

# NEWS ON THE COMMON

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



## SEPTEMBER SERVICES

**September 13**

**10 AM – “Gospel—that is, Good News!”**

On this first full-service September Sunday, we'll highlight the gospel—that is, the good news—of what is happening in our faith large and local. This will be a fully intergenerational Sunday.

**September 20**

**10 AM – “Open Doors, Many Entrances”**

This service will be followed by a Welcome Back Brunch served by Bill Baird's and John Kornet's Circle Ministry group. During brunch we'll have the opportunity to speak with representatives of our church committees to find out more about how to engage in the many ministries of this congregation.

**September 27**

**10 AM – “At-onement: A Circle Ministry Sunday”**

On this Sunday whose evening marks “Erev Yom Kippur,” the evening of the Jewish Day of Atonement, we'll consider atonement as atonement through the lens of our ministry of circles. We honor also the traditional Yom Kippur as observed by world-wide Judaism.

### Upcoming services to mark:

On **October 4**, Rev. Debra Haffner will be in our pulpit and preach on “Sexual Morality, Justice and Healing.” Rev. Haffner is Executive Director of the Religious Institute on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing and is an internationally recognized writer and speaker on matters of faith and sexuality. This worship service is sponsored by our Welcoming Congregation Committee. Jan will lead worship and welcome Rev. Haffner as colleague and friend. A workshop on “Creating a Sexually Healthy Congregation” will directly follow worship. (See the article of our Welcoming Congregation Committee on page 9.)

On **October 18** we will once again celebrate Association Sunday, joining with hundreds of other Unitarian Universalist congregations in lifting up our Unitarian Universalist Association, an association of interdependent congregations. Association Sunday reminds us that we are not solo and provides an opportunity for us to contribute our full non-pledge plate offering to the multiple ministries of our UUA. Jan will preach and lead worship.

## FROM YOUR MINISTER

“As the August temperatures soared into the 90s, our refrigerator compressor followed suit. Stuff became mushy; ice melted and water spilled out across the kitchen floor. Luckily, we have a couple of those college dorm refrigerators—Lobster Roll refrigerators I now call them—and we quickly stuffed them. While husband Dan and I kvetched and grouched a bit, we realized this wasn't quite a tragedy and even discovered that we had 10 days left on a 5-year guarantee!

What matters a lot and what matters a little? In the scheme of things, this definitely fits the latter. As we begin a new church year, we do so in the aftermath of a heat wave, amid a continuing recession with a tight and tighter job market, awash in a national health care debate with a public option as a lightning rod for fear mongers, and increasingly attuned to the perils of climate change—all touching us in varying degrees of import.

Let's reflect together—through worship, religious education, music, fellowship and fun, outreach and advocacy, and stewardship—what matters a lot and what matters a little. Let's question and wonder together. Let's support and sustain one another. Let's listen deeply to longings spoken and unspoken. Let's commit deeply to bringing about blessings that accrue to our larger world. Let's give thanks abundantly for the blessings we know.

So much awaits us on the brink of this new church year. Let's step across its threshold ready to “welcome all to our inclusive spiritual community” and to “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.”

Might we all affirm the difference between the surprise of a tired refrigerator and the wonder that we are moving through this day, that we are living breathing people blessed with this faith community that invites us to live more graciously and gratefully every amazing day after day.

I am ever grateful for each and all of you,

*Jan*