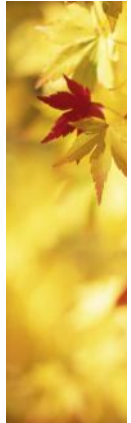


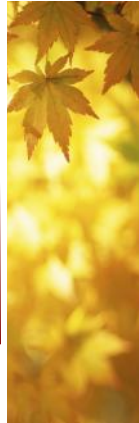


THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ESSEX

MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION
OF CONGREGATIONS



OUR MINISTER



September always brings renewed energy in congregational life, even though we are open for "business" 12 months of the year. Nevertheless, change is in the air. As one of us said

recently at a beautiful Fall/Autumn Equinox ritual led by Kathleen Miller, in family life Summer is a time for lots of togetherness, Fall a time, once again, for separation, as work ramps up and kids return to school. As Kathleen reminded us at the ritual, Autumn Equinox is also a time when we have equal amount of time for light (day) and dark (night), i.e., there is balance.

So it's a time for us all to try to restore balance in our lives and our spiritual journeys. Too much activity in your life? Can you eliminate something? Too much withdrawal? Can we ramp it up? Action and contemplation; it's always a dance to bring balance. We can't always, but it's good to be reminded of the consequences when we lose balance: everyone suffers; ourselves and the community closest to us. Sunday church, hopefully, helps restore balance; a time

of gathering and praying and listening as a community.

At our recent September board meeting, we began to look at this year's congregational goals and shared our dreams for spiritual and numeric growth, expanded programming for our children, more outreach and action in the community, continued repair and updating of the sacred space (yeah! for new front steps), continued financial support (for the first time in my over 8 years here as minister, we actually balanced the budget with a slight surplus, thanks to everyone's generosity), and continued rich social gatherings for deepening relationships and fun and play.

As we all return to regular schedules, I ask us all to think of ways to make this community of faith more vibrant and engaged, and I ask each of us to consider ways we may help bring that about. Love and Blessings, Art

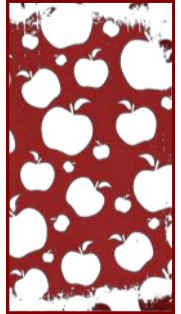
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C A L E N D A R

A R T & E D U C A T I O N

Sat. Oct. 1 Paint Party, 8:30am
 Coffee House, 8:00pm
 Tues. Oct. 4 PFLAG, 7:00pm
 Wed. Oct. 5 Fundraising Cmt. 7:00am
 Thurs. Oct. 6 Membership Cmt. 7:00pm
 Tues. Oct. 11 ECCO, 7:00pm
 Thurs. Oct. 13 Open Door Cooking, 4:00-6:00pm
 Sat. Oct. 15 Paint Party, #2, 8:30am
 Sun. Oct. 16 District Minister, Sue Phillips, preaching, 10:00am
 Mon. Oct 17 Peace Activist, S. Brian Willson, 7:30pm

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 Tues. Oct. 18 Board of Trustees, 6:00pm
 Wed. Oct. 19 Employment Network, 6:30pm
 Thurs. Oct. 20 Adult Education, 7:00pm
 Tues. Oct. 25 Book Club, 7:00pm
 Thurs. Oct. 27 Adult Education, 7:00pm
 Sat. Oct. 29 Coffee House, 8:00pm
 Early Nov. TBA Annual Lantern Walk
 Sat. Nov. 19 Holiday Faire, 9:00—1:00pm
 Sun. Nov. 20 Sylvia Howe, Minister Emerita, Beverly, 11am
 Special concert, Maria Benotti, 3:00pm



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our youth project working with Noah Kellerman, local farmer and FUCE member!!!!, is well underway. Thanks to a \$2200 grant from the UU Woburn Fund, RE staff time is going into coordinating this. Also, we are in the process of forming a pre-youth group, grades 6-8, and still looking for adult volunteers. Finally, our rearranged children's programming, with 5-year-olds upstairs and toddlers down, is off to a great start. Speak with Lois Bairstow, RE director, if you have questions are interest in helping out.

COFFEE HOUSE



Coffee House schedule: Saturday, October 1, Brian Corcoran, Irish and Folk, Marlina Evans opens up; October 29, Ina May Wool, folk and blues; November 5, Jeff Warner, songs of the sea. Please spread the word and try to support this great,18 year church project. It brings wonderful entertainment, provides a just wage to performers, and raises money for the church! Thanks Fran, Roger, Daisy, Debbie and Paul and so many other great volunteers.

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Religious Education will begin again on Thursday, October 20, at 7pm. We hope to do a 4 week series based on spiritual practice - Art is considering getting copies of a book entitled: "Acedia and Me," by Kathleen Norris, a spiritual writer who gave a major address at this year's UU General Assembly. It's a book about dry spells and struggles in the spiritual life. We'll ask some folks to talk about their own spiritual practices.

ANNUAL LANTERN WALK

We are trying to determine the best date for our annual Lantern Walk, in and around Chebacco Lake and the woods there. It's a wonderful family event, topped off by a marshmallow toast! We'll pick a date soon - early November.

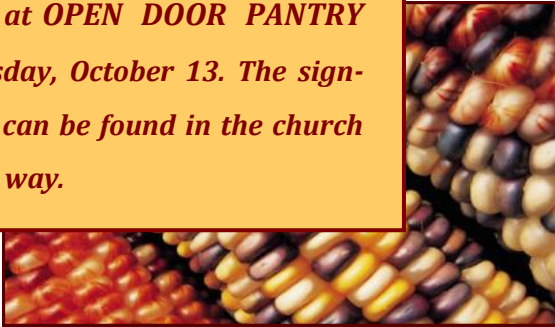
BOOK CLUB

The Book Club next meets on Tuesday, October 25, at 7pm. The group will be reading "Year of Wonders," by Geraldine Brooks. At that meeting, the group will decide future dates.

SOCIAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

S. Brian Willson speaks at FUCE on Monday, October 17th, at 7:30pm. Brian is a **peace activist** from the West Coast who had his legs severed by a train carrying nuclear weapons material. He has written a book about his experiences and is a very compelling speaker. The lecture is free, although donations will be accepted. There is a potluck at the **House of Peace in Ipswich**, beginning at 5:00pm.

*We cook at **OPEN DOOR PANTRY** on Thursday, October 13. The sign-up sheet can be found in the church entrance way.*



OUR REFUGE PROJECT

in cooperation with **RIM** is ongoing as we met a woman from Afghanistan, Wafu, at this week's Sunday service. As part of our connection, we try to help with **needed resources**, one of which is money. Thus, we have been asked by RIM to participate in a fundraiser to buy bulbs (flowers). Diana and Melanie are coordinating this; an order sheet can be found in church. The order deadline is October 16th. Please see the relevant info on the bulletin board in the church hall. Let's make this a great fundraiser!

The Cape Ann clergy **resource/day center project** participants met with the **Mayor of Gloucester** last week to gather support for the opening of such a center. The Mayor will help us and we are in dialogue with a building owner in downtown. Hopefully we will sign a lease soon, before winter sets in. More to follow!

ECCO has a new head of steam as we welcome a new lead organizer, **Daniel Lesser**, and we renew efforts to bring new congregations into ECCO membership. ECCO met with Mayor Kirk to seek greater financial support for the **Chill Zone**, youth programming, and we have

***PFLAG** meets every first Tuesday of the month. We are also working with **NAGLY**, a support group for youth. Several of us will attend a meeting soon.*

hopes to add several new congregations to our Cape Ann chapter. Our **Lynn/Peabody chapters** are also adding new congregations. As the year goes on we will be doing listening campaigns in each congregation and hope to start working on a social issue for the whole North Shore region. Meanwhile, we have set a date for our annual meeting in Lynn and I would like to commit 10 people to that meeting! The date is **WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7, at 6PM**. Please tell Art of your interest.

CHURCH NEWS



MEMBERSHIP

Fall is always a time for us to invite anyone who has been with us for a while and would like to consider official membership in the congregation to join us. While we don't make a huge distinction be-

tween members and participating friends, it's always a nice moment when folks publicly proclaim desire to sign the membership book. If anyone would like to consider this, please talk with Art; A few have al-

ready. While we haven't chosen a date for a membership ritual as of yet, it would be good together folks, talk a bit about Unitarian Universalism and what membership means.



MINISTER EMERITA, BEVERLY, REV. SYLVIA HOWE

Our very own Sylvia Howe has been designated as minister emerita at the Beverly UU church. As many of you know, Sylvia served that church as minister for 10 years before she retire a few years ago and joined our church. It's a wonderful honor for Sylvia and Paul, and we

want to be a part of this great event. She will be installed as minister emerita on Sunday, November 20, at the Beverly church's regular Sunday morning service at 10:00am. Although the Beverly church has invited our entire church to this service, our leadership, with my agreement,

did not feel we should simply close down that Sunday. So we are encouraging anyone who would like to attend Sylvia's installation to go to the Beverly church for the 11:00am service on Nov. 20th. Art has been asked to participate and he will. However, we will have a Sunday service at our church and there will be a guest preacher. Sylvia, of course, is now a member of our church, and this designation won't change that; it's just a way for that grateful congregation to express gratitude to a ministry of service in the UU tradition. Congratulations, Sylvia!

CONNUBIAL BLISS!

Congratulations to Sean Walsh and Alison Rosner, who were recently married in Rhode Island. Art had the privilege of officially witnessing their wedding as their minister.



GARDEN

Thanks, once again, to Sylvia Howe, Penn Westmann, and so many great volunteers for making our front and side yards look so wonderful—it's the talk of the town!

HOLIDAY FAIRE

Put it in your calendar! Please start selecting items for the art space and white elephant and store them away until the week before. The big day is November 20th!

CHURCH NEWS CONTINUED

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT: BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Each month we want to highlight some committee or project that is important to the church. Rick Sauriol and Juergin Dietrichson led this committee for many years until very recently. Many thanks to both of them and all they contributed to making our sacred space as good as it can be. This Spring, as Juergin relocated and Rick passed the torch, a new, very energized group stepped up: Mike Dyer, chair, Charlie Dunne, Niel Bassom, Lindle Willnow, Bob

Parlee and Roger Pierce, building staff, comprise our new committee. There's lots on the agenda as we juggle what we can afford and what we can do through volunteer projects. With wonderful guidance we have now completed the front step project. Twice this month the committee will organize outside painting parties: October 1 & 15, beginning at 8:30am. The group is in the process of soliciting bids for painting the sanctuary (a project we are planning on doing in

the next year). Last week a group cleaned for several hours. We did some sanctuary window repair. We are evaluating plans to move around the front lawn signage. And we are evaluating our current use of space and how to imagine more efficient use or even expansion? The work is ongoing and constant and is somewhat dependent on finances, but the energy is high. If you have concerns about the building, speak with any of the committee members or Roger, building staff.



We are also looking for interesting fundraising ideas. Penn Westmann is currently piloting one that will help the children's RE program: little collection boxes for spare change. Pick up your boxes in church. Barbara Corning-Davis has an idea about members and friends offering their summer/winter second houses to members or friends with the fee going to the church. Diana and Alan have already done this with their cottage in Cork, Ireland. Finally, we still need AIR-PORT DRIVERS to take folks to Logan. We have several drivers but the demands can overwhelm us, especially for early morning trips. If anyone is willing to drive even 2/3 times a year, that would help. Talk with Debbie F or Art.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Every thriving church needs great leadership. That's certainly true of First UU Essex. And my biased opinion is we have super great leadership. Hopefully, as minister, I am approachable for any of your concerns,

but the same holds true for the Board leadership, i.e., if you have any comments or concerns feel free to express them to the Board. This year's group is comprised of : Debbie Frontiero, Moderator, Lynne Marchetti,

clerk, Tom Duff, Treasurer, Penn Westmann, Sarah Willwerth-Dyer, Kim DeAngelis, Lindle Willnow, Max Schenk and Barbara Corning-Davis, board members.

