

NEWS ON THE COMMON

First Parish Unitarian Universalist • Cohasset, MA • Organized in 1721



MAY SERVICES

May 4 – 10 AM – “Celebrating the Circles”

A celebration of our Circle Ministry, also known as Small Group Ministry, led by our minister, with commentary from Circle Ministry participants and bell ringing by the group led by Joan Kovach and Susan Meikleham.

May 11 – 10 AM – Mother’s Day

“Nurses are heroes: Ask me, I know one!”

On this Mother’s Day Sunday, our children will join us for the first segment of this service, and we will participate in a Flower Communion. Please bring with you a few sprays of flowers from your yard to share in this communion of flowers now observed in Unitarian Universalist congregations worldwide.

May 18 – 10 AM – “Reflections on a Year”

Worship will be followed at 11:15 by our Annual Meeting in the Meeting House. Child care will be available.

May 25 – 10 AM – A lay-led service of Memorial Day weekend

And included since the first June Sunday is the first of June:

June 1 – 10 AM – Rites of Passage Sunday – “With Gratitude and Celebration”

At this intergenerational service, we will honor our Religious Education teachers, our RE Committee, our OWL graduates, and our graduating seniors! We will celebrate the milestones, those of you who mark them and those of you who make them possible!

25% of our non-pledge plate offering from February through August will go directly to our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee for domestic disaster relief.

Mission Statement

We welcome all to our inclusive spiritual community. We affirm our Unitarian Universalist Principles and put them into action by worshipping together, caring for one another, and working for a safe, just, and sustainable world.

FROM YOUR MINISTER

Our Unitarian Universalist principles are dear to us all, from “the inherent worth and dignity of every person” to “respect for the interdependent web of all existence.” How often we hear them and speak them as if they were a creed, not unlike the Apostles Creed or the Nicene Creed familiar to some of us from earlier experience in exclusively Christian traditions. Yet our principles aren’t a creed; they’re not writ in stone as hard and fast beliefs. They’re dynamic guidelines of our living tradition that draws from many sources, sources that directly follow those more familiar UU principles in the bylaws of our Unitarian Universalist Association.

The pivotal word is not creed, but *covenant*. The prologue to our principles and purposes is not, “I believe in,” though we may well believe in our principles, but “We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote....” The primary verb is *covenant*. And the primary subject is *we*.

We are in relationship with other congregations. We are in relationship with one another. It is a relationship of *covenant*. We are in a dynamic relationship of promise, of good faith, of mutual understanding, as we seek to affirm and promote what we recognize as our principles and what we understand as the multiple sources of a tradition that lives.

In covenant, we come together for worship, for religious education, for fellowship, for justice making, and for decision making. On May 6 and May 18, we have prime opportunities to come together for pivotal decision making in covenant mode. Tuesday evening, May 6, we gather to determine the budget for the ensuing year of our parish life. Each of us has a voice. Each of us, in the dynamic relationship that is central to our living tradition, has a say in this allocation of our fiscal resources garnered through mutual generosity and stewardship. On Sunday morning, May 18, directly after our worship service in the Meeting House, we’ll gather for our Annual Meeting. Childcare is available, so all can attend! At this time, reflections are offered in the form of reports on the year past, and decisions are made in the form of discussion and votes on the year ahead. Who will we be? How will we be? And by what means will we continue to be?

What a precious tradition this is, a tradition that lives, forged through covenant, unfolding through the community that you are. I look forward to seeing each of you there, participating, attentive, and raising your voice in thoughtful loving covenant.

With love for each of you,
Jan

May 2008