052	\$7,552	\$500	7%	2%
Social Outreach	\$9,400	\$9,637	\$8,200	\$1,437	18%	2%
Savings / <Spend>	\$(53,872)	\$(7,760)	\$(3,301)	\$(4,459)	135%	-2%
Total	\$400,018	\$419,918	\$398,430	\$21,488	5%	100%

¹ The 12-month period from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

² The 12-month period from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Some items of note:

The SC and the Trustees have further refined the method of calculating the funds being distributed from the endowment to the church each year. Instead of a 4.5% calculation based on the spot balance of the endowment at 3/31 each year, it was decided to "smooth out" the potential ups and downs in the performance of the endowment (and thus the distribution to the church) by calculating the annual distribution based on the average balance over the prior 12 quarters. If there is a drastic increase or decrease in the endowment, a 12-quarter average will help moderate the changes in the distribution so the church can plan better. Using this formula, the estimated distribution from the endowment will be slightly lower in FY17.

The Standing Committee formed an ad hoc committee to review the distribution of funds coming from the Restricted portion of the endowment. The committee has not finalized its recommendations; however, it is likely that the church will not be able to use as much of the annual endowment distribution for general operating



needs and will have to “restrict” the use of some of the funds as directed by the original donors. This is estimated to have an \$8k impact to the FY17 budget.

The FY17 Stewardship pledge campaign has been quite successful with still more pledge cards to collect from both members and friends. The proposed budget estimates a \$10k increase in Member/Friend giving for FY17.

Henny Penny’s income is slightly up as they have been approved by the Department of Early Education and Care to increase their maximum number of students from 20 to 25. This is somewhat offset by several enrolled students who are eligible for early enrollment at the Carlton School.

In order to help maintain the growth of the church and to offset the many requests for funds, the Finance Committee is recommending a one-time distribution of \$7.7k from a FY16 gift received from the Minerva Shreve family be used for building improvements and a \$7k distribution from reserves to help fund a Youth Advisor and a Vestry project.

The Minister’s Health Care Insurance benefit was increased during the current fiscal year and is now reflected as part of the increase in Ministry in FY17.

The Human Resources Committee has requested a moderate 3% average increase in salaried and non-salaried employees of the church. The Finance Committee is recommending a 2% average increase.

The Religious Education program is requesting approximately \$7k to hire a Youth Advisor.

As you can see, the current draft budget results in a net loss of \$7,759 compared to a projected net loss of \$3,301 for the current fiscal year; a swing of almost \$4,500. Of course this is vastly improved from the \$54k net loss based on the original budget requests. The Standing Committee will consider any additional modifications to bring the budget closer into balance at its June 8th meeting. The final budget will obviously be impacted as well by the results of the ongoing FY17 Stewardship pledge campaign.

If you have any questions or concerns about the proposed church budget or how the church is doing financially, please talk to a Finance Committee member (Adam Breazeale, Mary Collari, Bill Henning, Tommy Leon or Beth Schulz), a Standing Committee member or send Bill an e-mail at treasurer@firstchurchinsalem.org. We look forward to your feedback!

From Stewardship Committee

Time and Talent Raffle on May 1: you really wanted to win some of those prizes! We raised \$587 from the sale of raffle tickets! Winners were announced at the Annual Meeting in May and winners have been notified. Please be sure and contact the person who offered their services and redeem your prize within the next 6 months. And, be on the look out for an enhanced Time and Talent Raffle this fall!

Fiscal Year 2017 pledge drive: letters asking for your pledge have been mailed. If you haven’t received a letter (and haven’t yet pledged), please contact Marlene or Tommy or one of the other members so that we can personally help you with your pledge. The Finance Committee has been finalizing the budget for Fiscal Year 2017 and is predicting a shortfall in income. If you can find the room in your own budget, please consider increasing your pledge in order to help make up this shortfall. Remember that anyone returning a pledge card before the Church picnic on Sunday, June 5 will be entered into our annual pledge drive giveaway. Prizes this year include wine packages, gift certificates to local retail establishments, and more!

Last, but certainly not least, thank you: First Church is a vibrant and growing organization that contributes greatly to the City of Salem and the larger community. This commitment to improving the lives of our members, friends, and neighbors is made possible through your generous contributions of time, talent, and financial gifts. Thank you for all that you do!

Sincerely,

Marlene Warner, co-chair, Tommy Leon, co-chair

Alicia Diozzi, Peter Eschazier, Bill Henning, Russell Lane & Lloyd Woodcock

Views from the Garden

Despite a chilly and damp spring, the daffodils performed their magic show over a span of almost 8 weeks. Should anyone be curious as to why all of the bulbs planted under the linden tree have a range of pink through peach trumpets, it's due to their ability to tolerate more shade than the yellow and/or white versions.

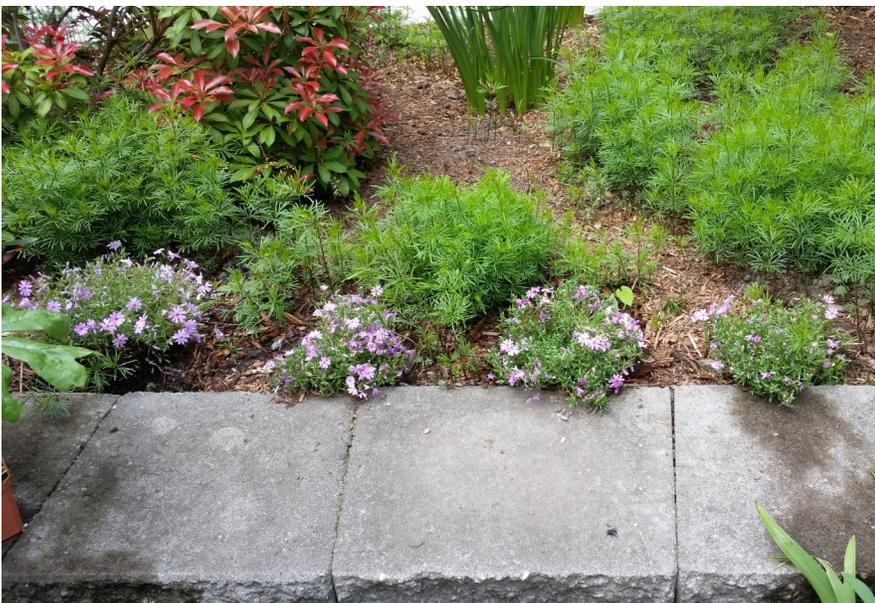


Church friends showed up to clear winter debris, transplant, and mulch the garden beds.

The Team: Bob Allen, Eli Brandt, Mary Collari, Jan Eschauzier, Chris Finn, Mike Giaouque, Alan Hanscom, Carol, Ben, and Jason Hedstrom, Brenda Marean, Billy McCarthy, Sally Millice, Steve Palmer, Steve Sawtell, Bob Soucy, Lynn Taggart, Kelly, Nick, and Clementine Tyler-Lewis, and Iris Weaver, with donuts provided by Beth Schultz.



The Willow House, now dubbed the much more exciting "Cave" by Henny Penny students, has started to leaf out! We hope to have a small ribbon-cutting ceremony at the church picnic on June 5. By then we will have laid a floor of playground mulch to keep muddy clothes to a minimum.



This spring we have had two examples of our "Altar to Garden" Sunday floral displays in our Meetinghouse. The Heuchera "Obsidian" (or coral bells), Autumn Joy sedum, a new forsythia, another hellebore for our collection, and pink creeping phlox have already taken their places in the garden. Our goal for the next "Altar to Garden" floral offering will be to grace some of the containers at our entries with plants that will last the summer and into September.

Please contact one of the Garden Committee chairs if you would like to participate in this program of sustainability for our Sunday floral displays. The cost is the same as for cut flowers—\$45.



Views from the Garden (cont'd)

In the spirit of sustainability we have overwintered strawberries and lady's mantle to go back into the containers for summer.

By now most of you have noticed the rather dramatic "before and after" look of the front garden on Essex Street. We were quite lucky to have a pro bono consultation with Naomi Cottrell, a professional landscape architect whose daughter Phoebe attends Henny Penny. Her recommendations were informed by historical context for the style and size of our building as well as the existing hardscape design of the semi-circular driveway and the brick paths to the front stairs.



Her recommendation is that the overgrown yews we removed be replaced by grass or low ground cover rather than shrubbery, and that we plant one spring or summer flowering tree (as large as we can afford) near the site of the left yews. The brick walkway will then wind between the lawn and the echoing curve of the berm landforms to create a peaceful transition from street to church. Attention will be drawn to the specimen trees, the doorways, and the stairs. It is quite a change, but one that will make our churchyard much more welcoming. It may take time for everyone to adjust to the new look (and for the ground cover to grow in), so please be patient and enjoy the new open views from the garden.

From your Garden Committee:

Co-chairs Mary Collari, Jan Eschauzier, and Lynn Taggart

Members: Mike Giaque, Brenda Marean, and Iris Weaver





From the Music Director

Happy almost summer, everyone... and what a glorious day is today, the warmest of the year so far. I need to begin by thanking so many of you for all your kind messages, visits and flowers during my illness. This is an illness that should have ended weeks ago, but was further exacerbated by my contracting an infection that has required an additional 6 weeks of extensive antibiotic treatment. Fortunately, the six weeks are finally over on this coming Friday.

What a thrill it was for me to be at church this past Sunday and to be once again involved in a "Choir Sunday". I hadn't realized how much I missed it, and the choir, as usual, was pretty special. I want to extend another big thank you to Jeff, Don, all the choir members and anyone else involved in carrying on during my absence. I'm told that all went quite smoothly and that is certainly a tribute to the UUA way of life. What a wonderful thing is this church of ours. One can't help but notice the UU principles in action every single day of our life as a community.

It is now even fun for me to plan music for next Sunday's Memorial Day service (on these Sundays, a church musician doesn't have to think twice about music as so obviously the theme 'patriotic' jumps out at you). Even though, the church year is coming rapidly to a close, we still have a number of major events to which we can look forward: choir Sundays in June on June 5th and 19th, RE Sunday, the annual church picnic, and before you know it we're July.

Let us all be grateful for every day and, as I reflect on my last 43 years as Music Director at First Church, I feel so fortunate to have seen every up and down that this congregation has gone through, and now to witness this spectacular growth that has been happening in the last few years, begging for enormous gratitude to Jeff for his remarkable leadership along with the impressive leadership of the several Standing Committees that have served so selflessly in the last few years. This happy family has changed dramatically in the years since I first became involved with First Church, but, as with all families, one can recall quite vividly so many past members who left their mark and have gone on, to be replaced by an ever growing panorama of new faces, new personalities who in their own right will not be forgotten.

See you in church, of course.
Paul Madore

Henny Penny

The children of Henny Penny had a fun filled week of field trips while First Church hosted Family Promise in May. The weather was beautiful and we enjoyed strolls through the Ropes Mansion garden, walks to the Salem Public Library and to the Salem Y. The Friday group took a small yellow school bus (generously donated by LBK Transportation) to Salem Access Television. The students had a blast seeing their abstract tempera paintings put up on the "green screen" and were enthusiastically dancing as they watched on the large monitors in the SATV studio.

June brings an end to our 2015-16 school year. Our Year End Celebration is June 10th at 6pm in Wilson Hall. The theme of our show this year is the Henny Penny Circus. Filled with lions, ringmaster, magicians, dancers and acrobats, families are certain to be entertained. The children chose their own parts and all have a special moment on stage with a small group, while the others dance and hold props behind them. Featured songs include Thumbelina, Belly Wobble, Shake Your Sillies Out, Roar Like a Lion, and more.

September enrollments are being accepted for Mondays & Wednesdays in both our multiage Pre-school classroom and our new Kindergarten Readiness Room. At this time Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays are full.

Tricia Pini, Barbara Hermann, and Stacey Dupuis



Family Promise

In the past half of a year First Church in Salem has hosted Family Promise an amazing *three* times. This would not have been possible without an incredible bunch of volunteers, from dedicated persons who were there from the start, to friends of the church who jumped in as they could. I want to give a heartfelt thanks to all of you, whether you slept over nine times in three hostings or provided one side dish. All of these roles are important in helping to welcome our guests, in nurturing them both physically and emotionally, spiritually. Your contributions are so deeply appreciated.

I hope that this list has not missed anyone, and my sincerest apologies if I have.

Alan Hanscom	Duncan Cox	Matt Kane
Alicia Diozzi	Erica Klag	Max Burbank
Anna Brandenburg	Gabe Roses	Mike Giaque
Barbara Maitland	Genevieve Gilson	Mike Mascolo
Bill Klag	Hobby Sides	Nicole McLaughlin
Bob Allen	Iana Plum	Patti Roka
Bob Soucy	Jake Diozzi	Peter Eschauzier
Bonnie Hurd-Smith	Jan Eschauzier	Rachel Lutts
Brenda Marean	Jeanine Helen	Rebecca Hains
Charlene Long	Jennifer Barz-Snell	Richard L'hereux
Charlie Newhall	Joy Snell	Robyn Giannopolo
Chris Finn	John Wathne	Russell Lane
Christine Weiss	Justin Granniss	Sally Holzman
Christiane Hansen-Mitev	Liv Radue	Sally Millice
Claire Donaldson	Lloyd Woodcock	Stacia Woodcock
David Helen	Lynn Taggart	Stephanie Diozzi
David Radue	Marlene Warner	Steven Sawtell
Deb Greel	Mary Collari	Tyler Hains
Donna Fritz	Mary Krigbaum	Victor Young

Of course none of this would be possible without the strong support of our Pastor, Jeff Barz-Snell. Thank you again to all of our supporters, and we look forward to hosting again at the end of August.

Sincerely,
Jess Kane and Hannah Diozzi

Religious Education: Theatre of the Oppressed

In early April high school and middle school students participated in a 3 week pilot program using Theatre of the Oppressed (TO) techniques to discuss social justice topics that affect them on both a local and global level. Through TO games and Image work, students were able to learn the basic concepts of how to use theater to explore these topics. At the end of the 3 weeks, students expressed interest in a longer 8 to 10 week series that would delve more into the performance aspect of TO work. We are investigating options for next fall. Stay tuned for more information.

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

Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, June 5

Join us for one of the most favorite days of the church year. We provide burgers, hotdogs, drinks and all the fixings. Please consider signing up to bring a side, salad or dessert. Requested donation: \$5 per person / \$12 for families, just so we break even. Our Grill Masters this year will once again be Chefs Doug Pini and Richard Biondo.

RE Sunday

Sunday, June 12

Join us in our annual celebration of our children and their work and journeys over this last year. Each child will receive a book and a flower, a longstanding tradition here at the First Church. We will also recognize our high school seniors who are moving on to the next chapter in their lives.

Annual Question Box Service

Sunday, June 26

Do you have any item or subject that you would like to see addressed from the pulpit? Well, here's your chance. The Question Box stands ready and waiting. Feel free to email the Minister or place your question in the box sitting on the piano in the Cleveland Room (i.e. the parlor where we have Fellowship Hour). No question is too big or too small...This will be our Final Sunday before our July break. Join us for lemonade, cookies and summertime inspiration.

Herbs and Foraging

June 12 After Church 12pm—1:00pm

Plants are much more than pretty flowers or annoying weeds. They are a huge part of what sustains us in the world. Our church values sustainability in this modern world and knowing and using the useful plants is a big part of living sustainably. Want to know what those plants are right here by our church 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!

Introducing Tent Talks in Salem

The Salem Award Foundation for Human Rights and Social Justice invites you to hear a series of brief presentations during the month of June beneath a tent on the grounds of the Salem Witch Trials Memorial. These 15-minute talks, held under a pop-up tent at the Salem Witch Trials Memorial, bring visibility to the issues of human rights and social justice in contemporary society. We are pleased and honored to have Professor Tad Baker give the first Tent Talk of 2016.

All talks are on Thursdays at noon. Rain or shine.

The schedule is as follows:

June 2nd

Confirming Proctor's Ledge: the Site of the 1692 Executions
Tad Baker, Professor of History, Salem State University

June 9th

On Being a Person of Color: Do You See Me Now?
Rosario Ubiera-Minaya, Chief Program Officer
North Shore Community Development Coalition

For directions to the Salem Witch Trials Memorial and more information about these and other events sponsored by the Salem Award Foundation for Human Rights and Social Justice, please go to: Salemaward.org

June 16th

Creating Positive Impact through Inclusion
Margarita Ruiz, Superintendent of Schools, Salem, MA

June 23rd

The Challenge of Keeping the Peace in 2016
Mary Butler, Chief of Police, Salem, MA

June 30th

Intolerance in Pre-Revolutionary War Salem
Jim McAllister, Local Historian

Events and Goings on At and Around First Church

UUA General Assembly June

June 22-26, Columbus, OH

The theme for GA 2016 will be Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect. The faith world is increasingly multi-faith. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UUA Study/Action Issues

Did you know that the UUA has Study/ Action Issues that we as a national association propose, research and then discuss? This process occurs at our national meeting each year, General Assembly, to be held in June in Columbus, Ohio.

The proposed issues for this year can be found at <http://www.uua.org/statements/current>
They include:

- A National Conversation On Race
- Climate Change and Environmental Justice
- The Corruption of Our Democracy
- Ending Gun Violence in America

Get Involved/Thank You!!!

Lifebridge Dinner Team

Next Dinners:

Sun, June 19 and Sat, June 25 at 4:45pm

***Please Note: No Dinners will be served during the months of July and August.**

First Church has expanded our involvement at Lifebridge to a second meal each month. To help distribute the coordination workload, Alan Hanscom (alanh1954@hotmail.com) is the new Saturday meal coordinator will continue coordinating the Saturday meal while Amanda Roeder (roedermusic@gmail.com) handles the Sunday meal. 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 Alan or Amanda.

Thank you to our Lifebridge Volunteers in May:

Jordan Balbresky, Holly Chase, Peter Copelas, David, Liv, William, and Avonlea Radue, Amanda Roeder, Victor Young, Bob Zastrow, Iana Plum and Zach Plum, Alan Hanscom, Chris Weis, Richard L'Heureux, and Paul Marquis and Do-reen Beauregard

Fellowship Committee

Many thanks to our May Fellowship Hosts, Jim Ognibene, Rick Sanchez, The Fellowship Committee, Kara McLaughlin and John Keenan, Bob Allen and Bob Soucy, and the Garden Committee. We would like to thank the men and children who brought snacks to share at the Mother's day community fellowship.

Up coming Community Fellowships:

June 5- Church Picnic- Pot luck for side items and desserts.

June 19- Father's day – Hosted by the women and children of the congregation.

The Fellowship Committee:

Donna Fritz-Chair, Bob Allen, Jennifer Barz-Snell, Stephanie Diozzi, Jan Eschazier, Chris Finn, Christiane Hansen-Mitev

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

Administrator: Catherine Bertrand

Sexton: Bill McCarthy

Chair of the Standing Committee: Mary Collari

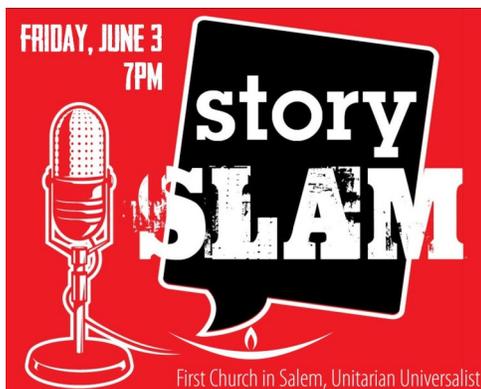
Chair of the Deacons: Mimi Ballou

First Church Story Slam Returns!

From Here to There: Stories of Journeys, Travels, and Transitions

Friday, June 3 at 7pm-9:30pm

The "Moth Radio" style open mic evening of storytelling returns next month! Adults and high schoolers are welcome. Childcare will be available. Storytelling is entirely optional, so feel free to come just to listen. We will also have a potluck of snacks, desserts, and adult beverages - bring something to share!. Stories will kick off promptly at 7:30. Come share in grand adventures, simple observations, and poignant transformations.



March with First Church in the North Shore Pride Parade!

Saturday, June 25 at 12pm

The 2015 parade will take place in Salem, kicking off in front of the Post Office on Margin St., turning right on Norman St. and heading down New Derby. It will continue to Derby St. and onto Hawthorne Boulevard where it will end up on Salem Common, where the Pride festival will follow!

Parade registration starts at 10 a.m. and the Parade kicks off at noon!

To march with First Church contact Rev. Barz-Snell at minister@firstchurchinsalem.org.

NORTH SHORE
PRIDE
BUILDING COMMUNITY WITH PRIDE

