



# Meetinghouse Messenger

## from the First Religious Society

July 20 through July 26 2015

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### This Sunday

**July 26** at 10am in Union Hall: Is a tendency towards religion part of our evolutionary heritage?

Kim Kastens will lead us in a service and discussion entitled "Human Nature and Religion." In his Pulitzer Prize-winner 1978 book *On Human Nature*, biologist E.O. Wilson paints a picture of human nature as a battleground between attributes that were shaped by evolution through natural selection at the level of individuals and attributes that were shaped by group selection. To a first approximation, individual selection favored aggression and selfishness, while group selection favored altruism. In the small nomadic bands of our Pleistocene hunter-gatherer ancestors, individually-selected attributes helped an individual outcompete others in the group for survival and reproductive success. But altruism and other group-selected attributes provided a survival advantage to the group against other less-cohesive groups. In Wilson's interpretation, religion evolved as a group-selected attribute, because it had very high survival value. "Religion is above all the process by which individuals are persuaded to subordinate their immediate self-interests to the interests of the group." In tough times, the group that supported each other was the group that pulled through. Does this idea resonate with you or seem dubious? If true, what would this idea mean to you as an individual? What would it mean to us as a congregation,

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**Office**

**Administrator:**

Ann Quenin

978-369-5180

frs@uucarlisle.org

Hours: Mon. 8-  
9:30am

10:30am-noon

Tuesday: 8am-noon

Closed Wednesday

Thursday 8-noon  
and 1pm-4pm

Friday 8am-noon  
and 1pm-3pm

**Minister:**

Rev. Diane Miller  
978-369-0284  
church study  
dmiller @  
uucarlisle.org

The Minister is usually in the church study for portions of Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and

especially in a church bound together by a covenant rather than a creed? Join us for this engaging discussion. 10 am in Union Hall. All are Welcome!

**Summer Services in August**

**August 2** Environmental Action Committee (EAC) and Rosalie Anders. Divestment of fossil fuel holdings

**August 9** Claude Von Roesgen. Solar and renewable energy

**August 16** TBD

**August 23** Asia Forcucci returns to lead a Summer Service

**August 30** Diane Miller, "Blessing of the Animals."

Bring your animal safely constrained, ready for a warm blessing and a time to appreciate all beings, pets, and the interdependent web of life.

**Sept. 6** Pancake Breakfast in Union Hall. A warm welcome on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, pancakes with all the fixings. 10-11. Volunteer pancake flippers much appreciated.

**Sept. 13** Services resume in the Sanctuary with the choir. Religious Education begins the Moral Tales curriculum.

**Message from the Minister**

The Minister is on vacation in July.

Minister emeritus, Woody Widrick, is on call for pastoral needs, along with other clergy nearby. A copy of the clergy coverage and contacts is in the church office and with members of the Parish Committee.



**A message from the Office Administrator:** My hours this summer will vary, but mail will be picked up, bills paid, and the MM and Friday postcard will continue as usual. In July, the best time to contact me is Tuesday mornings. If you need to get in touch right away, call my cell phone 781-820-2783. Meetinghouse Messenger announcements will need to be in my hands no later than the Thursday morning before it is published on Monday, so please keep that in mind. Email news to frs@uucarlisle.org Thanks! Ann Quenin

**News and Programs**

Share the Plate - 2014-2015. We distributed a total of \$9,204.57 to the designated charities. Our last donee of the church year, the Open Table of Concord, wrote this: "With your help and the work of Open Table's dedicated

Sunday. Friday is preparation time, Saturdays vary, and Wednesday is her day off. Call for an appointment.

**Student Minister:**

Lisa Perry-Wood

dre@uucarlisle.org

781-883-3411

**Music Director:**

Dan Ryan

dryan@uucarlisle.org

volunteers, we serve over 300 guests at our weekly dinner and pantry services. ...We continue to see an increase in the number of people turning to Open Pantry for food, friendship and related assistance. ...These are difficult times for many, and your donation makes a true difference in the support we can provide. With sincere appreciation, Jeanine Calabria, President."

**Social Action Committee**

**St Paul's Kitchen, Lowell**

**July 31 Community Dinner**

On Friday, July 31, our FRS volunteers will provide and serve dinner in Lowell to about one hundred individuals in need of sustenance. We will serve our ever-popular meal of lasagna, salad, fruit and home made desserts. We will need 14 lasagnas for 10 persons each; a total of six gallons of 2% milk; materials to make a large salad for 120 persons - washed, chopped or sliced cherry tomatoes, lettuce, and cucumber; bread and or rolls, fresh fruit - grapes, apples, pears, clementines, canteloupes, strawberries, and bananas; and home-made desserts and cookies.

Several generous souls have already volunteered but we are still in need of plenty of help. Please let me know by e-mail or phone if you can help provision this dinner and/or come to serve in Lowell.

Cheers,

Frank Rigg

**Behind the Scenes**

Thanks to **Rick MacDonald, Bob Wallhagen, Kim Kastens** and **Al Cameron** for happily loaning boats and equipment for others to use on our recent Sunday Canoe Trip.

Please note that our newest **church directory** is available as a pdf in the quick links column to your left. A staff and committee contact list is also there. You may email or call the office if you would like to be sent a copy.

