



The First Unitarian Church in New Bedford

News & Views

Volume LIV, Issue I

January 2016

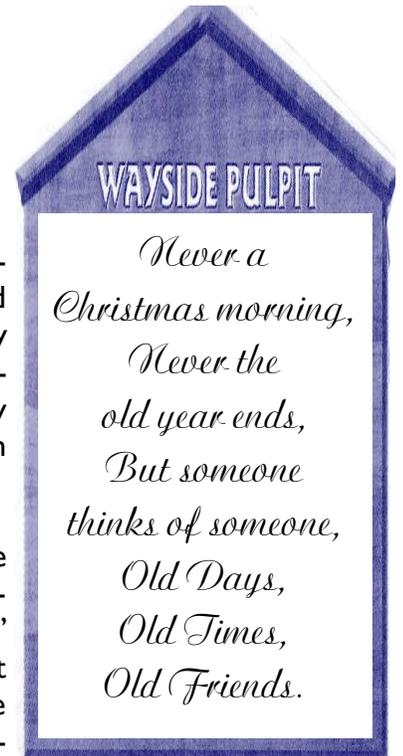
COORDINATOR'S COLUMN

For the past few weeks I've been walking around in a T-shirt because the temperature has been in the mid-60's. I saw people Christmas shopping in shorts and flip-flops. Although it was certainly nice to have warm weather, it felt very strange, like something was wrong with the world. But this morning winter arrived, tossing a chilly blanket of wet snow over New Bedford. I looked out my window just after sunrise and wondered, for brief moment, why my white van looked like it had a new paint job before I realized that it had snowed.

Apparently, weird and wild weather will be the "new normal" as our climate changes. Something about that phrase "new normal" fills me with as much trepidation as flip-flops in winter. It seems to mean that there is no longer a "normal" to align one's self with, if there ever was one to begin with. It feels like a great sigh has been heaved, the shoulders of the world have shrugged, and we have raised our collective hands in surrender to something we now accept as inevitable. It seems like labeling something "the new normal" makes it somehow acceptable. Mass shootings on a weekly or daily basis, police abusing their power, mosques burning, Muslims alienated, privacy disappearing, crazy weather and crazier politicians...all of these can now be chalked up to being the new normal. "Oh, well," we say, "that's just how the world is now." Well I'm not buying it.

I'm not going to accept that there is nothing we can do. When the train wreck happens (or Trump visits your city), there are other choices to make aside from standing dumbly by with our mouths open and videotaping the train wreck so we can share it on facebook. We don't have to do what everyone else does in order to feel like we are part of something bigger than ourselves. One reason I love being a UU is that we aren't "sheeple," we don't just shrug and say, "Oh well." We act on our beliefs and stand up for our principles (our own Alyzza Callahan recently showed up at a Trump gathering to protest, for instance). We UU's are people of purpose; we run toward the wreck to see how we can help instead of just putting an R.I.P. sticker on our car so everyone can see that we've known grief. What will you do in the new year to change the "new normal?" We might not be able to control the weather, but we can control whether or not we respond with love instead of fear, and with fortitude instead of folly.

~Karen



*Never a
Christmas morning,
Never the
old year ends,
But someone
thinks of someone,
Old Days,
Old Times,
Old Friends.*

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Coordinator of
Ministerial Services
Hours
Tue, Wed & Thu 10-1
or by appointment at
your convenience. You
may call the office
(508-994-9686)
or call
Karen Andersen at
508-441-9344

RE NEWS—WAY COOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

- January 4 Way Cool Sunday School
Winter Semester
RE Team Meeting at 12:15pm
- January 11 Claying Around
Special Guest Artist
- January 18 Way Cool Sunday School
- January 25 Way Cool Sunday School

“Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.” Albert Einstein

Way Cool Sunday School Registration: Free if you are a member and only \$50 for the year for non-members {\$20 for each additional child}

We meet every Sunday at 11:00am in the Sanctuary for the First Fifteen minutes and then we head up to Sunday School in Tryworks. We offer childcare in the Green Room and invite parents to attend our monthly RE Team Meetings to outline curriculum, programs and the essence of our mission. Our Way Cool Sunday School is a place for children and families to feel welcomed, loved, and happy all while instilling wonder!

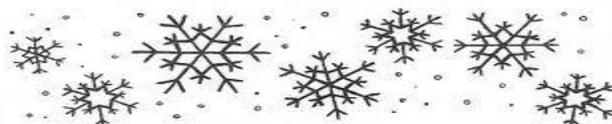
As the colder weather finally approaches please be sure to dress accordingly as we will try to get outside most days and the old stone building is drafty.

Art, History, Architecture {AHA}: If you would like to participate/volunteer on the second Thursday of the month for our AHA programming, see Yasmin or Karen! It is usually from 5-7pm!

Adult Education: I am planning on bringing in a special guest to lead an adult education evening, if you have any topics or suggestions I would greatly appreciate any feedback or for that matter any interest! We had only four people at our awesome This I Believe evening! See Yasmin.

I am certain that 2016 will bring much joy and peace to our world. We will strive to create meaningful opportunities for all children so that they can walk out of this church knowing they are supported, loved, heard, seen and have the tools necessary to conquer whatever it is they come upon.

Thank you all for everything you say or do to make my job amazing. I truly appreciate all the kindness.



BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

President

Judy Lund

Vice President

Crystal Lubinsky

Cora Peirce
Kerri Cummins
Cecelia Weeks
Jorge Pereira
Jan Baptist

Clerk—Richard Pline

Treasurer—Ned Lund

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

House and Grounds

Richard Pline

Committee on Ministry

Fred Gifun

Endowment

Carlton Dasent

Soup Kitchen Coordinator

Dave Thoen

Food Pantry

Maggi Kerr Peirce

Thrift Shop

Bill Bennett

Choir

Katie Driscoll

Social Justice

Rick Finneran

Music

Carol Kolek

Women's Alliance

Pam Sherman

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN? WE'RE DONE WITH DYING

Our End of Life Group is shifting its focus this year to "AGING WISELY". Let's share the journey and have some fun along the way. Monthly topics will include Friendship, Losses, Happiness, Courage and More.

Please join us after the Worship Service on Sunday, January 24th at 12:30 in the Tryworks Auditorium.

Carol Kolek, Marsha McCabe, Mary Beth Dowd

First Unitarian Thrift Shop
THANK YOU ALL FOR SHOPPING AND DONATING! WE HAD AN AMAZING 2015 AND WE ARE HOPEFUL FOR A PROSPEROUS 2016!!

Thrift Shop hours:
Wed 9am-1pm, Thur 1-4pm, Sat 10am-2pm
"Come and find what you didn't know you needed!"

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

At this time, the food pantries are overloaded with canned goods and are, in fact, pressed for space to store it all. A wonderful problem to have for sure! Therefore, we will stop asking for canned goods for the month of January but will resume with our big "Soup-erBowl" Drive in February as we try to beat last year's total of cans of soup collected. (I believe our record is EIGHT grocery bags full of soup!)

In the meantime, personal care items such as shampoo, razors and toothpaste, as well as Diapers and baby food are ALWAYS needed and would be gratefully accepted.

We thank you so much for your generosity all year long!

THANK YOU to all who purchased a gift for the **Giving Tree** families. Your generosity truly made a difference! The families were so very grateful to receive all the wonderful gifts that were donated!

QUILTING GROUP

The Quilting Group has taken a break from their weekly meetings but will resume meeting on Tuesday, January 5th. Please join us!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST UNITARIAN

January

10th-Congregational Budget Meeting-12:00pm in the Sanctuary

21st- Board of Trustees Meeting- 7pm

February

6th- Pride Café- 10th Anniversary of Puzzles Lounge Attack-Candlelight Walk/Vigil

18th-Board of Trustees Meeting-7pm

21st-Frederick Douglass Read-A-Thon 2-6pm

HOSPITALITY

The newly created Hospitality Committee requests volunteers to sign up on the "Hospitality Volunteer Sign-up Sheet" for our Sunday coffee hour. I have revamped the sign in sheets due to your requests, for example one had said that they didn't want to commit to bring food or to set up, but would rather just help to clean up or vice versa. So now there are separate columns for setup/food, clean up, and laundry.

The social hour needs you, especially since we no longer employ a Sunday kitchen manager due to budget restraints/frugality. We must volunteer in our kitchen for the benefit of our congregation starting now. The sign up sheet is on the table as you walk into the Parish House. If you are interested, then I can run through the new kitchen duties list with you this Sunday. Thank you.

Crystal Lubinsky, Hospitality chair

COME SING A SONG WITH US!

The choir rehearsals will change from Monday evenings to Wednesday evenings from 7:15-9:15 PM beginning January 13th. The choir will sing during two services each month and on other dates as requested by the minister. The only requirements are that you want to sing and are willing to attend weekly rehearsals and scheduled performance dates. Membership in the choir is open to ALL, not only church members. All skill levels are welcome. Contact director Katie Driscoll with questions klbrenle@gmail.com or 508-536-8549.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday to:

~ Torsten Fayan 1/8 ~ Juliette Flynn 1/12 ~ Aislynn Flynn 1/12 ~ Gregory Sampson 1/12 ~
~ Cameron Garcia 1/25 ~ Candace Garcia 1/25 ~ Cecelia Weeks 1/28 ~

If your birthday is in January, but it is not listed here, it's because I do not have it in my database. Please call the office and let me know your birth date so we can all celebrate with you!

WHAT IS "SHARED MINISTRY"?

As you probably know, our congregation is in a period of transition. We are now functioning with a "lay" (non-ordained) leadership model--with Karen Andersen as Coordinator of Ministerial Services. Ministerial services are mainly experienced through what happens in our Sunday services, and in pastoral care. However, all members of the congregation participate in the ministry of the church, through "shared ministry."

Under "shared ministry" every member of the congregation contributes to the overall ministry of the church. This might involve serving on a committee, volunteering, welcoming newcomers at coffee hour, contributing financially, or just by being part of the active congregation by showing up on Sundays.

Shared ministry is hard to define, but I think we know it when we experience it. It is that "experiencing" that the Committee on Ministry wants to explore in a series of short surveys that you will be asked to participate in over the next few months. We'll start with trying to define shared ministry for this congregation. So, instead of the members of the Committee on Ministry trying to come up with some bland, universal statement, we believe the definition of shared ministry should come from the members of this congregation: that is, shared ministry as practiced in this congregation!

You will be receiving a short survey on this topic. The Committee on Ministry looks forward to your participation.

Fred Gifun, chair, Jan Baptist, Mario Costa, Carol Kolek, Elise Korejwa, Cecelia Weeks

CONTINUING EVENTS

Mondays at 5:30pm: Tai Chi — Meets in the Green Room. Free. No meetings on Monday holidays.

First & Third Mondays of each month at 7:00pm: Pride Café—Meets in the Parish House.

Second Tuesday of September, December and June at 11:30am: Women's Alliance Meeting in the Parish House (unless otherwise stated).

Tuesdays (September-December & January to May—weather permitting) at 9:30am: Quilting Group—Meets in the Parish House. Come and join the fun, even if you're not a quilter.

Wednesdays at 7:15pm: UU Sunday Choir Rehearsal—meets in the music room.

Fourth Wednesday of the Month from 9am-1pm—Soup Kitchen Service, Pilgrim United Church, 635 Purchase Street, downtown New Bedford.

Third Thursday of the month at 7:00pm: Board of Trustees meeting. Meets in the Historic Room.

Fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. Social Justice Committee — Meets in the Historic Room

Third Saturday and/or Sunday of the month: Dinners for Eight.

CHURCH STAFF

Karen Andersen,
Coordinator of Ministerial
Services

Yasmin Flefleh-Vincent,
Director of Religious Ed

Randy Fayan,
Music Director

Linda Fredette,
Church Administrator

Tony Gonsalves, Sexton

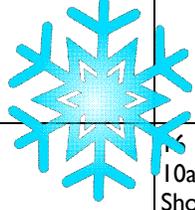
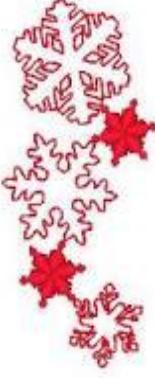
Vikki McMaster,
Bookkeeper

Arthur Green,
Sunday Sexton



January 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P)	28 5:30pm Tai Chi (D)	29 	30 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open	31 	Jan 1 WELCOME 2016!!!	2 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
3 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P)	4 5:30pm Tai Chi (D) 7pm Pride Café (Gr)		6 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open	7 1-4pm Thrift Shop Open	8 	9 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
10 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Congregational Budget Meeting (S) 12pm Social Hour (P)	11 5:30pm Tai Chi (D)		13 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 7:15 UU Choir Practice (S)	14 1-4pm Thrift Shop Open 7:30pm CUUPS Elders (Gr) 8:00pm VOX Auditions (S)	15	16 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
17 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P)	18 OFFICE CLOSED MLK DAY 7pm Pride Café (Gr)		20 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 7:15 UU Choir Practice (S)	21 1-4pm Thrift Shop Open 7pm Board of Trustees Mtg (Gr) 8:00pm VOX Auditions (S)	22 	23 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
24 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P) 12:30 What's Your Plan? (T)	25 5:30pm Tai Chi (D)	26	27 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 7:15 UU Choir Practice (S) SOUP KITCHEN DAY	28 1-4pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm Social Justice Meeting (H)	29	30 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
31 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P)	Feb 1 5:30pm Tai Chi (D)	2 	3 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open	4 1-4pm Thrift Shop Open 7:30pm CUUPS Imbolc Potluck (Gr)	5	6 Candlelight Vigil-10th Anniversary of the Puzzles Lounge Attack (S)

 = private/non-church related

Green Room(Gr), Dining Room(D),
Sanctuary(S), Parish House(P),
Tryworks Auditorium(T), History Room(H)



NEWS AND VIEWS
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FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
IN NEW BEDFORD
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02740-6025

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Church Office
Phone 508-994-9686
Fax 508-994-9687

SUNDAY FLOWERS

There are still several dates available in 2016 for Sunday Flowers (3/13, 4/17 & 5/29). Is there someone that you would like to honor? Or something that you would like to celebrate?

Do you have forsythia or other spring flowering shrubs in your yard? Do you walk in the woods where you could cut something (if allowed) that would bring the beauty of nature into our sanctuary? If so, please call the church office to sign up for one of the available dates.

~Pam Sherman

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Do you have any ideas for new and improved fundraisers for our church? We'd love to hear them! What would be interesting/fun to **you**? What event would **YOU** want to attend? If **you** think it would be fun, others probably would as well! Share your ideas with Karen, Yasmin, any Board member or the Office staff and let's see if we can make it happen!

CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING

A special budget meeting will be held on January 10th at 12pm in the Sanctuary to hear reports of the Trustees, Treasurer and Endowment Committee and to consider and act on a proposed budget to replace the budget which was adopted at the Annual Meeting in May 2015. All members are encouraged to attend.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The "News & Views" goes to print on the third or fourth Tuesday of each month. **The deadline to submit articles into the newsletter is the Friday before it goes to print.** All submissions are reviewed by the editor for content and grammar. **Next "News and Views": January 26, 2016.**