



The Herald

A Publication of the First Church in Salem, Unitarian Universalist

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 9

APRIL 2018

In this issue	Pg.
April Schedule	2
Around the Parish	2
Calendar	3
Religious Education	4
Music Director	5
Garden Committee	5
Standing Committee	6
Membership	6
Henny Penny	7
Stewardship	7
Goings On	8
Get Involved!	9
Warrant: Annual Mtg	10

Minister's Musings

"Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." ~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

April 4 marks the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. King had arrived in Memphis, Tennessee a few days before that to support and speak at a Sanitation Workers strike in that spring of 1968.

It is heartening to see the many acknowledgements and remembrances 50 years after his passing. It is clear that much has changed over the last five decades but also how much work remains to be done here in the United States. In his last book, *Where Do We Go from Here: Community and Chaos*, Dr. King addressed what he called the "evils of racism, poverty and militarism" that have been a part of American history from our start and are still very much with us. We hear these same themes in his speeches and sermons that he delivered in the months up to his death as well. What is remarkable and heartbreaking is how trenchant and relevant his observations and criticism still remain here in 2018, half a century later.

What is also remarkable are the social movements that have emerged in the last year and how much they are in keeping with Dr. King's vision of a beloved community, a term he used as part of his sermons. Whether it is the "Me Too" movement, or the energized Gun Violence (#enough) protests, or the Black Lives Matter movement, we see people empowered and inspired to speak words of truth and love to our society and labor to change an unacceptable and frustrating status quo. Were he alive, I think Dr. King would be right out there with many of the marchers and protesters we see and hear today. I suspect that he would still be declaring that we "are caught up in an inevitable web of mutuality" and preaching even more fervently that we must learn to live together as brothers and sisters or perish separately as fools.

In the coming weeks and months, there are going to be a series of marches and events to hold up Dr. King's vision, and the current generation's hope, for a more compassionate and peaceful America. Stay tuned for details and invitations in upcoming e-newsletters and postings on our website.

In the meantime, after a busy and enjoyable month of March, we have plenty in store for April with a terrific Easter Sunday, a week of hosting homeless families, a film night for families, and an inspiring Earth Day service on April 22. Here's to building a better world and enjoying the support of a great community along the way.

See you in Church,



April Schedule of Events

Wed, April 4

7pm Human Resources Committee Meeting

Fri, April 6—Sun, April 8

Stewardship Potluck Dinners

Thu, April 5: ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Sun, April 8

8am Family Promise Set Up

10:30am Service

4pm Pint with the Pastor

Tue, April 10

12pm Lunch with Pastor, Brown Bag

Sat, April 14

9am Choir Rehearsal

Sun, April 15

9am Choir Rehearsal

10:30am Service

4:45pm Lifebridge Dinner Team

Family Promise Break Down

Thu, April 19

6:30pm Family Movie Night Screening of Wall-E



Sun, April 22: Earth Day

10:30am Service

Wed, April 25

7:15pm Standing Committee

Thu, April 26

4pm Salem Pantry Bagging

Sat, April 28

9:30am Salem Pantry Distribution

4:45pm Lifebridge Dinner Team

Sun, April 29

10:30am Service

COMING IN MAY

Sunday, May 6:

Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 13:

Mother's Day Sunday

Sunday, May 20:

Flower Communion & Sundae Sunday

Sunday, May 28:

Memorial Day Sunday



Around the Parish

We had a very fun Spaghetti Dinner on Fri, March 9 postponed one week because of the snowstorm. Our hosts Nicole McLaughlin, Ben Waxman and Beth Schultz put together a great meal and a fun evening with some 65-70 people in attendance. A good time was had by all.

On Wednesday, March 14, the First Church organized and led an Interfaith Candlelight Vigil for Gun Violence. Sponsored by the Salem Interfaith Council, this vigil was held at Townhouse Square in Salem (right outside of Rockafellas) and featured short speeches by local teenagers including **Rebecca Truong**,



Chloe Burge and Leah Barz-Snell. There were approximately 70 people in attendance. Special thanks to **Hannah Peterson** and **Deb DiGuilio** for helping to organize this inspiring gathering.



In addition, a group of First Church members and friends headed down to Boston Common on Saturday, March 24 for the **March for our Lives Protest and Rally**. There were approximately 60,000 gathered on the Common that afternoon, many children and youth carrying signs about the needless scourge of gun violence here in the United States.

Ben Waxman, the current Chair of our Board, just returned from a business trip to Moscow, Russia. Ben is the CEO and Owner of the marketing firm, Tessellati, LLC. Part of his business involves working with universities and college to improve their marketing and recruitment efforts with respect to international students. For more information about Ben, check out his company's website at <http://tessellati.com>

Betty Nichols celebrated a birthday last month as did **Mimi Ballou**. We wish them well and many, many more trips around the sun. They do so much to support our Community.

Earlier this year **Rev. Ellen Brandenburg** was given the Unsung UURMaPA Award at the UU Retired Ministers and Partners Assn. Retreat in Tampa, FL. The Award is given annually to a UURMaPA member who has not formerly been recognized for his or her contributions to our UU retired movement and for their generous service to others. The award honors a volunteer who has made a generous contribution to our association, working behind the scenes during their retirement years. Congratulations Ellen!

[continued on page 3]

A P R I L 2 0 1 8

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 5:45am Sunrise Service 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Service Annual Egg Hunt	2	3	4 7pm HR Committee Meeting	5 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	6 Stewardship Potluck Dinners	7 Stewardship Potluck Dinners
8 10:30am Service 4pm Pint with the Pastor at O'Neill's Stewardship Potluck Dinners FAMILY PROMISE	9 FAMILY PROMISE	10 12pm Lunch with Pastor FAMILY PROMISE	11 FAMILY PROMISE	12 FAMILY PROMISE	13 FAMILY PROMISE	14 9am Choir Rehearsal FAMILY PROMISE
15 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Service 4:45pm Lifebridge FAMILY PROMISE	16	17	18	19 6:30pm Family Film Night: <i>Wall-E</i> 	20	21
22 Earth Day 10:30am Service	23	24	25 7:15pm Standing Committee	26 4pm Salem Pantry Bagging	27	28 9:30am Salem Pantry Distribution 4:45pm Lifebridge
29 10:30am Service	30	31				

[continued from page 2]

We had a moving reading of the Passion from the Gospel of Matthew during Palm Sunday this year. **Tiffany Magnolia** played the role of Jesus and **Jon Streff** offered his stentorian tones as the Narrator. The rest of the "cast" for this staged reading included: Chris Finn, Claire Donaldson, Helen Jacoby, Nancy TenBroek, Chris Granniss, Bill Henning and Rose Wolf.



Did you know that we received and then hid between 1,600-,1800 eggs for this year's Easter Egg Hunt on **Easter Sunday**? That's a lot of plastic eggs filled with candy! Thank you to everyone who donated eggs to our cause.

Great Minds Think Alike: Our district in the UUA, the **Mass Bay / Clara Barton District** offered a program on "Addressing Whiteness for Collective Liberation" on Saturday March 10. This half-day program was so popular that it sold out very early, something that never happens for a Saturday district event! As a result, the four of us from First Church who wanted to attend could not go. We are hoping they offer the seminar again this year. The world and our region is changing.

Religious Education

Unitarian Universalism Beyond 316 Essex Street

The First Church in Salem is a busy place. Just a quick look through this very newsletter will give you an idea of the large array of opportunities: spiritual explorations, community building events, social justice outreach, book groups, marches, celebrations and meetings. All this activity takes place in addition to our weekly church service and religious education program. Here is a place you and your family can grow your spirit and explore your faith. All of us at First Church, the congregation, our minister, our staff, and our friends, working and worshipping together manifest our Unitarian Universalism faith here in Salem...or at least here at good old 316 Essex Street. And I like to think we do a bang-up job of expressing our faith to the world. But, as much as we offer here at our church, there is so much more information out there.

The website for the Unitarian Universalist Association is the place to find anything having to do with Unitarian Universalism: <https://www.uua.org/> This site has thousands of pages. If you are new to Unitarian Universalism this is the place to start. The homepage has built in links for newcomers. Try the dropdown menu: "Our Faith" or the link 'Your adventure in faith starts here" right on the homepage.

Been a UU for a while? Looking for some online inspiration and spiritual exploration? Try "Worship and Inspiration" on the dropdown menu at UUA.org. Are you a family? College age student? Adult? Check out "Ages and Stages" also on the homepage. Here you will find information and resources by age group from childhood through adult. Spend some time browsing uua.org and you will always find something to uplift your soul and grow your faith.

Most of us are familiar with the Seven UU Principles as they are a big part of the basics we teach in religious education classes. The Unitarian Universalist Seven Principles seem simple and straightforward. Don't be fooled! This faith takes hard work! Read this: <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/who-says-uu-principles-easy>

Our association magazine is called UU World. This publication is filled with thought provoking articles related to our faith. Members get the print edition mailed to them free of charge. Here is the link for the electronic version. <https://www.uuworld.org/>

Facebook too stressful? Frustrated by the world in general? Add a little spiritual improvement to your social media time, follow Braver/Wiser on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BraverWiser> Braver/Wiser gives you a weekly dose of compassion and inspiration on your Facebook feed.

If you have teenage children or if you are a young adult, we offer Blue Boat Home: <https://www.uua.org/blueboat>. This is the place to find articles and community for our young people. All age groups can check out the content here and keep in touch with our dynamic young people.

I hope you enjoy exploring our UU faith online and make a habit of checking UUA.org frequently. But don't forget First Church in Salem has an online presence as well. Look us up often and follow us on Facebook.

<http://www.firstchurchinsalem.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchinSalemUnitarian/>

Enjoy your faith explorations!

Happy Spring,
Deb DiGiulio



From the Music Director

Music For All—You are the Choir

Did you know that you all are already part of the choir? You may not be participating in the more complex, rehearsed music that the group in the back sings, but you do sing hymns and responses and therefore are an integral part of the musical worship each week.



I can't stress enough; how important it is that all of you are an active participant in our worshiping and in our music making. We shouldn't get bogged down in a "performance culture" where congregants only "take in" what is being done for them by the choir, soloist, or instrumentalist. Those "performances" are wonderful, uplifting, and spiritually nourishing, but no more so than everyone's willing and enthusiastic participation in the SINGING. Congregational singing is the "people's offering."

John Bell, in his article "The Singing Thing: A Case for Congregational Song", speaks of some theories of how to get people to sing, if they are not already – like teaching new songs to the congregation before worship to familiarize. I was intrigued by two other observations Mr. Bell made after analyzing the participation of various patrons in English pubs, where group singing is often done robustly. One of the observations is that it matters how close together people's bodies are. John Bell claims that if people stand more than three feet away from each other, they won't sing because they hear themselves. But if they stand less than three feet from each other, they will sing because they hear others singing. The space between human bodies may be the largest determining factor in getting people to sing. The second observation goes a bit against conventional wisdom by suggesting that when a song has longer musical phrases and perhaps even a higher range, requiring more physical engagement, it is more successful and actually easier to sing. The singer has to expend noticeable effort!

I invite you to sing with gusto when you come to church – whether the songs and hymns are completely familiar or not, and whether they are your favorite or not. Let's be open to the "music for all" and rejoice in our different tastes and abilities – and sit close to each other!

Michael Kraft
Music Director

Views From the Garden

There is a hint of the ridiculous in trying to make outdoor planters and the meetinghouse look like spring this early, but that is what we will have done for Easter this year. As we write, the snow is still falling, and we have those tasks ahead of us. We are so grateful to those who purchased flowers to grace the altar or made donations to help us cover the cost of plant materials for the entry containers.

Priscilla & Scott Christiansen
Christiane Hansen-Mitev
Jean Arlander
Mary Collari
Paul Madore
Linda Stark
Bill Henning & Thomas MacDonald

Jan & Peter Eschauzier
Steve & Katherine Palmer
Mimi Ballou
The Fritz Family
Tiffany Magnolia
Jamie Tanch

Richard & Joan Hannah
Lynn Taggart & Russell Lane
Ellen Brandenburg
Bill Graham
Barbara Maitland

Judy Kearney
Brenda Marean

Before the rash of nor'easters arrived in March, we had sighted snowdrops (planted by a great crew of volunteers last fall). They were promptly buried by snow, but we have high hopes for the other bulbs that should be showing cheerful faces in April. Soon after it will be time for a spring cleanup, and we'll be looking for your help.

As always, your faithful Garden Committee,
Co-chairs Mary Collari, Jan Eschauzier, Brenda Marean, and Lynn Taggart



Standing Committee

Ask Not For Whom the Meatball Rolls

We celebrate community around here as often as we can. When we step back from the daily distractions and think about our best selves (as Rev. Jeff always reminds us), we celebrate in our hearts and in our minds. And sometimes, we celebrate in person, together.

Recently, we took time in March to join together and celebrate together over meatballs and spaghetti on a cold winter night. We had a fire in the hearth and some great food. The spirit in the room was festive as about 60 of us shared a meal. Our friends in the room were old church hands and new folks still just checking our community out.

To all: Thanks for coming!!!



And the result? Too much good stuff to count, really. But here's my take away: everyone I talked to wanted to do it again. 'Nuf said.

Here's to our community! And joining together again. No matter the weather, the daily distractions, the "oh, but there's that other thing." Or the, "I'm too tired tonight." Forget all of that. Let's all do this again. And let's get even more of our community to come along.

Yes, the meatball rolls for YOU, and all of us, together.

Ben Waxman
Chair, Standing Committee

Notes from the Membership Committee

It's hard to believe that the annual meeting is just a month away! Our focus, over the past eight months, has been updating our membership list which now more accurately reflects our active congregation. We have been working within the confines of the current By-laws to have the names of inactive members removed from the membership list. After the passing of the special vote on December 3rd, we completed phase one of our mission, which allowed us to remove such names.

To ensure this continues in the years to come, we are proposing an amendment to the By-laws which will be voted on at the upcoming annual meeting. This amendment would allow our committee to remove the names of inactive members as part of the agenda during annual meetings in the future, without the need for a special vote. As with the special vote in December, the names would be removed only after contacting, or attempting to contact inactive members.

If you are interested in reviewing the wording of the amendment before the annual meeting, please contact any of us on the Membership Committee, or Catherine Bertrand at the office (firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com).

We're looking forward to seeing you on May 6th!

Henny Penny

The Fourth Annual Henny Penny Art show will take place in the Cleveland and Barnard Rooms on Thursday April 26th at 6pm. Feel free to join the Henny Penny families as they walk among preschool masterpieces! The pieces chosen range from "Mysterious Cats" in watercolor, self-portrait collages, illustrations with dictated stories, clay sculptures, and more!!

Enrollments for September 2018 are being accepted. We have limited 2-day and 3-day schedules available. If you are anyone you know are searching for a quality half-day preschool program, please send them our way to learn more about Henny Penny. We have reached out to the Department of Education and Care to request another slight increase in our program capacity, and with the Standing Committee's approval, we are able to offer the Henny Penny experience to even more families in the area. Thank you to the members of the Standing Committee for your continued support of our small but important program.

The Cat in the Hat visited Henny Penny late March. Local actor Erik Rodenhiser zipped up his Cat suit, and entertained Henny Penny families at our third after hours family event this year. Families gathered in Wilson Hall, participated in Dr. Seuss inspired crafts and games, and then The Cat stepped on First Church's mat and shared silly stories with everyone. This has become a perennial favorite!

We are excited about warm weather around the corner, so we can resume our visits at the Salem Council on Aging. During the first three months of school the children made monthly trips to the Senior Center to have "Stories, Songs & Snacks with the Seniors." It'll be good to be out & about in the fresh air again!



The Henny Penny Teaching Team:
Tricia Pini, Stacey Dupuis and Barbara Hermann

Stewardship Committee

It's not too late!

It's not too late to RSVP for our Fiscal Year 2019 Pledge Potlucks. These will be held on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, April 6, 7, or 8. Please email stewardship@firstchurchnsalem.org, call the church office at 978-144-1551, or reach out to one of the Stewardship Committee members below and let us know what one which date you would like to attend.

The members of the Committee frequently are asked questions such as, "How does First Church utilize my gifts?", "I already give to the church, why do you ask me to pledge?", and "How much should I pledge?"

We will have answers to these questions, and more. Along with the financial conversations, there will be food, fun, and fellowship, so join us!

As always, thank you for your support of First Church and it's important programs through your gifts of time, talent, and financial means.

The Stewardship Committee

Tommy Leon, Chair; Bob Allen, Joe Bayne, Bill Henning, Sally Millice, Marlene Warner, Lloyd Woodcock

Events and Goings on At and Around First Church

Family Promise Returns April 8 –15

Our guest families will be arriving on Sunday April 8, and will be spending evenings and nights within our church until their departure on April 15. We are in need of volunteers to act as overnight hosts, dinner hosts or donate meals.

Please sign up at this link to volunteer: <http://signup.com/go/DqnZRbQ> If you have questions, and/or wish to be added to the Family Promise email list, please contact Jessica Kane jesskane07@gmail.com.

Chatting and Cheer-ing with the Minister this Spring

Pint with the Pastor

Sunday, Apr 8 from 4:00pm - 5:30 pm at O'Neill's Pub. Washington Street in Salem

Join Jeff and others for a popular new monthly gathering. He will have a few tables at O'Neill's starting at 4pm. There will be a copy of the Sunday NY Times as he wont to possess on a weekend afternoon. The music will be live and Irish, and the conversations stimulating. We had 17 people show up in January. You never know who might drop by.

Lunch with the Pastor

Tuesday, Apr 10 at 12 noon, at the First Church.

Join Jeff and an eclectic and very articulate group of regulars on the second Tuesday of the month for a brown bag lunch. Conversation often ventures into current events, local history, religion and ... you name it.

Family Film Night at the First Church

Thursday, April 19 at 6:30 pm

Join us for popcorn, special treats and a screening of the beloved film *Wall-e*.



New Member Orientation Sessions

Sundays, April 22 & 29

Interested in joining the First Church and deepening your involvement with our liberal religious community? We welcome new members twice a year, in December and May. Towards that, we offer two opportunities to learn more about the church and meet some of our leadership and members. The New Member Orientation sessions will be offered after church on Sundays, April 22 & 29. Anyone wishing to join in May is encouraged to attend one of these sessions. New Members will be voted in during the Annual Meeting of the Society at church on Sunday, May 6. To sign up or learn more, please speak with Rev. Barz-Snell or call the Church Office.

STEP UP TO THE (POTLUCK) PLATE

Join your First Church friends at our
Stewardship Pledge kick-off for Fiscal Year 2019

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
April 6, 7, and 8

RSVP your availability by speaking to a member
of the Stewardship Committee, or by
emailing stewardship@firstchurchinsalem.org
or calling First Church at 978-744-1551.





Get Involved/Thank You!!!

Lifebridge Dinner Team

Next Dinners: Sun, April 15 & Sat, April 28 at 4:45pm

The Lifebridge teams of the First Church serve dinners at 56 Margin Street on the third Sunday and the fourth Saturday of every month. There are THREE ways you can sign up to help; the easiest is to just use the sign-up sheet in the Barnard Room. Alternatively, you can always join our Facebook page, or send an email to Alan Hanscom (alanh1954@gmail.com) to be put on the email list.

Thank you to the following people for volunteering during March: Luce Brandt, Sarah Cayoutte-Gluckman, Holly Chase, Peter Copelas (shopper), Marissa Euell and Kiley Pickett, Marie H., Chanelle K., Paul Marquis, Kevin P., Hannah Peterson, Amanda Roeder, Rebecca and Samantha Truong, and Nora Waxman.



Fellowship Committee

Thank you to our March Fellowship Hosts for your hospitality: Christiane Hansen-Mitev, Tammy Bean, Nancy Peluso, Nese Satirli, Barbara Maitland, Adam Schoenhardt, and Patti Roka.

Our next Potluck Fellowship Hour will be in celebration of Earth Day on Sunday, April 22!



Fellowship Chair Position: This is my 3rd year as the Chair of the Fellowship Committee and I'm ready to take on some new roles and work towards my next phase of life. I have been home full time for A LONG TIME with my children and have enjoyed volunteering as a way to keep me busy and meeting the needs of the different communities my family is a part of. But I'm ready to start thinking about my next career or at least a part-time job. So I will be stepping down from as the Chair of Fellowship at the end of this church year. If anyone is interested in being the Chair of the Fellowship Committee, I am not going anywhere and would be happy to help you learn the ropes. Please email, call or text Donna at dlhayes44@hotmail.com or 978-828-5673.

Thank you!

The Fellowship Committee,

Donna Fritz (Chair), Chris Finn, Christiane Hansen-Mitev, Indra Milowe, and Nancy Peluso.

Nominating Committee

What? We have a Nominating Committee? What do they do?

The Nominating Committee is a by-lawed committee made of up of 3 former Standing Committee Presidents (aka board of directors). This year Donna Fritz (Chair), John Wathne and Mary Collari are the 3 members of the nominating committee.

For the Annual Meeting in May, we are tasked with suggesting 3 new church members to serve a 3 year term on the Standing Committee. The three of us will begin talking with church members to see if they would be interested in joining this important church board of directors to carry our church forward another 3 years.

If you are interested and would like to learn more, please to reach out to one of us or email Donna Fritz at dlhayes44@hotmail.com or call/text 978-828-5673.

THE HERALD

A Publication of
The First Church in Salem, Unitarian Universalist
316 Essex Street
Salem, Massachusetts 01970



Phone and Fax: 978-744-1551

Email: firstchurchinsalem@gmail.com
www.firstchurchinsalem.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Minister: Reverend Jeffrey Barz-Snell

Director of Music: Michael Kraft

Director of Henny Penny: Tricia Pini

Director of Religious Education: Deb DiGiulio

Youth Group Coordinator: Hannah Peterson

Administrator: Catherine Bertrand

Sexton: Bill McCarthy

Chair of the Standing Committee: Ben Waxman

Chair of the Deacons: Mimi Ballou



WARRANT CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

To the Members of the First Congregational Society:

You are hereby notified that the

Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Society in Salem
will be held in the Meeting House of the church at 316 Essex Street, Salem, Massachusetts,
on **SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018**,
directly after the morning Service, for the following purposes:

- 1) To receive and act upon the reports of the Society;
- 2) To elect a Moderator and Officers of the Society;
- 3) To vote on a proposed amendment to the By Laws:
Article III Section 4 Termination of Membership
- 4) To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.