



# FIRST CHURCH VISION

FIRST CHURCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST LEOMINSTER, MA

REVEREND DR. SUSAN SUCHOCKI BROWN, MINISTER

LAUREN SOUCY, Choir Director JESSE BLACKMAN, Musician DEBRA GUTHRIE, Student Intern

April, 2016

## Ministerial Musings

I have been spending any free moments I have had lately doing Spring-cleaning. I love the act of hauling everything out of a room that I can possibly move, and then moving the heavy objects into the middle of the room, as I get ready to wash the walls, woodwork, windows and floor. There is something rewarding about the act of wiping down everything and cleaning up the winter grime.

The not so rewarding is the ache in my knees, hip back and the crick in my neck when I am done. But that seems a smallish price to pay for the reward of a fresh and neat room.

More than having a cleaner and brighter room though is the act of deciding what to put back in the room. To dust and clean an object that I have had for fifty or more years and to find that it still gives me delight to have it displayed is really pretty awesome. Sometimes I rearrange the pictures in a new way, shifting where they hang, putting new configurations together. Dusting the back and washing the glass and making the decision if and where the picture will go in the room is a conscious act.

This past weekend as I was cleaning my bedroom I rediscovered the Scotty dog bowl that sat on my mother and father's bureau lo many, many years ago. It always housed my father's cuff links and tie pins. (Does anyone wear them anymore?) Nowadays the

Scotty bowl holds some of my bracelets. I can only hope that when I am no longer alive my children will want and enjoy some of this stuff too. What objects do you want to make sure your family keeps? Have you told them? Do you have a list made up specifying what objects, pieces of art, books, jewelry and etc. that you want to go, where to, and when you are not here any longer? It might be time to have some important conversations with yourself and your loved ones about your things.

One thing I have learned though is that when I am de-cluttering, rearranging and putting things out after the deep cleaning, I only put back those things that causes me delight and pleasant memory. Sometimes I give things away and sometimes I will put things away for a while until I come across them and want them out and visible again. While doing this though I sometimes I find things that I had forgotten I even had and this causes me to feel both grateful and embarrassed. I am ever so grateful for all that I have and it is embarrassing to realize how much I have that I often take for granted.

De-cluttering and deep cleaning is a very intentional act that I engage in to remind me to be grateful for all I have and to remember to give to others and to share in ways I can. So I am off now to tackle another room.

In the meantime, enjoy life. *Rev. Susan*



## Debra's Doodles

I am still in North Carolina. I welcome prayers and well wishes as I continue to try to get my mom into nursing care. I hope to be back the first week of April.

***See ya in church, Debra***



## Sermons

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>:** "Safe Space/Brave Space"

**April 10<sup>th</sup>:** "The exploration of the causes of violence" A co-led service with Mark Moran and Rev Susan.

**April 17<sup>th</sup>:** Debra Guthrie will speak.

**April 24<sup>th</sup>:** Music Appreciation Sunday- if you have a favorite hymn or musical piece please let Rev Susan or Lauren Soucy know.

**May 1<sup>st</sup>:** "May Day the Ancient ceremony"

**May 8<sup>th</sup>:** "Parents day and child dedication"



## Loose Collection Donation

Loose offering collection will be accepted for the Kylee's Kare Kits for Kidz in April. Check order of service for date. For March's loose offering collection, we raised \$113 for the Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network which is a home for homeless families.

And we raised over \$100.00 for the UUSC Guest at Your Table loose collection.



**April 24<sup>th</sup>** Breakfast after church; join us for a time of fellowship and food immediately after the service



## Small Group Ministry

Small group ministry will be held on **April 3<sup>rd</sup>** and **April 17<sup>th</sup>** after service. See Betsy Moran with any ?



## Open Committee Seats

The biannual meeting will be held on May 22<sup>nd</sup> immediately after church. If you have any desire to serve on any committee or in any elected position, the Nominating committee would be thrilled to hear from you. Members of the Nominating Committee are: Stephanie Trudel, Norman St Denis and John McBee. See them to see what positions are open. The only way the church stays healthy and vital is with lots of volunteers pitching in to help.



## Installation

The installation of Rev. Tony Lorenzan will be held on **April 3, 2016** at 3:30 at the Hopedale Unitarian Universalist Church. See Rev Susan if you are interested in going.



## Committee Meeting Dates

At FCUU:

**April 6<sup>th</sup>:** Committee on Worship at 4:00 pm.

**April 6<sup>th</sup>:** Parish Committee at 6:00 gathering for food and meeting at 6:30 pm.

**April 13<sup>th</sup>:** Membership Committee at 5:00 pm.



## "Technology Made Easy" Workshop

We the members of the Membership and Vitality Committee are offering a workshop called "Technology Made Easy". The date is Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> from 1-3. We hope you will invite your friends and neighbors to attend with you. We are encouraging everyone to bring their devices with them. We are wanting to offer an array of techie tables. We need help with those who have technological savvy to volunteer. We want to have a station to learn about the internet, Facebook, iPad and computer, how to make a YouTube video, web site navigation. What do you want to learn about? What technological questions do you wish you could ask someone? Please get back to Rev. Susan, Christa DiSalva, Claire Griffiths and let us know what you think of this idea. We hope to offer cold drinks and cookies; can you help with this?



## Lady's Benevolent Society

The Lady Bee's will hold their April meeting on Monday, **April 11th** at 7:00 PM in the Lady Bee's room in the lower level at First Church Leominster. We have several April birthdays to observe with cake and ice cream. The activity of the evening will be a craft project making paper flowers to place in some May baskets. They will be delivered to people in nursing homes in the area. Come and join in the fun. All women members and friends of FCUU are welcome to attend. Questions? See Claire after church.

If you want to submit to the May newsletter, please do so before **April 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Email Chris at [cauhlig2002@yahoo.com](mailto:cauhlig2002@yahoo.com) or Lenore at [1stchurchoffice@verizon.net](mailto:1stchurchoffice@verizon.net).



## Birthdays

Jennifer Guiry..... ..April 2  
Rev. Tom Wintle....April 2  
Derek Kerswill.....April 5  
Donna Caruso.....April 5  
Lauren Soucy.....April 7  
Patty Lancey.....April 7  
Rorie Good.....April 9  
Joan Damon.....April 13  
Sarah Paquette.....April 14  
Rev. Susan.....April 21  
Eddie Good..... April 22



## Book Discussion Group

**What:** *All the Blue-Eyed Angels* by Jen Blood

Jonestown. The Solar Temple. Heaven's Gate. In the summer of 1990, the Payson Church of Tomorrow joins the ranks of those infamous cult suicides when thirty-four members burn to death on a small island off the coast of Maine. At ten years old, Payson member Erin Solomon watches helplessly as the church and its congregation are reduced to ash and embers. More than twenty years later, Erin is an accomplished investigative journalist when she receives word that she has inherited Payson Isle... and all its ghosts. She returns to Maine to learn the truth behind the tragedy that has haunted her since childhood, aided by the rakish mentor who's stood by her side since she was a teenager, her trusty mutt Einstein, and a mysterious stranger with his own dark past.

**When:** Friday, **April 29**, 2016 at 7:30 pm

**Where:** First Church

## Joys and concerns

We send our prayers and best wishes to the Brown family on the death of Mary Brown, on March 16, age 61, the sister-in-law of Ron Brown in South Hampton Mass.



## **Soup with Susan** **April 13<sup>th</sup>**

Please join us from 12:00 to 1:00 for a warm, friendly gathering of soup made by Ron, bread and dessert made by Rev. Susan and fellowship made by all. All are welcome. Invite your neighbors and friends to come with you.



## **First Church Unitarian Universalist** **Website**

**"I want the world to know this about us!"**

The FCUU Website is live and it can be seen at [www.firstchurchuu.org](http://www.firstchurchuu.org)! Looking for comments or improvements. Email [bam36uu@gmail.com](mailto:bam36uu@gmail.com)

If you want to use the church for any purpose, committee or event please be in contact with Lenore at First Church email to coordinate schedules.



## **Membership Committee Meeting**

The Membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **April 13<sup>th</sup>** at 5:30 PM. Please note the time change. We will be working on having a technology workshop at FCUU in May. Come and help if interested. All are welcome. Questions? See Claire after church or call at (978) 502 3275.

If you want information in an order of service please get that information to the office @ [1stchurchoffice@verizon.net](mailto:1stchurchoffice@verizon.net) by Tuesday of the week that you want something post



## **Adult R.E.**

All women are welcome to attend the Cakes for the Queen of Heaven Adult Re program from 10 to 11:30 am on **April 13<sup>th</sup>**. We will be focusing on the book, *Ancient Mirrors of Womanhood* by Merlin Stone.



## **Can you knit, crochet, or quilt?**

Spring has sprung and the days are longer! Now is the best time to pick your favorite color of yarn and make some blankets for ill children undergoing medical treatments. Hello knitters, crocheters and quilters everywhere! Patterns and yarn are available for this project. This is an ongoing project for the Worcester Area Chapter of Project Linus. Can you help us? If so, contact Claire Griffiths.



## **Wish List**

- New dish towels for the kitchen. Yellow, green, tan
- Plastic silverware
- Napkins
- Floor wax and cleaner
- Glass cleaner
- Replacement mops large cotton head
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Regular Pine sol or other cleaner.

**All Donations Are Greatly Appreciated!!!**



## **Free Hot Meal**

Every Wednesday and Thursday from 4-5 at the Spanish-American Center at 122 Spruce St, Leominster enjoy a FREE HOT MEAL courtesy of Ginny's Food Pantry and the Spanish-American Center with a grant from Fallon Health.