



First Church Vision

September 2019

Working toward a peaceful and just world, guided by Love

Member Musings

In the sixteenth year of my life, I noticed two apparently discordant phenomena. First, I seemed to be buying new trousers every couple of months. Second, my knees hurt like hell all the time. (Little did I know, that this would presage my future!) Eventually, I received an official diagnosis of “growing pains” – yes literally. As the doctor explained, my body was changing fast, and sometimes key joints, especially the knees need time to learn how to mesh, and work together. Little did I know then, that this would generally be true in life as well as with joints.

In short, change is almost always accompanied by pain. Change requires new ways of doing things, some learning, some figuring out how to mesh new voices, new hands and new ways of doing things.

First Church is changing. After being led by a settled minister for most of our history, we now face an indefinite period of time without a minister. Regardless of this fact, we will still be hearing a lot of professional preaching from the pulpit as we are actively engaged in inviting guest speakers to share a variety of different experiences, viewpoints and insights with us. Guest ministers will be about a 50/50 split with Lay Worship going forward.

We go forward confronting not only the existential questions, but the spiritual ones as well. Who are we, where are we going, who do we want to be? Things are changing, and change is plenty scary at times, but it is also a unique opportunity. For the first time in 276 year history of First Church, we the congregation are totally in charge. What do you do when you're in charge? A modest suggestion, let's have some fun with this!

We are already striking out in new directions. We are more active in the community than we have been in many decades with our work with the homeless, and providing a weekly, extremely well attended and loved community meal. We don't just come to church on Sunday and sing hymns, listen to sermons and drink coffee. We do stuff, stuff that really matters to people's lives. Is that not part of the mission of a religious community? What is your take on all this? Do let us know!

In navigating the rocks and shoals of change I see us as being guided by quote from Goethe – “Be bold and mighty forces will come to your aid.” We are certainly being bold. Mighty forces, you are welcome to stop in any time!

Mark Moran



Shared Ministry Team

Betsy Moran: Congregation President and Parish Committee Chair

Worship Coordinator: Stephanie Trudel

Minister Emerita:

The Rev. Dr. Susan Suchocki Brown



Upcoming Worship Dates and Time to Share Topics

Sept. 8th: "Ingathering and Water Communion"

Sept. 15th: "Resisting Racism, What's In It For White People"

Sept. 22nd: "Exploring Balance through the Harvest Festival of Mabon"

Sept. 29th: "Throwing Out the Playbook: The Hard and Messy Work of Unitarian Universalism"

"Ingathering and Water Communion" September 8th

Our first service of the year! We will engage in our traditional Water Communion Ceremony, while reaffirming our connections with one another. Please bring a small amount of water that is significant for you; it can be from a place you visited, a place you love, or even from your own home! What matters is the meaning it holds for you.

"Resisting Racism, What's In It For White People" September 15th

Mr. Ken Wagner, former president of the Clara Barton district of the UUA, will examine the reality of systemic racism in the United States. Ken will also outline practical reasons why it is in the best interest of the white majority to resist racism.

"Exploring Balance through the Harvest Festival of Mabon" September 22nd

We will explore ideas of nature and balance through the Festival of Mabon; Mabon is a harvest festival, the second of three, that encourages pagans to "reap what they sow," both literally and figuratively. It is the time when night and day stand equal in duration; thus is it a time to express gratitude, complete projects and honor a moment of balance.

"Throwing Out the Playbook: The Hard and Messy Work of Unitarian Universalism" September 29th

David Miller of the UUCF (UU Congregation of Fairfax) wrote a compelling commentary on what implementing our UU faith really means, and how we may wish to conduct ourselves in the current political and economic environment.

First Church UU Covenant

We are a UU Faith community dedicated to respecting our spiritual journeys and appreciating the unique gifts we bring to the common life we share.

We support each other and our congregation - by listening objectively, sharing our feelings honestly, speaking the truth while holding each other in love, and encouraging each other to become our best selves.

Recognizing that First Church thrives when responsibility is shared, we take that responsibility by keeping informed; by operating openly; by giving our time, effort, and financial support; and by participating in the life of the congregation in its many dimensions.

Adopted by the congregation on May 5, 2019



**Book Group Meeting
Friday September 27, 2019 at
7:30pm
in church office
Educated by Tara Westover**

Educated traces the author's experiences as a child born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, describing her participation in her family's paranoid stockpiling activities and her resolve to educate herself well enough to earn acceptance into a prestigious university and the unfamiliar world beyond.



Please save and donate your plastic grocery bags!

Please save and donate your plastic grocery bags! Through Our Father's table, there is a mother that makes plastic bag mattresses for the homeless. The green bags are in honor of her son who lost his life to a drug overdose.



Thanks to all our volunteer gardeners for their hard work in putting our front yard into shape and making it look nice for the start of the church year. Kudos to Marilyn and Paula Murphy, Phoebe and Kristal Truax, Bill Coulter, Stephanie Trudel, RoseAnn Bogan, Betsy and Mark Moran and others (apologies if we omitted your name - let us know if you were part of the effort). We appreciate your time and energy!

**First Church Unitarian Universalist
Mission Statement**

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

Contacts:

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**Attention!!
Newsletter via E-Mail**

We are no longer doing a hardcopy bulk mailing. If you would like to continue receiving a copy or know someone who would like a copy, please contact the office and let us know your email address. Contact the office at 1stchurchoffice@verizon.net Subject: add to newsletter email

If you need a hard copy please call the office and give us your address.

Newsletter Contributions

If you want to contribute anything for October's newsletter, please send it to cauhlig2002@yahoo.com by

September 18th.

Dates to Remember

September

Sept. 9th: Lady B's Meeting, 7 pm

Sept. 11th: PC Meeting 6:30 pm

Sept. 21st: Johnny Appleseed Fair

Sept. 27th: Book Group Meeting 7:30 pm

Every Saturday: Community Lunches,
1 to 3 pm in the downstairs hall.



Johnny Appleseed Fair

The Johnny Appleseed Fair will be held on **Saturday, September 21st** from 9 to 5. Both the Ladies Benevolent Society and the MLK Coalition will have booths. Come and stop by! If you can come early and help set up the booths or come later to help clean up, it would be greatly appreciated!!



Ladies Benevolent Society

The Ladies Benevolent Society will meet on **September 9th** at **7pm** at First Church in the lower level of the building. We will be electing new officers for this year and working on the Lady B's raffle items for the Johnny Appleseed Festival in September. We will also discuss which crafts to make for our table at the Winter Stroll in December. Coffee and refreshments will be served. Ladies, come and join us! Questions? Please contact Chris at cauhlig2002@yahoo.com or at church on Sunday.



Grains and Greens Food Pantry

Due to a very successful summer of Saturday Community Meals, we have depleted the shelves of our Grains and Greens Food Pantry. Next time you go food shopping maybe you could add a few "food pantry" items to your cart! Or you can donate by giving a check made out to FCUU with "Grains and Greens" written in the memo area.

Grains and Greens Wish List

Food pantry items:

Pasta Sauce

Pasta

Rice

Mac and Cheese

Peanut butter

Canned fruit

Canned vegetables

Canned meats and tuna

Personal care items: combs, brushes, toothbrushes and toothpaste, small bars of soap, razors and shaving cream, mouthwash

Food pantry items no kitchen needed:

Peanut butter or cheese cracker sandwiches

Granola bars

Protein bars

Flip-top cans of ready to eat foods; pasta, soup, meat, tuna

Small bottles of water

Plastic cutlery rolled in a napkin

Gallon sized Ziplock bags

Socks for both men and women

Clean new or gently used clothing including summer weight coats, jackets, sweatpants, sweatshirts, tee shirts, etc.

Pillows and blankets.

All Donations Are Greatly Appreciated !!