



THE UNITARIAN CHURCH IN FALL RIVER

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January 2015

Having made it through the most important holidays of the year, (also recognized as the most challenging), we look to a new year ahead. What do we want for ourselves, for our families, for our communities, and for our church family for the time that starts on New Year's Day? Do we want more of the same? Do we want new opportunities and new challenges? Slight improvement over the previous year? Major adjustments?

Do we even know what we want for this New Year to come? We always know that we want success and new achievements; problems solved or altogether avoided; and challenges met. But do we also have clear goals, and have we worked our ways of reaching those new goals (or maybe adjusted old ones)?

We live in a time when we know that we need to think about what needs should be met, what problems should be addressed, what of our former values and insights need to be adjusted because the future is not exactly what we thought it might be, and how we can make the best of our lives, together as a spiritual community and as individuals who want to make the best contributions to our families, our communities and our otherwise shared lives. And be supportive of all those whose lives touch ours. -- **CFFlagg**

The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith.
— *Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

SERVICE THEMES:

January 4th "A New Year Begins
...how?"

January 11th "The Importance of
the Open Mind"

January 18th "Do We Share Our Personal
Beliefs"

January 25th "What is the
Best Meaning of Faith"

February 5th "Moving Through
The Seasons ...In New England?"

"Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow."
- Robert Frost, *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy
Evening*

"The shortest day has passed, and whatever nastiness of weather we may look forward to in January and February, at least we notice that the days are getting longer. Minute by minute they lengthen out. It takes some weeks before we become aware of the change. It is imperceptible even as the growth of a child, as you watch it day by day, until the moment comes when with a start of delighted surprise we realize that we can stay out of doors in a twilight lasting for another quarter of a precious hour."

- Vita Sackville-West

January is the first month of the [year](#) in the [Julian](#) and [Gregorian calendars](#) and one of seven months with the length of 31 days. The first day of the month is known as New Year's Day. It is, on average, the coldest month of the year within most of the [Northern Hemisphere](#) (where it is the second month of [winter](#)) and the warmest month of the year within most of the [Southern Hemisphere](#) (where it is the second month of [summer](#)). In the Southern hemisphere, January is the seasonal equivalent of July in the Northern hemisphere and vice versa.

History



January, from the [Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry](#)

January (in Latin, [Ianuarius](#)) is named after [Janus](#), the God of beginnings and transitions; the name has its beginnings in [Roman mythology](#), coming from the [Latin](#) word for door (*ianua*) since January is the door to the year.

Traditionally, the original [Roman calendar](#) consisted of 10 months totaling 304 days, winter being considered a month-less period. Around 713 BC, the semi-mythical successor of [Romulus](#), King [Numa Pompilius](#), is supposed to have added the months of January and [February](#), allowing the calendar to equal a standard lunar year (354 days). Although [March](#) was originally the first month in the old Roman Calendar, January became the first month of the calendar year under either Numa or the [Decemvirs](#) about 450 BC (Roman writers differ).

Various Christian feast dates were used for the [New Year](#) in Europe during the [Middle Ages](#), including March 25 and December 25. However, medieval calendars were still displayed in the Roman fashion of twelve columns from January to December. Beginning in the 16th century, European countries began officially making January 1 the start of the New Year once again

Holidays in January



January, painting by [Leandro Bassano](#)

- National Thank You month
- [New Year's Day](#) – January 1
- [Independence Day in Haiti](#) – January 1
- [Hansel Monday](#) in [Scotland](#) and northern [England](#) – First Monday
- [Three Wise Men Day](#), or [Epiphany](#), in [Latin America](#), [Spain](#), [Puerto Rico](#) and [Dominican Republic](#), and is, although not celebrated as widely or in the same

way as in countries with a Spanish history, an official holiday in many European countries, for example Austria, Italy, Sweden, Finland, Liechtenstein, Slovakia and Croatia, as well as in parts of Germany and Switzerland. – January 6

- Russian and Ukrainian Christmas Eve, also known as Svyat Vechir – January 6
- [Plough Sunday](#) in Scotland and northern England – Sunday after January 6
- [Coptic](#) and [Russian Orthodox Church Christmas](#) – January 7
- [Coming of Age Day](#) (成人の日 *Seijin no hi*?) in Japan – Second Monday
- [National Human Trafficking Awareness Day](#) in the United States – January 11
- [Makara Sankranti](#) (Festival of Harvest) in India – January 14
- Third Sunday is [Pongal](#) in India and [Feast of the Santo Niño](#) in the Philippines
- [Chinese New Year](#) – between [January 21](#) to [February 20](#)
- [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day](#) in the United States – Third Monday
- The uniting of Moldavia and Wallachia under the same ruler in 1859, Romania – January 24
- [Burns night](#) in [Scotland](#) – January 25
- [Republic Day](#) in India – January 26
- [Australia Day](#) in Australia – January 26
- [Auckland Anniversary](#) in [Auckland](#), [New Zealand](#) – Monday closest to January 29

January symbols



Snow in January

- January's birthstone is the [garnet](#) which represents constancy.
- Its birth flower is the cottage pink [Dianthus caryophyllus](#) or [galanthus](#).^[2]
- The Chinese floral emblem of January is the [Prunus mume](#).^[citation needed]
- The Japanese floral emblem of January is the [camellia](#) (*Camellia sinensis*).^[citation needed]
- In [Finnish](#), the month of *tammikuu* means the heart of the winter and because the name literally means *Oak moon*, it can be inferred that the oak tree is the heart of grand forest with many valuable trees as opposed to the typical Arctic forests which are typically pine and spruce. The photograph of a large tree covered with ice against a blue sky is a familiar scene during Finland's winter.
- The [zodiac](#) signs for the month of January are [Capricorn](#) (until January 19) and [Aquarius](#) (January 20 onwards).

Calendar Happenings:

Sine Nomine meets in our community Room every Monday evening.

*Sine Nomine is an auditioned chamber choir based in Fall River, MA. Now entering its 20th season, this community ensemble currently consists of eighteen voices, and performs music from the Middle Ages through the 21st-century, with a special emphasis on a cappella repertoire. Sine Nomine has collaborated with the Boston Camerata, Newport Baroque, Providence College, New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, and was featured at the 2005 Organ Historical Society National Convention. The group draws its members from across southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Lower Highlands Neighborhood Historical District

Meets on the first Wednesday of the month in the community room. That would be January 7th, this month.

Give to Others

- Choose a local charity and donate money, time, gifts, or food
- Scripture says give all you have to the poor, but then you would be poor and they would have to give all they have to you. How about a tithe of 10 percent?

Homeless Overflow Shelter

- Once again, we will be hosting the overflow shelter this year. Hopefully this will be the last year for this need as a new shelter should be in place by next year.
- We need your help again.
- We will be compiling a list of needed items in the next few weeks and will publish it in the February newsletter.

2014 The Unitarian Church in Fall River

309 North Main St. • Fall River, Massachusetts 02720

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Please Print

e-mail address _____

In Support of the Operating Budget, my/our pledge for 2015 will be \$ _____

I will pay in weekly monthly quarterly installments Other.

Signed: _____ Date: ___ / ___ / ___

In addition to a pledge, I/we wish to make a special gift at this time to:

The Operating Budget of \$ _____

Other Special Purpose (specify): _____ \$ _____

The Endowment Fund of \$ _____