

Order of Service

First Religious Society

Unitarian Universalist

26 Pleasant Street, Newburyport, MA



*"I want to be famous in the way a pulley is famous,
or a buttonhole, not because it did anything spectacular,
but because it never forgot what it could do."*

– Naomi Shihab Nye

November Ministry Theme: Justice

Sunday, November 13, 2022

Order of Service

GATHERING MUSIC

Matt Meyer

Percussion Improvisation

MINDFULNESS BELL

WELCOME TO THE SERVICE

Reverend Rebecca M. Bryan

CALL TO WORSHIP

Matt Meyer

Words by Adrienne Maree Brown

CENTERING MUSIC

Matt Meyer

Call Down a Blessing

Margaret Nelson

CHALICE LIGHTING

Eileen Vargas-Costello, Worship Associate

We gather this hour as people of faith
With joys and sorrows, gifts and needs.

We light this beacon of hope,

Sign of our quest

For truth and meaning,

In celebration of the life we share together.

CANDLES OF PEACE ALL Peace, Sulh, Shalom

***HYMN:** #357 Bright Morning Stars

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Love is the doctrine of this church,

The quest of truth is its sacrament,

And service is its prayer.

To dwell together in peace,

To seek knowledge in freedom,

To serve humankind in fellowship,

To the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with the Divine—

Thus do we covenant with each other and with God.

*DOXOLOGY

From all that dwell below the skies

Let faith and hope with love arise;

Let beauty, truth and good be sung

Through every land, by every tongue.

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

Order of Service

TIME FOR ALL AGES

Desmond Gets Free

Matt Meyer

Matt Meyer

SING CHILDREN TO YOUNG CHURCH #413 Go Now in Peace

OFFERTORY

<https://onrealm.org/frsuu/-/give/now> or Text GIVEFRSUU to 73256

COMMUNITY PRAYER OF SORROW AND JOY

Rev. Helen Murgida,
Pastoral Care Associate

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Bryan

READING

Eileen Vargas-Costello

What You Missed that Day You Were Absent from Fourth Grade

Brad Aaron Modlin

MUSIC

Forget Your Perfect Offering

Matt Meyer

SERMON

“Lessons for Future Ancestors”

Matt Meyer

*HYMN

Where You Go, I Will Go, Beloved

Shoshana Jedwab

Matt Meyer

*UNISON BENEDICTION

May the Love which overcomes all differences,

Which heals all wounds,

Which puts to flight all fears,

Which reconciles all who are separated,

Be in us and among us now and always.

BLESSING

Matt Meyer

POSTLUDE

Percussion Improvisation

Matt Meyer

Please mute all cell phones and electronic devices before the service.

Notes on today's service

About Today's Guest Speaker

Matt Meyer is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist with a long background as a musician and worship leader for UU congregations.

Matt lives in Boston but travels as an itinerant worship leader, bringing the good news of Unitarian Universalism to hundreds of congregations all over the country. He serves as the Director of Operations for Sanctuary Boston, a contemporary UU worship community, with rockin' music and engaging worship.

Matt's children's story, *Desmond Gets Free*, was published last year as a book by Skinner House Press. It just recently won a Nautilus award for social justice in children's fiction.

Today: Justice Sunday

Soup & Salad, Lower Meetinghouse Main Room, noon

Open Forum, Sanctuary and Zoom, 12:30-1:30pm

Please join us at 12:30pm for discussion about extending the use of the Parish Hall as a residence for the Mirzayee family through June 2024. We will also open the floor for ideas about how to address housing for the family on a longer-term basis.

Join Forum on Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/95834091662?pwd=ekxiaFE2YTBLb-HozckYzZm42QWRaQT09>

Meeting ID: 958 3409 1662 / Passcode: 172577

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,95834091662# US

+19292056099,,95834091662# US (New York)

Forum FAQs: <https://bit.ly/PH-Residence-FAQs>

Resettlement Update: <https://bit.ly/ResettlementUpdate>

Can You Help?: <https://bit.ly/Afghan-CanYouHelp>

Notes on today's service

We use the **mindfulness bell** at the start of each service as an invitation to center ourselves and open our minds and hearts to worship. The bell is rung three times.

Candles of Peace

Each week we light these candles to represent two places on earth that especially need peace this week.

Today's Dedications

Today's flowers are given by Jeff and Ginger Bard in memory of Ginger's mother and father, Leon and Peg Dubuc; Jeff's father, Bruce Bard; and Ginger and Jeff's niece, Hannah Serbun.

This week's steeple lighting is sponsored by Sabrina and Harold Babcock in loving memory of Marjorie and Philip Babcock, and of Marj's mother, Gertrude, on her birthday November 30.

Shared Collection for November

This month's Shared Collection partner, Essex County Habitat for Humanity, brings people together to build affordable homes, strengthen families, and foster hope. Habitat families buy their homes after they provide between 240 and 360 "sweat equity hours" to build their own home and other families' homes. Since 1985, 114 new homes have been built and 41 homes rehabbed. This includes a current project in Salisbury. Please give so that one day everyone will have a decent place to live. Half of each Sunday's collection not designated as a pledge supports a local partner working to transform our region.

- Gender-neutral restrooms are located in the Lower Meetinghouse.
- Please ask an usher for a large print Order of Service or hymnal.
- Please see A/V engineer Rob Close for hearing support.

Connect & Engage: Here's What's Going On

Today:

Justice Sunday, Following Worship

Please join us for soup and salad in the Lower Meetinghouse at noon, followed by an open forum from 12:30-1:30pm. See page 3 for details and links.

Community service of Newburyport Personal Care Drive

Please bring your items to the table in the vestibule and/or you can make a donation and we will do your shopping. We will be collecting cash donations and personal care items today.

Different Time Today: Candlelight Chorale Rehearsal,
1:30-3:30pm in the Sanctuary

Special Congregational Meeting, December 4

Immediately following Sunday worship, FRS will hold a special congregational meeting to ask that the congregation vote to extend our the Mirzayee family's use of Parish Hall as their home through June 30, 2024.

Register for the meeting: <https://bit.ly/CongMeeting12-4-22>

Join Us to Create Fellowship and Stewardship at FRS

Wednesday, November 16 (third Wednesdays), 6:30pm, Zoom

We need your help to create new and fun ways to get together in fellowship, and possibly even raise funds in the process. The next event we are creating is "Cookies for Peace" (see details below). The Stewardship Committee meets every third Wednesday, at 6:30pm, via Zoom. Join us and have some fun! Any thoughts or questions, please contact Vern Ellis at vellis@ellisdesign.net. Zoom meeting link: <https://bit.ly/3Rvp2FK>.

Cookies for Peace

Friday, December 9, 3-8pm, LMH Main Room, during the first downtown Newburyport Invitation Night

This is a new FRS Holiday event, and we are seeking many bakers and other volunteers to ensure this fundraiser is a success. Half the proceeds will go to the Emergency Response Fund to support peace in Ukraine through the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). Please visit the sign-up table after church or go to: <https://bit.ly/CookiesForPeaceSignup>.

There will also be tours of our historic meetinghouse that evening; more information to come soon.

Connect & Engage (cont.)

Monthly Animal Bereavement Support Group Begins

Friday, December 2 (first Fridays), LMH Main Room, 6:30pm

If you have ever had to say farewell to a beloved animal companion, then you have known the heartache and grief that follows such a loss. Yet as a society, we don't recognize, understand, or honor how heartbreaking that experience is, nor the impact it can have on someone's emotional and physical well-being. Those who grieve often feel isolated, afraid to talk about their loss, and risk being embarrassed for caring so much about "just" an animal. There are many in our beloved community and beyond who have had this experience and felt the need to carry their grief in silence – for far too long.

Rev. Rebecca, Nancy Kidd, and Renee Wolf Foster invite you to come together on Friday, December 2, at 6:30pm to share our stories, our photos, and our sorrows in a loving, listening group of kindred spirits. All are welcome.

The Joy of Giving

Get your donations ready! Once again, this year we will be collecting new/unused gifts so the children of Kelleher Gardens can holiday "shop" for the important adults in their lives. Do you have lotions, gloves, decorations, tools, hats, jewelry, kitchen items, etc. that you've been given and never used? Can you pick up one or two small items while out holiday shopping? Donations of gift bags and tissue paper are also needed. Donations can be left in the back of the Sanctuary (look for the sign and gift packages).

Questions? Email Nancy Crochiere at ncro27@comcast.net.

For more information about our programming and events:

The Steeple newsletter: <https://conta.cc/3G1Qvw3>

FRS church calendar: <https://www.frsuu.org/calendar>

FRS website: <https://www.frsuu.org>

November Worship Calendar:

<https://www.frsuu.org/worship-sermons/>

November Events Calendar:

<https://bit.ly/NovemberEvents2022>

Our Staff

Minister: [Reverend Rebecca M. Bryan](#); **Affiliate Ministers:** Reverend Stan Barrett, [Reverend Helen Murgida](#), Reverend Jane Tuohy; **Minister Emeritus:** Reverend Harold Babcock; **Director of Church Operations:** [Rob Authier](#); **Office Administrator:** [Diane Carroll](#); **A/V Engineer:** [Rob Close](#); **Director of Children's Ministry:** [Mara Flynn](#); **Director of Church Music:** [Justin Murphy-Mancini](#); **Head Usher:** John Mercer; **Director of Faith Formation and Spiritual Exploration:** [Julie Parker Amery](#); **Sexton:** [Donny Rogers](#); **Director of Congregational and Community Engagement:** [Cynthia Walsh](#)

Welcome to the First Religious Society, Unitarian Universalist! We've been in the center of Newburyport since 1725. Our denomination has its roots in the Reformation of the 1500s; today we welcome all religious seekers. We invite you and your family to our services at 10:30am on Sundays; children are welcome in our lively Young Church program.



Connect with Us!

Our website: www.frsuu.org

Our public Facebook page: facebook.com/frsuu/

Members/Friends Facebook page: facebook.com/groups/frsuu

Join our email list: www.frsuu.org/contact or info@frsuu.org

For information about Young Church: mara.flynn@frsuu.org

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.