



THE UNITARIAN CHURCH IN FALL RIVER.

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MAY 2015

We look into New England spring, and hope for nice weather and time to do things that we had to put off until the warmer days arrived. Now that they have, we check the thermostat to see if we need a coat when we go out, or a raincoat, or just regular clothing.

We listen to the birds in the trees around our homes, we look at the yard and wonder what we need to do, as the grass grows, weeds may move in, and we keep an eye on the sometimes unpredictable weather,

Life in New England has its own meaning for each of us, and in some ways is unpredictable. We look at the opportunities that arise before us, and reflect on the new experiences and insights that come before us.

Hope is the struggle of the soul, breaking loose from what is perishable, and attesting her eternity.
— *Herman Melville*

As we approach my last days in your pulpit, I know that life will be very different, but I doubt that I can really predict what it will be like for me or for you. I certainly appreciate the connections with church members, the various services and social events that we've shared. And I've enjoyed it all!
CFFlagg

Comments and future articles should be submitted to us by email:
office@unitarianchurchfr.org

SERVICE THEMES:

May 10th "Religion and the Quest for Deeper Understanding"

May 17th "Hope and Fear, Insight and Imagination"

May 24th "Do We Look to the Future? Or to the Past?"

May 31st "How Do We Set Our Goals?"

June 7th "What Do We Believe About God"

June 14th "Looking to the Past and To the Future"

June 21st "What Comes Next?"

June 28th "A Time of Farewell"



***When the world says, "Give up,"
Hope whispers, "Try it one more time."
- Anonymous***

Behold, my friends, the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love!

— Sitting Bull

News from The Annual Meeting

The Standing Committee of The Unitarian Society in Fall River has conducted the business of the Church in the past year with firmness of resolve to carry the fellowship into the future despite declining membership and attendance and the consequent decline in revenues badly needed to carry on the work of the Church.

We can be proud of the quality of leadership provided which, among other things, kept us going and persevering, despite the difficulties imposed by Mother Nature, and other exigencies, some predictable and some not predictable. We can look once again to the leadership of the Standing Committee in continuing the work of providing shelter for the homeless, which, as we all know, was vital to helping many homeless persons survive a seemingly unending Winter. As a fellowship, we may be few, but we are dedicated, and I thank the Standing Committee for its dedication in carrying forward the work of the Church.

The Standing Committee has accepted the resignation and retirement of our Spiritual Leader and Minister, the Rev. Charles F. Flagg, effective with the end of July, 2015. Charlie, as he is affectionately known, has led us through good times and not so good times for more than twenty years. We wish him and his wife, Cynthia, well as they have more time for themselves in the days ahead. We thank you, Charlie, for continually challenging us with the principles of Unitarian-Universalism, and for being the benign and wise counsel needed by all. We thank you, Cynthia, for your participation in our fellowship, those yummy goodies on Sunday after service is concluded, and for the support you offer to one and all.

We look forward to a new year of challenge and hopefully growth as we seek to serve our community and to help those inquisitive about the nature of Unitarian-Universalism to join us as we seek, as St. Anselm put it -"fides quarrens intellectum" - faith seeking knowledge.

Respectfully,

The Rev. Dr. David H. Reinke, D.Min., MS

Chairman

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.*

The Lower Highlands Historic Downtown Neighborhood Association

The association meets monthly on the first Wednesday in our function room at 6:30 pm. Their agenda includes: A police crime report, treasurer's report, and updates on neighborhood concerns. Newly defined boundaries are; the Taunton River on the west; bicentennial Park and President Avenue to the north; Highland Avenue, High Street, and Troy Street on the east; and Pleasant Street, Sullivan Drive, Pocasset Street, the lower part of Anawan Street, and along the side of the State Pier back to the Taunton River on the south. All who live, work, or in any way support improving this area are invited to attend with their concerns. For more information, contact co-chairmen James Bartley at bartleyw@juno.com or 508-679-8871 or Steven Camara at steve@stevencamara.com or 508-678-1463.

Want to do something neat this Spring and Summer? Visit the following web sites and there is a a list of 90 great things to do.

<http://www.visit-massachusetts.com/state/90-great-things-to-do-in-massachusetts/>

<http://www.walktothesea.com/about-the-walk.html>

To All Members and Friends of the Unitarian Church in Fall River:

Immediately following Charlie's last service on June 28th, we would like to invite our members and friends to a farewell reception for Charlie and Cynthia, thanking them for their 20 years of service and dedication to our church.