



# Meetinghouse Messenger

from the First Religious Society

October 6, 2014  
through October 12, 2014

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### **A Message from the Minister --**

*Interconnections* has been a newsletter for congregational leaders written by Don Skinner at the Unitarian Universalist Association. Now retiring, Don reflected on his 17 years of what he has learned from working with congregations:

*At the top of the list is how we welcome people. Welcoming may be the most powerful thing we do. It's so powerful that nearly every person I talk with who has been a "come inner" to Unitarian Universalism can actually name the person who welcomed them when they stepped into their first UU building. I know I can. Thank you, Harry Burkholder, for being there that Sunday in Costa Mesa, California.*

Don goes on to say:

*I've learned from all of you that welcoming works better if it's not delegated to a few people, but if everyone does it. Welcoming is also made easier if we remember that visitors--I like the term "guests"--are a friendly lot. They've pretty much all been to our websites before they visit. They know what they're getting into. They're ready to like us. They're just wanting to find out how welcoming this particular congregation is. They're looking and listening for the hum and the buzz of the place, and watching how their children are made welcome.*

CCHS high school students have visited us over the past two weeks as part of their World Religions course. Did some of you meet them?

Our good news is that we have guests every Sunday this fall. The initial experience people have is important, as well as the ongoing welcome they find. Don Skinner's message is key -- let's all be welcoming and get to know our guests. ~ Diane



## Upcoming Services

### Sunday, October 12

Reflections on the story of Noah and the Flood. Rev. Diane Miller The sermon will explore the recent film interpretation of the story, and the concept of preserving life against disaster.

**Share the Plate:** Stockings for the House of Hope. This year, as usual, FRS will be donating Christmas stockings for all the moms, dads and children at House of Hope in Lowell. Social Action buys the stocking gifts, and the Sunday school children will pack the stockings in December into stockings made in Cambodia by the sewing school of The Sharing Foundation. The House of Hope says it is the most appreciated gift of the year. Please dig deep for this project!

**Coffee Hour this Sunday:** Congregants with last names I-L. Please bring a light, healthy snack and consider showing up early or staying on after to help with set up or clean up. Your time and contributions are greatly appreciated!

### Sunday October 19

- Religion and Politics -- Which is Which? Rev. Diane Miller. A sermon for a political season. Nina Benkley and the choir will sing.

**Share the Plate:** Open Pantry

**Sunday October 26** - Jim Scott, Guest musician and service leader. Jim Scott is an exciting acoustic guitarist, singer, and composer of powerful music that furthers the ideals of ecology, justice, and peace, Jim makes an impact on hearts and minds across the world. He will lead our all-ages service in October, working with the Choir as well as engaging children in the service. Three of his songs are in our hymnbook, including "Gather the Spirit," one of the FRS favorites.

**Share the Plate:** The Stella-Rosie Foundation



### A Message from the Religious Education Coordinator

From "Grudge Backpacks" to Cain and Abel.

We began our worship this week by retelling Barbara Marshman's story "What Happens if We Don't Forgive?" about a village that carries grudges around in heavy backpacks until they

learn 5 magic words ("I'm sorry", "I forgive you") to make them disappear. The K-5 classes then heard the story of Cain and Abel, about sibling rivalry, jealousy, and the consequences of our actions. There were great conversations and activities in both classes, which were capably led by Amy Smack, Paul Morrison, Susan Emmons, and Steve Herbst. Many thanks to our terrific volunteer teachers for facilitating this challenging, but important lesson!

Next week we focus on the well-known story of Noah and the Ark. In worship, Rev. Miller will read the story, *Norah's Ark*, by Ann and Reg Cartwright. Then, in the K-5 classes we will hear the classic Noah story and consider the lessons it holds for the people of the modern world.

If you haven't signed your child up for Religious Education, please go to the RE table, before church or at coffee hour on Sundays. Or feel free to drop by the RE office on Tuesdays or Thursdays, when Lisa has office hours from 1:00-3:00.

**A note from Marguerite Shaw:** Many thanks to the First Religious Society in Carlisle for naming me Minister of Music Emerita on September 28, 2014. I deeply appreciate your kindness. And also, a special thank you to Margaret Darling, Ann Quenin, Dan Ryan and the FRS Choir for the song, *Emerita*, *Emerita!*

### **News and Programs**

#### **Are You Thinking about Joining the First Religious Society? Would you like to know more about the church?**

The Membership Committee invites you to gather in the Widrick Room immediately after the conclusion of the service on **Sunday, October 19th**. Refreshments provided. If you need childcare, we will arrange to have our adult caregiver, Nina Rich, stay after the service. Please notify the office in advance, [frs@uucarlisle.org](mailto:frs@uucarlisle.org), to reserve childcare. There will be a brief video showing congregations around the country, followed by an opportunity to find out what you would like to know about the First Religious Society and Unitarian Universalist congregations. Led by Michael Dundorf, Chair of the Membership Committee, this will provide you with a non-pressure, friendly environment to learn more about our church community. If you are already a member of the church, why not invite friends and neighbors to come with you on Sunday, October 19th.

**Kendrick's Kids:** On Saturday, Oct. 11 FRS will be hosting Kendrick Price and a group of young people from Dorchester for a day of apple picking and enjoying the fall country side. Kendrick spoke to us last year in a memorable service of music and dance. Kendrick runs the Big Business Network in Boston, a community organization that advocates for young boys, providing safe programs of challenging projects and group sports. We will be escorting them to Carlson's Apple Orchard in Harvard, a hike somewhere in the area, and will be providing lunch for the children and their adult escorts in Union Hall. We can still use volunteers who might be willing to help prepare lunch, or with the outings. If you are interested, please speak to Margaret Darling or Tom Rourk.

**A Message from the Flower Committee**

Are you interested in providing flowers for the pulpit during Sunday Service? Perhaps you would like to remember a loved one or celebrate a special occasion? The Flower Committee members, Deb Jancek, Jackie Schaefer and Pam Hall invite you to participate, by speaking to one of the members in person, emailing Pam Hall or signing the calendar book available at coffee hour. We ask that you make contact by the Thursday prior to the Sunday you are requesting, so your occasion can be mentioned in the order of service. Please remember to put your name on any vases or containers you may want returned, and to let a committee member know if you plan to take your flowers home, or donate them to the church.

**Adults, please bring your Open Pantry donations on THIRD Sundays this year,** to coincide with the RE social action/outreach weeks. This month, that is Sunday, October 19. The church continues to actively support this Lowell program financially, through Tuesday morning volunteers and by our donations of non-perishable foods and toiletries.

**Time to Turn in Knitted Hats and Scarves for Common Cathedral - deadline October 15**

The FRS Knitting in Service Society (KISS) is collecting all the hats and scarves that have been knitted over the past year to bring to Boston on our upcoming visit. If you have any items to donate, please bring to FRS or the COA office in the Town Offices by October 15 so they can be sorted and tagged. Any questions please call the FRS office at 978.369.5180. Thank you.

## Behind the Scenes

**Susan Emmons** oversaw the project of getting a cap installed on the Meetinghouse chimney, which has been a pathway for birds getting into the building. You can see the results if you look way up. **Beth Sullivan** cleared the Union Hall windowsills of leftover plants and clutter, and tended to the geraniums that will be growing there to provide winter color.

## Community Events

**First Vegan Potluck of Autumn! October 14!** Enjoy a delicious potluck dinner in the Parish Hall at First Parish in Concord, October 14th at 6:30 pm, hosted by FP's Reverence for Life and the Environmental Leadership teams. You don't need to be vegan or vegetarian or anything but hungry.

**The UUA and UUSC respond to the climate change crisis.** Here is a link to a letter written by the Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA, and the Rev. Bill Schultz, President and CEO of the UUSC, announcing the formation of Commit2Respond, a religious response to the crisis of climate change.

[Letter from Peter Morales](#)

**Unitarian Universalists will gather for Ferguson on the weekend of October 10-13.** St. Louis area UUs are organizing events and participation in the Call to Action March at 10 AM in downtown St. Louis. For more info go to [prayingwithourfeet.org](http://prayingwithourfeet.org)