



FIRST CHURCH VISION
FIRST CHURCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST LEOMINSTER, MA
Working toward a peaceful and just world, guided by Love

REVEREND DR. SUSAN SUCHOCKI BROWN, MINISTER

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

June 2016

Ministerial Musings

As we approach another summer break, I want to reflect on some of the projects and things we have accomplished this year and to think about the summer break.

We have spent most of the year revising the mission, vision statement. A committee comprised of Debra Guthrie, Stephanie Trudel, Diane O'Hare, and Marilyn Murphy with input by the congregation and me came up with a statement. It was adopted at the meeting on May 22. It is not an easy task to take the ideas, ideals and multiple perspectives of a diverse group and come to agreement. But we did it. The last time a mission statement was put into place was in 1992 and the vision statement in 1997. I hope that in 3-5 years the statement that was voted on will be looked at again. The **vision** statement is: *We the members of First Church Unitarian Universalist, dedicate ourselves to journey together to create and anti-racist, anti-oppressive, democratic community. We will support each other in times of need and stand in the larger community for justice, equality and love.* The mission statement is: *We are an open and accepting community working for justice and equality for all through nurturing relationships and providing service to each other and in the greater community.*

We continued to try to keep ahead of maintenance with our lovely 112 year-old building. As always once a year there are roof repairs, plumbing updates, flooring issues, carpet repairs and need for redo's. The insurance company put in a heat sensor to monitor for frozen pipes. We also

continued upkeep of the labyrinth and out front gardens.

The Parish Committee will tell you about the update to policies and job descriptions.

I have enjoyed being supervisor to our student who will bid a fond farewell too. She has graced us with her presence. We have fine-tuned and streamlined office responsibilities. I continued to be with the Leominster Fire Department, going into my 20th year, and with Andover Newton Theological School with the field education department with a recent promotion to faculty. There are so many of you to thank for all that you give and bring here. This newsletter would not get done without Chris and volunteers, all the committee members volunteer hours and there is a constant flow of workers doing all kinds of things that are needed to keep our wonderful church functioning. Thank you all. You are needed and valued.

So what I am going to do this summer is camp at Salisbury State Park, read novels and non-fiction, do lots of walking, eat healthier. And in between get prepared for the upcoming season by picking sermons and readings. Resting working, centering, renewing, that is my summer plan.

What are yours? How are you planning to spend your time? The most important thing is to find a way to revitalize and refresh your spirit, especially so you can come back roaring to go.

Enjoy the break and see you in Sept.

Rev. Susan



Debra's Doodles

Final squiggles—if you were not at the Bi-annual meeting this past Sunday you really missed a good time. Bill did a great meal and the reports and the meeting were super fun. Seriously, it was awesome to hear everything everyone is thinking about in regards to the church, what we did over the past year and see how congregational polity works. We elected new officers and adopted new mission and vision statements. It was crazy exciting!!!

Mark mentioned something that I just wanted to pass along to everyone. Go to our new website <http://www.firstchurchuu.org> and go often so we can move up on the google list. Betsy has done a really good job of setting the whole thing up, but we have a little bit to go to get it all polished. If you would like to write something to go on the website just send it to Rev. Susan for approval and then it can go on.

Our last month ☺ I can't tell you how much I have enjoyed working at First Church with all of you and with Rev. Susan. It has been a really awesome experience and I have learned so much. I am looking forward to a lifetime of mentorship from Rev. Susan so you can bet I will be keeping up on all the happenings in Leominster. I am really lucky to have secured a half-time contract ministry position in Aiken SC. I start there on August 1st, so after I leave here I only have a short time to visit family and friends before starting my new position. I am super-excited and I think this church is the perfect fit for me. A contract ministry is not a settled ministry. In order to qualify for a settled ministry, I have to meet the requirements of the Ministerial Fellowship committee. My appointment with them is not until September 2017. So this half-time position is a perfect way to get my feet wet in ministry, read all the books, do the writing and prepare for my appointment.

Hugs all around, see ya in church, Debra.

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.



Sermons

June 5th: "Flower Communion Sunday". Bring a flower to share with each other for this annual Unitarian Universalist tradition. It is also New Member Sunday.

June 12th: "Moments of Ministry"

June 19th: "Endings": closing Sunday, Father's day observance and saying so long to our incredible student Debra Guthrie.



Fire Fighters Memorial

June 12th is the annual Firefighters Memorial Sunday. Rev Susan will be doing a service at 8:00 am at the fire station to be followed by a march to the Fire Fighters Memorial on the Common at 9:00. All are welcome.



Small Group Ministry

Small group ministry will meet on **June 12th** after fellowship. See Betsy Moran with any ?



Committee Meeting Dates

At First Church UU:

June 1st: Committee on Worship at 4:30 pm.

June 1st: Parish Committee: at 6:00 pm gathering for food and at 6:30 pm for meeting.



Summer Hiatus

As usual the office will be open occasionally. Telephone and email messages will be checked remotely. Rev Susan will be checking email as well but don't expect immediate response as she will be on vacation and sometimes not near email. In case of an emergency contact the President of the congregation Lynn Radford and/or Rev Susan. A member of the Parish Committee will be checking the building on a regular basis. For any building issues, please email Lynn Radford and the office with your concerns. All groups will be using the church as they do throughout the year, so clear any building use with the office before using the space. A pastoral emergency will be taken care of by contacting Rev Susan by email or telephone. The office closes on **June 22** and reopens **Sept 8th**. The first Sunday service is **Sept 11th**.



First Church is now on Twitter!

Find us @FCUU_Leominster and give us a follow! If you have anything you'd like us to Tweet (and you don't have Twitter to do so yourself), email Lynn Radford at lynn1388@yahoo.com.



Adult R.E.

June 1st is the final Cakes for the Queen of Heaven Adult Re program for the season. It will be held from 10 to 11:30 am. Bring food to share, come thinking about what we might want to do next season and come share your most favorite story from our text of the year.



Summer Birthdays

Benjamin Summers.....June 2
John McBee.....June 5
Judy Sacco.....June 9
June Cardone June 17
Noah Giordano.....June 18
Susan Hardenbrook.....June 19
Mary Jo Wojtusik.....June 29
Mark Moran.....June 30

Lynne Lockhart.....Aug.25



Summer Stroll

On **June 18th** at the Leominster Summer Stroll, please join us for a family friendly afternoon. We could use your support and help. We will need volunteers in the kitchen for cookies, ice pops and cold drinks, and we need help for supervision of some kid friendly activities. See Bill Coulter, Rev Susan, Christa, Marilyn, or Lauren. One of the family activities is to have a series of questions for the family to engage in. Help us think of questions; this is one I am thinking of => what does your family do together that brings you closer together? Other questions welcome.



Grains and Greens

We need food for the pantry. The summer months are coming up and we especially need supplies and food for those who are homeless. Cans that don't need can openers, food that can be eaten right from the package, packets of cheese crackers, granola or cereal bars, juice in boxes. Need personal care items too.

Joys and Concerns

Congratulations go out to Lili Vaillette on her graduation from Leominster High School.

Lynne Lockhart is at Whittier Rehab center in Westborough and she welcomes calls and visits. Call her cell phone. See the directory for her number.

We send our sympathy to Stephanie Trudel on the death of her beloved uncle Robert Harrison.

Rev Susan's family from California Scott and Stephanie are visiting on June 7-9.

The daughter of Lynne Lockhart, Marni MacLean Karro, was recently recognized by the RI Small Business Journal as an Entrepreneurial Woman to Watch in 2016. She is the owner of Jack's Snacks, a dog bakery in Warwick, RI, in business since 2004. Her website is www.jackssnacks.com.

Leominster Summer Events

Starburst: Citizen of the year, music, food and fireworks.

Sat. **June 11th**, 4:30-9:30p at Doyle Field.

Summer Stroll and Public Safety Day:

Sat. **June 18th**, 1-5p in downtown.

Rain date: **June 25th**

Longsjo Classic: Pro-racing including Mayors races, kids' races and food trucks.

Leominster: Fri. **June 24th**, 5-8:30p. Kids: 5:30p.

Worcester: Sat. **June 25th**, 3:30-8:30p. Kids: 5p.

Fitchburg: Sun. **June 26th**, 9a-5p. Kids: 1p.

Colonial Band Concert Series:

Tuesdays, **July 12th, 19th, 26th and Aug. 2nd, 9th**.
7:30p at Carter Park.

Johnny Appleseed Craft Beer Festival:

Sat. **Aug. 6th**, 4-8p in downtown Leominster.

Ladies Night Out: Thurs., **Aug. 18th**, 5-9p.
Downtown Leominster and City Hall.

Kid's Day: Sat. **Aug. 27th**, 2-5p in downtown.



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!!!



Book Discussion Group

June Movie

What: "Phoenix" starring Nina Hoss and Ronald Zehrfeld

A riveting mystery of identity unfolds against the turmoil of post-World War II Germany. Nelly, a German-Jewish nightclub singer, has survived a concentration camp, but with her face disfigured by a bullet wound. After reconstructive surgery, Nelly emerges with a new face, one similar but different enough that her former husband, Johnny, doesn't recognize her. Rather than reveal herself, Nelly walks into a dangerous game of duplicity and disguise as she tries to figure out if the man she loves may have betrayed her to the Nazis.

When: Friday, June 24th at 6:30 pm

Where: Karyn Woodward's home in Leominster.
Email karyn.woodward1@verizon.net to directions

If you want your joys and concerns, birthdays, anniversary or special events noted be in contact with Chris Uhlig (cauhlig2002@yahoo.com)