



First Universalist Society of Salem

211 BRIDGE STREET, SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS • MAY & JUNE 2012

Worship and Religious Education Begins at 10:45 AM • Nursery is available for babies and toddlers.

Rev. Marjorie Matty, Minister

Our Vision...

As the members of the "Options Team," those First Universalist members who are tasked with looking at all of the various possibilities for the future of the Church, and as the members of the Board of Trustees review your pledges in comparison to the needs of the proposed budget my mind looks to the future while staying firmly engaged in the present. Part of my job as your minister is to think about the progress we have made over the last five years in direct relation to the stated hopes and dreams that we have had for our future. To say that we have come far as a congregation is an understatement. We are a solid community that cares about its people and the work that we do in the world; work such as our continued support of the Salem

pantry, our work at Lifebridge, our fundraising for the UU Service Committee and the Heifer project, the RE projects of supporting a student in the Philippines and helping to dig a well in a Cambodian village. Our continued commitment and support to all of the members of our Society who have struggled with illness and tragedy and our commitment to pastoral care for all those who just need someone to listen. We have come a long way in becoming a tighter and more compassionate community when we think about the generosity and care that we have shared with the First Church Unitarian or look at our newest commitment in accepting a leading role in the Family Promise program which helps homeless families have a place where they can stay together. This is not all that we

have succeeded in doing together we have also come from an difficult emotional place as a congregation and worked through our fear and our anger to be a force for positive change. We have grown a bit and shrunk a bit with regard to members but that is to be expected; think of a congregation as a living, breathing entity, both expanding and contracting at times. The Spirit moves in unique and amazing ways bringing us together and compelling us to move on and yet we touch one another lives in real and transformative ways.

Could we have grown more, fundraised more, pledged more, cared or showed up more over the last five years, yes, but we have done so much together,

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FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF SALEM WARRANT OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of the First Universalist Society of Salem shall hold its Annual Meeting on **May 20, 2012 at 12:15 p.m.** (following a brief break after the morning worship service).

Issues to be addressed include Annual Reports, the Strategic Plan, election of Officers, the next fiscal year budget, and presentation of Envisioning the Future Options.

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grown so much, and we have showed up in so many different ways. We have new and truly engaged members working hard to sustain and grow First Universalist and just the fact that we were able to generously host and work with First Church Unitarian over the last nine months is a testament to our emotional health, generosity, and personal growth. We are on the right path all that stalls us now is nothing more or less than money.

As part of our strategic plan we made a commitment four years ago that if we did not grow enough (our goal was 123 members by now) or decrease our withdrawal from our endowment enough (a reduction in withdrawal of at least 5 percent for this coming Church year) we would convene an Options Team to think once again about our future and recommend some significant and exciting changes for First Universalist. That time has come.

I am not afraid of what First Universalist's future might become because I believe in you. I am personally excited about the possibilities that are being discussed for our future and yet I also want to have us be mindful of one thing before we make any decisions: that we must have vision. The one thing that we did not do as part of our strategic planning process four years ago was to think about a "vision" for First Universalist. As part of any planning process we wrote a mission statement, we created goals, and in some ways during that time we had an implied Vision to grow and be self-sustaining, however, we were not in my opinion specific enough. A vision statement is a view that we create together as we look into our future ten years from now and realistically imagine exactly who we want to become and in very specific terms. This is a critical part of the planning process that we did not do four years ago and I believe that it is a critical part

of the re-envisioning process that we are engaging in now with the Options Team and the Appreciative Inquiry Sessions. I ask us not to miss this opportunity to embrace a vision for our future that includes each one of us and that helps us to feel reinvigorated, recommitted, and impassioned about who we are becoming. It is crucial that you attend the Annual Meeting on May 20th after worship as we look towards engaging this task.

As we embrace the inevitability of our future let us be truly mindful, intentional, and courageous. And let us remember that we need nothing more than one another to be the First Universalist Society.

In loving and faithful service,



Rev. Marjorie Matty



BARBECUE

**Saturday, May 5th (rain date TBA)
at 5:00 PM**

in the Church Courtyard.

All Ages Welcome!

Bring your own entrée for grilling - Deacons will provide salad, chips, and dessert along with beverages (lemonade, tonic, beer and wine).

We will also have outdoor games to play.



FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

It's hard to believe that it's May already, and that our church year is almost over! It's been an unusual year, with our First Church friends joining us for most of it, but it's also been a very productive year, with lots of serious work in planning and thinking about our future.

In addition to all the work that's been done with our Appreciative Inquiry process and looking at options for the future, the Board has done other work in building up our rental income, streamlining procedures and records so we can work more efficiently, and really thinking and talking about what this church -- both the people and the building -- mean to us and to the greater community.

As a Board this year, we set some goals for ourselves. One goal was to have the process of decision-making be as transparent as possible. Did you know that you are enthusiastically invited to attend Board Meetings? You are -- we'd love to have you join us. But even if you are not interested or don't have time to do that, we have begun to place minutes from our meetings in a binder in the foyer of the church. If you can't find it, please ask any board member and we'll be happy to help you.

We have an amazing history and great importance to the community. This building serves as a place that NAGLY, Journey for Hope, and the Salem Food Pantry call home. Gatherings like Occupy Salem and AA happen here, and they change lives. These organization also honor the history of the church, with founders who began a church with a very different way of looking at religion. And our congregation continues that history, offering a home to seekers who want to take responsibility for their own spiritual journeys, in community. We are needed. We matter.

Kathryn Baptista, for the Board of Trustees

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

From Marlyn Miller,
Director of Religious Education

As spring turns its face toward summer, the religious education program is in a period of change. We are saying goodbye to our good friends from First Church, who have shared our journey for the last ten months. We have had wonderful times with them and learned many things about ourselves, each other, and our faith during our time together. For some of our children, this transition may be difficult. We are working to make it as smooth as possible, beginning with a "field trip" to First Church this Sunday to see their new space and say our goodbyes, but if your children are having trouble with the transition, please let me know.

The next few weeks will be busy ones -- **Mother's day on the 13th of May** (which we will celebrate in the classroom as parent's day), then four weeks of curriculum and suddenly it will be **Flower Communion on June 10** (celebrated at First Universalist) and **Religious Education Sunday on June 17** (celebrated at First Church).

Perhaps you have heard that June 17 will be my last service at First Universalist, since I am moving on to a ministerial internship at the church in Reading. I am glad to be embarking on a new phase in my journey toward ministry, but so very sad to be leaving you all. I have been so blessed to know you and to have shared in the beloved community that you have all built. It has been a privilege to have been entrusted with the religious education of your wonderful children, and I will miss each one of them, and each one of you. But I will carry a piece of you all away with

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me – there will always be a special place in my heart for First Universalist, and I hope that we will not lose touch. I will always be happy to hear from you, and to learn how your children are growing – since I arrived, I have seen your children grow so much – physically, emotionally, and spiritually. It has been a great joy to witness

I wish each and every one of you the best on your own journeys as individuals and as a community. Thank you for sharing yourselves with me – I am very grateful.

In love and faith,
Marlyn

HOSPITALITY/FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

In the near future we will be forming a Hospitality/Fellowship Committee to aid in servicing Coffee Hour. At the beginning of April, we will have a short meeting to discuss how to proceed. Let's organize this small committee to continue the wonderful coffee hours we have come to appreciate and love. Thanks for all your wonderful work!



Thanks,
Patti Welch

BUILDING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

This committee seeks one or two people able to help with upkeep of the building, plan clean-up days and help with garden and outdoor upkeep. If you are interested, please contact Sally Millice at 978-745-1632. Thank you.

INTRODUCING TALENT TAPPING

We all have talents that we can and would like to share within our church community, but many of us have busy lives which do not allow us the time to commit to serving on a committee.

Thus, we are introducing “Talent Tapping” – a way for all of us to help our church for specific and time limited tasks which promote community awareness and work towards balancing the budget, reducing our dependency on the endowment.

To start this off, the board has selected three tasks to be started immediately for which we ask you to share your talents:

- Kick off our “**Love Wins**” promotion with a booth at a local fair this Summer. We are envisioning a give-a-way for kids (perhaps simple balloon animals), promotional material highlighting our beliefs, RE program, Social Justice work and more, and maybe even a raffle fund raiser to offset the cost of the booth.
- **Write up a UUA grant** to start a Guest Speaker program to bring inspirational speakers to the Salem Community.
- **Contact Steeple.com** to investigate if our tower is a suitable site for communication equipment. As our mobile phone technology evolves (LTE and such) more coverage may be needed and this might bring in significant revenue.

If you are interested in sharing your talents for any of these, please contact Chris Weis (tizweis@gmail.com, 1 617 407 6767)

We will be adding more tasks in September. If you have any suggestions or want to let us know your talents, please contact any board member.

By the way - This past year we had a successful Talent Tapping “dry run” with a couple of our board members. Carlos researched insurance options and found out that our policy is correct

for our needs and the best price out there. Patti researched our telephone and internet needs and thanks to her work with Rosa, we will soon be converting to Comcast Business for a savings of over \$1,000 a year.

Chris Weis
Board of Trustees



POTLUCK AND GAME NIGHT

**May 19th at 5 PM
in the Anna Hill Room**

Join us for a fun evening! Bring the family for a delicious dinner followed by games. Bring your favorite dish (entree, salad, or dessert) and your favorite games.

See old friends and make new ones - enjoy a fun evening for all ages.

Food sign-up list is in the church foyer.

HOST FAMILIES WANTED!

Worldwide International Student Exchange is a non-profit educational program. We are looking for Host Families for about 30 students that are coming from Spain.

Hosting a student is a rewarding experience for the whole family.

This is an amazing opportunity to experience a different culture! Spanish program beings July 1st- July 28.

For more information, see Kara McGarigal, Family Recruiter, 781-367-7251, kmcgarigal@yahoo.com

SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATE

While the Heifer Project processes the \$800 our church members donated to buy a heifer this year, The Salem Food Pantry, with much help from First Church volunteers continues to feed about 100 Salem families on the last Saturday of each month from our basement.

Meanwhile, Chris Weis and First Church's Ben Waxman are coordinating our joint "UU WANNA WALK" for HAWC, which is in specially dire need of support this year. The walk is on Sunday My 6th, and for the nominal charge of \$5 to cover costs Chris can make you a specially striking UU WANNA WALK t-shirt to wear during the event. Just send her your order and your size at 617-407-6767 or tizweis@gmail.com.

Also ongoing is our volunteer effort serving a meal at LIFEBRIDGE twice a month. Contact Patti Welch at 978-771-4421 or pawelch97@gmail.com to help.

Also, the GAY PRIDE PARADE, along with assorted educational and entertainment events, comes to Salem this year on Saturday June 30th. Anyone interested please contact Gavin Mcauliffe at mcauliffegavin@gmail.com. Stay tuned to the bulletin board at the front of the church, church announcements and weekly e-news as June 30th draws nearer.

Tom Gifford
Co-Chair, FUSS Social Justice
978-235-2462 (c)
978-744-6334 (h)
giffordtj@hotmail.com

WALK FOR HAWC



UU WannaWalk is back walking (in person and virtually) to support HAWC - May 6, 2012

First Church and First Universalist members again have joined forces to form team UUWannaWalk in the 20th Annual Walk for HAWC - Healing Abuse Working for Change. HAWC's mission is to create social change by taking action against personal and societal patterns of violence and oppression. HAWC provides services and support to victims of domestic violence residing in 23 cities and towns on Massachusetts' North Shore in order that they may make informed, independent decisions about their futures. (www.hawcdv.org)

If you wish to join our team and walk (virtually or in person) or take part in the 5K run (new this year), please contact Ben Waxman or Chris Weis. We'll be glad to add you to the team (hey you may even get a t-shirt out of it). Contact your friends, relatives and coworkers and ask them to sponsor you. Our goal this year is \$7000.

If you simply wish to sponsor our team, please go to <http://hawcdv.donorpages.com/WalkforHAWC/uuwannawalk/> or you may simply give one of your donations a team members.

Also, at the request of the Social Justice Committee, the First Church Standing Committee and the FUSS Board of Trustees agreed the cash in plate (non-pledge) in Sunday April 29th's offering will be used to sponsor team UUWannaWalk.

LIFEBRIDGE

I would like to thank everyone who helped out at Lifebridge over the last few months. I especially want to thank Chris Weis who helped coordinate when I was recovering from surgery. Serving dinner for 75 is no small task and is a team effort. It is a very rewarding experience and loads of fun getting to know people. Thank you to all who helped.

Chris Weis
Michelle Rust
Kathleen Reiley
Megan
Deb
Andy Shultz
Megan
Gavin McAuliffe
The Buchanan's

I apologize if I have left anyone out. There is a new sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer. **Our May commitment date is Wednesday the 23th at 4:30 PM.** There is a sign up sheet in the foyer on the bulletin board. Please join us for some "fun" work and community. If you are interested please email me at pawelch97@gmail.com.

Thanks,
Patti Welch
Lifebridge Coordinator

PLEDGE REMINDER

The church year is drawing to a close. Please pay your pledge for this church year if you have not done so. We begin a new church fiscal year June 1. You may submit a pledge for next church year by signing a pledge form on the table in the back of the sanctuary Thank you to all those who have pledged. We appreciate your support.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SALEM CUUPS

Salem CUUPS presents Tarot with Alex Coco
Thursday, May 17th, 7-9 PM
in the Anna Hill Room.

Are you new to Tarot? Have you dabbled a bit? Do you know the basics, but want to know more? Then join Alex Coco as he offers this FREE two hour class/discussion on Tarot. Bring your cards!

Open General Membership Meeting for CUUPS

May 8th, Tuesday, 7-9 PM, Anna Hill Room
Come learn more about our group, the Salem Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be provided.

We also have a facebook group - <http://www.facebook.com/groups/179118162204288/>

Thank you
Nicke Coco
nickecoco@gmail.com

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS

Please let Rosa know if you need last year's copy of your committee's report. The Annual Report Booklet will be put out for the church to review starting May 13th.

RATE US!

We invite you to share your thoughts on why you enjoy being a member or friend of SalemUU with the larger Community. Please rate us using one of these services: Yelp, CitySearch, Church Rater or any other review system.



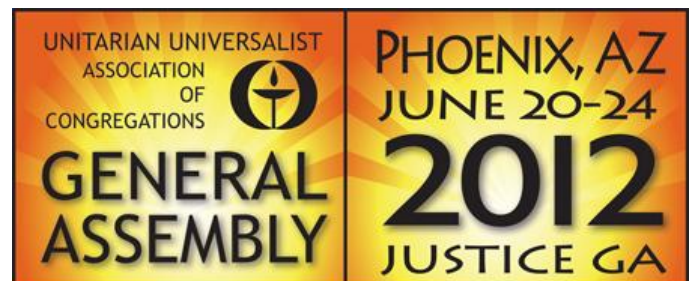
FIRST ANNUAL PRIDE PARADE

First-ever Pride Event on the North Shore to Happen This Summer – June 30th at Noon.

Show your North Shore pride in Salem this summer! Walk with a community group or your company or ride in style on a float.

For more information, www.northshorepride.org or northshorepride on Facebook.

Anyone interested in participating, please contact Gavin McAuliffe at mcauliffegavin@gmail.com.



FIRST UNIVERSALIST AND AMAZON



You may have noticed the little "a" under the slideshow on the main page of our website. It is a fundraising link for First Universalist through Amazon. If you utilize the Amazon.com link found here (http://www.salemuu.org/page2_amazon.html) to make your purchases, it will help First Universalist earn income to help sustain this community of hope and love.

This is only one more way to know that your dollars support the beliefs that you hold, the work that we do, and the change that we endeavor to create in the world. Thank you for

The First Universalist Society

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Established in 1805

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May / June 2012 Newsletter

Full Calendar available at

http://www.salemuu.org/page2_calendar.html

**The Next Newsletter Deadline is
June 25th
to cover July / August 2012**

The First Universalist Society in Salem is a Welcoming Congregation which celebrates and supports the lives, the relationships and contributions of its lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual members and friends. We affirm and promote full participation of all in the life of the congregation and community. We pledge our congregation's commitment to continue to enlighten and educate our members, friends, children and community regarding sexual orientation and gender identification.

We welcome people with disabilities. We are partially accessible and striving to become more so. Please call the church office for specific information.

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

First Universalist has a facebook page - our public presence on Facebook. We also have a group - a private group where people can post comments and messages and show off their pictures. Come join us!

Page:

www.facebook.com/FirstUniversalistSocietyinSalem

Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/51592992801/>

Staff

Minister: Rev. Marjorie Matty

Board of Trustees:

Co-Chair: Chris Weis

Co-Chair: Kathryn Baptista

Director of Religious Education: Marlyn Miller

Accompanist: Michael Mazurkiewicz

Sexton: Samuel Boylston

Church Administrator: Rosa Palomino